



## College Principal's Report

### 2020 – A VERY POSITIVE START

2020 has started with an air of excitement, energy and commitment to improvement. Staff and students are refreshed, and the atmosphere is positive. Our focus this year is to continue to improve our engagement with students and their families. We have an amazing team of staff who are looking forward to working more closely in partnership with students and their families to achieve our dreams.



### INTRODUCING THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

1. Trish Horner, *College Principal*
2. Richard Dungey, *Senior Campus Principal*
3. Karen Eastlake, *Middle Years Campus Principal*
4. Peter Tonis, *Senior Campus Assistant Principal*
5. Kelli MacDonald, *Middle Years Campus Assistant Principal*
6. Simon McRae, *Senior Campus Assistant Principal*

### INTRODUCING THE LEADING TEACHERS

1. Danielle Jones, *College Curriculum*
2. Andrew Self, *College Languages (English / LOTE)*
3. Liam McNaughton, *College Humanities*
4. Gina Palamara, *College Arts & Design Technology*
5. Melissa Stephens, *College Maths*
6. Michael Collett, *College Science, IT, Systems Technology & Food Technology*
7. David Maltby, *College PE*
8. Bill Van Driel, *Middle Years Student Engagement Leader*
9. Darren Patterson, *Senior Student Engagement Leader*
10. Jennifer Ames, *Teaching and Learning Coach – Literacy*
11. Peta Johnstone, *Teaching and Learning Coach – Numeracy*
12. Geoff Matheson, *Teaching and Learning Coach – Digital Learning*
13. Tristan Russell, *Learning Specialist – VCE Implementation*
14. Renee Colbey, *Community Engagements*
15. Kate Clinton, *College Pathways & Transitions Leader*

### WHO's NEW?

A warm welcome is extended to our new staff: Emily ALLAN, Zoe ARSANA, Pouya BAGHERI, Jigna DESAI, Sabrina DEL PIZZO, Richard DUNGEY, Natasha GEORGIADIS, Emma HARRIS, Kevin HAWKINS, Paul HUISINTVELD, Albert JUMA, Jessica LUNA, Hristina MADZEVSKA, Alexandre MOFFATT, Anita SCHMIDT, Nadine SCOTT, Sally STEVENSON, Easwar VIJAY and Sofia ZIAJKA.

We also welcome back Julia YOUNG, Robyn BOYLE, Michael GEORGE and Anastasia KALAVRITINOS, from long term leave.

# College Principal's Report

## BUSHFIRES

The recent fires across a large part of Australia have affected our students and schools in different ways. It is important to recognise that almost all distress or behavioural change following such an event is normal. There is no such thing as a typical reaction.

Children react in different ways depending on age and personality. Some may show much distress, or they may ask many questions and appear preoccupied with the event. Some of these reactions may appear immediately but others may not show themselves for weeks or even months later.

Some reactions may include sleep disturbances, regressive behaviour (thumb sucking), nightmares, fear of the dark, clinging to parents/carers, loss or increase in appetite, physical complaints that have no medical basis, aggressive behaviour, competition with sibling for parental attention, withdrawal and/or loss of interest in regular activities.

Children look to the significant adults in their lives for guidance on how to manage their reactions. Parents and teachers can help children cope by remaining calm and reassuring them that they will be all right.

Importantly most children are resilient and return to their previous level of functioning over time.

### How you can support your child

Monitor how much your child is being exposed to television/social media stories regarding the fires; children can be distressed by watching repeated images. Explain to them that news reports will repeat images and stories and it may not be a good idea to keep watching.

Find out what your child's understanding of the event is and correct misunderstandings or confusion.

Include your child in making plans for the future.

Support your child to stay connected to friends.

Keep to your regular routines and activities as much as possible.

### Where to get help

While most children will bounce back after a traumatic event, some children may show prolonged distress and may benefit from professional assistance. School counselling staff are available to support students. Please contact your school to discuss.

## ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#)

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website [Privacy Policy](#)

For more information about privacy, see: [Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents](#). This information also available in nine community languages.

## PARENT PLANNER

At the back of this newsletter is a Parent Planner for Term 1, to keep you up to date with what is happening this term.

## MOBILE PHONE USE AT MILL PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE

On 26 June 2019, the Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino MP, announced a new mobile phone policy for every government school in Victoria.

The new mobile phone policy comes into effect from Term 1, 2020, and requires that students who choose to bring mobiles phones to school must have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

### The role of technology

We live in an exciting and technology-rich world and mobile phones are an important modern day communication tool. The school acknowledges that access to a mobile phone by children is important to many of our families in providing a sense of safety for their child while travelling to and from school, and for confirming or changing after school arrangements.

# College Principal's Report

## Managing the impact of mobile phones

Mobile phones often create disruptions and distractions in classrooms. Establishing a 'mobile phone free zone' helps teachers to establish and maintain a focused and productive teaching and learning environment.

Research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school (e.g. accessing inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and unauthorised photography). Additionally, research shows that the unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion. A summary of recent, relevant research is available on the Department of Education and Training's website.

At recess and lunchtime our school also values the opportunity for students to communicate with each other face-to-face or be involved in activities rather than being focused on a device, particularly when using the device to engage with social media.

