



Portland Secondary College

Newsletter

TERM 1 WEEK 8

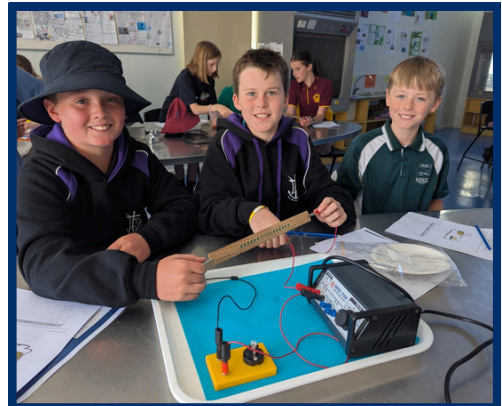
20th March 2026

Highlights

- **Principal's report**
- **Attendance**
- **Library News**
- **Experience Day**
- **Road to Zero**
- **School Calendar**
- **Careers**
- **Community News and more**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday 20th March
 - GD Athletics
- Monday 23rd March
 - Year 10-12 Elevate Sessions
- Tuesday 24th March
 - Year 12 Tertiary Information Session
- Wednesday 25th March
 - GWR Swimming
- Friday 27th
 - Young Leaders Conference
- Monday 30th March
 - Year 9 Morrisby Profiling
- Thursday 2nd April
 - Parent Teacher Interviews
 - Last day Term 1



Portland Secondary College is a Child Safe School



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Another fortnight has flown past and it is hard to believe that the Term 1 Easter Holiday Break is less than a fortnight away. All students are hard at work completing assignments and assessment tasks. Parent teacher interviews will be held the last day of the term (Thursday, as Good Friday is a Public Holiday) and we look forward to reporting to all parents on the progress of our students. Please check Compass for your allocated interview time and contact the General office if you need to make a change.

Over the past fortnight Road to Zero visited the school, working with several student groups across the week around road safety, particularly those students moving towards gaining their learners permit or a full license.

Congratulations to all our Year 7 and year 9 students who completed their NAPLAN testing. After the initial statewide hiccup of the test shutting down or not opening at all, Portland Secondary students managed to successfully complete their testing. We will now need to wait several weeks to get the results.

Our VCE VM students have been busy with students attending the Careers Expo in Warrnambool to explore career pathways available both locally and regionally. Students have also visited the Portland Football Netball Club to interview members of the club about their 100 year celebrations as part of a work outcome.

Several Year 9 students have completed their Live4Life Induction and many Year 8, 9 and 10 students have been diligently helping several of the local Primary Schools run their Athletic Sports.

Several of our students completed their White Card training. A White Card in Victoria, also known as a Construction Induction Card, is a mandatory document proving completion of safety training required to work on construction sites. It covers OHS law, hazard identification, and safety procedures. In Victoria, this training must be completed face-to-face through a registered training organization (RTO). Completion of this certificate course allows student to legally be on a work site.

On Wednesday the 18th of March, the school hosted Experience Day for 2027 prospective students. These Grade 6 students had a wonderful day seeing what Portland Secondary College has to offer. This day was supported by an Information Session which was well attended.

On the same day, Year 9 students engaged in Future Me, a program which builds important knowledge about the changing world of work and supports students to lead career conversations with working professionals to spark career exploration and navigation of future pathways. It's the first of many activities Year 9 students will complete in the career exploration space.

Our Indonesian Tour students are getting more excited as the tour creeps closer. They have been assisting in preparing food for an Indonesian food fundraiser, with the funds raised going to support schools and projects they will visit on the trip.

Today, a large team of students participated in the next round of Athletics against all the other regional secondary schools but results were unavailable at the time this newsletter was published. Parents will need to wait for the final newsletter of the term or visit our Socials to see how our students fared.

This week the Policy I would like to share with our School Community is our Anaphylaxis Policy. It is published here in the newsletter and is also available for reading on the College website. All feedback is appreciated and can be forwarded to the College Principal on Portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au.

2026 TERM 1 CALENDAR

MARCH

Friday 20th - GD Athletics

- Year 10 VET Multi-Taster @ TAFE (*selected students only*)

Monday 23rd - Year 10 - 12 Elevate Study Sessions

Tuesday 24th - Year 12 Tertiary Information Session

- Year 9 Outdoor Education - Surfing

Wednesday 25th - GWR Swimming

Friday 27th - Young Leaders Conference

- Year 10 VET Multi-Taster @ TAFE (*selected students only*)

Monday 30th - Year 9 Morrisby Profiling

APRIL

Thursday 2nd - Parent/Teacher Interviews

- End Term 1

Monday 20th - Term 2 commences



Anaphylaxis Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Portland Secondary College on 03 5523 1344 or portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To explain to Portland Secondary College parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students diagnosed as being at risk of suffering from anaphylaxis. This policy also ensures that Portland Secondary College is compliant with Ministerial Order 706 and the Department's guidelines for anaphylaxis management.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff, canteen operators and volunteers
- all students who have been diagnosed with anaphylaxis, or who may require emergency treatment for an anaphylactic reaction, and their parents and carers.

