



PORTLAND SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Edition 7, 14 May 2021



"To develop creative, articulate, respectful and resourceful young people able to contribute positively to the global community."

Contact Us: Ph: (03) 5523 1344 | Email: portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Message from the Principal:

It's been another very busy fortnight around the College with many students participating in a range of activities. Our Year 7 and Year 9 students completed NAPLAN tests in Language Conventions, Writing, Reading, Numeracy and Maths and it was pleasing to see students try their best in these tests. I know there is some controversy in the media about the validity of the tests and how sitting these tests can be stressful for some students. However, the data they provide about student learning is important, as is the practice of sitting an exam under strict exam conditions. During VCE, formal exams are a large component of the assessment and it is crucial that the skills required to sit an exam successfully are practised in the Junior years. We will have to wait a little while for the NAPLAN results but all students who sat the test will be provided with their individual results.

I am also very proud of the students who represented PSC at the Rostrum Voice of Youth last week at Brauer College in Warrnambool. All the students were very well presented, prepared and engaged. It was also great to have the parents attend with the students. Our junior speakers were Jed Denham, Zach Siemon, Ben McDowell, Milly Bayona and Patrick McGenniken. Both Milly and Patrick went through to the semi-final with Milly going on to win the event overall. She will now participate at the State Final on June 20th at St Kevin's College, Toorak. Jacob Peck competed in the senior event – against some very tough competition. Again, Public Speaking is a vital skill to learn going forwards and it takes a lot of courage to deliver a speech in front of a large crowd.

Last week also saw the running of the Cross Country and it was great to see a large group of year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students either tackling 3kms for the Juniors and the girls or 5kms for the older boys. School Captain Alex Sealey also took time out of his study block to run with the year 9 and 10 boys. Results of the event are published elsewhere in the newsletter as are the results of the next round of Cross Country held in Hamilton against other schools.

This week we've also had a group of Year 10 students out on Work Experience and our VCAL students are hard at work completing their School Projects as part of their Personal Development subject. This involves the students completing a project involving the school in some way in first semester before moving into a community-based project in semester 2.

Unfortunately, at present, we have had to close our student toilets during class time due to continued vandalism. In no way, are students restricted from going to the toilet. At recess and lunchtime they can use the student toilets which are unlocked and during class time, students are asked to get a note from their teacher (normal practice to leave class for any purpose) and use the sick bay toilet. To limit the amount of time students need to leave class, they should be utilising the toilets during their break times. When the toilets are fully repaired and the vandalism ceases, the toilets will be open all the time.

Finally, a word about uniform. We have a very active Student Representative Council who are looking at some uniform changes for 2022. This same team are the group who introduced our new school beanie. However, in the meantime, we are restricted to the uniform we have. Hoodies and sneakers are NOT part of our uniform.

Please make sure your child is dressed in full uniform or consequences will be applied. Anyone who needs financial assistance with uniform is asked to contact Student Services at the College.

Jo Kindred
Principal



Maths Tutoring

Maths tutoring is now available to all students after school (3:30-4:30), in the Library.

Miss Van Veen is available Tuesday & Friday (all Year levels)

Mrs Engel is available Wednesday & Thursday (Year 7-10)

Donna Chapman is available Thursday (Year 7-9)

No need to book, just turn up on a night that suits you with all relevant work and books. Students wishing to do private study or attend the homework program on these nights are also welcome.



Above L to R:
Patrick McGennisken,
Ben McDowell,
Zachary Siemon,
Milly Bayona and
Jed Denham

Below left:
Jacob Peck



Public Speaking Team

Public Speaking Report

On Saturday, May 1st, 6 students participated in the Rostrum 'Voice Of Youth' public speaking competition at Brauer College in Warrnambool. Competing in the Junior section were Year 8 students Patrick McGennisken, Ben McDowell and Zachary Siemon. From Year 9, we were represented by Milly Bayona and Jed Denham, while Jacob Peck of Year 10 competed in the Senior section.

