

College Principal Report

CIRCUIT BREAKER LOCKDOWN

Thank you for supporting your children and our school staff this week. We were thrilled to welcome back our students and staff yesterday. We look forward to a return to normal with minimum disruption. It would seem our Parent Teacher Interviews were very well planned and timed!

Consistent with advice for the broader community, secondary school students aged 12 or older, **must** wear a face mask at school, unless an exception applies:

- in all indoor spaces
- in all outdoor spaces when 1.5m physical distance cannot be maintained.

Visitors and parents must also observe this guidance.

The wellbeing of all our students is our priority and our school staff and teachers are here to support you and your family. Information that might be of assistance to you in [talking to your child about COVID-19](#) is available. If you are concerned about your wellbeing or that of your child, please contact the school so we can talk with you about how we can best assist. Other sources of support include: Parent Line 13 22 89 and Kids Helpline [1800 55 1800](#).

The Department's COVID-19 helpline is also available on weekdays from 8.30am to 5pm on [1800 338 663](#). If you know a family who speak a language or languages other than English and you know they would like further information, interpreting services are available by phoning 131 450 first. For families with a child with a disability, the [Association for Children with a Disability \(ACD\)](#) has additional information.

A reminder that if you, your child, or a family member develops [symptoms of COVID-19](#) you should get tested at a COVID-19 testing facility and stay home.

Each family should regularly check the [list of public exposure sites](#) in Victoria (where a person with COVID-19 has attended), and if anyone in the family has attended a site at the times listed, follow the instructions given.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or contact the school if you have any concerns.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent teacher interviews were held on Tuesday 16 February via video conferencing. The participation rate was so high that most staff were fully booked for the entire day. It is great to form such a positive partnership with our students' families.

We are happy for parents to contact staff through Sentral, however please be mindful that teachers are in class most of the school day and have meetings after school on several days. It is important that staff create a boundary between school and home so please remember to keep your contact within reasonable hours and understand that staff may not be able to respond to you immediately. If you have any difficulty with contacting staff please contact the General Office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021

The School Council election has closed. The number of nominations received was less than the number of positions vacant for the Parent positions, consequently, a ballot is not required for any positions.

The Council meets twice a term on Tuesdays at 6pm commencing with a light meal. The meetings are generally finished by 7:30pm and it is a great way to meet with staff, students and other parents and also to learn about the school.

Parent Members:	Kathy Filev Cynthia Smith Tracey White VACANCY - 1yr term VACANCY – 2yr term
DET Members:	Melissa Stephens Susan Hyland

We welcome Melissa who is new to Council and thank her for being prepared to take on this important responsibility. We also thank Kathy, Cynthia, Tracey and Susan for nominating to stay on Council for another two-year term.

We would also like to thank retiring members, Margaret Joels and Zara Al-Hasany, for their contribution to school council. There are still two parent member vacancies to be filled, if you are interested, please contact Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700 or Joanne.Armarego@education.vic.gov.au

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STANDING COMMITTEES

If you are unable to commit to School Council but would still like to contribute to the College's future direction, please consider joining one of the School Council's sub committees. Members meet twice a term on a Tuesday night and all recommendations made by the committees are taken to School Council. Being a member of a committee also enables greater understanding of how the school operates and how decisions are made.

The sub committees are:

- Education
- Student Engagement & Wellbeing and Community
- Resources
- Finance

It is vitally important that we have parent input. If you are interested in joining one of the committees or have any questions, please contact Joanne Armarego on 9407 9700 or Joanne.Armarego@education.vic.gov.au

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all organisations that provide services to children including Victorian schools. The aim of the Standards is to ensure organisations are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

The Child Safe Standards provide a framework to identify gaps and improve policy and practices around child safety. The Standards are:

Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety

Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel

Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

Mill Park Secondary College in conjunction with School Council have been working closely to achieve compliance with these requirements. A considerable amount of work has gone into aligning practices and approaches as required by standards 1 to 6. We continue our work around Standard 7: Strategies to Promote the Participation and Empowerment of Children.

