

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Term 1 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

As you may know, I have stepped in for Darren, our College Principal, while he is on leave this term. We welcome **Bec Dunn** stepping into the Campus Principal role at Mooroolbark.

Staffing

We'd like to welcome **Brylie Noy** (English) and **Nathan Hughes** to the College. Brylie joins us as our Literacy Learning Specialist and Head of English. Nathan's role is as a part-time – 1 day per week – Assistant Principal. His position is sponsored by the flexible Work for School Leaders program. Nathan worked with us closely last year as the Department of Education's Educator Improvement Leader (EIL). We also welcome back **Taryn Brook** and **Fiona Plant** from recent leave.

We saw **Peri Dix**, **Jenny Onions** departing, and **Steve Blackwell** and **Carly Povey-Sanders** on leave for the year. For Steve, this leave will roll into his retirement, so it is, after 43 years of service, farewell.

VCE results

Our 2025 cohort performed very similarly to the students of 2024. Our dux was Jessica Polley.

Attendance

We have firmly re-focused on promoting and supporting attendance for 2026. High school attendance correlates directly with both improved learning, and wellbeing, outcomes for students.

Year 10 Certificate

We have launched the Year 10 Certificate for this school year. The Certificate requires:

- a minimum attendance of 90%
- that students achieve a Satisfactory overall grade for at least 8 of their 12 'core' subjects from Semesters 1 and 2, including at least one of both Maths and English.
- the certificate is long-term initiative to improve leaning and wellbeing outcomes, and student preparedness for senior school, and we are optimistic that we will see an improvement in academic and attendance results from this year.



GENERAL NEWS

Year 7 Making Connections Day

On Wednesday 11th February, our Year 7 students took part in Making Connections Day – a fantastic opportunity to build friendships and feel more connected to our school community.

The morning began with students finalising plans for their camp, before spending the rest of the day participating in a range of activities to get to know one another before camp.

A huge thank you to our wonderful Year 10 Peer Support Leaders who led the sessions with enthusiasm, kindness and leadership. It was great to see so much laughter, teamwork and new friendships forming.

We're so proud of the way our Year 7s are settling in and supporting one another already!



Year 7 Camp

Despite the extreme heat, our Year 7 students were absolutely fantastic at camp! Their resilience, enthusiasm, and positive attitudes made the experience unforgettable.

From mastering the water during canoeing and cooling off with pool activities, to working together in raft building, students showed incredible teamwork and determination. The giant swing brought out plenty of courage, bike riding adventures kept everyone moving, and archery tested focus and precision!

Our evenings were just as exciting! Night one kicked off with a fun-filled Trivia Night, full of laughs and friendly competition. On night two, students relaxed and enjoyed a movie night, a perfect way to wind down after big days of activity.

We are so proud of the way our Year 7s challenged themselves, supported one another, and embraced every opportunity. What a brilliant camp filled with growth, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime!



College Athletics Carnival

The Athletics Carnival was held on Tuesday, March 10, at Morrison Reserve in Mt Evelyn. It was, as ever, a fun and engaging day full of competition, novelty races and other activities. Students enjoyed dressing up in house colours and in novelty costumes, and being helpers and officials if not competing themselves. While the weather turned hot from midday, the events were completed in good spirit.

It was a fantastic day filled with house spirit, participation and plenty of smiles across the track and field.

Congratulations to the Green Dragons, who finished the day as our overall winners!



Luna Park Physics and Systems Engineering Excursion

Our Physics students recently visited Luna Park to explore the application of physics and engineering in adventure rides. The excursion allowed them to experience forces and motion firsthand while investigating structural, mechanical, and electromechanical engineering, and calculating applied forces, motion, gearing ratios, and velocities on the rides.



Volleyball

Congratulations to our Year 9/10 Volleyball Team A, who were victorious in the Yarra Division final, winning 49–30 against Monbulk. Both Team A & B played exceptionally well throughout the day, with even the losses showing determination right until the end. A big thank you to Lucky in Year 11 for helping coach the team to victory!

Our Year 8 students also had a great day out competing in Volleyball. We have some very talented students.



Our Senior Girls took the win in volleyball in their inter-school tournament. Our Senior Boys team also had a fantastic run, winning every match right up until the finals, where they were narrowly defeated by Monbulk.



