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Morwell Campus Newsletter

Issue 1 · 15 Feb 2024

Work Ethic | Engagement | Relationships | Excellence

Kurnai College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we live and work, of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future.

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Message from our Campus Principal



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It has been fantastic to be back at school and I have been thrilled to see all of our students getting back into the swing of things so well this year. In particular, our Year 7s have settled in really well and it has been a pleasure getting to know them over the first three weeks and see them taking to secondary school life so well. So much is learnt in the first three weeks of high school that serves them throughout their secondary schooling life, such as opening their lockers, finding their way around, making new friendships and forming relationships with new sets of teachers. They have gained a clearer understanding of the expectations of secondary school and are eagerly working to meet those.





Our Year 7 Welcome BBQ was an incredible event and we were pleased to see such a great turnout. This opportunity to meet families and understand their concerns and gains in the first two weeks is really important. It was also great to see kids introducing their parents to new friends and showing parents around

the school that the students now call their own. This is pride and excitement that we endeavour to foster for their remaining years of schooling.









UNIFORM

We have been working hard with students and families to improve the standard of uniform.

This includes plain white or navy blue long sleeves under uniform shirts, navy blue shorts or

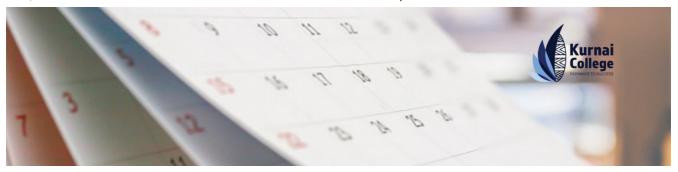
tracksuit pants, leggings only when they are the Kurnai ones purchased from Lowes (not yet available anyway). Where families are experiencing hardship in obtaining the necessary items, they should contact their relevant Team Leader for assistance. We have avenues that we can access to provide that support in many cases. In some cases, Lowes have had difficulty with stock. When this is appearing as an issue, we have been lending items for students to change into. Please remember that the College accepts both the old uniform and the new one – there is no expectation to get rid of the old uniform items. Other varieties of colours and styles that do not meet our uniform requirements are being challenged by Team Leaders.

NAPLAN

We are starting to prepare for the delivery of NAPLAN to all Year 7s and 9s later in the term. This involves ensuring all students' devices are connected to the network. Soon all students will engage in a NAPLAN practice test to ensure that they are comfortable with the process of logging on. We will be trying to make the four tests as stress-free as possible while still encouraging students to achieve their best and aim high. Students will have one test every second day to reduce the fatigue of testing. Whilst parents receive a copy of the results of their individual child, the College's focus is on the skill strengths and deficits of the cohort; understanding how we can help them achieve further as a group. If you have any queries or concerns with regards to NAPLAN, please contact Learning Specialists, Patrick McGrath or Karen Anders, to discuss them further.

STAFF CHANGES

I'm sure that families will be aware of the teacher shortages that are affecting most schools across the state and nation. Kurnai has been able to hold up strong against these issues in recent years, but we have started this year with some of our staff still being resolved. I'm pleased to say that with the arrival of another new permanent staff member this week, Jeff Derkacs, we have been able to ensure a stable program for our students. Whilst there may be some minor changes ahead as we continue to attempt to recruit more teachers, students will see continuity of lessons, practice and education.



Calendar Of Events

Key Dates

Term 1 2024	
Tue 30 Jan	Students Return - Term 1 Commences
Wed 14 Feb	School Photos
Wed 21 Feb	College Council Nominations Open
Tue 27 Feb	College Athletics

College Key Contacts

For a full list of College wide key contacts please go to:



College News



School Council Elections

As we embark on another academic year, we are calling on current parents and students who are passionate about education, community involvement, and making a positive impact on our school to consider nominating themselves to the School Council.

You do not need any special experience to be on council, each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role. However, it is important to have an interest in our school and the desire to work in partnership to help shape our school's future.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

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

Nominations open on **Wednesday, 21 February** with nomination forms available from each campus office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **Wednesday, 28 February 2024.**

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 March, 2024.

