

Portland Secondary College

Newsletter

TERM I WEEK I

31st January 2025

Highlights

- **Principal's report**
- **School Saving Bonus**
- Who's Who@PSC
- **Attendance**
- **School Council**
- **Uniform Matters**
- **High Expectations**

Portland Secondary College

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 4th February PSC Year 7 Camp
- 7th February Year 7 Home Study day
- 10th February PSC Swimming Sports
- 10th February Dental Van
- 18th February PSC School Photo day
 - 21st February Glenelg District Swimming
 - 27th February PSC School Photo backup day
 - 28th February Greater Western Region Swimming









Portland Secondary College is a Child Safe School

Principal Report

Welcome to all our new and returning families. 2025 is off to a successful start. All students have been welcomed into their new Sub-School, been allocated a locker, received their timetable via Compass and started their classes. Staff have completed a rigorous day of Professional Development to ensure we are fully prepared for student learning and this was followed up with a day of Mentor interviews. Thank you to all the students and their families who took the time to attend these very valuable interviews as it assists all students in making a smooth start to their year.

A number of new staff have joined us this year. Mr Colin Payne is our new Assistant Principal. Mr Jamie Olsen is teaching Maths and Humanities, Ms Kristy Riley is teaching Maths and Legal Studies, Ms Imogen Temby is teaching Maths, Ms Jasmine McDonal is teaching Maths and English and Mrs Emma Thompson is teaching Instrumental Music. We also welcome Montannah Perrett, Caryn Lyszcarz and Alana Nesbit to our Education Support team. We welcome all these people to PSC for 2025 and look forward to working closely with them throughout the year.

Throughout 2025 all teachers will be focusing on ensuring all students have learning growth in every subject, particularly in the areas of Numeracy, Reading and Writing. Teachers will be working collaboratively on developing different levels of coursework materials, cross - marking student work and setting individual goals for all students to encourage them to reach their full potential. Student learning will be reported on every six weeks and all parents are asked to keep abreast of their child's progress through Compass. Of course, parents are also welcome to make an appointment to see relevant staff at any time to discuss any issues they may have.

We will also be having a large focus on student wellbeing and part of this is keeping a close eye on attendance. We all know that every day counts when it comes to student Attendance. The Department is requiring that that schools, parents and students all meet their responsibilities to ensure there are as few absences as possible. If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible on the day of absence, by either calling the College on 55231344 or entering the absence on Compass. Notifying the school of your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility. All Victorian government schools are required to contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained student absence. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained. This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education, they learn new things every day – missing school puts them behind. If your child is likely to have an extended absence, let the school know – we can provide work to be completed whilst at home or on holidays.

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobiles phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2025 school year. The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school. For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact your child's Level Manager if you would like to discuss this. In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

Principal Report

Our school seeks to provide a positive, harmonious and productive environment and prides itself on clear, consultative and open communication. Despite our best efforts, Portland Secondary College doesn't always get it right. It is a complex process to deal with 550 young people and their families on a daily basis and sometimes students and parents may not be happy with how events are handled. We encourage all parents to get into contact with us if you are unhappy about something so the issue can be resolved. The College has a Complaints Policy which is located in full on the College's website if you want to make a formal complaint but please get in touch with either myself or one of the Assistant Principals in the first instance.

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in Portland Secondary College's Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website.

Unfortunately, from time to time accidents happen. Portland Secondary College recommends that all parents have ambulance cover because staff will not hesitate to call an ambulance if they feel one is required. Parents will then be liable for the bill for the ambulance service which can be quite expensive. Ambulance coverage for students is not expensive and could save big bills in the future.

Parenting a teenager can be very difficult at times. The Department of Education has number of websites where parents can find useful information regarding a whole range of issues.

- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing services and support for families, including:
- <u>Strengthening Parent Support Program</u> a free program for parents and carers with a child from birth to 18 years, with a disability or developmental delay.
- <u>Regional Parenting Services</u> support for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years located in regional Victoria.
- <u>Family intervention services</u> advice on how to develop your parenting skills when you're having difficulties in managing your child's behaviour.
- <u>Child, family and relationship services</u> family support services to help parents raise their children.
- <u>Raising Children Network</u> guidance on supporting school age children, including resources, videos, articles and apps.
- <u>Parentline</u> a confidential counselling and support services for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old.
- <u>Child behaviour</u> information about how to manage and build positive behaviour with your child.
- Parenting Ideas resources about raising confident, happy and resilient children.
- <u>MyTime program</u> support for parents and carers of children with disabilities. Skilled facilitators provide guidance to help access local services and reliable information.
- <u>Triple P Parenting program</u> ideas and strategies to help parents and carers including ways
 to set routines, manage behaviours and how to take care of yourself

I am looking forward to wonderful year working with all our families and students and extend a warm invitation for all parents to come and visit us here at PSC.

Just make sure that you firstly report to the Front Office.

School Saving Bonus reminder and support

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of \$400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

The SSB helps families cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, excursions, activities and more.

Most families have now received their SSB code(s). I encourage you to

take advantage of this government support.

If you would like to use your bonus for school activities, you can allocate some or all of the bonus using the School Saving Bonus online system.

If you have only recently completed your enrolment into the Victorian government school system you can expect to receive your SSB code(s) in the coming weeks.

If you have transferred to our school from another Victorian government school, any remaining funds on your SSB code(s) will soon be available to use at our approved school suppliers. We request your patience as this change is processed.

The Department of Education has established a dedicated contact centre to support the SSB. The contact centre can be reached by:

completing the School Saving Bonus enquiry form, calling **1800 338 663**,

between **8:30 am** and **4:30 pm** on **weekdays**.

If you are having any issues, please contact
the General office on **55231344**.

Who is Who?

Principal Class

Principal Ms. Jo Kindred

Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Learning Ms. Kirsten Mitchell

Assistant Principal of Discipline & Wellbeing Mr. Colin Payne

Leadership Team

Learning Specialist - AIP/ Building Capacity,

Curriculum

Mr. Simon Jones

Learning Specialist - AIP/ Building Capacity,

Wellbeing

Mrs. Christine Dixon

Leading Teacher - Year 7 Hub Facilitator & Data Ms. Mollie Reed

Compass, Reporting & Data Mr. Braden Dawson

Inclusion & Supported Learning Leader Mrs. Elizabeth Paulet

Year Level Leaders

Year 7 Student Engagement Leader Ms. Mollie Reed

Year 8 Student Engagement Leader Ms. Dakota Robinson & Ms. Isabella Trott

Year 9 Student Engagement Leader Mr. Adrian Porter

Year 10 Student Engagement Leader Ms. Susanne Patterson

Year 11 Student Engagement Leader Mrs. Lynne Hollis

Year 12 Student Engagement Leader Ms. Joanne Logan

PLAT Leaders

English Mrs. Christine Dixon

Health & Physical Education Mr. Dale Cumming & Mrs. Bec Gould

LOTE - Indonesian Ms. Jane McGrory

Visual & Performing Arts Mr. Liam Doyle

Mathematics Ms. Emma Speers

Humanities Mr. Andrew Harris

Science Ms. Donna Jennings

Design & Technology Mr. Thurston Bassett

Who is Who?

Daily Organiser Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

MIPs, Careers Development Coordinator, Ms. Suzanne Patterson

Koorie Liaison Officer

Satellite Campus Program Leader Ms. Lauren Logan

Senior Data, RTO and Exam Coordinator Ms. Mara Satins

Ms. Donna Matthews

Library Programs & Resource Manager Ms. Janelle Collins

Sport – Intra & Inter School Sport Mr. Dale Cumming

Mrs. Bec Gould

Inclusion & Supported Learning Admin Support Mrs. Marie Hein

Student Services Manager Mrs. Tania Beard

College Council President Ms. Rebecca Fraser

Administration

Business / Finance Manager Ms. Alana Nesbit

Operations Manager Ms. Cheryl Van Echteld

HR Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

Attendance & General Office Team Leader &

Junior School Attendance

Mrs. Joan Pethybridge

Middle School Attendance Mrs. Jodie Hollis

Senior School Attendance Ms. Donna Matthews

College Communications Ms. Jennifer Murray

Principal's PA Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

Assistant Principal of Curriculum & Learning PA Mrs. Jemma Aitchison

Assistant Principal of Discipline & Wellbeing PA Mrs. Jodie Hollis

Teaching Staff initials are created by taking the first letter of your surname, last letter of your surname and first letter of your Christian name.