There were many competent speakers on the day, but we saw Milly and Patrick proceed to the Junior semi-final; this meant that these students not only had to present their speeches a second time, but also write and deliver a 3-minute impromptu speech with only 15 minutes of preparation time. After some nervous waiting from the crowd, Milly was announced as the winner for the South West region, meaning she will now compete at the State Final of the Voice Of Youth competition at St. Kevin's College in Toorak in mid-June.

Everyone who participated in the Rostrum speaking competition are to be congratulated for their efforts; it's never easy speaking in front of a large group, and the dedication these students put in is to be acknowledged. Coming up on June 9 is the Legacy Junior Public Speaking competition, held in Hamilton. Milly, Jed and Patrick will be representing the school once again, and they will be joined by Riley Williamson of Year 8. Everyone involved are already hard at work preparing for this competition.

A very special thanks to Liz Paulet for leading the program to success, and to Gabrielle Robinson for dedicating her time to help our speakers prepare for these competitions; we couldn't have achieved what we have without them. I look forward to reporting further achievements of Portland Secondary College after the next round of competition.

Braden Dawson
English PLAT Leader



PSC Cross Country - Tuesday 4th May

On Tuesday the 4th of May, PSC held their annual school Cross Country championships. The rain from the night before disappeared to make way for an Autumn day full of sunshine.

The year 7 & 8 students were first to take to the course, battling it out over 3km around Fawthrop Lagoon. The year 9 & 10 girls also ran the same course later in the day, while the 9 & 10 boys completed the 5km variant of the course. A group of year 10 girls also took on the 5km, making light work of the extra distance.

Age Group Champions:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Under 13 Girl | Erin McPhee |
| Under 13 Boy | Buddy Sherwell |
| Under 14 Girl | Kirby Macleod |
| Under 14 Boy | Eamon Drew |
| Under 15 Girl | Abbey-Lyn Barr |
| Under 15 Boy | Noah McKinnon |
| Under 16 Girl | Abby Smith |
| Under 16 Boy | Nate Mirtschin |
| Under 20 Boy | Alex Sealey |



GD Cross Country -

Monday 10th May in Hamilton



On Monday the 10th of May, 31 athletes made their way to Hamilton to compete in the Glenelg District Cross Country Championships. After a cold and wet start in the morning, the rain held off as the runners took to the course. All females and 13 to 15 year old males competed over the 3km track while the older boys ran along the further 5km course.

All of the runners gave it their all, as the PSC girls combined to finish in 3rd place while the boys finished 4th out of the schools present on the day. PSC finished 4th in the overall standings which is a great achievement! A particularly impressive result was attained by Erin McPhee (13F), Buddy Sherwell (13M) and Eamon Drew (14M) who each placed 2nd, 2nd and 3rd in their respective age groups.

Well done to all the athletes who participated on the day and braved the chilly conditions. Those who finished in the top 7 positions in their race will now travel to Warrnambool to compete at the Greater Western Region Cross Country Championships on the 31st of May.





FRIENDLY REMINDERS

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact the General Office on (03) 5523 1344 or email portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au

SCHOOL FEES: If you have any questions about your Family Account or require an updated copy please phone the General Office or email portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au and we will make contact with you.

All excursions are put on Compass for consent and payment for your convenience, if you have CSEF available please call to authorise the allocation.

BPAY | Details are on Family Statements or phone for your reference

Bank Details | BSB: 313140 ACCOUNT: 12067508 Bank: Bank Australia

Procedures for Contacting Staff at PSC

With the creation of the three new sub schools, and the Assistant Principals, we have established a procedure for parents contacting the school if they have any queries concerning their child. This ensures parent's/guardian's receive the best results in a timely manner.

- Step 1** Contact your child's Mentor.
- Step 2** Contact your child's Level Leader.
- Step 3** Contact the Assistant Principal's Assistant for an appointment.

Thank you for your support.

Personal Goods brought to School at Owner's Risk

Personal Property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, IPODS, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not hold insurance.

Staff, students and parent/guardians are reminded of this at the beginning of this academic year. Please do not bring any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Jo Kindred – Principal.

Library

We encourage reading for information and entertainment.

The Library is open to all students at various times.

