

## Principal's Report

### Welcome back!

Hi everyone. Welcome back to school and to our first newsletter of the year. 2020 is going to be an exciting year and I look forward to sharing our adventures with you. We have many things happening at the school and already it feels as though the holidays never happened. The best way for families to keep up to date is to read the weekly newsletter. We include a calendar of events, our students of the week, many community notices and I will continue to provide information about the happenings of the school as well as tips for students and families.

### Condolences:

The college passes our heartfelt condolences to the Noone family on the tragic death of Allan late last week. Allan was the Derrinallum College School Captain in 2009 and a valued member of many aspects of the community. Fiona and Erin are highly valued members of our staff and we will offer them ongoing support.

### Preps and new students:

We are so excited to welcome our four new preps to the school. They are pure bundles of joy and seem to have settled in really well. Mrs Johnstone is very impressed with how well they are working and learning their news skills. We are also pleasantly surprised to say that we picked up 13 new students this year. These enrolments have brought our numbers up from our predicted 65 to 78. This is wonderful news for the college. Possibly the most pleasing thing about this is that we attracted some of these students because of the positive things that people are hearing about the college out in the community. We do unfortunately farewell the Hegarty and the Pobjie. Both families are moving interstate and we wish them all the best at their new schools.



### New staff:

Among the sea of new faces this year are three new teachers. We welcome Mr Simon Brearley who joins us as an Acting Assistant Principal for 12 months. Mr Brearley is already doing an exceptional job and brings with him sound knowledge which will help us improve our assessment and reporting procedures. We have two other graduate teachers who are joining us on 6 month contracts. Ms Catherine West is delivering cooking and VCAL. She has already been thrown in the deep end, planning excursions and school events in the first week. Ms West is always positive and smiling and will be a great addition to our team. And lastly but not least we welcome Mr Daniel Missen. Mr Missen is a Camperdown local and has many feathers in his cap. This is his first teaching job and he is delivering HPE to the primary students and Maths and VCAL in the senior school. He is already loving his new role and fitting in exceptionally well.



Mr Brearley



Miss West



Mr Missen

### **Year 12 interviews:**

We started the term with a short assembly to welcome everyone back and have them on the same page. As a nice ice breaker, the Engagement Learning Team thought it would be wonderful to have the year 12s interview the new staff and prep students. This was possibly the cutest thing I've ever seen in my life and gave us an insight into just how entertaining and cheeky our littlest students really are. Well done to the preps who got up and spoke in front of the whole school on their first day. We were very proud that they had a go. Good job also to the year 12s who displayed good school spirit and gave us a few giggles with the questions they asked.

### **Building updates:**

As most would be well aware we are smack bang in the middle of a building works project. The building works was slightly behind before the holidays and is a little further behind again. This was a little beyond the control of the contractor. All that crazy weather we had meant that some jobs just couldn't be done. The glaziers were booked in to do work on the high rise windows the week the storm hit the town. The ice and high winds meant that it wasn't safe for them to work so they were to come back the week after when we had the 40 degree heat and, again, it wasn't safe for them to work. We are hoping the primary school toilets are



ready to be used by the end of next week and then work can start on the senior school toilets. Work has already begun on the Year 11 and 12 Common Room, which is great but it has seen the VCE classroom put out of action in the meantime. We anticipate that all works will be completed by the start of Term 2.

We did, along with many other Derrinallum residents get some damage in the freak hail storm in January. It has caused plenty of damage to our ceiling in the corridor of the main building. If I were to take a guess I would say over 400 litres of water was removed from the inside of the building. Just like most the hail caused the water to

back up and come in under the tin. We also had some windows broken, our garden shredded and most of our air condition units damaged. We are working at repairing the damage but it will be a long process as we need to go through insurance claims.

The indoor stadium has had new lights in the foyer and some paint work inside and out and is looking refreshed. It would seem we have finally had the PA system fixed so we now have clear and loud PA announcements through the school. And the arborist also came in to tidy up a number of potentially dangerous trees.