CHILD SAFETY WEEK 2021

Child Safe Standard 7 requires schools to develop strategies to deliver appropriate education around the following FOUR elements:

Element 1: Standards of behaviour for students attending the school

Element 2: Healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality)

Element 3: Resilience

Element 4: Child abuse awareness and prevention.

Our *School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Framework* sets the standards of behaviour for our students. The *Student Engagement Model* in conjunction with the *MPSC Teaching and Learning Model* have embedded a range of strategies to further build the resilience of our students.

The *Respectful Relationships* curriculum has specific focus on healthy and strong relationships between students.

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The school has designed a **program to be delivered through pastoral lessons** across all year levels during week 5 of this term: **Monday 22 February to Friday 26 February 2021**. This lesson is designed to build student capacity to:

- Identify when they feel safe and unsafe and when they are at risk
- Identify safe and unsafe social interactions
- Promote their personal safety by avoiding harm where possible
- Seek help using their identified safety networks
- Overcome barriers to disclosure like guilt or disbelief

Should you wish to discuss any aspects of this program please contact:

Melissa Stephens, Child Safety Officer on the Middle Years Campus - 9407 9700

or

Peter Tonis, Child Safety Officer on the Senior Campus - 9409 8222

HEALTHY EATING

I am concerned that some students are bringing energy drinks or soft drinks with a high sugar content to school. Enjoyment of healthy foods and drinks has a wide range of positive benefits for student health and learning outcomes such as:

- providing important nutrients that students need to be alert and engaged in classroom
- activities and for healthy physical development and performance
- supporting the development of healthy eating habits and preferences
- paving the way for good health and prevention of chronic illness

It is important that parents, teachers and students work together to support a whole-school-approach to healthy eating and build a school culture which supports students to choose nutritious foods and drinks, and a healthy lifestyle.

ROAD SAFETY

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).

A reminder that 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 23 February - School Council

Thursday 25 February - PPD Senior Campus

Friday 26 February - Year 7 Immunisations

Wednesday 3 - Friday 5 March - Year 7 Camp

Monday 8 March - Labour Day Public Holiday (no classes)



Trish Horner
College Principal





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TUTORS AT MILL PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE

As part of the Victorian Government initiative, Mill Park Secondary College now has a number of tutors, at both Middle Years and Senior Campuses, who will be offering additional opportunities for students to receive targeted support this year, following a disrupted year of learning in 2020. During the course of the program, tutors will be working with teachers, in and out of the classroom to improve student outcomes. If your child is to be a part of this program you will be contacted with additional information. We are very excited to have yet another team of people at our school focused on supporting our students with their learning.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Congratulations to the following students who are part of our 2021 Middle Years Campus leadership teams.

YEAR 7:

Captains



Hazeeq Bin Iszal



Ayliz Aygün

Vice Captains



Jenaan Najimun
Niyas



Andrew Cherian

YEAR 8:

Captains



Rachael Leong



Zach Melvaine

Vice Captains



Huda Jabar



William Nicholls



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YEAR 9:

Captains



Karthika Srikamalanthan



Brock Garside-Beck

Vice Captains



Esther Jangar



Rudraksha Das

YEAR 7 IMMUNISATIONS

IMMUNISATION DATES - MIDDLE YEARS CAMPUS:

Friday 26 February Yr 7 (HPV1) and Boostrix
Thursday 7 October Yr 7 (HPV2)

By now, all Year 7 students will have received their immunisation cards, if the card has not been returned please do so as soon as possible. Spare cards are available from the General Office.

YEAR 7 CAMP

The Year 7 camp will be running during Week 6 from the 3rd of March to the 5th of March.

Please remember to finalise payments before the 3rd of March. On the 3rd could all students please arrive at 8.30am with their luggage and lunch/ snacks for the morning of the first day.

