

NEWSLETTER

5 February, 2010

Volume 12 Issue 1



College Mission . . .

Building on a foundation of Christian values, the mission of Aitken College is to enable students to become informed and compassionate members of the wider community by inspiring academic achievement and creativity, nurturing self worth, encouraging environmental responsibility and committing to service with and for others.

Term dates for 2010

Term 1	1/2 February	to	26 March
Term 2	14 April	to	25 June
Term 3	19 July	to	17 September
Term 4	4 October	to	10 December

Important Diary Dates for 2010

Mon	01 Feb	Prep to Year 7 & Year 12 commence
Tue	02 Feb	Year 8 to Year 11 commence
Mon	08 Mar	Labour Day Holiday
Thu	18 Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep-12)
Thu	25 Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep-12)
Fri	26 Mar	Term 1 concludes
Mon	12 Apr	Staff Conference Day (student free)
Tue	13 Apr	Staff Conference Day (student free)
Wed	14 Apr	Term 2 commences
Mon	26 Apr	ANZAC Day Holiday
Mon	14 Jun	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Tue	15 Jun	Report Writing Day (student free)
Fri	25 Jun	Term 2 concludes
Mon	19 Jul	Term 3 commences
Fri	17 Sep	Term 3 concludes
Mon	04 Oct	Term 4 commences
Mon	01 Nov	Mid Term Break
Tue	02 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day Holiday
Wed	24 Nov	Report Writing Day (student free)
Wed	08 Dec	Presentation Night
Fri	10 Dec	Term 4 concludes

Thought: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams".

Eleanor Roosevelt

✠ JOOSTEN – Mr Eric Joosten

The College extends sympathy to Mrs Joosten, Tim and Elise on the sad loss of your husband/father. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

From the Principal

Welcome to students, staff and families, especially to those who are new in 2010. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday and the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. The holidays also provide a

great opportunity to relax and read a book, go to the movies, visit the beach or travel. There are a myriad of activities in which students can engage during the break. One of the things I enjoyed doing during the holidays was going to see the movie *Invictus*. I particularly appreciated the theme of the movie. I also enjoyed doing a little research on the poem *Invictus* (which means unconquerable) with the famous line, "I am master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." In the film *Mandela* gives the captain of the South African rugby team a copy of the following inspiring speech by Teddy Roosevelt prior to the 1995 Rugby World cup:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is not effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

At the commencement of this academic year I would urge all students to be the "master of their fate", to strive to do their best in order to enjoy the success of their efforts.

Thank you for your co-operation with the new traffic arrangements and for negotiating your way around the new building works in progress.

As was mentioned in the Parent Notices in January, the Aitken College Foundation helps the College to raise funds for building projects. Families are asked to contribute \$200 per child - this is fully tax deductible. For those who contribute \$500 or more, there will be the opportunity for the acknowledgement on a plaque located in either the library or gymnasium extension.

Mrs Josie Crisara
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Welcome to Aitken College 2010, especially to new Aitken families. It was good to meet many parents at recent information nights and morning teas and to share the joys of children commencing a new year of school.

At the start of the year I would like to remind families about always considering and ensuring the safety of our children, especially with regard to cars and roads. Please be aware of the speed limits within the College and always be on the lookout for children who may cross or run onto the road. Always closely accompany children when crossing the ring road – never call them across.

A reminder that cars are not to queue up at the boom gate before afternoon pick-up; cars must wait in the western car park until 2.35pm when the boom rises. Cars must not enter the road along the bus bays at the times indicated on the signs. These rules are to ensure safe access for buses, construction vehicles, visitors and emergency vehicles.

Open Day: Open Day 2010 is on Wednesday 3 March from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Many new families hear about the College by word of mouth, so please let your friends and neighbours who may be looking at future schools know about Open Day.