POLICY

School Statement

Portland Secondary College will fully comply with Ministerial Order 706 and the associated guidelines published by the Department of Education.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that occurs after exposure to an allergen. The most common allergens for school-aged children are nuts, eggs, cow's milk, fish, shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medications.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of a mild to moderate allergic reactions can include:

- swelling of the lips, face and eyes
- hives or welts
- tingling in the mouth

Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction, can include:

- difficult/noisy breathing
- swelling of tongue
- difficulty talking and/or hoarse voice
- wheeze or persistent cough
- persistent dizziness or collapse
- student appears pale or floppy



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- abdominal pain and/or vomiting

Symptoms usually develop within ten minutes and up to two hours after exposure to an allergen but can appear within a few minutes.

Treatment

Adrenaline given as an injection into the muscle of the outer mid-thigh is the first aid treatment for anaphylaxis.

Individuals diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis are prescribed an adrenaline device for use in an emergency. These adrenaline devices are designed so that anyone can use them in an emergency.

Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

All students at Portland Secondary College who are diagnosed by a medical practitioner as being at risk of suffering from an anaphylactic reaction must have an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan. When notified of an anaphylaxis diagnosis, the Principal of Portland Secondary College is responsible for developing a plan in consultation with the student's parents/carers.

Where necessary, an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be in place as soon as practicable after a student enrolls at Portland Secondary College and where possible, before the student's first day.

Parents and carers must:

- obtain an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED) from the student's medical practitioner and provide a copy to the school as soon as practicable
- immediately inform the school in writing if there is a relevant change in the student's medical condition and obtain an updated ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED)
- provide an up-to-date photo of the student for the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED) and provide it to the school each time it is updated
- provide the school with a current adrenaline device for the student that has not expired
- participate in annual reviews of the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan that is prepared by the school.

Each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan must include:

- information about the student's allergies and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, including the type of allergies the student has
- information about the signs or symptoms the student might exhibit in the event of an allergic reaction
- based on a written diagnosis from a medical practitioner
- strategies to minimise the risk of exposure to known allergens while the student is under the care or supervision of school staff, including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special events conducted, organised or attended by the school
- the name of the person(s) responsible for implementing the risk minimisation strategies which have been identified in the Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan
- information about where the student's medication will be stored
- the student's emergency contact details
- an up-to-date ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED) completed by the student's medical practitioner.

Review and updates to Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans

A student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis in consultation with the student's parents/carers. The plan will also be reviewed and, where necessary, updated in the

We strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values.



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following circumstances:

- as soon as practicable after the student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- if the student's medical condition, insofar as it relates to allergy and the potential for anaphylactic reaction, changes when the student is participating in an off-site activity, including camps and excursions, or at special events including fetes and concerts.

Our school may also consider updating a student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan if there is an identified and significant increase in the student's potential risk of exposure to allergens at school.

Location of plans and adrenaline devices

A copy of each student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan will be stored with their ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED) at the General Office. Students are encouraged to keep their adrenaline device on their person. Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use are available at the General Office, in the Displan First Aid Kits and Re-Engagement Centre First Aid Kit and are labelled "general use".

Risk Minimisation Strategies

To reduce the risk of a student suffering from an anaphylactic reaction at Portland Secondary College, we have put in place the following strategies:

- staff and students are regularly reminded to wash their hands after eating
 - students are discouraged from sharing food
 - garbage bins at school are to remain covered with lids to reduce the risk of attracting insects
 - school canteen staff are trained in appropriate food handling to reduce the risk of cross-contamination
 - year groups will be informed of allergens that must be avoided in advance of class parties, events or birthdays
- a general use adrenaline autoinjector will be stored at the school canteen, General Office and in the yard duty bag for ease of access
- planning for off-site activities will include risk minimisation strategies for students at risk of anaphylaxis including supervision requirements, appropriate number of trained staff, emergency response procedures and other risk controls appropriate to the activity and students attending.

Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use

Portland Secondary College will maintain a supply of adrenaline autoinjector(s) for general use, as a back-up to those provided by parents and carers for specific students, and also for students who may suffer from a first time reaction at school.

There are currently 4 adrenaline devices approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia: the EpiPen®, the Anapen®, Jext® and Neffy®. All devices can be used when provided by families for students, however, the Principal or allocated staff member can only use EpiPen®, Anapen® or Jext® adrenaline autoinjector for general use. For more information about which autoinjector to purchase for general use, refer to [Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use](#). Adrenaline autoinjectors for general use will be stored at the General Office, in the

Displan First Aid Kit and Re-Engagement Centre First Aid cupboard and labelled "general use".

The Principal is responsible for arranging the purchase of adrenaline autoinjectors for general use, and will consider:

- the number of students enrolled at Portland Secondary College at risk of anaphylaxis
- the accessibility of adrenaline autoinjectors supplied by parents
- the availability of a sufficient supply of autoinjectors for general use in different locations at the school, as well as at camps, excursions and events

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- the limited life span of adrenaline autoinjectors, and the need for general use adrenaline autoinjectors to be replaced when used or prior to expiry
- the weight of the student at risk of anaphylaxis to determine the correct dosage of adrenaline autoinjector/s to purchase.

Emergency Response

In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, the emergency response procedures in this policy must be followed, together with the school's general first aid procedures, emergency response procedures and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan.

