

Portland Secondary College

Newsletter

TERM 4 WEEK 8

25th November 2025

Highlights

- Principal's report
- Attendance
- Library News
- Hands On Learning
- Public Speaking
- StudentAchievements
- Careers
- Community News

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Monday 24th November Thursday 27th November
 - Year 10 and 11 exams
- Friday 28th November
 - Year 10 TAFE Taster (for selected students only)
 - Student Free Day for all other students (Staff Professional Development Day)
- Monday 1st December
 - Classes run as normal
 - Year 9 2025 Industry Tour
- Tuesday 2nd December
 - Year 11 & 12 2026 Headstart begins
 - Year 7 Celebration Day Allestree/Narrawong
 - Year 8 Celebration Day Warrnambool
 - Year 9 Celebration Day Halls Gap
- Wednesday 3rd December
 - Year 8 12 2026 Headstart



Portland Secondary College is a Child Safe School

Jo Kindred, Principal



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This week marks the last week of normal classes for 2025.

Year 10 and Year 11 students are completing their exams and will receive their exam results next Monday, the 1st of December. From Tuesday the 2nd of December, the HeadStart Program begins for 2026 Year 11 and Year 12 students whilst our other year levels will enjoy a 2025 Celebration Day. Year 7 students will visit the Abalone Farm at Allestree before going onto Narrawong for some group activities; Year 8 students will enjoy a day in Warrnambool experiencing a trip to Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum where they will complete a self - paced explore activity scavenger hunt and meet the Maremma dogs who protect the bird colonies from foxes and other predators before heading off to Lake Pertobe for lunch and Year 9 students will travel to Halls Gap to enjoy a walk and lunch.

On Wednesday and Thursday of that week all year levels will partake in the HeadStart program and on Friday, weather permitting, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in 2025 will enjoy Bridgewater Day.

The HeadStart Program is a chance for students to meet their 2026 teachers and try out some of their classes, and for our Senior Students, it also allows them to collect their holiday homework and complete some work prior to the 2026 year beginning. Also occurring that week on Thursday the 4th of December is Presentation Night where we celebrate all the highlights and student achievement of 2025. If your child is required to attend Presentation Night, they will receive a formal invitation but all parents, students and families are welcome to attend.

Following the HeadStart Program, students will have three days at home before the Activity Program begins. More information about the Activity Program can be found in the calendar attached in this newsletter.

A special congratulations to **Ajay Sonti** who recently won the National Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition in Adelaide and make sure you read all about the fantastic things our Hands On Learning crew have been up to recently. Parents can also read about the Future Leaders of Industry Program, Year 7-10 Super 8 Cricket and Year 11 VM Personal Development classes.

Finally, I was very pleased to attend the Year 12 Graduation dinner held last Thursday night at the Golf Club. A lovely evening was enjoyed by all with some delicious food served by Four Plates catering. All students were acknowledged for their completion of year 12 with some students also receiving recognition for their academic achievements. We look forward to receiving their exam results in mid December.

So, a very busy two weeks coming up as the College finalises 2025 and moves into 2026.





1st November 2025

Dear parent/guardian,

Portland Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Portland Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education, resources and support for our students.

Within our school, family contribution support has allowed us to ensure a wider offering of subjects and curriculum experiences: enhanced digital learning opportunities; the upgrade of facilities and equipment and the engagement of presenters and presentations to enhance student learning.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

JO KINDRED

Principal

REBECCA ERASER

School Council President



Portland Secondary College



Curriculum Contributions - Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Subject consumables, 2026 student planner, classroom materials and activities	\$260.00
VET Program (if applicable to your student) • Contribution to support the provision of our VET program offerings	\$50.00
Total Curriculum Contributions	\$310.00

Other Contributions - For non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
First aid equipment and supplies (including bandaids, kits, icepacks)	\$10.00
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$30.00
Total Other Contributions	\$40.00

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities - provided on a user-pays basis Portland Secondary College offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.	Estimations Only (Amount for activity to be calculated at the time of planning and families notified via Compass)
Camps to be scheduled for Years 7 to 10	\$180 to \$400
GD / GWR Sports Events	\$10.00 to \$30.00
Tertiary Tour	\$180.00
Year 12 Graduation Ticket	\$60.00
Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities	Notified as required

Financial Support for Families

Portland Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Compass Payment plans

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact our Finance Manager, Alana Nesbit on 03 5523 1344.