College Photos: Years 10 to 12 photos will be taken on Tuesday 9 February. Prep to Year 9 photos will be taken on Friday 12 February and Monday 15 February. Students will receive a photo order envelope from their homeroom teacher, which must be completed with payment and handed to the photographer on the day. Please ensure that all children have complete and proper summer uniform and are well groomed. Family group photo envelopes can be collected by the oldest sibling from Heads of Schools or the office; these photos will be taken in lunchtimes in the CPA foyer on the above three dates. If your child has Physical Education on this day, they can bring their sport shoes to school. **They must not wear their sport uniform to school on this day.**

House Swimming: Years 8 to 12 House Swimming will take place on Tuesday 16 February at the St Albans Leisure Centre. Attendance is compulsory for all students and all must have their House T-shirt. Students are expected to be “sunsmart” by ensuring they wear sunscreen, keep covered and bring a hat. Please encourage your children to fully participate whether in competitive or novelty events. Any non-attendance on the day must be supported by a medical certificate. Can parents please make sure that permission forms for this are signed and returned, via students, to Homeroom teachers promptly.

Working with Children Check: The Victorian Government has introduced new legislation affecting all adults who work with children. These adults are required to have what is called a Working with Children check (WWC). The WWC check is necessary for anyone acting as a volunteer. If you believe you will be working in a voluntary capacity e.g. as a classroom helper or parent helper with excursions, it is imperative that you have a current WWC check. Application forms for a WWC check can be obtained

from your local Australia Post office. Before offers of voluntary assistance can be accepted, parents will be asked to provide the College with their WWC card.

*Mr Kim Forward
Deputy Principal*

2010 Staff Professional Development and Reflection

There is constant pressure on teachers to innovate in their delivery of programs and to adapt their teaching methods to a world of rapid technological development. Students’ access to information has undergone a revolution in recent decades; some of the tried-and-true teaching methods of the past do not suit the current generation of young people in our care as well as they have done previously. Twenty-first Century citizens need to focus on developing their problem-solving skills much more than on remembering facts, which these days can be checked on an internet-enabled mobile phone in a matter of seconds.

With this in mind, we have some exciting plans in place this year to help teachers to continue developing their skills and their ability to focus on student learning in their day-to-day practice. Two groups of teachers will be meeting regularly through the year to plan and implement action research projects on the topics of “Using teacher questions to enhance student learning” and “Creating a classroom climate which encourages student learning”. Each of these Professional Learning Teams will be examining some of the latest research on student improvement and trialling some new strategies and techniques with their students. We are expecting that use of this new model of professional development will grow in coming years.

All College staff will also be a part of our 2-day “Focus on Learning” Conference, on April 12 and 13 this year. These days of professional development and discussion will enable staff to consider how they can each live up to the College’s Mission, Values and Aims statements in order to provide the very best school experience for our students. Teachers will spend some of this time examining their own teaching practices and collaborating with each other on what teaching strategies are most effective. Some of the topics to be discussed are:

- Analysis of the scope & sequence of curriculum from Prep to Year 10;
- Assessment practices and outcomes;
- Classroom management and student wellbeing;
- Making thinking and learning visible;
- Using technology to enhance learning.

We hope that we have your support in these endeavours, despite the difficulties a slightly later than usual commencement to Term 2 may cause. When classes do resume on Wednesday 14 April, teachers will be brimming with enthusiasm and plenty of new ideas on how to plan and deliver an even more exciting and effective curriculum for their students.

*Ms Kerri Batch
Director of Teaching and Learning*

Brookhill School Notices

It has been an exciting and hectic start to the year in Brookhill.

The Year 12 Retreat was held at Rutherford Park, Daylesford, last Friday and Saturday. The students participated in Study Skills workshops conducted by Elevate Education. These workshops built on the work done at school last year by Elevate Education. All of the Year 12 students are to be congratulated on their attention, behaviour and attitude; if the Year 12 cohort can continue in this fashion then they can expect a fun and successful year.

Classes for all Year levels have gotten off to a smooth and productive start. Class teachers have commented on the effort students are making with their dress, grooming and punctuality.

Can parents of Brookhill students please make sure that the letter sent to all Brookhill students dated 20 January, which details student expectations is signed and returned to Homeroom teachers ASAP.

On the 15 February we will be holding a Year 12 Parent's Information Evening from 7:30pm till 9:00pm in the CPA. All parents of Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Mr David Murphy
Head of Brookhill

Glenarthur School Notices

Thank you for your children's neat appearance. It was good to start on such a positive note, owing largely to your support. A reminder to student's to please read the regulations in their diary covering many aspects of school-life. We thank parents in advance for their support in this, as we share the responsibility to teach.