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:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026	3
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026	2
Student member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2024 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2025	2

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.

ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday, 21 February, 2024
b)	Closing date for nominations	Wednesday, 28 February, 2024
c)	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday, 7 March, 2024
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday 11 March, 2024
e)	Close of ballot	Tuesday, 15 March, 2024
f)	Vote count	Wednesday, 16 March, 2024
g)	Declaration of poll	Wednesday, 16 March, 2024
h)	Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)	

		Tuesday, 19 March, 2024
i)	First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will	
	preside)	
		Tuesday, 19 March, 2024

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice.

Our <u>Privacy Policy</u> describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use Microsoft 365 safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

- * Amharic
- * Arabic
- * Dari
- * Gujarati
- * Mandarin
- * Somali
- * Sudanese
- * Turkish
- * Urdu
- * Vietnamese



Year 7 & 8 News







Welcome to the 2024 Learning Year!

The Year 7 and 8 Team would firstly like to welcome all our new Year 7 Students to the Kurnai Learning Community. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning families.

For those who do not know me, my name is Daniel Murphy and I am the Campus Assistant Principal and Year 7 and 8 sub-school leader. I will be your primary contact with all and any communications for Year 7 and 8 students.

In 2024, Sarah Lewis and Anna McGregor are the Assistant Team Leaders for Year 7 and 8 students. We welcome Anna to this role and look forward to seeing what expertise she brings.

I will endeavor to make 2024 the best learning year I can and if there is anything I can do to help our students, please do not hesitate to contact me.

It has been fantastic getting around to classrooms and seeing students settle in (or back into) our Kurnai Learning Community. We have had a great start to the year, with all Year 7 and 8 students engaged in the classroom, our teachers have been acknowledging these positive behaviours with thousands of green positive write ups (KPAs). Our targeted reading program, Tr@K is also full swing with all students (Year 7-9) placed in classes according to

ability. This is a key focus for the College and the results in recent years speak for its value. As a Year 7 and 8 Team, we have started educating our students on our key foci for 2024 through assemblies and promotions around the school. These foci are important areas identified by staff and students and they cover a range of issues, including, but not limited to; Attendance, School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPBS) and NAPLAN. Our current foci are around uniform, settling back into routines and respect.

Year 7/8 Team

Daniel Murphy: Assistant Principal & Year 7 and 8 Sub-School Leader (Maths)

Sarah Eccles: Disability & Inclusion Assistant Principal (Science)

Sarah Lewis: Year 7 and 8 Assistant Sub-School Leader (English/Media/Humanities) Anna

McGregor: Year 7 and 8 Assistant Sub-School Leader (Humanities/Economics)

Denise Cairnduff: Disability and Inclusion Specialist (PE/English)

Patrick McGrath: School Improvement Specialist (PE/Outdoor Ed/Health & Fitness)

Emma Steen: Advocate (Drama)

Nyssa Beebe: Tr@k/Maths

Shawna Miller: Tr@k/English/Maths/Art

Jessica Qu: Maths/Science

Shannon Heiberg: Maths/Science

Jeff Derkacs: Tr@k/PE/Maths

Ang Thomas: Art

Roxy Hibberson: Tr@k/Maths/PE

Ben Crawford: Science

Khatt Sims: Music

Tarna Flake: Tr@k/English

Year 7



The new Year 7 cohort has settled into our Kurnai Learning Community brilliantly; learning how to get into their lockers, navigate our campus, make new friends, and build relationships with their teachers.

Getting around to classrooms and seeing learning occur around writing narratives, Civics and Citizenship, numbers, Physics, PE,

Health, AUSLAN/Culture, Digi Tech, Textiles, Art and Music has been great.