PO Box 452 170 Must Street Portland VIC 03 5523 1344 portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au ABN: 45 147 185 348



Portland Secondary College



Option 2 - Total for students enrolled in VET Program:	Total
Curriculum Contributions including VET Program	\$310.00
Other Contributions	\$40.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Paid as required
Total	\$350.00

Payment methods available at Portland Secondary College:

Compass: Provides a quick and convenient payment through the Compass parent login.

Requests for a personalised family plan are available.

Cash or EFTPOS

Direct Deposit:

It is highly recommended to enter relevant BSB: 063 093 information as the reference to identify ACCOUNT: 1000 2891 student and purpose of payment.

BPay: offering families a unique reference

Voluntary Curriculum Consumables: Pay in full, 10 Week Payments Plans are offered Terms 1 to 4.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Pay in full, Payment Plans available tailored to be finalised prior to event date.

Available at the General Office.

NAME: Portland Secondary College School Council

REFERENCE: Student code eg: STU123

Available by requesting a Family statement.

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.

PO Box 452 170 Must Street Portland VIC 03 5523 1344 portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au ABN: 45 147 185 348





PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all
 items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the
 Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of
 Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- · Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.

PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:



Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for noncurriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

 Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a
 confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.



GRADE 5 DISCOVERY DAY MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2025

We invite all Grade 5 students from our local primary schools to join us for a day of fun and discovery!

Come and experience a day at Portland Secondary College where you can explore our classrooms, meet our teachers, and take

part in exciting and fun planned activities.

Time: 8:45 am - 3:30 pm

Meeting Location: Marriott Theatre (near the gym)

Pick up: Please confirm with your child where they will be picked up from at the end of the day

Year 7 HUB/School tours: 9:30 am (departing from the General Office) and 4:30 pm (departing from the Year 7 HUB)

Parent Information Session: 3:45 pm (in the Year 7 HUB)

Parent Information Session for students with disability: 10:15 am (attend General Office)

What to bring:

- Clear water bottle
- Pencil case
- Snacks and lunch (or money for the canteen)
- Wear your primary school sports uniform



GRADE 6 ORIENTATION DAY TUESDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2025

Students commencing Year 7 in 2026 at PSC are expected to attend this exciting orientation day, where they will meet their teachers and classmates and experience a selection of next year's classes.

Time: 8:45 am - 3:30 pm

Meet at: Marriott Theatre (near the gym)

Pick up: Please confirm with your child where they will be picked up from at the end of the day

Parent Information Session for students with disability: 3:00 pm (attend General Office)

Parent Information Session: 3:45 pm (in the Year 7 HUB)

What to bring:

- Clear water bottle
- Pencil case
- Snacks and lunch (or money for the canteen)
- Wear your primary school sports uniform

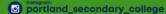
More Info ▶





www.portlandsc.vic.edu.au





Portland Secondary College Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Impact

At Portland Secondary College we strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values of Respect, Success, Resilience and Creativity.

The implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) has seen the College establish a solid framework in which 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 our teachers which focuses on promoting expected behaviours through positive teaching and reinforcement. We are in the second year of implementation.

21%

Fewer Major Behaviour Incidents

Major Behaviour referrals have dropped significantly, leading to calmer classrooms and more time for learning.

5:1

More positive classrooms

We're aiming for 5 positive comments to every one correction, helping students to succeed.

26%

Increase inPositive
Green notes

Green notes are affirmations, given to students who exhibit positive behaviours.

We've also seen

- 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
- improved perception of safety
- reduced bullying behaviours
- decreased suspensions
- increased positive school culture and climate

Our 2025 Attitude to School Survey completed by students showed a:

- 7% growth in Sense of Connectedness
- 7% growth in Respect for Diversity
- 7% growth in Effective Classroom Behaviour
- 14% growth in Not Experiencing Bullying
- 3% growth in Advocate at School

What Our Students Are Learning



Be Respectful and treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.

Be Successful and strive to be the very best that you can be.

Be Resilient and persevere through challenges.

Be Creative and use your initiative to have a positive impact as a global citizen.

Our School Motto is Creating the Opportunities

Our School Mantra is High Expectations - No excuses! We have clear expectations for students in the Junior, Middle and Senior School and we use simple, clear routines to teach students about expected behaviours.