A complete and up-to-date list of students identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis is maintained by the First Aid Officer and stored at the General Office. For camps, excursions and special events, a designated staff member will be responsible for maintaining a list of students at risk of anaphylaxis attending the special event, together with their Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and adrenaline devices, where appropriate.

If a student experiences an anaphylactic reaction at school or during a school activity, school staff must:

Step	Action
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lay the person flat • Do not allow them to stand or walk • If breathing is difficult, allow them to sit with legs outstretched • Be calm and reassuring • Do not leave them alone • Seek assistance from another staff member or reliable student to locate the student's adrenaline device or the school's general use autoinjector, and the student's Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan, stored at the General Office • If the student's plan is not immediately available, or they appear to be experiencing a first time reaction, follow steps 2 to 5.
2.	<p>Administer an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove from plastic container • Form a fist around the EpiPen and pull off the blue safety release (cap) • Hold leg still and place orange end against the student's outer mid-thigh (with or without clothing) • Push down hard until a click is heard or felt and hold in place for 3 seconds • Remove EpiPen <p>Note the time the EpiPen is administered Retain the used EpiPen to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Administer an Anapen® 500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull off the black needle shield • Pull off grey safety cap (from the red button) • Place needle end firmly against the student's outer mid-thigh at 90 degrees (with or without clothing) • Press red button so it clicks and hold for 3 seconds • Remove Anapen® <p>Note the time the Anapen is administered Retain the used Anapen to be handed to ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration.</p>



	<p>OR</p> <p>Administer Jext 150 or 300</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form fist around Jext and pull off yellow cap • Place black injector tip against outer mid-thigh (with or without clothing) • Push black tip firmly until a click is heard and hold in place for 3 seconds. • Remove Jext • Note the time the Jext device is administered • The used adrenaline device must be handed to the ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration <p>OR</p> <p>Administer Neffy® 1mg or 2mg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the nasal spray with your thumb on the bottom of the plunger and a finger on either side of the nozzle • Do not pull or push the plunger. Do not test or prime (pre-spray). Each Neffy nasal spray contains only one spray • Place the nozzle of the nasal spray into a nostril until fingers touch the nose For smaller nostrils, aim for the fingers to touch the nose <p>Keep the nozzle pointed towards the forehead. Do not angle the nozzle of the nasal spray to the inner or outer walls of the nose</p> <p>Press the plunger up firmly until the dose is administered and it sprays into the nostril</p> <p>Note the time the Neffy device is administered</p> <p>The used adrenaline device must be handed to the ambulance paramedics along with the time of administration</p>
3.	Call an ambulance (000)
4.	If there is no improvement or severe symptoms progress (as described in the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED)), further adrenaline doses may be administered every 5 minutes, if other adrenaline autoinjectors are available.
5.	Contact the student's emergency contacts.
6.	The Principal or a staff member allocated to do so must contact the Incident Support and Operations Centre (ISOC) on 1800 126 126 to report 'high' or 'Extreme' severity incidents to report the incident. Incidents assessed as 'Low' or 'Medium' can be reported directly into EduSafe Plus by the Principal or their allocated staff member.

If a student appears to be having a severe allergic reaction but has not been previously diagnosed with an allergy or being at risk of anaphylaxis, school staff should follow steps 2 – 5 as above.

For first time anaphylactic reactions, the school's general use adrenalin autoinjector device must be used. If the general use device is not immediately available in an anaphylaxis emergency, staff may use another student's adrenalin device, including EpiPen®, Anapen®, Jext® or Neffy® device. This may save a life. If another student's adrenalin device is used in an anaphylaxis emergency, the school must notify the parents of the student whose device was used and immediately replace the device.

Where possible, schools should consider using the correctly dosed adrenaline device depending on the weight of the student. However, in an emergency if there is no other option available, any device should be administered to the student.



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Communication Plan

This policy will be publicly available on the Portland Secondary College website so that parents and other members of the school community can easily access information about Portland Secondary College's anaphylaxis management procedures.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that all relevant staff, including casual relief staff, canteen staff and volunteers are aware of this policy and Portland Secondary College's procedures for anaphylaxis management. We will communicate this policy through staff induction and training materials, and twice yearly staff briefings. Casual relief staff and volunteers who are responsible for the care and/or supervision of students who are identified as being at risk of anaphylaxis will also receive a verbal briefing on this policy, their role in responding to an anaphylactic reaction and where required, the identity of students at risk.

We will also communicate this policy through:

- Compass
- Staff Knowledge Base
- Annual communication to school community
- Newsletter

The Principal is also responsible for ensuring relevant staff are trained and briefed in anaphylaxis management, consistent with the Department's [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#).

Staff training

The Principal will ensure that the following school staff are appropriately trained in anaphylaxis management:

- School staff who conduct classes attended by students who are at risk of anaphylaxis
- School staff who conduct specialist classes, all canteen staff, admin staff, first aiders and any other member of school staff as required by the Principal based on a risk assessment

Staff who are required to undertake training must have completed:

- an approved face-to-face anaphylaxis management training course in the last three years, or
- an approved online anaphylaxis management training course in the last two years.

