

PARENT FORUM



Tuesday 20 August 2024

Venue: College Cafe

Apologies:

Time: 5.45pm – 7.00pm

Tea/coffee will be served from 5.45pm, and all are welcome. The meeting will commence at 6.00pm for those attending online and in person.

AGENDA AREAS:

1. Acknowledgement of Country & Prayer

2. College Leadership Report Brett Donohoe (Principal), Cathy O’Gorman (Acting AP Teaching and Learning), Ben Frize (AP Wellbeing and Engagement)

- The College had just completed a comprehensive review of the timetable to consider whether the school remains as a four period (77 min in length) day or moves to a five period (one-hour in length) day. Many senior students and some students across Years 7-10 were surveyed and staff were surveyed. The committee formed weighed up all responses and have decided to remain with the four-period day for the reasons of less interruptions, deeper learning and the support to practical based subjects which need to set up and pack up. Moving forward the college will be conscious of events which disrupt the timetable and classes as students have less points of contact with teachers and will also be focussing on study skills earlier to support students in their learning as they have considerably more study time in the senior years allocated to them under a four-period day.
- Year 12 students were commended for the manner and diligence towards their HSC Trial Examinations and submissions of major works. The College is planning for their end of year celebrations which will go ahead at the end of the term. Year 11 students will soon be undertaking their end of course examinations.
- The College is currently reviewing the House System, and we have engaged Sisters of St Joseph to investigate our House names and values aligned to our Josephite Charism and we are looking into embedding House spirit within the school through a House structure.
- Our 60-year celebrations will lead to an end of year whole school Mass presided by Bishop Michael Kennedy.
- We have the upcoming hand-over of student leadership and induction of new student leaders with a liturgy presided by Father Greg Barker.

3. Parent Representatives Report (5 mins): Michelle Burns, Tonee Summerville

- Informed & discussed with the principal that kids can't always access changes made on compass throughout the day when following school policy of no phones. As such any changes that are made will be advised by class teachers for eg. If there are changes to sport try outs and a push notice will be issued by the school office via Compass if buses are cancelled.
- Tonee & I will & do comment on posts on school Facebook and other forums school related on Facebook and we encourage engagement from parents & carer's either through comments or by private message.
- Reiterated that we are not a complaints service however we are happy to help guide parents to the support they may need.
- 'We want to know what parents might like to discuss in the future such as sporting, arts and creative events, wellbeing, educational opportunities, or how we can improve anything in the school.

4. Educative Item - Wellbeing across the Stages

- Joanne Relf introduced herself as the Beyond the Gates Worker whose role is to work with families and children who need additional support in school attendance and connection to school.
 - Amanda Pilley introduced herself as the School Psychologist and providing support to students who are having difficulties and stressors.
 - Love Bites is a respectful relationship program linked with the curriculum and evidence based.
 - The program has been a whole school approach delivered to Year 7 and 8.
 - Each year group received the program over the course of a day.
 - It was well received by everyone.
 - Brave is a ten-session small group program supporting students who are experiencing anxiety and is currently run for Year 8 and 9.
 - David Luschwitz described the proactive wellbeing session that have been implemented this term across all years. Each student will experience three 30-minute wellbeing sessions per term focused on aged appropriate key content to support their health and wellbeing and learning.
 - Outlined programs and initiatives that are being run such as Enlighten Education Goodfellas incursion which has now been held, and the Top Blokes program which is continuing throughout this term with select Year 8 students.
 - David also spoke to the work the Stage Coordinators are doing to address the ongoing needs where attendance patterns are of concern and their role in supporting wellbeing of students and the Leaders of Wellbeing and Engagement.
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