High Expectations

High Expectations in the JUNIOR SCHOOL

We are SUCCESSFULL when we:

- Arriving 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

High Expectations in the MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are empowered to SUCCEED by:

- Arriving to mentor and classes on time
- Brining 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

In the Senior School Community we:

- 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 VCE and PSC rules and regulations
- Are Active participants who take pride in our education
- Model positive behaviours

••••••••

Learn from mistakes and feedback



Library

Corridors

Locker Ar

Classroom

Behaviour Expectations Matrix

	Be Respectful	Be Successful	Be Resilient	Be Creative
ms	We arrive on timeWe listen to the teacher	 We bring correct equipment We stay on task We try our best 	 We ask for help We challenge ourselves We learn from our mistakes 	 We share our knowledge We embrace new ideas We help others
	 We use appropriate voice and tone We are considerate of others 	 We return books on time We use available resources appropriately 	 We read outside our comfort zone We use study time productively 	 We engage in library activities We experience a variety of resources
T)	We walk calmly We speak softly	 We line up quietly We keep areas clean 	We are considerate of others	 We look ahead and move safely We dispose of litter thoughtfully
reas	 We wait patiently We only access our own locker 	 We collect all class materials in a timely manner 	 We lock our locker We keep our locker area clean 	 We keep our own locker organised We are considerate of others
ies	We sit quietly in Mentor GroupsWe listen carefully	 We listen for opportunities We encourage, support and celebrate the achievement of others 	We wait patientlyWe stay focused	 We are inspired and consider our future goals
	 We use facilities appropriately We respect the privacy of others 	 We use the facilities during break times We practise good hygiene 	We report damage	We conserve water
	 We line up and wait patiently We use our manners We only enter the canteen if ordering 	 We plan our order We use the correct line 	 We are patient We have alternate choices ready 	We make healthy choicesWe try something new
	 We are kind to others and the environment We behave in a safe manner 	 We take pride in our school We put rubbish in the bin We keep our area clean 	 We attempt to solve issues maturely We seek help from teachers when resolving issues in the yard. 	 We try new activities We choose not to follow the crowd
Office	 We use our manners We are considerate of parents and visitors 	 We remember our planners We arrive promptly if called 	We wait our turn to be served	 We observe notices on noticeboards We greet visitors politely
ces	 We follow online etiquette We close our device when it's not needed 	 We use devices appropriately and productively We take our charged device to class 	 We embrace mistakes as a step forward We seek support if needed 	• We try different apps to present work
mmunity	 We wear correct school uniform We represent the school with pride 	We make the most of opportunities to represent PSC	 We are open to different ideas We embrace diversity 	 We have a voice on community matters We volunteer to try different activities

To provide all students with opportunities to become creative, successful, respectful and resilient members of their local and global communities.

In the con

ICT/Device

General Of

Grounds

Canteen

Toilets

Assemblie

PORTLAND SECONDARY COLLEGE

PSC STUDENTS: YOUR SAFETY IS #1...

- Students must cross the road at designated crossings where available
- Students need to practice the "Stop, Look, Listen, Think" rule, no matter what age they are
- Students must stick to footpaths when possible
- Students should minimize distractions, such as using mobile phones and headphones while crossing the road
- Students must walk their bikes and scooters across the road and must not ride in and out of the traffic
- Students must not walk in and around the bus loop area
- Students must not run/walk in amongst moving traffic. You must cross the road at a safe place when the road is clear of traffic



PORTLAND SECONDARY COLLEGE

STUDENT SAFETY IS IMPORTANT

- Drivers must be alert, watching for school zone signs, traffic signals and potential hazards such as student movement and opening car doors
- Drivers must obey the 40km speed limit in school zones that are in effect between 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm weekdays during Victorian school terms
- Drivers must avoid distractions, such as using mobile phones
- Drivers must park in designated areas and avoid parking on driveways, footpaths and grass areas
- Orivers must be aware of school busses pulling out into traffic and students getting on and off busses
- Drivers must use designated drop off and pick up areas

E-scooter Road Rules

Tougher penalties as e-scooters are made permanent.



e-scooter riders cannot

- Ride on the footpath
- Use a mobile phone while riding
- Ride while under the influence of
- drugs or alcohol
 - Carry passengers or animals or ride
- in tandem
 - Ride a high-speed e-scooter, one capable of more than 25 km/h
- Ride on roads that have a speed limit over 60 km/h

e-scooter riders must

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed the maximum speed of 20 km/h
- Ride only on shared paths and roads that have a speed limit up to 60 km/h
- Wear a helmet at all times
- Follow traffic rules
- Use lights and reflectors







Six strategies to help prepare for the end of school

School is such a big part of your life. You might have mixed feelings as you approach the end of it. You may be excited or unsure about your post-school plans. You may feel a bit anxious or overwhelmed. Whether you're planning to study, work or play – think carefully about the transition from school to your life beyond it.

Reflect on what you've achieved.