'My favourite subjects so far are <u>TR@K</u> and <u>P.E</u>. I've liked TR@K, because we've been doing stuff that I have enjoyed, and my teacher, Miss Flake, has been good as well. I have also really enjoyed P.E, where we have been doing cricket, which I have played outside of school for the past 5 years.' - Ashden Madex

'My favourite subject so far is <u>Drama</u>, because you get to do fun activities 3/4 of the class. You don't have to sit on a chair for majority of the class. In the class, you get to do games like silent ball, wink murder, grandma's footsteps and a lot more fun games. You only have to do book work at the start and the end of the lesson. You get to engage with all classmates and you get to work in groups. That's why Drama is my favourite subject.' - Hunter Smith

Year 8

Our Year 8 students have also settled back in and are well and truly a part of our community now. They have been learning about Persuasive Writing, Landforms and Landscapes, Measurement and Geometry, Geology, PE and Health whilst also undertaking a range of electives such as Food Tech, Design Tech, AUSLAN/Culture, Art and Visual Communications.



'My favourite subject so far is <u>culture</u> because we are learning about different countries and cultures. In our culture class we are putting a power point together about a country we pick to learn about. We are learning about their cultures and their different types of food and their culture stories. Its good to learn about these things because we can understand other peoples backgrounds and their family history.' - Harmony Dobson

'My favourite subject so far is <u>food tech</u> because we get to learn how to deal with different kinds of food and make different food. We also learn how to use sharp objects and how to be careful with them. Mrs Schwarzenberg teaches us how to clean up after ourselves and have a clean and tidy space around us. Learning how to cook and clean up after ourselves is really good for the future, seeing as we are getting older and we need to learn how to clean up after ourselves and need to make responsibilities for ourselves.' - Bella Schembri

Student Leadership

Congratulations to our newly elected student leaders at Year 7 and 8. Year 8s were presented with their badges at assembly, with Year 7s to follow next week. These student leaders will work with their peers and staff to lead and drive our school forward and make positive change. They will be announced officially in the next newsletter.

Year 7 BBQ



I would like to thank all of the students, families and staff who attended our Year 7 BBQ on the 6th. We had a huge turnout, with free food, live music from our Kurnai band, and Youth Space coming down to provide activities. It is a really important event that all parties work together to get the most out of your child's education. This event is a

great way to start off their high school life on a positive note, show their new school off and for staff to meet and engage with families.

Camp

We are soon to put out the paperwork for Year 7 Camp. This is a really important adventure for our students and the most important camp of their high school years. We will be working with every family to try and ensure 100% attendance at the camp. If you are concerned or expect to face financial difficulties with this camp, please contact us to discuss how we can support you. We will also be preparing for our Year 8 camp. This is another fantastic adventure for our Year 8 students later in the year (Term 4).

Attendance

We are already pushing as another major focus for the year, holding students accountable for being at school all day every day. At our last Year Level Assemblies for Year 7 and 8 we talked about students achieving 95% attendance.



Contact

Please remember that if you need any support with anything for Year 7 or 8 to contact either myself or the Year 7/8 Assistant Team Leaders, Sarah Lewis & Anna McGregor, so that we can support your child to have the best educational experience possible in their early sec



Year 9 News



Welcome to the 2024 learning year.

The year 9 team would like to welcome all members of the Kurnai Learning Community and extend a warm welcome the all-new families to Kurnai College.

My name is Ross Johnson and my role for 2024 is Year 9 Team Leader. I am excited to work with your child and your family throughout 2024.

Year 9 Team

Ross Johnson: Year 9 Team Leader

Karen Anders: Learning Specialist & English/Humanities

Shawn Jordan: Art

Jesse Berryman - Lambert: Digital Technologies

Mark Heiberg: Maths Teacher

Nia Whitney: Humanities & Science

Megan Schwarzenberg: Advocate & Food Tech

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

As previous years we will be continuing the use of Kurnai Positive Acknowledgements (KPA's), it has been fantastic to see students settling back into the Kurnai Learning Community and being acknowledged for their efforts within the classroom.

KPA Data Term 1 Week 2

9A- 473

9B- 253

9C-260

9D-226

Attendance

This year our aim is to improve student attendance rates to an above 95% average. If you student is absent please contact Kurnai's absence hotline on 5132 3711 or contact Ross Johnson directly via Compass.