E.g., Jo Kindred becomes KDJ.

Education Support staff use their initials. E.g., Jemma Aitchison becomes JA.



Portland Secondary College

Creating the opportunities

It's not ok to be away

		//	
When you are away	That equals	Which is	And over 13 years of schooling, that's
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Attendance matters. All day everyday

Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity



Portland Secondary College Creating the opportunities **School Wide Positive Behaviou** Suppport

Parent Information

At Portland Secondary College we recognise that strong student wellbeing is paramount to student learning and engagement, and we highly value the importance of establishing, nurturing and maintaining positive relationships in order to improve student outcomes.

The implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) has allowed the College to establish a solid framework to develop a positive, safe and supportive culture where student wellbeing and student learning are equally important.

SWPBS is a multi-tiered support system for behaviour management employed by teachers to focus on promoting expected behaviours through positive teaching and reinforcement.

When SWPBS is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and learning. Students and staff benefit from:
• increased respectful and positive behaviour

- increased time focused on learning
- increased academic performance
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- a predictable learning environment with improved perceptions of safety and increased attendance
- improved perception of safety
- reduced bullying behaviours
- decreased suspensions
- increased positive school culture and climate

SWPBS is supported by programs such as PSC's Mentor Program, the Level Managers, Peer Support Program, Respectful Relationships, PIVOT Wellbeing, Student Services and other external organisations and utilises the Department of Education Wellbeing High Impact Strategies and Positive Classroom Management Strategies. The College values and listens to Student Voice and Agency and encourages students to take on leadership roles and to be active participants in their local community.

The College uses the Compass program to share each child's progress at school in both their learning, engagement and behaviour.

Portland Secondary College School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

What is Compass? Compass is our School Management program that allows parents and carers to access up-to-date and meaningful information about PSC and your child's progress. Compass allows users to:

- Monitor your child's attendance, and enter an explanation for absence or lateness
- Communicate with your child's teachers, and update your family contact details
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar
- Monitor your child's homework and assessment tasks
- Download and view your child's academic reports
- Book parent-teacher conferences
- Pay and provide consent for events and school fees
- Access the College Newsletter
- Check your child's learning, engagement and behaviour at school

As part of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) your child can receive positive feedback in the form of a tangible reward which could be a token, a green Compass chronicle or a postcard.

Tokens: To reward a student for demonstrating a positive behaviour, staff simply hand the student the relevant coloured token and inform the student they can save their tokens and redeem them to gain a prize at the SWPBS Shop.

All teachers will be issued with a token pouch containing counters of the four values colours.

Red = Creativity
Green = Success

Blue = Respect
Purple = Resilience

Once a fortnight students will be able to redeem their tokens at the SWPBS Shop which will be manned by the Student Voice & Agency Committee (SVAC) students.

Green Compass Posts:

Teachers can also reward students by recording a green compass post under the relevant College Value. These posts are visible on the student's compass profiles for students and their families to view. At the end of each term the SVAC students will calculate each student's Compass points and they can be redeemed for a prize at the shop.

Postcards:

To acknowledge the demonstration of valued and expected behaviour, teachers can send Postcards home to students to be celebrated by their families.

When students make academic errors, it is important to respond by re-teaching, providing guided practice, and allowing them to practise with frequent monitoring. Similarly, viewing inappropriate behaviours as learning errors supports taking a supportive, educative approach. Effective responses to inappropriate behaviour in the classroom involve fair and consistent corrective actions. By explicitly teaching and providing constructive, specific feedback, students can learn and practise new behaviours.

Staff also use the Compass program to record the behaviours we want to see corrected.

These occur in the form of 'yellow' Compass notes for minor behaviours and 'red' Compass notes for major behaviours.