Finishing school is a huge achievement. Reflect on your last few years of school and make sure any important achievements go on your resume.

f myfuture career article:
Write strong achievements

2 Understand your pathways.



Whether you're going to TAFE, university or into work, the more you know about how the process works, the better. Browse myfuture's career articles. You can filter by VET or university articles.

f myfuture Career articles

3 Line up some work.

Whatever you do after school, having a job will help. It will put money in your pocket and skills on your resume. Check out myfuture's resume templates and guides to job-seeking.



f myfuture's Job seeker resources

4 Tidy up your digital footprint.

Social media and email are crucial for your career as well as your private life. Set up a professional address to use while jobhunting, consider setting up a LinkedIn account and review your personal social media accounts.



f myfuture Career article: Clean up your digital footprint

5 Take a break from study.



The end of school is a great time to take a break from study, often called a gap year. You might travel, volunteer or work during this time. A gap year can help you recharge and take a bit of time to figure out your next steps.

f myfuture Career article: Making gap years work for you

6 Look after your wellbeing.



The end of school can be a complex time emotionally. You might feel excited and anxious at the same time. Make sure to reflect on how you're feeling about things and talk to someone if you need help.

f myfuture Wellbeing and resilience hub



myfuture.edu.au

ATTENDANCE

Does your student's attendance matter?

Yes! It does matter!



Attendance matters! All day everyday!

Respect

3 days per week

Success

120 days per year

Resilience

24 weeks per year

Creativity

Nearly 8 years

Portland Secondary College

Creating the opportunities

TERM 4 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Monday 24th - Year 10&11 exams

- Year 7-9 Interschool Bowl Tournament (selected students only)

Tuesday 25th - Year 10&11 exams

Wednesday 26th - Year 10&11 exams

Thursday 27th - Year 10&11 exams

Friday 28th - Year 10 TAFE Taster (selected students only)

- Student Free Day (Staff Professional Development Day)

DECEMBER

Monday 1st - Normal classes

- Year 9 2025 Industry Tour

Tuesday 2nd - Year 7 Celebration Day - Allestree/Narrawong

- Year 8 Celebration Day - Warrnambool

- Year 9 Celebration Day - Halls Gap

- Year 11-12 2026 Headstart begins

Wednesday 3rd - Year 8 - 12 2026 Headstart

Thursday 4th - Year 8 - 12 2026 Headstart

- 2025 Presentation Night

Friday 5th - Bridgewater Day (Year 7-9 2025)

- Year 11-12 2026 Headstart

Monday 8th - Grade 5 Experience Day (Student Free Day)

Tuesday 9th - Grade 6 Orientation Day (Student Free Day)

Wednesday 10th - Staff Professional Development Day (Student Free Day)

Thursday 11th - End of Year Program - Humanities

Friday 12th - End of Year Program - Maths

Monday 15th - End of Year Program - Art

Tuesday 16th - End of Year Program - Technology

Wednesday 17th - End of Year Program - Science and LOTE

Thursday 18th - End of Year Program - English

- Last day for students

Friday 19th - Last Day of Term 4 for staff

Calendar was last updated on 23/11/2025.

Please monitor Compass, Newsletter and Social Media for updates.

Elizabeth Paulet, Public Speaking Coach

Legacy Junior Public Speaking National Competition



Congratulations Ajay!

Year 9 PSC student **Ajay Sonti** has been crowned the **National Winner** of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition in Adelaide.

Over the past three years, Ajay has:

- · Won the State Champion title twice
- Placed 3rd nationally two years ago
- Delivered a powerful 5-minute speech on the importance of listening in remembrance, along with a humorous impromptu response to the set topic "Life is what you make it."

This achievement marks the fourth consecutive year that Portland Secondary College has competed at the national level.











Rebecca Gould, PE Team Leader





Super 8 cricket is a format designed for beginners or teams looking to gain experience in the game.

In this format, players bat in pairs for a specified number of overs, and while they do not leave the field, they lose runs when losing a wicket.

The format allows for up to 16 overs per side, with each batting pair facing 4 overs per match.

It is a great way to develop skills and encourage new players to the game of cricket.

Both PSC teams played 4 games with mixed results.

All had fun whether they were experienced players or just beginners. Thank you to Ms Patterson and Mr Wells for their support on the day.





Rebecca Gould, PE Team Leader

Super 8 Cricket Yr 7/8



15 PSC students recently headed to Hamilton for the Super 8 Cricket Tournament with Mr Elijah and Tarni, competing against schools from across the region.

With the sun finally on our side, our students embraced the day and showcased every one of our school values.

Despite being a player down, the girls kicked off with some fun warm-up dance moves and wrapped up the day with a massive win!