There is a swimming activity at the camp and it is highly recommended all students bring their bathers and a spare towel.

The school or the camp takes no responsibility for any valuable items brought to camp.

Any students that require medication need to bring their medication on the 3rd, labelled in a zip lock bag or plastic bag with their name, home group and required dosages.

If you have any further questions please contact the Year 7 Engagement Team at the Middle Years Campus on 9407 9700.

PARENT PARKING

Parents are asked kindly not to pick up or drop off their children inside our staff car parks, use the front of the school in Moorhead Drive.

Please adhere to the parking signs along Moorhead Drive as we have on many occasions had Whittlesea Council parking officers up and down the street photographing cars double-parked. They will not approach you, instead take a photograph of the car door open with a child getting in or out which is their proof that the car is stationary. You may receive a fine in the mail. Also, please encourage your child to use the supervised crossing if dropping off or picking up on the northern side of Moorhead Drive.



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT HEALTH

If a student is unwell every attempt will be made to contact parents, guardians or emergency contacts. In the event of serious injury or illness where a nominated person cannot be contacted, a decision will be made in the best interest of the student.

This is why it is vitally important that student records are maintained with medical conditions, allergies and special requests. If your child requires medication at school this should be monitored through sickbay.

IMMUNISATION DATES - SENIOR CAMPUS:

Monday 7 June Yr 10 Girls & Boys Meningococcal

As yet immunisation cards for Year 10 students have not been issued.

All cards must be returned signed even if the student is not being vaccinated.

In 2015 the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 were amended to authorise schools to release parent and student information to local councils so that councils can follow up with parents after the consent forms have been distributed. This means that we will provide the local council with your contact details and a local council representative may contact you with vaccine program information. If you do not wish for your details to be provided to your local council, please advise the Principal in writing as soon as possible.

Alternatively you can contact the officer responsible for the vaccine program at Whittlesea Council in the event that you have queries about your contact details.

ANAPHYLAXIS

Anaphylaxis (a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening) affects a number of students at the College.

If you have a child with this condition and have not alerted the College it is imperative you do so immediately.

Parents who have received forms to be filled out can you please return them so we can update our records.

One of the most common allergens are nuts and eggs and we ask that parents make their children aware of this condition, and to be careful when sharing food with other students.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding this condition please don't hesitate to contact the College.

Asthma affects approximately one-fifth of our student population. These students are encouraged to use their medication accordingly under the family doctor's instruction, i.e. before sport if needed and students should have access to this medication at all times. Ventolin inhalers and spacers can be obtained at various locations around the school.

On Thursday 28 March the Athletics Carnival will be taking place. Students should wear appropriate clothing, a hat and apply sunscreen regularly to avoid the pain and danger of sunburn.

The PE curriculum offers a wide variety of sports and students are expected to participate. In the interest of dental safety a mouthguard should be worn when involved in sporting activities.

HEAD LICE

While children are at school many families will have contact with head lice. Head lice are small wingless, blood-sucking insects. Their colour varies from whitish-brown to reddish-brown. Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head, they will die very quickly usually within 24 hours.

People get head lice from direct hair to hair contact with another person who had head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl. Many lice do not cause an itch so you have to look carefully to find them; it is a good idea to check your child's hair periodically.

Treatment

A lotion can be used to treat head lice. This can be purchased at a Pharmacy. Another method is by using conditioner. According to the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, children with head lice can be readmitted to school after treatment has commenced.

The following website offers resources and further information: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice>.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

If your child has been diagnosed with an Infectious Disease (e.g. measles, chicken pox, etc) please ensure they have a clearance from the doctor before returning to school.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's health or safety don't hesitate to call, Cathy Cranfield, between 8:30am and 3:00pm.

Cathy Cranfield First Aid Attendant



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SAC CALENDAR

This year we have plotted all of the Year 11 and Year 12 SAC's onto a calendar and published this to students. This enables students to plan ahead, especially if there are weeks when there are a large number of SAC's.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY (PPD)

This Thursday 25th of February, teachers at the Senior Campus will be involved in a Professional Practice Day.

