Principal’s Report

Over the past fortnight it has been a pleasure to walk around the College and witness students actively involved in their learning. Congratulations to our staff team who are continuing to advance and improve their practices to support our students and their learning. As I walked around, alongside the positive and active climate being created in each class, it was great to see our teachers sharing the Learning Intention and Success Criteria for each class. These two items help our students focus on the learning for each lesson, in addition to defining how students and teachers will know if the lesson has been a success.

The College has been a hive of activity over the last fortnight with some of the highlights including:

- The pleasure of meeting a number of our families at this week’s Year 7 BBQ evening. It was great to meet the families behind our Year 7 students to hear their aspirations and share with them what great ambassadors for the College our 2016 Year 7 students are becoming.
• Our Year 12 VCAL students hosting an afternoon tea for our new Year 11 VCAL students and staff members. It was great to see our Year 12 students being prepared to share their experiences with the Year 11’s, not to mention providing us with a great afternoon tea.

• A group of our SEAL students attended the Exploration Day at Melbourne University. Sean Ryan (Year 9) stated “My favourite part of the day was the hands-on engineering program when we got to make floatation devices that could hold marbles.” While Brody McKinley (Year 9) enjoyed other aspects, “We took a tour of the campus and it was wonderful to see the old buildings because they are historical.”

The start of the school year is always a great time to revisit our school values of Respect, Environment, Accountability and Learning and this year has been no different, as staff remind our students of what our REAL values mean. Our REAL values help us guide the work of our students and staff as we grow and learn together. Importantly, our values and the expectations linked with them are all framed in positive language which guides students towards what we want to see them do. Our staff will be teaching our students about our values and the key skills that we expect them to demonstrate. Students are then reinforced with REAL Slips when teachers witness students demonstrating these skills. Our values and the teaching and reinforcing of them, are all key elements of our Positive Behaviour Intervention & Supports (PBIS) approach at McGuire and a key element of our continued school improvement work in 2016.

Our College Values are:

**Respect** – We will behave in a way which respects others and their property

**Environment** – We will conduct ourselves in a safe manner at all times

**Accountability** – We will challenge each other to take responsibility for our own actions

**Learning** – We will contribute to and value positive learning pathways

**School Attendance**

*Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.*

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in Years 11 and 12.

Our staff team are here to support students and their families, if attending school regularly is a challenge, please drop in or contact us to see how we can help you and your son/daughter make the most of their experiences at McGuire College.

**Brad Moyle**
Principal
2016 Debutante Ball

Debutante Ball Training
Training for our up and coming debutante ball will commence on Monday the 14th of March at 4.00-5.30pm. Training is compulsory for all debutantes.

Debutante Ball Tickets
A reminder to all parents/guardians of our 2016 debutante couples that tickets for the ball need to be purchased between the 21st and the 24th of March.

The ball will be held at Eastbank on the 6th of May, 2016, commencing at 7.00pm. Tickets must be purchased in bulk and only by parents/guardians. Ticket allocation sheets must be filled in and submitted upon payment. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Jamason Lopez.

Swan Head of House
Debutante Coordinator
lopez.jamason.j@edumail.edu.au

McGuire College School Council 2016
If you would you like an opportunity to have a say in your child’s education why not join our school council. There are currently 3 parent member vacancies. Further information and nomination forms are attached to this newsletter.

Need Maths or Science Help??
McGuire College maths and science teachers are offering after school help on the following days:
- Maths Help for students in Years 7-12: Monday afternoons from 3:30pm to 4:15pm
- Maths and Science Help for Students undertaking VCE subjects: Tuesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:15pm

After school help takes place in C6 and will be staffed by a variety of different teachers. Please ask your child to bring along any work that they are having trouble with and we will be happy to help out.

Centrepay – The easy way to pay your bills
Centrepay is a free direct bill paying service available to customers who receive an
- Australian Government Department of Human Services Centrelink payment
- Family Assistance Payment
- Parental Leave Pay

If you are interested in paying your school account with Centrepay please contact the McGuire College General Office on 58589800.

Sunsmart
Students are reminded that they must wear a broad brimmed hat at all times when outside at recess and lunchtime during Term 1 and Term 4.
Thank you to the vast majority of students who ‘do the right thing’ are sensible and ‘Sunsmart’ by wearing their hat at all times when outdoors.
Attention – Physics, Chemistry, Engineering Studies and Mathematics students

Engineering @ La Trobe University

SAVE THE DATE!
Engineering Link Project – April 5 & 6, 2016
La Trobe University – Bendigo Campus

Year 10, 11 and 12 students will experience two, day-long, intensive engineering projects designed to showcase the career as it really is!

Students work in teams with real engineers across disciplines such as:
- Civil & Structural
- Environmental
- Mechanical
- Aeronautical (featuring Engineering in the Defence Forces)

Lodging available (on campus or on request). Supervised accommodation available (there is a cost).


Are YOU only finding out about this event now? Why not join our mailing list? You’ll receive STEM updates, teaching ideas and program information as soon as they are released! Email us – admin@telg.com.au and we’ll add you!

VICTORIAN EVENTS

The Engineering Link Group is a not-for-profit organisation that offers award-winning experiences for Year 10, 11 and 12 students and their teachers, by linking them with engineers.