Portland Secondary College uses the following training course: ASCIA eTraining course 22579VIC [Note, for details about approved staff training modules, refer to chapter 5 of the [Anaphylaxis Guidelines](#)]

Staff are also required to attend a briefing on anaphylaxis management and this policy at least twice per year (with the first briefing being held at the beginning of the school year), facilitated by a staff member who has successfully completed an anaphylaxis management course within the last 2 years, including the First Aid Officer. Each briefing should address:

- the school's anaphylaxis management policy
- the causes, symptoms and treatment of anaphylaxis
- the identities of students diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, their allergens and the location of their Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plans and their medication/s
- discussion on staff anaphylaxis training and renewal
- how to use an adrenaline device, including hands-on practice with an adrenaline device trainer device (which does not contain adrenaline)
- the school's general first aid and emergency procedures
- the location of adrenaline autoinjector devices prescribed for individual students that have been purchased by their family
- the location of adrenaline devices that the school has purchased for general use
- how to access on-going support and training.



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When a new student enrolls at Portland Secondary College who is at risk of anaphylaxis, the Principal will develop an interim plan in consultation with the student's parents and ensure that appropriate staff are trained and briefed as soon as possible.

A record of staff training courses and briefings will be maintained through the school's online Emergency Management Plan.

The Principal will ensure that while students at risk of anaphylaxis are under care or supervision of the school outside of normal class activities, including in the school yard, at camps and excursions, or at special event days, there is a sufficient number of school staff present who have been trained in anaphylaxis management.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - [Anaphylaxis](#)
 - Allergies
 - First Aid for Students and Staff
 - Health Care Needs
 - Managing Reporting School Incidents (Including Emergencies)
 - Medication
- [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#)
- ASCIA Guidelines: [Schooling and Childcare](#)
- [Hero HQ Anaphylaxis Management Training](#)
- https://allergyfacts.org.au/__interest/anaphylaxis/
- Royal Children's Hospital: [Allergy and immunology](#)

Portland Secondary College Policies

- Health Care Needs Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

DATE	VERSION	APPROVED BY	NEXT REVIEW
July 2024	3	Principal	June 2025
Feb 2026	4	Principal	January 2027

The Principal will complete the Department's Annual Risk Management Checklist for anaphylaxis management to assist with the evaluation and review of this policy and the support provided to students at risk of anaphylaxis.

Women in Business

At Portland Secondary College, we proudly celebrate the remarkable women in education and leadership roles who inspire and empower the next generation of leaders.

Their dedication and vision shape our community, paving the way for future success in school and beyond.

To explore the leadership opportunities and innovative programs at Portland Secondary College, or to arrange an individual tour, please contact our General Office on 03 5523 1344.



International Women's Day

The theme for this year is 'Give To Gain', which emphasises the power of reciprocity and support. When people, organisations, and communities give generously, opportunities and support for women increase. Giving is not a subtraction — it's intentional multiplication.

A very big thank you to Melissa Read, the Community Engagement Officer from Ventis, for giving to her community and supplying tickets for our College Captains, Sienna and Gracie, to attend the luncheon at the Royal.

Thank you to Mpower for organising the event and the guest speakers.

Our leaders were enthralled by the presentations and took particular notice of the impassioned explanation of what is happening in Iran by local Dr Fairdeh Lashkary from DWECH.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Photo:

Nicole Carr (United Way Glenelg), Dr Fairdeh Lashkary (DWECH), Gracie Walder and Sienna Stone (Portland Secondary College Captains), Mayor Karen Stephens, and Melissa Read (Ventis).



Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity



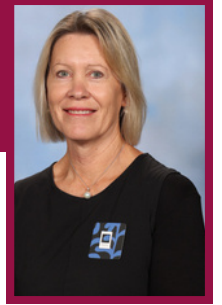
Grade 6 Experience Day

On 18 March 2026, Portland Secondary College welcomed students for a high-energy Year 6 Experience Day. The transition from primary to secondary school is a significant milestone, and this event gave students the chance to dive straight into the hands-on learning that defines the curriculum at PSC. From the science labs to the kitchens, the campus was buzzing with activity as students gained a genuine feel for secondary school life.

The day was packed with variety, with students rotating through several specialised subjects. In the kitchens, they combined language and culinary skills by cooking Indonesian food, while Humanities students took on an architectural challenge by designing and building their own castles. The labs were full of energy with science experiments underway, and in the Tech wing, students worked through the design process to create custom keychains. Our PE and Art departments rounded out the experience with sessions focused on movement and creative expression, ensuring there was something to engage every student.

The connection continued into the late afternoon as we welcomed families for a formal information session and school tour. This provided a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to see the facilities firsthand and learn more about the academic and wellbeing frameworks that support our students. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout from the community, and we look forward to welcoming many of these familiar faces into the Year 7 Hub in the future.





Year 9 Fashion & Fabrics

Our Year 9 Fabric and Fashion students recently stepped into the world of high fashion with a unique challenge: designing show-stopping garments for a hypothetical Gala Event celebrating the impact of print media.

To meet the brief, students moved through the full design process—researching, brainstorming, and sketching a range of concepts.

They evaluated their ideas against the challenge of impressing an elite crowd of influencers and industry icons, pushing their creative boundaries to craft distinctive pieces that reflected their personal style while honouring the history of newspapers and magazines.

The project also included strict technical constraints, requiring garments to be constructed primarily from paper using only tape, staples, and pins.

By transforming everyday materials into runway-ready couture, students demonstrated impressive innovation and craftsmanship.