Students and staff will have access to fiction, non-fiction, class sets, magazines, games and equipment before school from 8.30 Tuesday to Friday and most days at recess, lunchtime and after school until 4.30pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

At recess and lunchtimes there will be many board and card games to play, if COVID rules allow, and students will be encouraged to use table areas as places to chat quietly or read. Tuesdays and Thursdays are tech free. Students are reminded to keep bags in lockers and eat food outside before visiting the library.

People to help you. Teacher Librarian Ms Janelle Collins will continue to promote reading and research skills, along with library trainee Marlowe Richmond. Literacy and Numeracy tutors Mrs Elley Foster, Nancy Outtram and Mrs Donna Chapman will be located in the library and will offer a regular homework program and other support to students, along with Milly Cameron on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Our school has an ongoing commitment to improving student literacy skills and the entire school community reads each day after lunch. Students may choose to participate in the Premiers' Reading Challenge. We encourage all students to drop in and find something that interests them for "Reading time." Let's read for information and entertainment in 2021.

Victorian Students' Parliamentary Program: Parliamentary Convention 2021

The Victorian Students Parliamentary Program is an opportunity for students in years 10-12 to participate in a one-day convention at Parliament House, Melbourne, where they will engage in a range of parliamentary style debates surrounding a range of topics on Australian democracy. This year there will be two conventions, and Portland Secondary College will put forward an expression of interest to join the first 2021 Convention on **Thursday 29 July** at the Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne. This year, the topic of discussion chaired by the speaker of the Victorian Parliament will be: ***Should the Australian Government fund a new National Anti-Racism Strategy as its main initiative for combating racial discrimination in Australia?***

At the end of last term, Tyler Osborne had the opportunity to travel to Melbourne as part of the two-day National Students Constitutional Convention, where he discussed the issue of whether the preamble of the Constitution should be changed to include a recognition of indigenous people. This was held at the grand Hotel Windsor on Spring St and included a tour of Parliament House across the road. Below are some photos of the experience, and the Parliamentary program should also prove to be an exciting and interesting event shared with students from across the state.

Please let Mr Rymarz, Ms Dixon, or Mr Harris know if you would like to join in this opportunity. There will be two conventions this year, so if you miss out on the first, then we can organise a second.

<https://ncsonline.com.au/projects/victorian-students-parliamentary-program/secondary-schools>



Joachim Rymarz
Humanities | Business
Management Teacher



Tertiary Tour

On Thursday 29th April at 5.30am, 50 students and teachers got on a bus and travelled to Melbourne. We arrived at Caulfield Racecourse to attend the VCE and Careers expo. Here we explored possible future pathways including University and TAFE courses. We then headed to Deakin University, Burwood Campus and had a guided tour. The afternoon and evening were spent at Melbourne Central shopping, having dinner and watching a movie.

On Friday we started the day at Victoria University, Footscray Campus. We then headed to Ballarat and to Federation University. Both guided tours were very informative. We arrived back in Portland at 6pm on Friday for a well-deserved weekend. It was great to be able to have Year 10, 11 and 12 students attend the Tertiary Tour and explore possible future pathways. A number commented on how they were now considering options they hadn't previously thought about. The students gained a lot from the experience. The staff commented on how maturely the students were behaved and what a pleasure it was to take them on the tour.



Mara Sains
Year 11 Student
Engagement Leader



LIBRARY NEWS

A reminder that it is important to have a book or magazine for reading time after lunch each day, the library has plenty of new titles ready to borrow, as well as many old favourites.



Letters were recently posted home regarding any library materials that were due before this term. Many students have items that were due in 2020 (and some even before). Students cannot borrow while they have any overdue items, so it is important that these be returned. Please return any overdue books you have, if they are lost please come and see a member of the library staff.

We have lots of activities happening this month in the Library as we celebrate ALIA Library & Information Week and also Education week. The theme for this year's Library and Information Week is Adventures in space and time. Come in to colour in and make your own bookmarks. Everyone is welcome to come and join in, any lunchtime Monday- Wednesday and Friday.



Pictured above are some Year 7 students colouring in their chosen bookmark designs, which will be laminated once they have finished colouring.