The boys smashed plenty of thrilling sixes and fought hard in four nail-biting games that went right down to the last ball—just missing out on a win.







Lauren Logan, Re-Engagement Leader



Re-Engagement

A huge well done to our amazing **PSC Re-Engagement and PSC students** for their work on this film!

The link to the film can be found on the attached posters using the provided QR codes or by clicking https://www.facebook.com/reel/1245402320681404

😂 One Vape, Two Choices 🎬

The Glenelg Vaping Project in partnership with Vic Health has been such an awesome opportunity for local re-engagement students to get creative while learning about the real health impacts of vaping.

Working alongside the crew from Powerhouse Productions students explored how vaping affects both physical and mental health, before bringing their ideas to life through storyboarding, filming, and poster design for World No Tobacco Day.

Through the use of animated fruit emojis, their film cleverly shows how vape marketing can look fun and harmless but actually hides serious risks underneath. The group also got handson in acting, script writing, directing, and production, building skills in creativity, teamwork, and communication along the way. Thank you Jake Tunstall Portland Football Netball Club and Scarlett McGennisken Portland Secondary College for jumping on board and supporting the project.

The final film shines a light on themes like peer pressure, misinformation, and making informed choices, with a focus on how young people can support each other to make healthier decisions.

Keep an eye out for their film and posters popping up across schools, sports clubs, and social media and feel free to share it yourselves to help spread their powerful messages and inspire others to think twice about vaping.

The Choice Is Yours







Denis Belden, Education Support

Hands On Learning - Walking Mural Tour



The Portland Secondary College's Hands on Learning cohort donned their walking shoes for a tour of the Portland CBD murals.

The crew explored several sites, including the Powerhouse Motor Museum, the Portland Library, inside Portland Bike and Skate, the Gordon Hotel carpark, and the wall alongside the foreshore ramps.

PSC's Hands on Learning artisan teacher, Gene Stewart—who has personally contributed to some of these murals—discussed the different techniques and artistic styles used.

This term, students have been working on self-portraits and graffiti designs, with their finished works to be displayed in the Hands on Learning shed.

To round off the excursion, the group enjoyed a barbecue lunch at Nuns Beach and showcased their creativity with a few sand sculptures.













Denis Belden, Education Support



Hands On Learning - Celebration

Our 2025 Hands-On Learning class recently hosted a celebration morning tea, proudly showcasing their amazing projects from the year to parents, PSC staff, and special guests.

It was a fantastic morning celebrating creativity, teamwork, and the incredible skills our students have developed throughout the year!









Suzanne Patterson, Careers

Future Leaders Program Graduation - Class of 2025



On Wednesday, October 29th, more than 50 proud family members, friends, and community leaders gathered at the Alexandra Park Pavilion to celebrate the graduation of the 2025 Future Leaders program participants.

This year, 10 students from Bayview College, Heywood and District Secondary College and Portland Secondary College successfully completed the program, sharing heartfelt reflections on their personal growth, leadership development, and career aspirations. Their presentations showcased the transformative impact of the program and were delivered to an audience of peers, families, mentors, educators, sponsors, and community representatives.

Portland Aluminium, the founding partner and major sponsor of the program, was represented by Scott Cleary. He spoke about the long-standing success of the initiative, now in its 20th year, noting that several alumni have since joined the Portland Aluminium team—an inspiring testament to the program's role in cultivating future leaders within the region.

PSC 2025 Future Leaders Graduates:

Alyssa Carlsen, Sy Sy Diep, Elias Taleb and Noah Liersch

Established in 2005 by Portland Aluminium and coordinated by the Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network (GSGLLEN), the Future Leaders Program provides Year 10 and 11 students with opportunities to explore local industries, develop career pathways, and build leadership skills. The program fosters confidence, transferable skills, and community engagement—helping shape the region's future workforce and civic capacity.

Anne Murphy, Executive Officer of GSGLLEN, expressed her gratitude:

"Thank you to our community and industry partners for your continued support of the Future Leaders Program. Your contributions empower students to build essential work skills, clarify their career goals, and form meaningful community connections—experiences that will benefit them wherever life leads."

The Future Leaders Program is proudly supported by GSGLLEN and a network of local partners, including:

Portland Aluminium, Glenelg Shire Council, Committee for Portland, Wannon Water, Port of Portland, United Way Glenelg, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service Inc (DWECHS), Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Are-able, Portland District Health, Deakin University, South West TAFE, Keppel Prince, Victoria Police, and the Portland Young Peoples Network. (media article supplied by Tiana Richardson, GSGLLEN)

Future Leaders Program Graduation - Class of 2025













Noah Liersch – Industry mentor was Mitchell Grant from Port Fairy Golf Club.