Parent Information Evening, Tuesday 9 February 2010, 7.30pm in the CPA: The Glenarthur homeroom staff look forward to meeting with you. Once again we are blessed with a wonderful team of homeroom teachers who have been preparing their rooms to help settle the children into a positive frame of mind.

Forms: Please sign and return the various forms which will come home with your child.

School Captains 2010: Early in February our Glenarthur student leaders will be presented to our assembly. The formal investiture of these leaders is on Monday 1 March and parents will receive an invitation in due course. We look forward to a positive year of participation and development in Glenarthur. It is important to develop, from the outset, a positive attitude to studies and routine, and to look for the many new opportunities to expand responsibilities and demonstrate and develop **leadership potential**.

An information letter will come home soon for the highly successful **Oxygen Factory** seminars; Year 8 students on 4 March; Year 9 on 5 March. We are pleased to note that costs have not increased. At an assembly in February, students will also enjoy a presentation from **Motivational Media**.

You are most welcome to join the Friends of Glenarthur parents' group. If you would like to actively or passively contribute in the occasional activity or express your ideas, we would love to hear from you.

Mr Shelton Bond & Mrs Elpis Vlahopoulos
Head and Assistant Head of Glenarthur

Dunhelen School Notices

It has been a very busy week in Dunhelen! We have begun to settle into the Middle School, had our first school assembly, had our Parent Information Evening and are now busily preparing for Year 7 camp next week! In addition, our Year 6 students have met their Prep buddies for the very first time. Students are also beginning to nominate themselves for the roles of Dunhelen School and House captains.

I am sure that many of your children are still feeling a little anxious about the life in Dunhelen. Having spoken to lots of students already, I know many are nervous about time management and of course, homework! These concerns are normal and I encourage you to speak to your child about them. Over the course of the next few weeks, teachers will be working with students on these matters, giving them some tips and advice, which should help ease some of this anxiety.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to keep the lines of communication between school and home, open. If you have concerns about your child in a particular subject area, contact their subject teacher directly. If you have concerns of a pastoral nature, contact your child's homeroom teacher. If any other matters are of concern to you, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the Assistant Head of Dunhelen, Mrs Francis Scuderi. It can often be difficult to catch teachers during the school day and often email is a more convenient method of communication.

In conclusion, I wish to welcome you to Dunhelen in 2010 and look forward to a fantastic year together.

Miss Sheridyn Davies & Mrs Francis Scuderi
Head and Assistant Head of Dunhelen

Cumberland Notices

The Junior School children have settled and are working well. The atmosphere is positive so augurs well for a great year.

Thank you to the parents who attended Parent Information night. It was good to see you all there. As mentioned on Wednesday, please check and sign your child's diary on a regular basis and continue to support our uniform policy. Key dates have been printed in the diary and parents are encouraged to attend these events.

A number of Year 5 students are currently nominating for leadership positions. I have been most impressed by their manners and the thought they have given as to why they would like to be School or House Captain.

Ms Barbara Wyatt
Head of Cumberland

Fairview Notices

The Preparatory School Information Evening is scheduled for Monday 8 February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Chapel and Performing Arts Centre. The session will provide parents with the opportunity to meet their child's homeroom teacher and discuss home and school expectations. It is crucial that parents attend, as it reinforces College procedures and ensures a smooth transition for the children.

Please take note of the following points:

- Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct footwear. This includes: flat black lace up leather shoes or leather pull up boots, no buckles or velcro. Pull up boots are only worn in the Preparatory School and children entering Year Three must wear flat black lace up shoes.
- Your child **must** bring their hat to school everyday. Children without a hat will not be permitted to play outside or participate in their Physical Education class.
- It is also advised that your child bring a small tube/bottle of sun block. Please ensure that they have sun block on before they arrive to school.
- All school books and equipment should have been sent to school.
- Preparatory School children are not permitted to visit the canteen before school begins.
- Please ensure you check your child's hair for head lice at regular intervals.
- It is also compulsory that all hair is tied back in a pony-tail at all times. If the hair is at a length which it can be tied back, it must be tied in a bottle green hair tie or ribbon.
- Prep and Year One children are required to bring a spare change of underwear, socks and trackpants/shorts (blue or green) to school.
- Each child is required to have a bottle of water at school.