Year 9 Camp

The 2024 Year 9 Camp planning is underway, and **expression of interest forms** will be sent out soon. This camp will be a 4-night stay in Melbourne where students will have the opportunity to experience a range of cultural, educational and leisure activities in the Melbourne CBD. This camp will be capped at 70 students due to accommodation and activity factors. If more than 70 students return **expressions of interest,** attendance data and behavioral data will be used to select places. The Melbourne Discovery Camp will be via DOXA Youth Foundation and will cost \$150 per student (subject to change).

Expression of Interest forms are available on Compass. Expression of Interest will close on the 12th March 2024.

Around the classrooms:

English: This term in English, we are exploring their creative writing abilities, while dissecting a range of mentor texts including Diary Entries, Blog Posts, Six Word Stories and Poetry.

Math: In Math we are studying statistics and probability. We have learnt about how different types of data can be collected.

Science: In science we are currently learning about the periodic table and the structure of atoms.

Humanities: In Humanities we are studying WWII, in particular how events from WWI contributed to WWII.

NAPLAN

In 2024 Year 9 students undertake NAPLAN testing in Week 7 & 8 (13th-25th March). This can be a stressful time for some students so please reach out if your student may need some extra support. Our message to each individual child is **DO YOUR BEST ON THE NAPLAN TEST.** Over the coming weeks students will learn a range of strategies so they can be fully prepared for each test.

Contact Details

If you have any concerns regarding Year 9 students, please don't hesitate to email me of phone me on 5165 0600 or Ross. Johnson@kurnaicollege.vic.edu.au



Year 10 News



Welcome to the new year of 2024! The staff of the Year 10 team would like to thank all of the students for their great start to the year. We look forward to having a great year, full of positive outcomes for all students! The first reporting for each student begins this week.

Team Members

This year the Year 10 team members are:

Sheryl Tangi (Team Leader Maths / Science and Numerack)

Alana Andrews (Mylns Specialist, Tr@k Co-ordinator, English)

Stacey Miller (English, Humanities)

Marg Tomnay (Science, Animal Studies, CSI, Astronomy)

Tyron Forscutt (Sport Co-ordinator, PE, Maths)

Mark Johnston (Technology, OHS rep)

Sandie Treloar (Auslan, Humanities, Homework Club)

Oliver Clark (English, Humanities and Homework Club)

Work Experience

All Year 10 students will be attending two weeks of work experience Week 2 and Week 3 of Term 2, April 22nd to May 3rd. The students will be arranging a placement or two during their team-time classes this term. Please contact Sheryl Tangi or Alan Ferris if you have any issues. Please also read the Careers Information on Teams from Alan Ferris. One student has already organised his two weeks of Work Experience. All students need to create a USI number and complete the General Safe@Work certificate and the certificate of the related industry a.s.a.p.

Camp

This year our Year 10 students hopefully may be going to Tasmania in the second last week of term three. Information should be out to students after School Council approval towards the end of March.

School Photos

All Year 10 student photos took place on Wednesday February 14th.

Defence Force Talk

All Year 10 students attended a Defence Force information on Tuesday to look at Careers available in each of the forces.

Athletic Sports

The school athletic sports will take place on Tuesday 27th February and we are hoping for a great turn out of students at this event.

Attendance

This year we will be trying to increase student attendance rates especially at Year 10. We would really appreciate a phone call to the 24-Hour attendance line if your child is absent from school. This helps our attendance officer track students and improve our % attendance for each student.

PBS

Students can receive a KPA SMS message to parents from teachers each lesson for positive behaviour. Students are also receiving postcards for displaying consistent behaviours for the four school pillars of Excellence, Relationships, Work Ethic and Engagement. This year we will be rewarding students with great attendance to school and for GPA reports at or above 3.5 as well as growth reports.