### **Australia Day Celebrations:**

The college hosted the shire's Australia Day celebrations on the 26th of January. The indoor stadium was transformed and looked completely different. There were approximately 300 people who joined us for the day. It was a wonderful way for the school to be put on display and we received lots of positive feedback from the community. I was invited to be the ambassador for the day and was honoured to speak about the importance of contributing to community. I'd like to think that I challenged people's thinking as well as motivated them to give more to others around them.



### **Change in the start to the year:**

I would like to thank students, families and indeed staff for so willingly committing to the change in the start up to the year. The testing from Prep to Year 10 ran quite smoothly and the staff have collected strong data which they have already put into use. Running the testing in this format allows for less disruption to classes over the first term and a more productive start to classes.

### **Increased expectations:**

If you are the parent of a Year 11 or 12 student, you are hopefully aware of all the changes that we have implemented this year. We have increased the expectations of the students but also the staff. Being such a wonderful, small country school, we are able to be relaxed and generally take things easy. But unfortunately that wasn't doing our senior students any favours. We have changed the structure of the VCAL course to include compulsory aspects of industry related skills and work place learning. All students in Year 11 and 12 will complete their spares in the library where they will be able to access Mr Brearley as their coordinator and be closely supervised to ensure they are using their time wisely. We also intend to have mentor meetings with all students in Year 11 and 12 on a regular basis to ensure they are keeping up with workloads and getting all the support that they need.

**Mobile phones:**

I'm pleased to say that we have not had any incidents with mobiles since the implementation of the state-wide ban. Phones must be switched off and securely locked away as soon as students arrive at school until they leave at the end of the day. Students cannot access their phone to check messages throughout the day. At this stage we are still awaiting the arrival of our locks for the senior school lockers. Therefore, any student who has a mobile phone or device with connectivity must switch it off and hand into the office to be stored in the safe. I have reminded students that this is not the school's choice but something that has come down from the government and we are all required to abide by the new rules. The school can grant exemptions but they will be rare and usually granted for medical reasons. There is a formal process for teachers to follow if they wish to apply for students to be able to use the phones in their classes. Student have been made aware that there will be three responses to inappropriate use of mobile phones at the school. The first time they will receive a warning and will be asked to store the device away as per the policy. The second time they will have the phone confiscated and it will be stored in the school safe until the end of the day. If it happens a third time the phone will be confiscated and stored in the school safe until a parent comes to collect the phone.

**Uniforms:**

The new uniform policy has taken affect. The new hoodies look really nice and the students are wearing them happily. Families would have received a copy of the policy last year. For your reference there is list of all the school items in the school diary which every student should have received.

**Coronavirus:**

Information was sent out to families last week but the Education Department have asked that we continue to make families aware of the evolving situation. If anyone in our school community was in China over the summer break, please let the school know ASAP. As you will be aware, the situation regarding the outbreak has continued to evolve. The Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and Victoria's Chief Health Officer have recommended stronger precautionary approach to managing the Coronavirus for travellers who have returned from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) from Saturday 1 February 2020) This recommendation is that parents/guardians/carers should ensure that any student returning from mainland China, who was there on or after February, 1st, 2020 is isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last in mainland China. This new advice is based on the latest expert recommendations of the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and Victoria's Chief Health Officer. Families are asked to keep themselves updated on the information regarding the Coronavirus. You can find up to date information at the following link.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-public-novel-coronavirus>

Should information change and families need to be informed we will send home information as soon as possible.

**Youth of the Year:**

Ms Green is frantically helping the students prepare for the upcoming Lions Youth of the Year competition. The school will be hosting the evening on Tuesday, 11th of February, and families of the participants will have information sent home soon.

**VCAL swimming lessons:**

As I mentioned before the VCAL students are already in the process of one of their community programs. They are currently supporting the Lismore Primary school with their swimming lessons. Ms West and I have been over there this week and witnessed firsthand what excellent work the students have been doing.



**Investiture:**

Investiture will be taking place next week. All of our student leadership positions will be recognised formally at the school on the afternoon of Friday February 14. All families are invited to attend a welcome afternoon tea as hosted by the VCAL group and then stay for presentations. The VCAL student will be sending out invitations early in the week. In the meantime please mark it on your calendar. It would be lovely to have as many families come in as possible.