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Sam Wells, Outdoor Education Teacher
Deandra Tanner, Marine Science Teacher



Year 9 Outdoor Ed & Marine Science

Students in our combined Marine Science and Outdoor Education class recently enjoyed a hands-on learning experience at the local lagoon.

The excursion gave them the chance to put their knowledge of safe and responsible fishing techniques into practice.

Despite the fish being on the smaller side, the group was thrilled to successfully 'catch and release' one. It was a great opportunity for students to connect their classroom learning with the natural environment.



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Andrew Prentice, VM Teacher



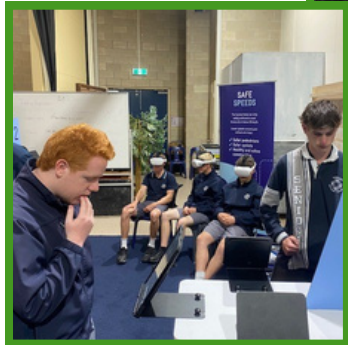
ROAD TO ZERO

Road Smart Interactive is a free Victorian Government road safety education incursion designed for students in Years 9, 10, 11 and the VCE Vocational Major.

Available to all Victorian secondary schools, the program is evidence-based and reflects contemporary best-practice approaches to road safety education.

Using immersive, state-of-the-art digital technology, Road Smart Interactive guides students through a series of interactive experiences that deepen their understanding of key road safety issues.

The program encourages students to think critically about the role they play in reducing road trauma and contributing to safer roads for everyone.

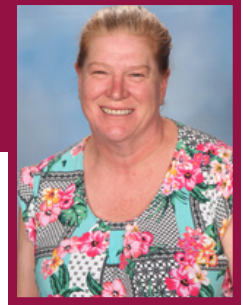


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WHITE CARD TRAINING

PSC recently celebrated the achievements of a group of Year 10 and 11 students who successfully completed their White Card licence training. The course was delivered onsite by the CFMEU, giving students access to industry-standard instruction and real-world safety knowledge.

What a White Card Allows

A White Card is a nationally recognised qualification required for anyone who intends to work in the construction industry. It is essential for:

All workers who carry out construction tasks

Anyone whose job requires regular entry into operational construction zones

Holding a White Card means students now meet the minimum safety training requirements to be present on construction sites anywhere in Australia.

Why This Matters for Students

Completing this qualification opens the door to work experience, part-time employment, apprenticeships, and future careers in the building and construction sector. It also gives students a strong foundation in workplace safety—an important skill set no matter where their pathways lead.

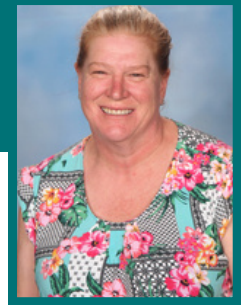


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YEAR 9 – FUTURE ME

The Future Me program is run by Deakin Engagement and Access Program Mentors. It builds students' knowledge about the changing world of work and supports them to lead career conversations with working professionals, helping spark exploration and navigation of future pathways.

The volunteers involved offer a unique opportunity to inspire young people from regional communities to share their career journey. By sparking conversations about diverse pathways, volunteers help students explore future opportunities, build confidence and break down barriers to education.



Photos: Deakin University

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Feedback from the Year 9 Students to our Volunteers

"It was scary but after a bit it was easy."

"It was very nice meeting the volunteers and learning skills to help you apply for your 1st job."

"I thought it was a really good experience for my communications skills and I enjoyed it."

"They were all lovely and I actually had a lot in common with some of them."

"I didn't really ask many questions, but it made me feel better and made me feel more confident about interviews."

"I really like them, they were nice and comfortable to talk to."

"I was shy at first, but I got used to sharing my ideas and I genuinely had fun."

Feedback from the 9 Year students to our Deakin Mentor Feedback

"It was good, I definitely want to go to uni after I finish school."

"They helped me go from not knowing about careers to knowing the important things."

"They were really kind and nice and helpful."

"They were fun, relatable and respectful."

"They were amazing. Thankyou."

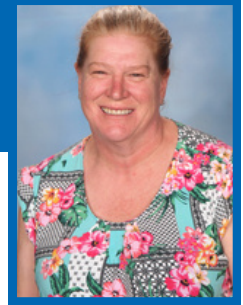
"They were very helpful and inspiring, making me think and realise that jobs in the future are very important."

"They were really kind, understanding and very optimistic about sharing and teaching us."

"Please come back! I had a really good day."

**Deakin Engagement and Access
Program**

Supporting students to reach their full potential



Year 10 Work Experience

Gleneig and Southern Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network (GSGLEN) ran an engaging workshop for all Year 10 students during Period 6 on Monday 16 March.

Led by Marg Wagner in the Drama Centre, the session introduced students to a range of pathways, opportunities, and supports available as they begin planning their future studies and careers.

The presentation is available on Compass.

If you have any questions, please see Ms Patterson.



Nicola Taylor, Secondary School Nurse



Year 7 & 10 Immunisation Program

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The 2026 Secondary School Immunisation Program offers free vaccines under the National Immunisation Program to all eligible Year 7 and Year 10 students.

Year 7 students will be offered:

- Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Year 10 students will be offered:

- Meningococcal ACWY

Our school is working in partnership with the local council immunisation service to deliver this program. Further communication will provide details about what you need to do.