Elias Taleb – Industry mentor was Jake Edwards from Port of Portland.

Sy Sy Diep – Industry mentor was Julia Ray from HBH Legal.

Alyssa Carlsen – Industry mentor was going to be **Jodi Parker and Marjone Zeeman** from Elsa McLeod Kindergarten but Alyssa was lucky enough to secure a chef apprenticeship at the Royal Hotel before she was able to complete her mentoring days.

Photo credit: Jessa's Lens Photography



Janelle Collins, Teacher Librarian



Library News

Please make sure any library books you have are returned by the end of the year, unless you have arranged for holiday borrowing. Holiday borrowing can be arranged by seeing Ms Collins during Head Start week.

Don't forget that the PSC eBook and audioboook library will be available to you 24/7 over the holidays to keep you entertained – why not try listening to an audiobook if you're going for a long drive?

To help keep you reading over summer, why not register to be part of the BIG Summer Read?



The Biggest Public Library supported reading challenge in Australia

The BIG Summer Read is an annual reading challenge run by Public Libraries Victoria. The BSR encourages young readers 0-18 years to read and engage with their local public libraries over the Australian Summer holidays in December and January.

Now in its fifth year, the BIG Summer Read has grown to include all public library services in Victoria as well as public libraries in Tasmania, Queensland New South Wales and South Australia. Last year in 2024, more than 24,000 young readers participated in the challenge, and that was just in Victoria!

The program starts on the 1st December and finishes on the 31st January each year and registration is free. Participating library services typically offer incentive prizes for those who complete the challenge as well as a national prize draw to encourage and reward the efforts of young readers.

Join the challenge here https://readbooks.com.au/bsr



Lydia Mackie, Performing Arts Teacher



PSC Singing Group



Andrew Prentice, VCE VM Teacher



Year 11 PDS - Community Projects SES Portland Unit

We were thrilled to welcome the Portland State Emergency Service (SES), hosted by Year 11 students **Bodhi Duncan**, **Brodie Lucas**, **and Jake Payne**.

Portland SES is a volunteer-based organisation that provides vital emergency assistance during storms, floods, road rescues, and other disasters.

Their members train regularly in rescue operations, safety, and community education—playing a crucial role in protecting lives and property across the Glenelg Shire region.

Thank you to SES Portland Unit for sharing your expertise and inspiring our students!

It was wonderful to welcome back our **2022 School Captain Elijah Roberts** who has been an important part of the SES Portland Unit for a number of years now. Elijah is a great example of young people joining such important organisations at a young age **55**









Homework Program

Portland Secondary College

Creating the opportunities



HOMEWORK CLUB





Term 4:
Every Wednesday
& Thursday
afternoon
3:40PM - 4:30PM
J-Wing kitchen



Wednesday: Mrs Donna Chapman & Mrs Elley Foster Thursday: Mrs Donna Chapman

Students are reminded to bring work to complete

Students need a pre-arranged way home as the office will be shut (no phone use)





Liza Chapple, Education Support **Marie Hein,** Education Support

UNO Club



What is the #1 card game in the world!?

UNO of course!

All students & staff are welcome to attend PSC's UNO CLUB

(official UNO rules apply!!)

WHEN: Wednesdays @ recess

WHERE: A1 (LSR)





Every day counts HOW CAN I GET MY CHILD/TEEN TO SCHOOL

No matter how hard parents try, some students may be reluctant to go to school. Here are some ideas which may assist you to support a child or teen who is reluctant to go to school and may even be school refusing.

Addressing attendance issues promptly and setting up good attendance patterns can lead to future success and can help students feel more engaged and connected at school.

Did you know?

- · Patterns of late arrival at school or missing classes are early warning signs of disengagement from school
- · Missing one day of school each week adds up to 2 months missed over a year
- · Each day of absence has an impact on skill development and social connections
- · Poor attendance may be associated with future unemployment, criminal activity, substance abuse, and poorer health and life expectancy.

Some causes of school problems

Some of the more common causes of school problems are underlying learning difficulties or learning disabilities or behavioural or emotional issues.

But there are many other reasons why a child or teen might not be engaging fully in their education.