**School council elections:**

Very soon the school council will be calling for nominations and holding elections. Please see the sheet included in the newsletter for some more information. A pack will be sent home with students early next week with more details.

**Annual Implementation Plan (AIP):**

I am excited to say that our school Annual Implementation Plan has already been approved by our Senior Education Improvement Leader and is now ready for presenting to the school council. The staff are focussed on progressing along this plan and have already begun to make progress.

**Learning Teams:**

The school structure has changed significantly this year and this is seen us introduce Learning Teams. Each teacher has a role within these teams and will help the school remain focussed on achieving our goals in the AIP. The learning teams are:

Achievement	Engagement	Well-Being
Kristy Riley (team leader) Daisy Green Liz Johnstone Diana vanderSon Simon Brearley	Linda Grills (team leader) Daniel Missen Catherine West Caitlyn Fitzgerald	Andrew Stephen (team leader) Jon Dally Alicia Summerfield Simon Mansbridge

**Healthy lunch boxes:**

As we return back to school, a timely reminder of the importance of packing healthy lunch boxes. You will want to pack a lunch box that is full enough to keep your child satisfied. I can't concentrate when I'm hungry and it's even harder for an 8 year old to do it. Fresh fruits and vegetables are the best choice. If your child needs to pack their own lunch box please check that there is enough food and it's the right choices. Families that are time poor in the mornings might find it better to pack them the night before. Foods that are processed often contain high amounts of sugar and sodium which can have a negative effect on a child's ability to concentrate. The best advice I can give you is when selecting packaged foods for your child's lunch, the less ingredients in the product the better. These products tend to be closer to natural. If you have concerns about what to pack your child, please let us know and we may be able to provide some help.

**Bushfires:**

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to everyone around the country who have been affected by the devastating bushfires over the summer. Once the SRC are formed they may like to make our first community project helping with bush fire relief.

Caitlyn Fitzgerald  
Principal

## LEASED TEXTBOOKS PROGRAM

Reminder to families this charge needs to be paid now to enable students to access textbooks. If you have any queries please contact Janette.



## School Buses

In the interest of safety for all students who travel on school buses, it is important to remember the following:

- Be at the bus stop at least 10 minutes before the bus is due to arrive at your stop. Bus drivers are not required to wait if you are not there.
- **Provide a note for any change of bus travel. Please contact Gaye in the Library for any unscheduled bus changes.**
- Behave appropriately when waiting at the bus stop and whilst travelling on the school bus.
- Wear your seat belt at all times.
- Don't distract the driver whilst he/she is driving.
- Remain seated until the bus comes to a stop.
- Never cross the road in front of a school bus. Always wait until the bus moves off before crossing the road. It's hard to see oncoming traffic that may be obscured by the bus.

**Gaye Robinson-Marks**  
Bus Coordinator

BUS SAFETY,  
**IT'S A SHARED**  
RESPONSIBILITY!



# Calendar of Events - Term 1 - 2020

Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
<b>10th February</b>	<b>17th February</b>	<b>24th February</b>	<b>2nd March</b>	<b>9th March</b>	<b>16th March</b>
<b>11th February</b> VCAL Swimming Program with Lismore Primary School	<b>18th February</b>	<b>25th February</b>	<b>3rd March</b>	<b>10th March</b>	<b>17th March</b>
<b>12th February</b> VCAL Swimming Program with Lismore Primary School	<b>19th February</b>	<b>26th February</b>	<b>4th March</b>	<b>11th March</b>	<b>18th March</b>
<b>13th February</b> VCAL Swimming Program with Lismore Primary School	<b>20th February</b>	<b>27th February</b> Eureka Division Swimming - selected primary students	<b>5th March</b>	<b>12th March</b>	<b>19th March</b>
<b>14th February</b> Investiture of Student Leaders—2.30pm - All Welcome	<b>21st February</b> Whole school swimming sports—Lismore Pool	<b>28th February</b>	<b>6th March</b>	<b>13th March</b>	<b>20th March</b>