MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I trust you have had a relaxing break. I did, I travelled to London with my daughters and a nephew.

Welcome
A big welcome to our new year 7 families and to those students and families who have joined us in the other year levels.

Staffing
We are all really pleased to welcome back Hung Ngo, the library technician. He returns after a year working in the private system. No doubt he will bring back lots of new ideas to support students in the library.
We also welcome two new teachers; Ms Claire Jane Giddings who will teach Food Technology and Ms Natasa Ciabatti who will teach Italian. Ms Ciabatti was one of the Victoria University pre-service teachers in 2015 so many of the students will know her from last year.
At the end of the year we learnt that our school nurse Michelle Hynson would be relocated to another school and we will be allocated a new school nurse.
Ms Voids is on sick leave until later in the term so Ms Noonan will take her classes until she resumes. Ms Dobra is on Leave for 2016.

2015 year 12 students
Congratulations to all students who were successful in VCE. In particular, congratulations to Acil Alcheikh Bakro who is the 2015 Dux.
The students have received first round offers and there is an ongoing process of second, third and fourth round offers as students take up their offer, defer or wait for their preferred course. I will let you know which courses the students have accepted later in the term once they are confirmed.

Footscray Learning Precinct
Throughout term 4 I attended a number of meetings regarding the provision of education in the Footscray area. The Victorian Government has committed $15 million to create an exciting educational precinct in the heart of Footscray. I will include the information sheet with this newsletter.

Five period day and new bell times
This year we commence the five period day which I believe will better support your daughter’s education.
To assist with the adjustment to the new daily format can I suggest that all students have breakfast! It is really important that students start the day with a good breakfast to give them energy for the day. I also feel that the girls need to have a substantial snack at recess so that they can see their way through to lunchtime.

Netbook program
As much of the curriculum is delivered through the computer, it is essential that the students have a netbook.
The booklist has been adjusted accordingly and we have deleted many expensive textbooks.
Thus it is essential that families make sure your daughter has the college netbook and brings it to school each day fully charged.

Immunisations
An immunisation form has been distributed to all Year 7 students. The immunization is for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Chickenpox and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough.
Forms must be returned to the college even if you are not doing the immunization through the Council Program.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
Information regarding this initiative can be found at: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.
Parents need to finalise this process by 29 February with the front office to access the funding.

Bette Prange
Principal

EDUCATION QUOTE: “Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.” Robert Collier
JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS
Welcome back to the Gilmore College for 2016. I hope all members of the Gilmore community had an enjoyable and relaxing break over Christmas and the New Year. I certainly enjoyed my time over the holidays.

As with the start of every year the first school week of 2016 has been extremely busy. The Year 7’s faced the challenge of settling in at secondary school and for the Year 8’s and 9’s there is the importance of starting 2016 with a focus on getting off to a good start.

I have been extremely pleased with the efforts made by both staff and students. The start to the year has been both positive and work centred. Students have been well prepared with appropriate books and equipment. Teachers have been enthusiastic and keen to ensure that students start work from the very first lesson.

As with 2015, a major focus for the year will be on improving literacy and numeracy skills across the Junior School. This focus will see students working on their reading, comprehension and numeracy in a range of classes. 2016 will see a particular focus on spelling, grammar and writing. Encouraging your daughter to read at home and work on her numeracy skills will support this process.

Across the Junior School each student has a Circles teacher allocated to their form group. The Circles teacher teaches your daughter, marks the daily roll and meets with the class for 12 minutes every day. All parents and guardians should become familiar with their daughter’s Circles teacher name and understand that contact between families and Circles teachers is something the school actively encourages.

Ian Reilly  
Junior School Leader

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS
The Coordination of the Senior school will be shared by Mr Reilly and Mr Nucci so if you have any concerns please contact of them. You may need to leave a message as both have timetabled classes and may not be available when you call; they will return your call at the earliest convenience.

We are really pleased with the positive start made by the students in the Senior School. The Year 10 students have made good progress with their Personal Projects and the Year 11 and 12 students completed their holiday homework.

The Year 12 students received their year 12 jackets so it is really easy for our school community to see who is in Year 12. The students commence their Study Camp tomorrow and we have an exciting program to make sure they are well equipped for success.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TEACHERS

Ms Giddings  
Hi I am Ms Giddings, your new Food Technology teacher for 2016. I am very excited to be here at Gilmore College for Girls and have already been very impressed by some amazing work this week from students.