School factors might include:

- · bullying or cyberbullying
- · feeling isolated at school
- · disliking, or not feeling connected to, the school culture or environment
- · falling behind on school work or feeling overwhelmed about keeping up
- · disliking school subjects, not liking the choice of subjects, or not feeling challenged by the work
- · poor school or academic support, especially in relation to heavy workloads
- · not getting along with teachers or other students at school
- · competing demands on time, such as extracurricular activities
- · not feeling understood and fully accepted by peers or teachers
- · cultural acknowledgement and understanding

Personal factors might include:

- · chronic illness
- · intellectual or cognitive disability
- · behavioural or developmental difficulties or disorders
- · mental health issues such as depression or anxiety
- · history of abuse and neglect
- · poor self-concept or self-esteem
- · poor communication skills
- · poor social skills
- · poor sleep habits
- · difficulty with listening, concentrating or sitting still
- · generational trauma

Family factors might include:

- · parents who aren't involved in their child's education
- · a home environment that doesn't or can't adequately support a young person's learning
- · family problems such as relationship breakdowns
- · competing family or social responsibilities, such as caring for family members, or working outside school hours
- · cultural differences with the school culture and environment

What you can do

Generally:

- · Act early if you are concerned
- · Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- · Regular attendance at school sets up good behaviours for regular attendance at future workplaces and other life commitments
- · Don't let your child stay home unless genuinely sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety
- · Reward appropriate behaviour and don't unintentionally reward unwanted behaviour by letting children who stay home have access to their devices and the internet
- · Be sure to set a good example how you meet your commitments impacts on how they will meet theirs

Daily Routines & sleep

- · Help your child maintain daily routines such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- · Primary school aged children need about 10 to 11 hours sleep. Teenagers need an average of 8-9 hours of sleep to be healthy and alert.
- · You may also need to monitor your child's use of the Internet, mobile phone and TV at night to ensure they are not staying up too late or being disturbed while sleeping
- · Consider how your child is sleeping is their room cool and dark and have all devices, including TVs and mobile phones, been removed?

Talk about school

- · Talk to your child. What are their feelings about school? What interests them at school? Are there any difficult situations?
- · For teens, it helps if you open these discussions in a relaxed way so that your teenager knows you are demonstrating concern, not authority. It's often a good idea to have these conversations while doing something else together such as driving, preparing dinner or going for a walk. If your teen doesn't want to talk right then, let them know you're ready to listen whenever they're ready to talk
- · For younger children, talking about the school day shows your interest. Ask simple, positive and specific questions about parts of the day e.g. What was fun? Who did you play with today? Did you help anyone today?

Extracurricular activities, social connections & part-time work

- · Encourage meaningful extracurricular activities that your child enjoys, such as sports and clubs, to develop positive relationships and experience success outside of a classroom setting. These activities can help your child feel part of the group, important to the school, and more motivated
- · For teens, try to be aware of your child's social contacts. Peer influence can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated
- · Set clear parameters around part-time work. Make sure that the hours your teenager is working do not impact on their ability to go to school the next day, or interfere with school assessment expectations or exam preparation. Most schools recommend no more than 10 hours per week.

Family holidays & appointments

- · Try not to schedule hair, dental or medical appointments during school hours. Arrange family holidays during scheduled school holidays so that students don't miss out on classes and feel left behind.
- · If it is necessary to be absent from school for an extended period, arrange with your school for a Student Absence Learning Plan.

School policies & monitoring attendance

- · Familiarise yourself with the school's attendance policy. This can help when trying to reason with a child or teenager who is resisting going to school
- · Monitor your child's attendance and school performance. Periodically check with their teachers to find out how things are going. If you find it difficult to contact several different teachers by phone, try email. Alternatively, the year level coordinator may be a helpful point of contact in relation to specific issues.

Homework & assignments

- · If your child wants to stay home to finish an assignment, rather than letting them stay home, expect them to go to school make attendance the number one priority. Later, you can discuss with them how they can improve their study habits or adjust their schedule
- · If your school has an assessment calendar on its website, use this to help your child plan their study so that they avoid working late the night before an assignment is due

School Refusal

School refusing children experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school.

School refusal can be very distressing for parents who can find it very difficult to manage and address; it can cause conflict in the home and disrupt routines

Identifying the cause of school refusal can be difficult; there may be a number of complex causes. Early intervention is essential as prolonged absences from school can greatly affect a child's social and emotional development, academic achievement and vocational opportunities.

Further assistance

Sometimes you may need assistance from professionals who can help anxious children. Discuss your concerns with relevant teachers or wellbeing staff at your child's school. They can help address any school-based issues, refer your child to school counselling services and make recommendations about professional support.

Alternatively, you could seek support from your GP who can assist with a referral to mental health professional such as a psychologist, psychiatrist or therapist. They can help your child overcome their anxiety using mindfulness, improving self-confidence and self-esteem and helping children change the way they think about difficult situations.