It is important that parents are regularly monitoring Compass to see how your child is functioning in the College environment.

Welcome



























Do you want to get further involved in your child's education?

Would you like to have input into how

Portland Secondary College operates?

Then how about considering joining our School Council!

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Who can join school council?

Parents and Guardians can all be elected on to School Council. Council is also made up of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Business Manager and a staff member, as well as elected students and the Deputy Captains of the College. Portland Secondary College Council also includes a community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates that there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might consider either standing for election as a member for School Council, or encouraging another person to stand for election.

Get involved in your child's education. Join the School Council at PSC!

Contact the Principal on **55231344**

for more information.

PO Box 452 170 Must Street Portland VIC 03 5523 1344

portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au

ABN: 45 147 185 348



UNIFORM MATTERS

Uniform is important at PSC for many different reasons. It is important that the correct uniform is worn, and that families support us in doing this. School uniforms...

- Minimise visible identifiers of wealth or disadvantage among the student cohort so peers feel equal to one another.
- Reduce the cognitive demand on students deciding what to wear each morning.
- Save families money on clothing in the long-term.
- Create a sense of identity and connectedness. They can be worn to identify PSC students (important for safety!).

Uniform items include:

- White or Blue Polo with PSC Logo
- White Button up shirt
- Dress
- Grey Trousers and shorts
- Navy Pullover with PSC Logo
- Navy Jacket with PSC Logo,
- PSC Bucket Hat, PSC Beanie,
- Black Leather Shoes, Plain White or Black Socks.

Frequently asked questions

My child has really good black shoes that aren't leather. Is this okay?

No. Shoes need to be polishable leather for safety reasons (eg. for science, technology and cooking).

We're struggling to get uniform at the moment - can you help?



Absolutely! There are lots of different ways we can help with uniform (even shoes!) - just reach out. My child complains that they aren't warm enough. Why can't they wear hoodies or grey trackies? Hoodies and tracksuit pants are not part of school uniform. Extra layers can be added under the uniform (eg. white long sleeve under the tops; leggings underneath trousers). What should my child wear for PE?

Students should change into the PSC Sports top, clothes and shoes that are suitable for physical activity. This includes runners with support, hair tied back, comfortable shorts, the PSC sport top, roll on deodorant.





Staff at Portland Secondary College have a belief that all students can be learners and leaders and we work hard to create opportunities for all students to be active and engaged. We aim to foster high expectations and four core values in all our students.



Respect - We demonstrate respect when we actively contribute to a positive classroom culture; following classroom rules, being considerate of others' needs, being an active listener, not talking out of turn, being inclusive of others, looking after each other, our equipment and our environment and wearing correct uniform.



Success - We demonstrate success when we take active responsibility for our own learning; being punctual and organised, being focused and fully participating in classes and completing all tasks both in and out of the classroom.



Resilience - We demonstrate resilience when we show consistent effort; striving to do our best even when we find tasks challenging. Resilient students seek support when they need it, tell an adult when things really aren't going well, ask lots of questions and push to extend themselves at every opportunity.



Creativity - We demonstrate creativity when we apply our knowledge to new experiences and challenges, willingly trial problem-solving strategies, and embrace our strengths and areas for growth to enhance our learning experiences.

By working in partnership, parents, staff and students can ensure that a positive education experience is enjoyed by all.



High Expectations in the JUNIOR SCHOOL

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VVC	alc	30	CCLS	OF UL	wileii	WC.

☐ Arrive before the bell
☐ Line up quietly
☐ Bring correct equipment to every class
☐ Give everything our best go
☐ Complete all homework
☐ Take pride in our school community

We are RESPECTFUL when we:

- ☐ Are kind to others
- ☐ Are kind to ourselves
- □ Care for property and our environment





We are empowered	to	SUCCEED	by:
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$\hfill \Box$ Arriving to mentor and classes on time
☐ Bringing correct equipment to every class
☐ Wearing full school uniform
☐ Completing & submitting all work
 Respecting ourselves, each other, facilities, and the environment
□ Taking responsibility for all equipment (e.g. locks on lockers)
 Participating positively and actively in our school community
☐ Being prepared to seek opportunities for self-
improvement