Staff vs Student Dodgeball Competition

On Monday 23rd March, the Mt Evelyn SRC hosted a Staff vs Student Dodgeball Competition. While the students had strong participation numbers, they were unable to get over the line, with staff coming away with the win in the final seconds of play! Well done to everyone who joined in (including the students who cheered us on from the sidelines!). We look forward to Round 2 next term to see if staff can retain their title as CHAMPIONS!



Fantasy and Fairytales

On Monday 30th March, we held a Fairytales and Fantasy themed dress up day, with students donating a gold coin to the Good Friday Appeal to support the Royal Children's Hospital. There were many impressive costumes, including pirates, fairies, princesses and Pokemon. We raised \$375 for a very worthy cause!



Declaration of Poll - School Council Elections 2026

4 March 2026

**DECLARATION OF POLL
YARRA HILLS SECONDARY COLLEGE
2026 SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Staff,

After a call for Nominations, the number of nominations received equalled the number of vacancies in the Parent and Student categories, therefore there is no need for a Ballot.

Consequently, the persons listed below have been elected as members of the **Yarra Hills Secondary College School Council** for the period March 2025 to February 2027.

Parent Members:

- Paul Daw
- Erica German
- Paolo Damante
- VACANT (available for nomination)

DET Members:

- VACANT (available for nomination)
- VACANT (available for nomination)

Student Members:

- Nomination process underway

Community Members: To be Co-opted by College Principal at the AGM 18 March 2025

Thanks once again for all who've shown interest.

Kind Regards,

Cam Woods

College Principal (acting)

KEY DATES Term 1 2026

April		
Monday	20	First Day Term 2
Tuesday	21	Intermediate Sport
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	22	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Tuesday	28	Senior Sport
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	29	Yr 8 BBQ at Lillydale Lake
		Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	30	Koorie Aspirations Program - meet at MB
		Parent Teacher Conferences 4pm - 8pm
May		
Friday	1	Parent Teacher Conferences 9am - 1.00pm PUPIL FREE DAY
Tuesday	5	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wed - Fri	6 - 8	Portsea Music Camp
Tuesday	12	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
		BRAVO - Friends of Music 6.00pm - MB Music Room
Wednesday	13	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	14	Yarra Cross Country
Tuesday	19	Koorie Aspirations Program - meet at MB
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
		Music in the Round 7pm
Wednesday	20	Yr 8 Sports
		Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Tuesday	26	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	27	Yr 7 Sports
		Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
June		
Tuesday	2	Intermediate/Senior Inter Sports
		Koorie Aspirations Program - meet at MB
		Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	3	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Monday	8	King's Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday	9	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	10	Junior Sports
		Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	11	Koorie Aspirations Program - meet at MB
Friday	12	Correction Day - PUPIL FREE DAY
Tuesday	16	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
		BRAVO - Friends of Music 6pm - MB Music Room
Wednesday	17	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Thursday	18	Yr 7 & 10 Immunisation
Mon - Fri	22 - 26	Yr 9 City Experience
		Yr 10 Work Experience
Tuesday	23	Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.15pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday	24	Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3:15pm - 4:30pm
Friday	26	Last Day Term 2 - 2.30pm Dismissal



MyTime Mt Evelyn

Why MyTime?

MyTime is for parents and carers of a child with a disability, chronic medical condition or other additional needs including developmental delay.

FIND US AT:

Yarra Ranges SDS, Early Years Building,
20 Burdap Drive, Mount Evelyn
Thursdays, Weekly 9.30am – 11.30am

CONTACT:

Shaana Teitel - Facilitator

Email: shaanat@mytimevic.com.au

Mobile: 0403 588 322



mytime.net.au

Ready to join?
Ask a MyTime
facilitator for a
registration form
today!

What is MyTime?

MyTime is a free peer-support group for parents and carers of children with complex needs. New members are welcome at any time.



mytime.net.au



It's support for you

MyTime lets you connect with others who understand, have some time for yourself, and to build your support network.



It's free to join

Most MyTime groups have 5–12 members and a group facilitator. Groups meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly during school terms.



Member-led activities

Groups might choose to have a guest speaker, do self-care or craft activities, or just relax with a coffee and talk with people who understand.



Children are welcome

Your pre-school aged child can attend. Play leaders provide activities for children so you have time to connect with the group.