Communication Book: All children in the Preparatory School have received their Communication Book. This book is for parent and teacher communication. It outlines the College procedures and calendar dates. This booklet encourages parents to record details and special events; also allowing children to record their notes. This procedure ensures confidentiality as it is only read by the appropriate teacher, parent and child. Teachers will only record notes to parents when necessary; therefore it is the parent's responsibility to check the communication book. The child/parent is required to inform the teacher whether a message has been recorded in this book. The communication book must be kept in your child's school bag at all times. The communication book is not a daily record diary book. If you need to talk to your child's homeroom teacher or Head of School, please make an appointment. This is to ensure that issues and queries are dealt with effectively.

*Ms Kerrie Neophytou
Head of Fairview*

Careers News

A warm welcome to parents and students as we start a new year. We wish all our students a happy, healthy, productive and successful year, especially our Year 12 Class of 2010.

Aitken College has two Careers Counsellors, Ms Rae Gibbs and Mrs Clare Borg, who are available to assist parents and students with queries they may have about course and career options post secondary school. We are happy to discuss issues in person (the Careers Centre is located in Room B21) or via the telephone (9333 1866) or email (careers@aitkencollege.edu.au) and we welcome visits from students who wish to talk about their future.

Career News: Career news is written to keep students up to date with activities and events which may help you to plan your future after you leave secondary school. It appears fortnightly in the School Newsletter. The items in Careernews are designed to assist you to think about the direction you may wish to take when you finish school, to help you make informed decisions and to facilitate your career and course research. It is also written to help keep parents 'in the loop' about career related activities. For our Year 12 students in particular, this year will be very demanding academically and socially, very eventful. It is an exciting year filled with the promise of the future ahead. It must also be a year where time is set aside for thinking about that future. However, we hope that Careernews may help prompt these thoughts. Careernews is not just for Year 12 students, however, students in Years 10 and 11 will also make important decisions about subjects they will choose for the following year. These choices then keep open, or close, particular pathways. It is essential that all students carry out their career research in a thoughtful manner so that any decisions they make have been carefully considered. This newsletter will keep you up to date with events and information which may support and enhance your career research.

Useful Websites and Other Resources to Assist With Careers Research: In Year 10 students received a handout with a list of useful websites. Don't forget to refer to this to help you with your career research. If you have misplaced your list come to the Careers Centre for a new one. A very handy place to start your career research is a website called myfuture: www.myfuture.edu.au. The Careers Centre has handouts to help you access the information on this site and to navigate your way around it. (Note that current Year 10 students will receive this information in their Careers classes as part of the Term 2 Lifeskills program.) Examples of other useful websites are: www.jobjuice.gov.au; www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au; www.goingtouni.gov.au; www.jobguide.dest.gov.au www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook and the websites of the universities and TAFEs. The JobGuide you received in Year 10 is also an excellent resource. Again, if you have misplaced yours we have spare copies which may be borrowed from the Careers Centre. We look forward to seeing you in B21 during the year.

*Mrs Clare Borg and Ms Rae Gibbs
Careers Advisers*

Chaplain's Corner

The key to a great life is LOVE.

I was sent one of those e-mails that offered "45 lessons for life" and one of the lessons was this: "*All that matters in the end is that you loved*" which I think was the most important lesson. Having led a few funerals lately, it is very clear that those who have shared their love around have made a huge difference in the lives of those left behind. The impact of love for those receiving it can be life-changing. Recently, after worship service I led, I was asked this; "*you seem to have a great joy of life, how is that?*" My instant response was: "*because I know I am loved*". Being loved, is a gift far greater than anything else in the world, it gives us confidence and belief in ourselves as individuals.

A child's self esteem is dependent on their feelings of being loved and knowing they belong. Our curriculum here at Aitken College doesn't show it, but one of the key learning's on offer here for students, is the awareness that they are loved and that they belong. I believe this in itself builds strength and confidence more than any other aspect of what we can teach your children.