Under the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019

<http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_reg/phawr2019331/s112.html> secondary schools are authorised to share student and parent/guardian contact information with the local council immunisation service. This information is only used to support the immunisation program and is managed in accordance with privacy laws.

Further information:

- A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is available to help answer common queries.
- If you would like to know more about how the school manages this process, please contact us.
- For general information about immunisation in secondary schools, visit Secondary School Immunisation Program
<<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools>>

Nicola Taylor – Secondary School Nurse

03 5523 1344 or portland.sc@education.vic.gov.au

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Creativity

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Secondary School Immunisation Program?

The Secondary School Immunisation Program (the program) offers free [National Immunisation Program](#) schedule vaccines to all eligible Year 7 and Year 10 students.

Year 7 students will be offered:

- Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Year 10 students will be offered:

- Meningococcal ACWY

What information is given to local council?

The school provides the following basic student and parent/guardian contact information to the local council immunisation service:

- student name
- date of birth
- gender
- year level and class group
- parent/guardian name, telephone numbers, email and residential address
- language(s) spoken at student's home.

Why does the school provide this information?

- To improve communication with parents/guardians about their child's vaccination needs.
- To ensure all eligible students are offered the opportunity to access free vaccinations at school.
- To reduce the administrative burden on school staff to follow-up consent.
- To eliminate manual data entry processes.

What do I need to do?

1. You will be provided with important vaccine-related information, along with either a hard copy or a link to an online consent portal. Please read through the information and complete all sections, regardless of whether you grant or decline consent.
2. Provide your consent online, through the CIRV portal, other software platform or return the hard copy immunisation consent form. Consent forms (either online or hard copy) should be completed, regardless of whether consent has been granted or declined.
3. Your information will be provided to [Glenelg Shire Council in March 2026](#). If you do not wish for your details to be provided, please advise the school in writing before [Thursday 5th March 2026](#) the last school day in February.

To receive this document in another format, [email Immunisation Unit](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>

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Available at [Secondary school immunisation program - Resources for secondary schools and councils](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/secondary-school-immunisation-program)
<<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/secondary-school-immunisation-program>>



Library News



Reading has many benefits, and students (and staff) have the opportunity to read for 10 minutes each day after lunch. Everyone should have a book, magazine or other appropriate reading material with them at this time.

The library has a variety of reading material available for borrowing – perhaps you could ask your student what they are currently reading.

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge 2026

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and students from Years 7 to 10 are welcome to join in.

This year's Challenge theme is 'Stories to discover. Stories to tell'. Stories can inspire and challenge us, and help us grow. They open our eyes to new worlds and new ways of thinking.

To complete the challenge, students are asked to read 15 books before the cut off date in September, with their reading efforts recorded online. Picture books, short stories, poems or non-fiction books in any language can be part of the challenge.

Any student in Years 7-10 who is interested in registering can see Ms Collins in the library or send a message via Compass. Once registered, books can be recorded online.

There will be prizes awarded to students who complete the VPRC.

Happy Reading!



Year 10 Food Studies

Mr Dawson's Year 10 class recently tried their hand at making sponge cakes. There were definitely some varied heights across the class, but all of the cakes had a lovely light texture.

Students filled them with jam and cream before dusting them with icing sugar. Everyone agreed they were delicious, and it's safe to say that it's a possibility that none of the cakes made it home!



SPONGE CAKES

Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity

Elley Foster, Literacy Support

Donna Chapman, Numeracy Support

Homework Program



Portland Secondary College

Creating the opportunities



HOMEWORK CLUB



WEDNESDAY

&

THURSDAY

AFTERNOONS

3:40PM - 4:30PM

in The HUB

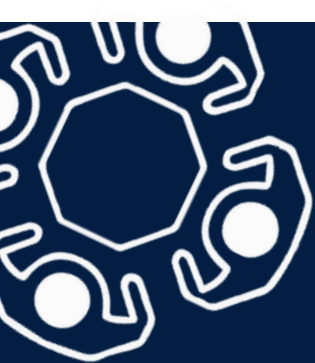
Students are reminded to bring work to complete or a book to read.

Our Literacy and Numeracy Tutors will be available to help you.

Students need a pre-arranged way home at or before 4:30pm as the office will be shut.

The schools no phone policy applies.





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

Rifle Range Come and Try Day

On behalf of SSAA Portland Branch V05, we are pleased to invite your students to participate in a Rifle Range "Come & Try" Day.

This event is designed to introduce high school students to the sport of target shooting in a safe, structured, and professionally supervised environment. Participants will receive instruction in firearm safety, range rules, and basic marksmanship skills, while experiencing the discipline and focus required in shooting sports.

Date: TBC

Venue: SSAA Portland Branch V05 Rifle Range – Thistle Road Portland

Cost: Free

All activities will be conducted under the supervision of qualified and accredited Range Officers. Safety is our highest priority, and all firearms, ammunition, and protective equipment will be supplied.

Target shooting is a sport that promotes concentration, responsibility, self-discipline, and confidence. We believe this experience will be both educational and rewarding for your students.

We would welcome the opportunity to host a group from your school. Please contact us to discuss numbers, consent requirements, or any additional information you may require.