Marlowe Richmond
Library & Admin Trainee

Year 9 Morrisby Day - Wednesday 21st April

Year 9 students received a great introduction to career paths and skill building. Interviews to follow next week.



2021 Student Attitudes to School Survey

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2021 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), that your child is invited to participate in.

About the survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of your school.

The AtoSS is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist your child's school to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, bullying and life in general.

There are also some questions about student health and wellbeing. Understanding health and wellbeing needs is important to support students to learn and thrive at school. The Department is providing this addition to the core survey to allow your child's school to capture this information to support students.

Students will be asked about resilience, family relationships, community connections, health (including mental health), access to health services and physical activity.

This year, the AtoSS will be conducted at PSC over the period 17th of May to 31st of May.

What are the benefits?

In our experience, young people enjoy having their say. We have been running this survey for nearly 20 years and it has been invaluable in helping schools understand student views. Your school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

What are the risks?

While we do not anticipate many risks of participation, some students may find some of the survey questions too personal and sensitive in nature. Should you agree for your child to participate, they are still free to skip questions or to withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them upset or uncomfortable.

The survey been approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee. The questions are selected from validated survey instruments, are strength-based, and tailored for each year level group.

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey online during class time using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Please note:

- Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time.
- The survey will take around 20-45 minutes to complete.

How is my child's confidentiality protected?

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey from their teacher. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. Personally identifiable data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

How will results be reported?

The survey results will be reported back to the school in an aggregate form throughout the survey period. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Your school may share the results of the survey with parents, in documents such as the School Annual Report.

Options for participation

Participation in this survey is **voluntary**. If you do not wish for your child to do the survey, please opt out via email to your school: portlandsc@education.vic.gov.au. Please do so before the 14th of May, stating that you wish to opt out of your child's participation, along with their name and year level.

If your school does not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, it means that you give your consent for your child to participate in the 2021 Attitudes to School Survey.

A copy of the survey that we are asking your child to complete is available from your child's school. Please contact the administration office if you would like to see the survey before making your decision about whether you would like your child to participate.

If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the Department at attitudes.school.survey@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

The Department of Education and Training Victoria

Portland Secondary College Student Services



Doctors in Schools and the available services:

Visiting clinicians/specialists include:
Headspace | Portland District Health | Student Support
Service | CAMHS by referral | Vic Police | DHHS

Consulting each Wednesday at the purpose built Doctor's
Pod
located on school campus, appointments can be made at the
Student Services office or directly at the Pod (on
Wednesdays).

Please don't hesitate to contact Michelle or Tania if you
have any questions about the above mentioned service.



Phone:
(03) 5523 1344

KATEY SNOYS



South Portland Pharmacy

Katey enjoyed her work experience at the South Portland Pharmacy.

Katey decided to do her work experience with the Pharmacy because the Morrisby testing she completed in Year 9 indicated that a career as a Pharmacist might suit her.

A week of work experience has given her an opportunity to explore this career further.



60 Seconds with... Hamish Drew who is a School Council member, School Deputy Captain and SRC Captain

What do you enjoy most about coming to School Council?

Seeing how the school works and how it's ran behind the scenes.

What would be a highlight to date of your time at PSC?

Representing Portland Secondary College in various academic and sporting endeavours.

If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would lead?

Judi Dench

What would the move be called?

'One of youse'

Do you have pets?

Yes, a dog

What was the last book you read?

Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Dog Days

If you had to be shipwrecked on a deserted island, but all your human needs – such as and water were taken care of, what two items would you want to have with you?

Diary of a Wimpy Kid – The Long Haul and nail clippers

You've travelled and seen lots of places, which would you most like to return to?

Vietnam

If you hosted a school dinner, what would you cook?

Lesnack

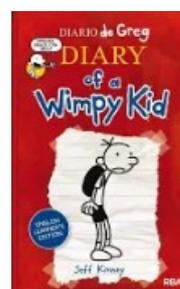
What makes you smile?

Dad jokes, this is my favourite:

"Did you hear about the lady that fell down the hole?"



food



Stay tuned for more Council members in our next newsletter!

