Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. We hope that the holiday period was a happy and relaxing time for you all. While there are still a few new enrolments trickling in, classes are largely settled and working on their program for this year. For those of you whose students are new to the Precinct, or those of you who have never visited the Precinct Campus, I would encourage you to make time to come here and one of us will show you around the campus.

Advocate Team 2013
As always, at the start of a new school year, there are changes to the personnel who will be working with your students. In particular the Advocates, those staff members who will be working most closely with students and families, have changed significantly. Zoe Burney remains from 2012 but Kristy Bannister, Jackie Melling and Todd Miller are all new for 2013. Lead by Leading Teacher Dave Shields, this team will generally be your first point of contact if you have any questions or concerns.

Strike Day Thursday 14th February
As you are probably aware there is an ongoing industrial dispute between the Australian Education Union and the State Government. A stop work will be held on Thursday, 14th February which will mean that no classes will be running at the Precinct Campus on this day.

School Photos
Earlier this week all students should have received the information and forms for the school photos. Photos will be taken on Thursday, 21st February. It is important that students bring the completed forms with them on that day.

Absences
If you know that your student is going to be away from school can you please make sure that you contact the school’s absence line, 5132 3843. Attendance is critical for the success of all students. Advocates and all staff have been asked to monitor attendance closely so that contact can be made with parents and students at the first sign of a problem. It is important that you support your students in this matter and encourage them to be at school and in class at all times.
Swimming Carnival
On Thursday 7th February the Kurnai College Swimming Carnival was held at the Moe swimming pool. The day was very hot and the very large numbers of students from all 3 campuses who attended had a great time in both serious and not so serious events. As usual novelty events were popular with all students encouraging their favourite team in some interesting ways. It was great to see so many Precinct students attending and we hope that the numbers continue to grow with every year. A big Thank You must go to the staff at both junior campuses who organised this very successful college day.

Geoff and Nello.
UPCOMING EXCURSIONS / CAMPS
To ensure the smooth organization and running of camps and excursions we request that permission forms and payments be returned to the school by the due date on the permission form. This enables the purchase of train tickets, food and venue tickets etc in a timely manner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 Instrumental Analysis Incursion at Monash</td>
<td>Wednesday 20th February</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Permission form due and payment due by Wednesday 13th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor &amp; Environmental Surf &amp; Hike Camp at Wilson’s Prom</td>
<td>Wednesday 20th March till Friday 22nd March</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>Permission form and payment due by Monday 18th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCE/VET Swim training &amp; Swim testing At Churchill Leisure Centre</td>
<td>Wednesday 27th March till Wednesday 19th June</td>
<td>No Cost</td>
<td>Permission form due by Wednesday 20th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS CHANGES
Any students wishing to change classes need to approach their Performance Class teacher before Tuesday 19th February. As we are already 5-6 weeks into the school year it makes it very difficult for students to catch up and for teachers to recover and reteach old material.

SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT
Like all Victorian Secondary Schools, Kurnai College is a SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT. A new policy is currently being used to support our students who smoke, or are effected by passive smoking.

Smoking is still the main preventable cause of death and disease in Australia. While smoking education programs have had a large impact on smoking rates, a sustainable, comprehensive approach needs to occur in schools to lessen the risk to teenagers. The vast majority of adults who smoke begin when they are at school. Likewise it takes children (on average) 2.4 years to go from an initial cigarette to becoming addicted. It is therefore important that schools strongly support students not to smoke.

Both ‘overly punitive’ and ‘turning a blind-eye’ approaches have been typically used to combat smoking in schools – Kurnai College is now focusing on a more ‘middle-ground’ approach that supports harm minimisation in a positive smoke-free environment. We offer support to students who choose not to smoke and also those who are trying to stop smoking.

For further information on the school’s policy or information on how to support your child in respects to smoking, contact David Shields on 51323800, or via email at shields.david.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

JUNIOR NETBALL REGISTRATION DAY
Cougars Junior Indoor netball Registration day for 2013 season will be held on Tuesday 19th February, 2013 between 4 & 5pm at Churchill Netball/Football Club netball courts.

Any enquiries please contact Donna Turpin on 0408 221 012/5122 1011.

Football/Netball Club
U16 & U18 footballers wanted
Training Monday & Wednesday, 5-6pm at Ronald Reserve, Vary Street, Morwell.
BBQ following training on Monday 11th February, Round 1 – 6th April.
Contact Wayne Arnold (U16 & U18) 0400 902577, or Gavin Blair (President) 0408142095.
All past and new players welcome.
School Council 2013 Elections

School Council notice of Election and call for Nominations will begin on Monday 11th February. 3 Parent member positions (2 years), and 2 DEECD employee member positions (2 years) will be vacant. Nomination forms can be obtained from the office of each campus and must be lodged back at the school by 4.00pm on Monday 18th February. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school. Further reading and timeline dates are available within this newsletter.

Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2013

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:
• A mandated elected Parent category – more than one third of the total members must be from this category.
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
• A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
• An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.
Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider
• standing for election as a member of the school council.
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.
Would $500 assist you with education costs?

You could receive up to $500 to help pay for educational costs including:

- school uniforms
- text books
- excursions
- laptops
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire
- TAFE, traineeship and apprenticeship costs!

Berry Street delivers Saver Plus in your local area and is looking for new participants.

You may be eligible if you or your partner:

- have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- are at least 18 years old
- have some regular income from work
- have a child at school, or attend accredited vocational training yourself.

To find out more contact Meryl Watson,
Saver Plus Worker at Berry Street
5120 2506 / 0478 398 695 or
mwatson@berrystreet.org.au

Saver Plus is a matched savings and financial education program, developed by Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, with ANZ providing matched savings for participants.
# 2013 School Council Election Process and Timetable

**Name of the School:** Kurnai College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a)</td>
<td>Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Monday, 11th February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Monday, 18th February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
<td>Wednesday, 20th February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d)</td>
<td>Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Monday, 25th February 2013</td>
</tr>
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<td>e)</td>
<td>Close of ballot</td>
<td>Tuesday, 5th March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f)</td>
<td>Vote count</td>
<td>Wednesday, 6th March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>g)</td>
<td>Declaration of poll</td>
<td>Thursday, 7th March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h)</td>
<td>Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19th March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i)</td>
<td>First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19th March 2013</td>
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</tbody>
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Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations – 2013

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Kumai College

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Monday 18th February 2013.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday 5th March 2013.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECID employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2013 to and</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Anthony Rodaughan
College Principal