Duty of Care & Compliance:

We understand the importance of schools meeting their duty-of-care obligations. SSAA Portland Branch V05 operates under strict range standing orders and SSAA safety policies. All sessions are conducted in accordance with Victorian firearms legislation and range regulations. We can provide copies of our public liability insurance, risk management documentation, and safety procedures upon request. Students will be directly supervised at all times while on the range, and we welcome school staff to attend and oversee the session.

We look forward to welcoming your students to our range.

Kind regards,

Sharryn Galea
Vice President

SSAA Portland Branch V05
0448 581 517

Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

with **MURCOTTS**



SCAN ME
to purchase
your tickets

ALERT

FULL-DAY COURSES

HELD LOCALLY IN WARRNAMBOOL
21 - 23 MAY

LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR CAR IN AN
EMERGENCY. DESIGNED FOR DRIVERS OF
ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE



VOICES & VIEWS



SCAN ME
to register
for tickets



FREE ROAD SAFETY EVENT

THURSDAY 21 MAY
LIGHTHOUSE THEATRE

7pm - 9pm

Hear from guest speakers and engage in
Q&A opportunities with professionals
who each have a passion for
driver, car and road safety awareness.

ALERT

LEARN TO LOOK AFTER YOUR CAR



SCAN ME
to book your
free session
Friday 22nd May

ALERT

BASIC CAR MAINTENANCE

FREE WORKSHOPS PROVIDED BY
SOUTHWEST TAFE

Learn to look after your own car! Come
along to free sessions teaching you how to
check your oil, change your tyre and more.
Great for young road users!



CHILD RESTRAINT CHECKS



SCAN ME
to book your
timeslot

with

**SOUTH COAST
AUTO SERVICES**

FREE CHILD RESTRAINT CHECKS

SATURDAY 23RD MAY
TIMES FROM 10AM-2PM

COME HAVE YOUR CHILD CAR RESTRAINT/SEAT
CHECKED AND SECURED BY PASSIONATE LOCAL
PROFESSIONALS FROM SOUTH COAST AUTO
SERVICES.

ALERT



SAVE THE DATE:
SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026
10AM – 2PM
Bundarra Primary School Fete

is
looking for
stall holders!

crafty, sensory,	knitted, painted,
created, pre-loved	& various other wonderful things!

Expressions of interest for stall holders can be emailed to bundarrapsfete@gmail.com
 We look forward to hearing from you soon!




SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | 10 AM – 2 PM

**BUNDARRA
 SCHOOL FETE**

FREE ENTRY | LIVE MUSIC | MARKET STALLS | RAFFLE
 SAUSAGE SIZZLE & DRINKS | FACE PAINTING | FIRE TRUCK
 PIE FACE | PORTLAND LIBRARY VAN | SCHOOL BAKE SALE
 DANZ X-TENSIONS SHOWCASE... **A GREAT DAY OUT!**

📍 Cnr Fawthrop St & Edgar St, Portland
 📘 Find our event on Facebook - 'Bundarra Primary School Fete 2026'

**YOUR SUPPORT
 WILL HELP OUR
 'HANDS ON
 LEARNING'
 PROGRAM**

Portland Leisure and Aquatics Centre

**THREE
 FOR
 \$3**

Selected Memberships
 and Swimming Lessons.
 *T&Cs apply.

**LIMITED
 TIME
 ONLY!**






YOUTH4YOUTH
WORKSHOP

VCE KICKSTART

Study Smart & Stay Balanced

FREE

ONLINE

Tuesday 24th March


6:00 – 7:30 PM


Suitable for: yr 9-12

The session will break down key aspects of VCE like SACs, scaling, and study scores, while also covering practical study strategies, exam tips, and wellbeing, plus a live Q&A at the end.



 **Free Online Workshop for Years 9–12**

 **Tuesday 24th March**

 **6:00 – 7:30 PM**

 **Register here:** <https://www.youth4youthvic.com/workshops>

Come and try SOCCER

with the
PORTLAND PANTHERS!



Ages 8-14 Boys & Girls
Tuesday & Thursday 5-6pm

Ages 15 to Adult Male & Female
Tuesday & Thursday 6-7:30pm

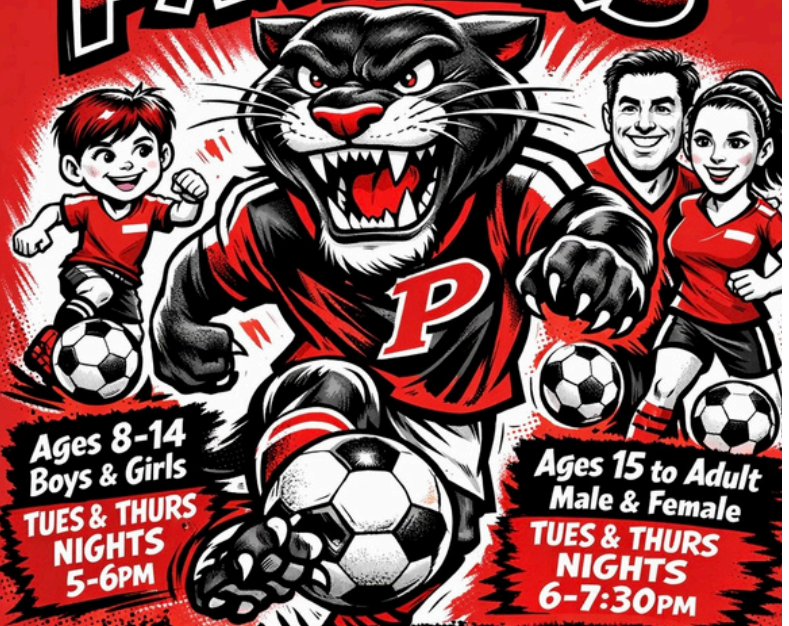
Ages 14 to Adult Girls & Women
Wednesday Nights 6-7:30pm

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!