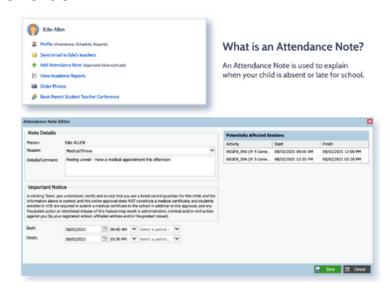


High Expectations in the SENIOR SCHOOL

n the Senior School community we:
$\hfill\square$ Respect each other, ourselves, and spaces
☐ Are quiet and productive in our work and study time
☐ Encourage, support and celebrate each other's efforts and successes
☐ Are responsible for following the VCE & PSC rules and regulations
$\hfill \square$ Are active participants who take pride in our education
☐ Model positive behaviours
Learn from mistakes and feedback

Compass Attendance & Wellbeing

Attendance and wellbeing are complex, interconnected issues, but keeping track of this information shouldn't have to be difficult. Compass has made sure of that.



Summary

Using Compass you can view up-to-the-minute attendance information for your child.

Notes

This sub-tab provides a list of attendance explanations for your child. From this tab you can also add absence notes (both past and future).

Explain Specific Absences

This sub-tab provides a list of all unexplained lates and absences from class. From this tab you can click to approve specific absences.

Daily Snapshot

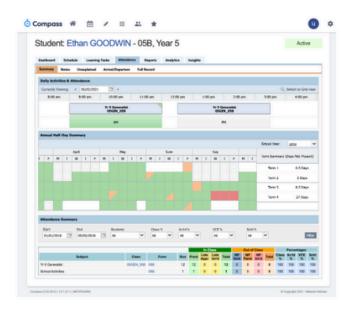
Recent school news items and information relevant to you. This may include newsletters, details of upcoming events.

Attendance Summary

Includes a summary of attendance in each class. For full details about a specific absence, click the appropriate number in the grid. For an explanation of a heading item, hover your mouse over the heading of interest.

When students are marked 'Not Present' in class this can sit in one of three different categories. These include:

NP Schl Not present in class and is explained by a school related activity.
 NP Parnt Not present in class and is explained by a parent approval.
 NP Unap Not present in class with no explanation entered.





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 | 03 5523 1344



Respect Success Resilience Creativity



TYRENDARRA AGRICULTURAL SHOW proudly supported by Community Bank Heywood & District



Lots of Fun for all the Family

Join us to celebrate the 107th Show

SATURDAY 8th FEBURARY 2025

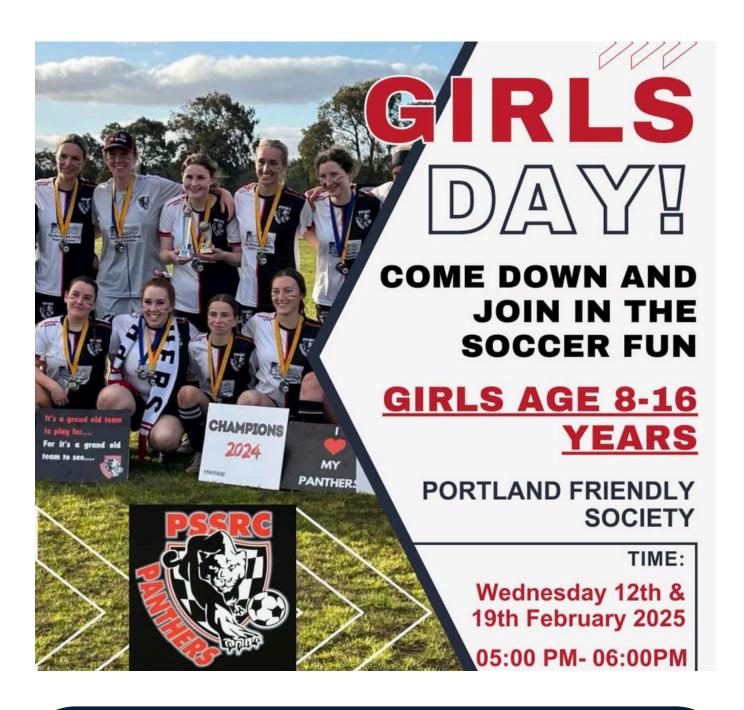
Tyrendarra Agriculatural Show website

It is that time of year again "TYRENDARRA SHOW", 8/2/2025. We would love to see your student's wonderful creations decorating our wall space again. Our 'budding artists' always excitedly point out their drawing/ painting/collages to their proud families. It is a busy time for you and we appreciate the effort it takes to support local events and to give your students different opportunities.