Dates To Remember

Tuesday 13th February	Defence Force Info session	
Wednesday 14th February	School Photos	
Tuesday 27th February	Kurnai Athletic Sports	
Wednesday 27th March	Year 10 Immunisations	
April 22nd to May 3rd	Work Experience (2 weeks)	
September 2nd – 6th OR 9th – 13th	Tasmania Camp	

Reminders

- -Students will require a device (please contact us if you need some support).
- -Students need to be at school by 8:35 am.
- -Students need to be in complete school uniform (please contact us if you need some support).
- NO MOBILES during school hours

Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Year 10 students please don't hesitate to e-mail us or phone on 51650600 sheryl.tangi@education.vic.gov.au



General Information

2024 Student Booklist

VCE Books for Sale Second Hand for 2023-2024



Books for sale second hand 2023-24.docx

Sustainable School Shop





Buy and Sell

Second-hand Textbooks



- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website - www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au
- A subscription to this service has been kindly provided by Kurnai College

Second-hand textbook trading system

- List Wanted & For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school's booklists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate
- · Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you
 - Exactly the right items to buy
 - Who has the most items you need
 - The cheapest items
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
- Excellent email and telephone helplines are provided: 0438 743 444

Also Buy & Sell

- Calculators
 Sporting items
 Musical items
- Pricing Guide
- Like New
- Excellent Very Good
- Musical items Electronics & DVD's
- Good
- Stationery
- · And lots more

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Helpful tips

- . Be patient many new items are listed each day
- . Listing Wanted and For Sale Ads gets results
- Our unique Ad Matching Service shows you who to transact with, and will save you lots of time
- . Be realistic when pricing items
- Telephoning sellers provides a quicker response as many people do not regularly check their emails
- Pre-arrange who to transact with if your items are still being used and write the availability date in your Ad
- Respect other browsers and remember to Delist your Ads promptly when no longer needed
- · Meet somewhere convenient to transact, don't make special trips and just fit it in to your normal activities

Uniform Information

Kurnai College Uniform Statement Years 7 to 10

School Uniforms are available from Lowes Store, Mid Valley Shopping Centre, Morwell or may be ordered online at:

www.lowes.com.au

Layby & Pre-Layby options are available.

ALL SEASONS UNIFORM

DRESS: Summer Dress SKIRT:

College Check and Pleated

POLO: Burgundy/Navy Short Sleeve - Logo

SHORTS: Navy Microfibre
HOODIE: Navy/Sky - Logo

JACKET: Showerproof - Logo
JACKET: Navy Puffer Jacket

SOCKS: Navy Ankle

TIGHTS: Navy Opaques

CAP: Navy baseball cap

SPORT UNIFORM (Compulsory – only to be worn for Sport/PE)

POLO: Navy/White Coolmesh – Logo

SHORTS: Navy Coolmesh

ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION

Please note we are transitioning to the new Kurnai logo on uniform items. This will
be a gradual transition as current logo stock is exhausted. Students can continue to
wear uniform items with the old logo.

** Plain Navy Blue or White long sleeve t-shirts are allowed to be worn under the College Polo Shirt.

Footwear

Black shoes with black laces.

White socks with summer dress or shorts.

No thongs, sandals, slides or open shoes are to be worn.

Steel cap boots will only be worn and allowed for the duration of specific technology classes.

Headwear

Navy blue baseball cap with college logo, or navy blue broad-brimmed hat or any navy blue cap/hat, without a brand name/logo.

Sport and PE classes

Students are required to change for Sport and PE classes.

Jewellery

Jewellery should be safe and discreet. Students may be asked to remove or use tape to cover jewellery during sport classes to prevent injury.

Make-up

Make-up is permitted but should be discreet.

Code Red Fire Danger

Kurnai College Morwell Campus is no longer on the Bushfire At-Risk Register Category 4 List



School Preparations for the Bushfire Season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities. The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). Kurnai College Morwell Campus is no longer listed on the BARR and Category 4 list. We will no longer close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in the West and South Gippsland

What does this mean for our school?

Our Morwell Campus is no longer identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and will be operating a normal school day and students are required to attend school.



Community News