I moved to Australia from England in 2014 where I was a teacher of Design Technology, specialising in food. I have travelled the world and as Australia was one of my favourite places, I have chosen to pursue my love of food and teaching here in Melbourne at this amazing school.

I am really looking forward to helping you with your cooking adventures in 2016.

Ms Giddings

Ms Ciabatti  
I was born in Trieste, an Italian port town on the Slovenian border, and my passion for foreign languages is certainly the result of having a grandfather who spoke to me in Croatian and an Australian grandmother who lived in Italy for some years before returning to Australia permanently. I graduated as an Interpreter & Translator, travelled extensively and found Melbourne as my new home. Here, I’ve discovered my enthusiasm for teaching (languages of course!) and I will soon graduate from Victoria University. Last year, as part of my Master’s degree, I did my placement at Gilmore College for Girls, where I am now happy to be back as a qualified teacher of Italian and EAL.

Looking forward to the new adventures and challenges at Gilmore

Ms Ciabatti
Compass
This year the College will use the Compass Communication System which will allow teachers to communicate with students and parents quite regularly.

COMPASS: An Internet communication link for parents and students

Shortly we will be mailing out to each parent/guardian their unique user login and password. Parents and guardians will be able to use this to access the Compass Portal.

This is the latest and most sophisticated tool for communication with our school community. It can be found at…
or via the school website by clinking on the following icon

With Compass, parents and guardians now have the ability to view their daughter’s timetable, attendance and any up-to-date notices.

Moving mouse over “Actions” allows parents to approve absences, book interviews and send emails to teachers. In a few weeks’ time, we will be inviting parents to attend information sessions on using Compass.

We hope you have been able to log on and take a look around the information, which is now available to you anytime, anywhere at the click of a mouse.

Mr. Paul Nucci
Assistant Principal

For absences, parents simply login and enter an approval for the date of the absence. Going on line means parents can communicate directly with their daughter’s teacher at a click of a button.

The following screen shots are just a few examples of the type of information parents can access. As the semester progresses more features will become available.

Parents click on ‘Schedule’ and the student’s timetable will appear.

Parents and guardians will also be able to print off excursion permission slips.

Modify parent details or change passwords by clicking on Tools symbol at the top right.
Health Chat

Immunisations:

Why immunise in secondary school?
The protection provided by some childhood vaccines fades and needs to be boosted in adolescence. Adolescents are at an age when a vaccine will be most effective and provides protection before they may be exposed to a disease. Sometimes a new vaccine becomes available. Information about a new vaccine will be given to parents. Sometimes a vaccine program ends such as the hepatitis B vaccine program, which finished at the end of 2012 as a school-based program. Hepatitis B vaccine is now given to babies.

What vaccines are offered free to my child in secondary school?
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
- Students are given three injections with two months between the first and second dose and four months between the second and third dose.

Chickenpox (Varicella) vaccine
- If your child has previously had one dose of the chickenpox vaccine, they should have another dose. It is a single injection. Find out more about chickenpox vaccine, including recommendations for the vaccine if your child has previously had the chickenpox disease.

Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine
- This vaccine protects against the three diseases in a single injection. Your child will have been vaccinated against these diseases in early childhood but an adolescent dose is recommended to boost protection.

Why immunise?
Every day immunisation saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from the illness and the disability caused by many infectious diseases. Immunisation not only protects those people who have been vaccinated, but it also protects those in the community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves, by reducing the spread of disease.

Where can I get more information?
- Your local council immunisation service
- Your doctor
- www.immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their achievements.

CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

How to Apply

Contact the school office for an application form. A current health care card/pension card will need to be presented. Applications close 29 February 2016.

Further Information

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information, please see:

WestCASA
Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault

A counselling service that aims to facilitate the healing of victim/survivors of sexual assault and work towards the elimination of sexual violence in our society.

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Counselling 9687 5811
After Hours Sexual Assault Crisis Line 1800 606 292

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**FUTURE COLLEGE EVENTS**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Year 11 2012 parent meeting.</td>
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<td>Thursday 18 August</td>
<td>VCAL Information Evening</td>
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<td>Friday 26 August</td>
<td>Book Week Performance Years 7 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>Friday 2 September</td>
<td>Official Opening of Science Centre</td>
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<td>Friday 23 September</td>
<td>End of Term 3</td>
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