TOPICS this year

- * Free choice / "what if super heroes came to the show?" / Machines
 - * If your school/grade or students would like to enter and would like a pick up, I have enclosed my contact details. All groups need to be ready by Friday lunch (7/2/25) so we can get them displayed.
- * Please ensure artwork is clearly labelled with section, grade and school. Names are fine on the front for easy location for parents if you wish.
 - * A3 and below is preferred to ensure adequate space.

Once again, Thank you Janet Nunn, Tyrendarra show Art Steward



The Portland Soccer Club is hosting some Girls Days in the coming weeks for any girls between the age of 8 to 16 years old who would love to give soccer a try.

These sessions will be a fun packed hour starting at 5pm and ran by members of our women's 2024 championship winning team!!



Join Us for a Summer of Fun and Adventure!



FEBRUARY program

2ND OF FEB

Masterchef Day Italian cuisine

8TH OF FEB

Tyrendarra Show

15TH OF FEB

All Abilities
Surfing

21 - 23RD OF FEB

Mount Gambier

Camp

For more info: Please contact

Week / Date	Activity	Dinner BBO chicken, chips and
Week 1: Monday 3rd February	Barefoot bowling at the Botanical Gardens.	salad.
Week 2: Monday 10th February	Touch football session (TBC based on ground availability).	
Week 3: Monday 17th February Week 4:	Port Fairy Griffiths Island Walk.	Fish and chips.
Monday 24th February Week 5:	Scenic walk around the Fawthrop Lagoon.	Curried sausages + mash.
Monday 3rd March Week 6:	Swim / gym.	Pulled chicken + beef mince tacos.
Monday 10th March Week 7:	Labour Day PH (No Social Group).	N/A
Monday 17th March Week 8:	Basketball and mini games at Portland Secondary.	Lasagna, mash + veg.
Monday 24th March Week 9: Monday 31st March	Bird watching / nature walk at Point Danger Gannet Colony. Term 1 break up: Mount Gambier Ten Pin Bowling.	Chicken schnitzels + wedges. All Star Pizzas - Mount Gambier.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Teen Social Group runs from 3pm 7:30pm most weeks. Groups will run slightly later when travelling long distances. This will be communicated on a week-to-week basis.
- Pick-ups will be from mainly schools, but we can organise various home pick-ups if needed. All participants will be dropped home or per parent instruction.
- Activities and dinners are subject to change depending on
- weather and availability of different venues. Participants could potentially get wet on some activities. It is advised that participants wear weatherproof/warm clothing when participating in outdoor activities and bring a change of clothing on these weeks.
- _ All activities, water, snacks, and dinner will be provided by WSY.







GEELONG

Adventure park, beaches, laser tag & more!

MOUNT CAMBIER

Breath taking views, laser tag, Blue Lake & more





WARRNAMBOOL

All abilities surfing program, playgrounds, beaches & more!

BALLARAT

Historic tours, Sovereign Hill adventures & more!





GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Twelve Apostles, scenic heights + delights & more!

MELBOURNE

Exploring the city, cultural experience, sporting events & more



ADELAIDE

City landmarks, wildlife parks, group activities & more!

HALLS GAP

Grampians landscape, hiking, wildlife encounters & mo



ROCKLANDS

Fishing, kayaking, relaxation by the water & more!

ECHUCA

Murray River, historic exploring, swimming & more!





ROBE

Beachside activities, local seafood, beautiful weather & more!

GLENELG RIVER EXPEDITION

Canoeing, camping, picturesque views & mo





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