Maths Extension Program

Our high achieving Year 8 students are working hard using their problem solving and reasoning techniques and strategies to work out an Albert Einstein riddle “Who likes the colour Violet?” According to Einstein only 10% of people can figure this out! That didn’t deter this group who worked in pairs and rose to the challenge with all students solving the problem. These students have been working with Mrs Donna Chapman twice a week to extend their Mathematics knowledge and challenge their thinking. By the way it was Monica & Alexander Cermak who liked the colour violet!



Donna Chapman
Numeracy Support

PSC VALUES

BE RESPECTFUL

BE SUCCESSFUL

BE RESILIENT

BE CREATIVE



Up and Coming Sport Events:

Keep an eye out on Compass for further details.

May

Tuesday 18th – Senior boys AFL (Year 11&12)

Monday 31st – GWR Cross Country

June

Wednesday 2nd – Intermediate boys AFL (Year 9&10)

Thursday 3rd – GD Soccer

Tuesday 15th – GWR Soccer

Thursday 24th – GWR Netball

Nathan Adams
Sport & Admin Trainee



Out and About!



Attention to parents of students with a serious medical condition.

When your child attends an excursion/camp that requires your consent, you will now need to confirm that PSC has all the current medical information for your child first. This will include Action Plans and Management Plans. Parents will need to tick the below highlighted box confirming that the information we have on record is current before being able to consent.

2 Administrative questions

Medical information

Details of medical conditions, allergies and medications being taken (already on file)

| Name | Action Plan |
|--|--------------------------|
| Medical Attachments | Download |
| ANAPHYLAXI SEVERE Peanut allergy [redacted] can have an anaphylactic reaction from touching and ingesting peanuts and nuts [redacted] has 2 an epipens at school. Once is carried on her body and they other in her locker. [redacted] and [redacted] have keys to her locker. | No Attachments |

Before consenting to this event you are required to review the above Action Plan to determine whether it is still current. If the above Action Plan requires updating please contact the school.

I acknowledge that the above Action Plan is still current.

Are there any additional medical conditions, allergies, medications or ailments?

e.g. A broken leg, asthma inhaler dosage increase, travel sickness, allergies, dietary requirements etc.

Please contact the school if any permanent/on-going medication information requires updating.

Parent / guardian contact details



Kristine Barker
General Office
Leader

Work Experience



CYRIL ZARAGOSA

Richmond Henty

Year 10 Student Cyril enjoyed a week at the Richmond Henty Hotel working in the kitchen of Edwards Water Front. Cyril helped with food prep, garnishing and has learnt some new knife techniques.





Community News

We love hearing from our community, please contact us if you have an event or story to share.

newsletter@portlandsc.vic.edu.au | Ph: 5523 1344



22 March - 27 May 2021



Win a Go Pro camera or tourist vouchers!

Enter our photo competition for your chance to share in around \$3000 worth of prizes.

Students need to take a photo that captures how they value water in south-west Victoria.

More details: wannonwater.com.au

Entries close 27 May 2021.

Proudly sponsored by

Wannon Water and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.



COMMUNITY PRIDE EVENT

SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST LGBTQIA+ DISCRIMINATION

AGED 12+ PARENTS, FRIENDS, ALLIES WELCOME

SUNDAY 16 MAY
HEYWOOD FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Q&A WITH LOCAL LGBTQIA+ PANEL
LIVE MUSIC PROVIDED BY FREEZA
AND ACTIVITIES!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact our Youth Development Officer: Maddy McKinna - 0400 151 447



finger food provided & drinks at bar prices

MYSTERY RAFFLE & GAMES with great prizes to be won

Sarah's TRIVIA FUNDRAISER for *Annie*

SUNDAY MAY 23, 2021

2:30PM - 5:30PM | the Gordon Hotel bistro | \$15 PER TICKET

Come along for a laugh and to support this very worthy cause! Sarah will be cutting her hair to donate to charity

Contact Dion Brugman on 0458 009 241. Tables of 10 can be reserved if pre-paid

Thank you SES volunteers

SES VOLUNTEER

#ThankyouSES

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 19th May 2021