There will be no timetabled classes on this day but all students are required to attend a session for an hour and a half:

Year 10	9:00 – 10:30am PAT testing. Laptop required
Year 11	11:00 – 12:30pm Roadsmart
Year 12	1:30 – 2:30pm "How to ace your exams" run by a company called Elevate

LUNAR NEW YEAR



Friday 12th February marks the first day of the Lunar New Year. This is celebrated by many Asian cultures including China and Vietnam. This year it is the 'Year of the Ox'. International Students were presented with a new year gift by Ms Hai Ying Pan and Ms Nguyet Le.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON PROGRAM

24th February 2021:

Year 10 – 10F- 10J from 1:30 – 3:00 Elevate program

Year 11 and 12 - Catch-up class for students who are behind with their work or who missed a SAC

3rd March 2021:

Year 10

Year 11

Year 12 Business Management SAC

YEAR 12 GRADUATION

After having to postpone the planned 2020 year 12 graduation due to COVID restrictions, we are now planning to run this event on Thursday 4th March.

Same conditions apply, if it is fine weather, bring a camp chair and a rug and we will have the event outside. If the weather is wet, the venue will be in the gym and unfortunately only 2020 students will be allowed due to space restrictions.

Mill Park Secondary College
Year 12 Graduation

Now on Thursday 4th March

Mill Park Secondary College – Senior Campus
Arrive 6.45pm
for 7.00pm start

2020 Year 12 students will be presented with their
VCE/VCAL & VET Certificates

Subject Award Winners, Top 5 and the Dux will be presented with
certificates

If weather is fine, it will be held outside and parents are welcome.
BYO camp chair or rug

If it is wet, it will be held in the gym with students only due to
room capacity.
(An email will be sent out if this occurs)

Student Dress Code: Black and white semi-formal

No alcohol
Coffee van will be on site

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Just a reminder for students to bring a face mask to school as the office have a limited supply. Face masks must be worn at school (unless an exception applies):

- in all indoor spaces
- in all outdoor spaces when 1.5m physical distance cannot be maintained

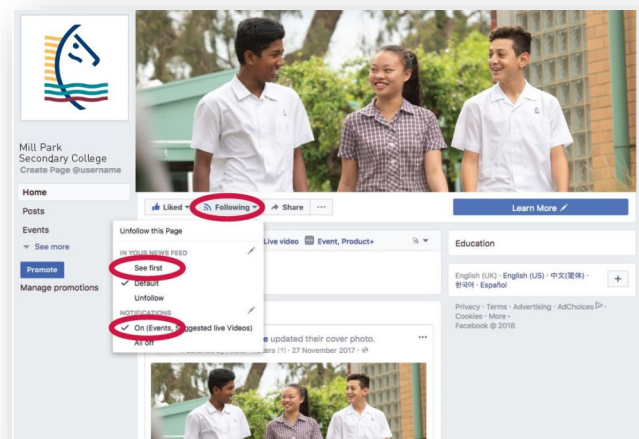


LIKE US at <https://www.facebook.com/millparksc/>

This screenshot shows you where to find SEE FIRST when you are liking the page.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. 'Like' Mill Park Secondary College.
2. To the right of the 'Like' button you will see 'Following' with a drop down arrow.
3. Please select 'See First in Newsfeed' and 'Notifications On (Events)'.



Young Women's Leadership Program

Talk about women's issues, gender equity and feminism

Connect with other young women

Feel empowered to be a leader

FREE ONLINE
program for young women aged between 15-20 years

Learn about women's health and mental health

Challenge gender norms



Mondays 4.15 – 6pm, 15 March to 17 May 2021*

To book your place follow the link www.Baseline.as.me/YWLP3
Contact Holly 9404 8800 or email baseline@whittlesea.vic.gov.au