Remember

You can talk with school staff (such as a teacher, year level coordinator, wellbeing staff, careers staff, assistant principal or principal) to find out what support they can provide to keep your child/teen attending and engaged.

Top attendance tips for parents

- · Schools want to work in partnership with parents act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- · Remember that every day counts
- · There is no safe number of days for missing school each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- · Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- · Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- · Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- · Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing

Useful websites/contacts

Department of Education and Training -

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Page s/default.aspx

Kids Matter - www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Youth Beyond Blue - www.youthbeyondblue.com.au

Headspace - www.headspace.org.au

Reach Out - www.reachout.com

Raising Children Network - www.raisingchildren.net.au

Kids helpline - 1800 55 1800 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or web counselling

Parentline – 1300 30 1300 (8am to 10pm seven days a week) & web counselling Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 2pm



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







CLENELG LIBRARIES

Fresh Food Swap

Do you have excess homegrown produce,
or are you interested in supporting a local
community food swap?

Come along to the Portland Library every Thursday (excluding public holidays) to swap, share and meet like-minded community members!

Vegetables, fruit, seeds, seedlings, homemade jams/relishes, recipes, eggs, honey, worm castings and flowers are all welcome.

No money exchanged. Give what you can and take what you need.

If you have any questions, please contact the Health Promotion Team at Portland District Health:

healthpromotion.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au or 5522 1197





Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops



1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au





Volunteer Opportunities

The Southern Grampians L2P Program is currently seeking mentors to provide opportunities for young people to practise driving and work towards gaining their probationary license.

1-2 hours a fortnight can help make a difference.

Express your interest by calling **5573 0444 | 0427 915 424** or emailing **I2p@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au**.

















TOYRUN



SATURDAY 6TH OF DECEMBER 2025



Watch the Event or Join the Ride All Licensed Riders are Welcome

"Nust have a Registered Meterbike
"Participation in the ride is at your own risk



Event Schedule:

10:00am: Heet at Neywood Takeaway

10:30am: Depart Heywood - ride together to Portland

Regroup opposite Alexander Shell Servo at into site

11:00am: Depart together for ride through Percy St - Town Centre Elde concludes on the Portland Foreshore - Free BDQ for riders

All riders must ride together safely and lawfully

The Salvation Army Portland will be accepting New Yoys, Food and cash/card donations to support struggling Families in the Gleneig Shire

Toy & Food donations can be dropped to: Heywood Takeaway - 50 Edgar St. Heywood Squidly Dids for Kids - 52 Percy St. Portland The Salvation Army - 58 Henry St. Portland

For enquires, contact The Salvation Army on 03 5523 3749, visit 33 Henty St Portland or contact John from Lions on 0424 447 958

Severse ADVENT CALENDAR



Join us in making a difference in our community this holiday season by participating in our Reverse Advent Calendar! Together, let's collect essential items to support those in need during the lead-up to Christmas.

Here's how it works:

- Each day in November, fill a box or a few bags with a single item, or gather everything at once—whatever suits you best!
- Deliver your contributions to The Salvation Army at 33 Henty St, Portland by December
 5th.

Whether you choose to participate solo, with your family, or rally your workplace, school, or church, your generosity will help create food hampers for families facing challenges this Christmas. Together, let's spread hope where it's needed most!

01
Can of
Spaghetti

Long Life Custard 03 Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Can of Corn Cake Mix

Can of Peas **08** Fruit Salad

Can of Carrots Instant Mash Can of Tuna 2 Minute Noodles

Cup of Soup Lollies

Cordial

Jelly

Pasta Dish Soft Drink

Gravy

Meal Base **21** Christmas Pudding

Simmer Sauce

Rice

Chocolate

25 Chips

26 Cereal

Sweet Biscuits

Bon Bons

Coffee

30 Your Choice













COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17 CIVIC HALL - 30 BENTINCK ST ALL WELCOME

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM ROAST DINNER SERVED FROM 5:30PM

CALL 5523 3749 TO REGISTER BY DECEMBER 12

THIS MEAL IS A GIFT TO YOU FROM US



























January school holidays are quickly approaching and we have a couple days of surfing coming to the south west of Victoria.

Please find all details below,

Cape Bridgewater Community Surf Day

Location: Cape Bridgewater

Date: Tuesday 13th January 2025

Times: 1pm - 3pm

To register contact Jordie on 0488 935 183 or jordie@surfingvic.com





Families of students interested in entering can email the club at portlandswimclub@outlook.com.au for an entry form