At Friendly Society Reserve,
Glenelg St Portland

COME AND TRY SOCCER WITH THE

PORTLAND PANTHERS



**Ages 8-14
Boys & Girls**
TUES & THURS
NIGHTS
5-6PM

**Ages 15 to Adult
Male & Female**
TUES & THURS
NIGHTS
6-7:30PM

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!

At Friendly Society Reserve, Glenelg St, Portland



GO SURF!

FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY SURF SESSION

12 - 25 YEAR OLDS
THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2026
1PM TO 3PM

CAPE BRIDGEWATER - TRANSPORT AVAILABLE

For more information Contact
youthservices@glenelg.vic.gov.au or call 0355222250



REGISTER NOW



SONG writing

FREE WORKSHOP



MONDAY 13 APRIL

- ★ 10AM - 5PM
- ★ AGES 13-19
- ★ PORTLAND ARTS CENTRE
- ★ LUNCH PROVIDED

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
PORTLANDARTSCENTRE.COM.AU
TO REGISTER

✦ Explore your musical creativity and learn how to write music in this full day workshop! Whether you play an instrument, make beats, or sing, come along to share musical perspectives and meet like-minded people.

✦ Instruments available to borrow if you don't have your own, please call to discuss further



Contact youthservices@glenelg.vic.gov.au or 03 5522 2250 to find out more

PORTLAND ARTS CENTRE



WFNC JUNIOR FOOTBALL

2026 REGISTRATIONS

Do you have a junior playing football with Westerns in 2026?

Registrations are now open! The club has reduced the cost to just \$40 per player, and every registered junior player will also receive a training singlet.

Jump online, follow the prompts, and register today!

ROCK CHURCH
PRESENTS

LIGHT OF THE WORLD
A GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT

FREE ENTRY
LIMITED CAPACITY
REGISTER NOW

3RD APRIL
7PM

ROCK CHURCH PORTLAND,
91-93 LEARMONTH ST

ROCKCHURCHVIC.CHURCHCENTER.COM/REGISTRATIONS

This is an all ages event will feature the Rock Band, as well as special performances from kids and youth.

Entry is open to all students in Years 7 -9

Comic Strip Design

Design a Comic Strip
Entitled: **NAIDOCat OurSchool**
(real or fi ctional)

The comicstrip must becreated inresponse to the theme. The format and style of the comic strip is unrestricted.

Entry must be placed on A4 paper. Please ensure name and grade are clearly included on both your work and on the offi cial NAIDOC School Initiatives entry form.

NAIDOC Week
School Initiatives



NAIDOC Week Celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Jack Wighton
IndigenousSportsPerson



Our two Indigenous
Australians were
selected;

The Kid Laroi
(Indigenous Singer)
& Jack Wighton
(Indigenous Sportsperson)

as Indigenous
Australians to aspire.

“Be Smart, Stay Clean
and Live the Dream”.

The Kid Laroi
Indigenous Singer



PRIZES

DIGITAL
CAMERA



ULTIMATE STUDENTS
GIFT CARD



PLAYSTATION 5 CONSOLE



\$500 GEEDUP
CLOTHING VOUCHERS



SPONSORS

GEEDUP



Name _____ Age _____ School _____ Year _____

All competitions: Entries must be recieved by close of business on Friday 26th June 2026 at the co-ordination centre, GPO Box 454, Sydney NSW 2001. Judging will take place on Friday 10 th July 2026. Winners will be notifi ed through principals, presentations will take place at school assemblies with your local Mayor, Elders and other dignitaries.

Entry is open to all students in Years 10-12

Essay Writing Competition

Reflect on NAIDOC Week and First Nations Communities

Explain the importance of NAIDOC Week to First Nations people, and the week's significance on Australian heritage and its history.

Maximum words 1500

(entries will be judged on knowledge of subject and quality of essay) **Please ensure name grade are clearly included on both your work and on the official NAIDOC School Initiatives entry form.

NAIDOC Week School Initiatives



NAIDOC Week Celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Jack Wighton
Indigenous Sports Person



Our two Indigenous Australians were selected;

The Kid Laroi (Indigenous Singer) & Jack Wighton (Indigenous Sports person)

as Indigenous Australians to aspire.

“Be Smart, Stay Clean and Live the Dream”.

The Kid Laroi
Indigenous Singer



PRIZES

DIGITAL CAMERA



PLAYSTATION 5 CONSOLE



APPLE MAC PRO



\$500 GEEDUP CLOTHING VOUCHERS



SPONSORS



Justice and Community Safety



Education and Training



Australian Government
Department of Education



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Australian Government
Department of Health



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications



Name _____ Age _____ School _____ Year _____

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