

Lyrebird



Totem of the Tharawal people

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES ACHIEVING SUCCESS | TERM 4 | WEEK 2 | 2022

Principal's Message



Mr Warren Parkes

Thankyou for all your support over the past month. Your thoughts and offers of support have been very much appreciated and I am gratified at how well most of our students have tried to maintain a sense of importance for their learning and wellbeing at school.

Minimal Supervision

As I have mentioned in past Newsletters, due to ongoing teacher shortages across the state, I was not able to cover all classes where staff have been absent during term 2 and term 3. This was made worse by teachers gaining promotions and moving schools. With year 12 no longer having timetabled classes, we should see a marked reduction in these minimal supervision periods. I also collapsed and rearranged some classes to maximise qualified teachers taking classes. This has caused some disruption to student timetables, but I felt that this is better than minimal supervision arrangements.

Uniform Update

As you are aware, current arrangements for our school uniform shop include being open two mornings a week. I have been in negotiation with our uniform suppliers and from November 1st they will now operate out of a store located at Tahmoor, (Cnr of Larkin Street & Remembrance Drive), instead of the small school shop. The shop will be open 3 full days per week including school holidays plus extended times in January before we return. I believe this to be a better arrangement then the one we currently have. From November 1st, this new Tahmoor shop will have a complete supply of all new summer uniform for year 7 and year 11 students. They will have no old stock left at that time. I would hope that as students in other years need to replace their uniform that they can also purchase the new uniform. That is your choice.

We are currently debating whether year 10 (2023) should also be offered the new uniform. I will be discussing this with the P&C next week. Although I am supportive of the idea of a junior and senior school, I am aware that around 40 year 10 students will not be returning in year 11, leaving parents paying for a new uniform for a single year's use. I will consult further with you after the P&C meeting.

Yondr Phone Pouches

Again, you may recall from prior Newsletters where I outlined our concerns about mobile phone abuse and the move to using phone pouches. Although we had them ready to go for over a term, we have been unhappy with the design as a 2 cm steel pin protrudes from the open pouch. The company has redesigned them without the pin, and I hope to begin the roll out of these pouches this term.

School Build update

Any build project that is underway are all school funded and not related to the build. I was hoping that the new Basketball fencing with inbuilt football goal posts would have been finished along with the new oval seating, however, wet weather has delayed these projects. The school hall floor has been installed and within the next few weeks the internal refurbishments will commence, ready for 2023.

Year 9 Wellbeing program

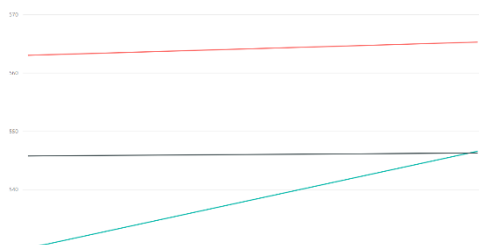
To further support students as they return in term 4, we will be conducting a program aimed at helping them deal with grief. The program is being run by a staff member and is aimed at allowing them to communicate and give them strategies to move forward. This program will commence in week 3 and run until the end of term. The program is called Open Parachute. It is being funded by the Sebastian Foundation. Guy Sebastian and his wife Jules contacted the school after their recent fundraising in walking past the school. We hold out great hopes that this is a way forward for this year group. If you require further information, please contact Penny Laidlaw or Morgan Reason.

Naplan

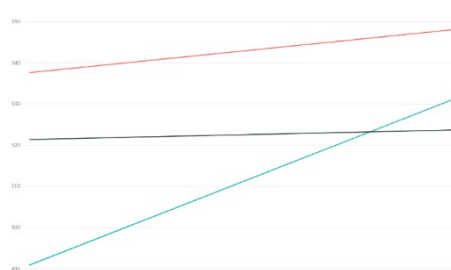
Naplan results have just been published and you should have received your child's results. I am pleased to see that the programs we have put in place to develop year 7 and 8 students is having an effect across almost all areas assessed.

Picton High is the blue line. We want it to be going up and above the black and ultimately the red line, which represent other school groups. It is pleasing to see the growth, and this matches our own internal data.

Year 9 NAPLAN results for Reading



Year 9 NAPLAN results for Writing



Contacts

With Mr. Stephens promotion to another school, there has been several changes to our executive structure.

For any questions or information about students please contact the appropriate Deputy Principal or Year Advisor.

Year 7 Tim O'Neill (Year Advisors – Ms McPhee, Ms Spicknall)

Year 8 Matt Tesoriero (Year Advisors – Ms Stuart, Mr Miranda)

Year 9 Ms Amy Packer (Mr James McManus – Fridays) (Year Advisors – Ms Vujicic, Ms Dennehy)

Year 10 Tim O'Neill (Year advisors – Mr Pearce, Mr Lamont)

Year 11/12 Matt Tesoriero (Year advisors – Mr Velthuis, Ms Ndukwu)

Support Classes – please contact Deputy Principal Olga Tesoriero

Changes to the NSW School Behaviour Policy - Suspensions and Expulsions

As of this school term, the department has introduced a new process and policy for managing suspensions and expulsions. We have put together the following to explain and summarise the new procedures and why it is being done.

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to draw your attention to the NSW Department of Education's new *Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools' Policy* that includes the *Student Behaviour Policy*, which changes the way suspensions will occur from the beginning of Term 4, 2022.

PHS is well placed within its existing structures to encompass these new changes. If you would like to familiarise yourselves with the new changes, search for the following "NSW Department of Education *Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools*" or use the QR link below. There are many pages of information specifically catering to parent needs.



Our school's high expectations around student behaviour have not changed. Our students continue to be supported to actively choose behaviours that uphold our school's values. Our focus is on the care and support of our students. We are committed to the promotion of pro-social behaviours that will position our students to achieve success and happiness in their adult lives, and that reflect society's expectations.

Some of the changes to the Behaviour policy include:

- All suspensions are now up to 10 days, replacing the previous short suspension (4 days) and long suspension (20 days) categories
- Suspensions can be extended beyond 10 days if necessary
- Formal cautions to suspend, expire after 50 days
- Once a formal caution or suspension is issued, parents will be required to work with the school to write a behaviour support plan
- There will be a change to the documents we send home with suspension notifications in line with policy

The new, *Student Behaviour Policy*, is a lengthy document and includes many other details that can be found on the website.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the recent changes, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the senior executive.

Thank you again for your support, and for engaging in a shared and collaborative approach to your child's education and wellbeing.