The new policy does acknowledge that technology is increasingly impacting the way in which students learn and communicate. Therefore, when a student has been given explicit permission to access and use such devices to enhance learning by the classroom teacher, mobile phones will be permitted for that specific purpose.

## Emergency situations

In the event of an emergency or if you need to contact your child, I ask that families contact the staff in the campus offices who will pass on a message as needed. The school acknowledges that this new policy may require some adjustments. As such, I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in its implementation.

## UNIFORM

MPSC is a compulsory uniform school. There is a standard uniform and a Physical Education (PE) sport uniform.

### STANDARD UNIFORM

**All students** must wear only the school trousers/pants, shorts, dress or skirt, with MPSC logo.

**All students** must wear the white MPSC shirt when wearing the school trousers/pants, shorts or skirt, with MPSC logo.

**All students** must wear the woollen jumper or jacket or both, with school logo.

**All students** must wear black leather school shoes as outlined on the uniform list.

**Only** white socks can be worn with the summer dress, shorts, or PE shorts. Navy blue tights or white socks can be worn with the winter skirt. Any colour sock may be worn under long pants, including the PE/ Sport track pants.

Students may wear a white, **short-sleeved** garment such as a T-shirt under their school shirt for extra warmth.

### PE / SPORT UNIFORM

**PE uniform** is the PE polo, track pants or shorts, college jumper or jacket, each with the school logo. PE uniform can be worn to and from school on days in which a student has a PE class, including PE electives. Students may wear any sport shoe of their choice with their PE uniform.

The PE uniform must be worn to and from sporting venues or at any other time when representing the school in sport.

**A mixture of PE and standard uniform cannot be worn at the same time.**

Hoodies and leggings are **not** to be worn at any time.

**Special Uniform Items** – Year 12 students may purchase and wear the official Year 12 Class Jacket of their Graduating Year.

## Recommended School Bag

All students are expected to carry a plain navy blue school bag/backpack as part of the school uniform. This should not have any logos/decals etc. printed on it.



# College Principal's Report

## Acceptable Shoes

All school shoes must be black leather lace-up or T-bar sandals and have a defined heel.



Defined heel



## EXAMPLES OF NON-ACCEPTABLE SHOES



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

At this time of year it is important to remind you of the following information:

### ☞ CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Parents / guardians holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for CSEF in 2020. Application forms are available from the General Offices at both Campuses. The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of eligible student. The secondary school student rate is \$225 per year.

### ☞ CONTACT DETAILS

If you have moved home, changed phone numbers or e-mail addresses please complete a Data Update Form available from the office. It is important that we have up to date records in the event that we need to contact you.

### ☞ VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors, including Parents / Carers, must report to the General Office upon arrival. All official visitors must be signed in and carry a Visitors Pass and have a valid Working With Children's Check card with them. Parents / Carers are not permitted to walk around the school unaccompanied.

### ☞ SCHOOL ZONES

Parents, carers and visitors are reminded of the importance of road safety around schools.

School Speed Zones will be enforced from the commencement of the school year and parents / carers / visitors are requested to abide the speed limited in the designated school speed zones during the specified times (8.00am - 9.30am and 2.30pm - 4.00pm).

### ☞ SAFETY FIRST

In the interest of students' safety, the staff car parks at each Campus are FOR STAFF ONLY. Parents / carers / friends dropping off or picking up students are asked to park their car in nearby streets and not in the Staff Car Park.

### ☞ ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and carers are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

### ☞ LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME

The Department does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. Personal property is often brought to school by students. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

### ☞ MYKI CARDS—REGISTRATION

Registration of myki cards is optional; however, it is strongly recommended that students register their myki cards online at <http://ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/registering-your-myki/>. The main benefit of registering a myki is the balance on the myki is protected if it is reported lost or stolen.

I look forward to meeting the Year 7 parents on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 5:30pm at the Family BBQ. This will be followed at 7:00pm by support sessions for Sentral Parent Portal and/or Google Classroom.

Trish Horner





# Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

## Factsheet for school students and children

### Last updated 29 January 2020

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. Cases have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as some other Chinese cities and countries, including two confirmed cases in Victoria, Australia.

### What is this virus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It has not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person.

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to develop.

### What if my child is well, and returning to school after being in Hubei province, China or other countries with cases in the last 14 days?

**All students and staff members who have travelled to Hubei Province, China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China.**

Children and staff who are well and have travelled to other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are NOT recommended to be excluded from schools and child care services unless the following applies:

- The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days

### What if my child feels sick now or within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, China or another part of China?

- If your child has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, they must be excluded from school and be reviewed by a doctor.
- Seek medical attention but first place a mask on the student if you have one and call the doctor or hospital before you attend. Tell them your child has been in Hubei province, China, or the location of travel within China.
- When you get to the hospital or doctor's clinic, tell them where your child has travelled in China and whether this included Hubei Province. Ensure a mask is placed on your child before or as soon as you arrive at the medical facility.

If your child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

- Call 000 and request an ambulance, and
- Inform the paramedics where your child has been in China.

## How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence. The most important actions are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow

## Where can I get more information?

For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>

For international updates: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, January 2020.