The workshops are hands-on and directly related to the Australian and Victorian curriculum.

STUDENT WORKSHOPS:
Engineering Link Projects allow students to work with engineers and scientists on a range of day-long, hands-on projects that use engineering principles to demonstrate how the maths and science they are learning NOW applies in the real world. They also get a real understanding of what a career in engineering could be like for them.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS:
Linking Engineers and Scientists with Teachers are workshops that provide teachers of Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology curriculum-based activities and experiences that are exciting, relevant and student-centred. They also allow teachers to meet and work with engineers from their community.

PU Box 229
North Lakes, Qld. 4509
07 3107 7394
www.telg.com.au
ABN: 87 089 560 690
Dear Parents,

We are excited to inform you that McGuire College will be implementing the Smiling Mind Education Program as of Term one, 2016.

As a brief introduction, Smiling Mind is modern meditation for young people. It is a unique, Australian web and App-based program, designed by renowned psychologists to help bring balance to young lives. It is a not-for-profit initiative based on a process that provides a sense of calm, clarity and contentment.

We have chosen to implement the Smiling Mind Education Program as it complements learning and wellbeing:
• As a preemptive and proactive tool to enhance mental health and wellbeing
• To arm participants with the skills to better manage stress and resilience
• To improve attention and focus
• To increase empathy and awareness of negative emotional states
• To encourage participants to feel calm, clear and content
• To improve academic and learning outcomes via improved focus

Smiling Mind has a unique vision to see Mindfulness Meditation on the Australian Curriculum by 2020, which McGuire College is proud to support.

For more information on Smiling Mind and their range of Mindfulness Meditation programs, please visit their website: www.smilingmind.com.au

We strongly recommend downloading the FREE App (currently only available on iOS) or creating your own account via the website to support your child’s mindfulness practice at home. Smiling Mind can be used to increase focus and attention before study, to calm the mind before bed, or any time in-between!
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, is encouraging young Australians to consider a rewarding career in agriculture.

Minister Joyce said the future food and fibre task will be a massive challenge for both Australia and the world, but it is one that will also create significant opportunities for those wanting to get involved.

“I would strongly encourage our next crop of young Australians to consider fields of study—both undergraduate and post-graduate—that will help them make a strong contribution to our primary industries,” Minister Joyce said.

“Agriculture is an incredibly challenging and rewarding career, feeding and clothing people here and around the world, but it is important young people are aware of the tremendous opportunities available in agriculture, right across the supply chain from paddock to plate, or to the garment factory, as the case may be.

“With Australian agriculture positioning itself as a reliable producer of clean and green food and fibre, students studying agriculture and related courses can look forward to a huge range of research, science, technology and agribusiness careers.

“In fact, the Australian Council of Deans of Agriculture has found that for every graduate from an agriculture-related degree, there are five or six jobs available.

“This is proof that there are jobs waiting for graduates who are willing to give it a go.

“We sit on the edge of the strongest growing region in the world, and have developed an agriculture sector with a positive outlook that has solid prospects for growth.

“The December 2015 release of the ABARES Agricultural Commodities report forecast that the gross value of farm production in Australia will increase by 8 per cent in 2015–16 to around $57.6 billion.

“The agriculture sector is well-placed to prosper, and I encourage young people weighing up their options to choose a field from which an agricultural career can grow,” Minister Joyce said.

The Australian Government provides a range of support to both university and Vocational Education and Training students. Detailed information is available at www.studyassist.gov.au.

Media contact: Gerard McManus 0477 391 580
Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Sharon Wandin your local Saver Plus Worker:
(03) 5822 8100 / 0439 067 021
or swandin@berrystreet.org.au
Schedule 4       Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of McGuire College
Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by

**4.00 pm on Monday 22nd February 2016**

The ballot will close at **4.00 pm on Friday 4th March, 2016**

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
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If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Brad Moyle
Principal
What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
School Council Elections

Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the

............................................................................................................. school council.

Name:

.........................................................................................................................

Residential address:

........................................................................................................................

Home telephone: ........................................ Business telephone:

........................................................................................................................

Email:

........................................................................................................................

I am the parent/guardian of .............................................................................., who is/are currently enrolled
at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an
undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate

........................................................................................................................

Date  /  / 

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may
be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the
commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at
the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on

You may choose not to give some or all of the information requested; however, your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any
queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.
School Council Elections

Schedule 5B: Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate:

................................................................................................................................. for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the
................................................................................................................................. school council.

Name:

______________________________________________________________

Residential address:

______________________________________________________________

Home telephone: 

Business telephone: 

Email:


I am the parent/guardian of ........................................................................................................... who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of ................................................................. who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Yes / No (please circle)

Signature of Nominator

______________________________________________________________ Date / /

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate

______________________________________________________________ Date / /

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine the eligibility of a candidate and nominator. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll. Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on _____________________

You may choose not to give some or all of the information requested; however, your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

Principals Guide to School Council Elections 2011 37
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Application Form

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb

State

Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

OR

Foster parent* OR Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child’s surname</th>
<th>Child’s first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

Signature of applicant

Date / / 


CSEF Eligibility

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility
To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria
School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date
Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

Payment amounts

CSEF payment amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

How to complete the application form

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veteran Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.