My prayer this week is for those who are new to Aitken, to very quickly feel that they belong and to know that they are important to the life of this community. May the love of God continue to flow through this school community, generating security and confidence throughout. Yours in God's love

ROC Term 1 - 2010 (Wednesday evenings): There will be no ROC activity on the **first Wednesday** of the month this year. On the **second Wednesday** of the month we will play volley ball (or some other activity). The **third Wednesday** of the month will be devoted to 'Kids ROC' and the **fourth Wednesday** belongs to worship and alternative activities. (There are no fifth Wednesdays in this school term). All activities will be upstairs in the **seminar room** unless otherwise stated (6.00pm for shared meals and 6:30pm worship)

3/2	No Activity
10/2	Seriously Social Volley Ball - Gym (6:15pm-7:30pm)
17/2	Kids ROC
24/2	Re-union dinner for 2009 Listening Skills attendees
3/3	No Activity
10/3	Seriously Social Volley Ball - Gym (6:15pm-7:30pm)
17/3	Kids ROC
24/3	Easter worship Service

Rev Jeanne Beale
Chaplain

Performing Arts News

We start the year by welcoming two new staff members in the Performing Arts. Mr Luke Dixon joins us as the new Head of Drama and Media Faculty. Luke has lived a varied professional life beginning with a Degree in Journalism to helping start a youth theatre company. He studied in Perth before beginning his teaching life at Broadford Secondary College. He has spent the past twelve months travelling and teaching in the United Kingdom.

Mrs Natasha Radley spent time at Aitken last year as a replacement teacher working in both the Primary School and taking a number of Secondary Drama and Media classes. Although the bulk of her work is now as a Year 2 class teacher she will also be taking some of the Primary Performing Arts classes.

Please add to your diaries the annual **Performing Arts Captains' Concert** commencing at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 24 March. Each year, a great night of entertainment assists in raising money for the Starlight Children's Foundation and entry is by Gold Coin Donation. The program is always varied and we usually unearth some great talent. Students interested in performing should talk to the Captains, Amelia Wilson or Sarah Quinlan. Parents also sometimes perform so if you have a talent you think might be worth sharing we would love to hear from you.

I am pleased to announce our first major production for the year, the VCE Theatre Studies Play, **Minefields and Miniskirts** by Terence O'Connell brings to life, through a collage of true stories, the extraordinary experiences of the women who played a part in the Vietnam War; from the glitz and glamour of the lavish parties, to caring for the soldiers and orphans, and the displacement of their (and their husband's) return to civilian life in Australia.

The College Musical, **Jesus Christ Superstar** will be staged in Term Three. Auditions are being held in the coming weeks and students who wish to be involved will need to attend an information session 3.30pm - 5.00pm on Thursday, 11 February. Here we will explain the overall concept of the production, outline the characters and provide students with the choice of song to sing for their audition. Students from Year 7 to 12 are invited to try out.

At the end of Term Three students from Year 3 to 6 will present the Junior School Musical. Hans Christian Anderson's immortal tale of **The Little Mermaid** will be brought to life by a large and enthusiastic cast. The production will be headed by Primary Performing Arts Co-ordinator Ms Gracie Marcucci and a dedicated support team. Information sessions for this production will be in the last week of the term with auditions and rehearsals commencing early Term Two.

Details of the College Play in October and the program for the Festival of the Arts will be advised in the coming weeks.

The first Friends of the Arts meeting will be on Monday, 15 February commencing at 6.30pm in the CPA Seminar Room. Meetings rarely go beyond one hour and only occur once or twice a term. I invite parents to consider attending meetings or volunteering to help Friends of the Arts throughout the year. More information is available at the College website.

The first Friends of the Arts event is the annual Trivia Night on Friday, 5 March. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks but please put the date in your diary and start organising your team.

We welcome prize donations for this event. If you have a business, family or friends who might be willing to help or think you can talk your boss into helping out, please get in contact with Friends of the

Arts foa@aitkencollege.edu.au or contact me at school.

For those students involved in private Instrumental lessons, these will commence across week two and three of term, depending on the Instrumental Teacher involved. The program is managed by Miss Annette Eldridge and any enquiries should be addressed to her or the Instrumental Teacher themselves.

Mr Michael Cooper
Director of Performing Arts

Visual Arts News

I would like to welcome all students to school and I hope that everyone has a good year especially in their Visual Arts classes. A reminder to all secondary Art students from Years 6 to 12 that it is important to name all equipment in their Art Kit, including their apron and Visual Arts Diary. Students are asked to bring their Art Kits, school diary and Visual Arts Diary to each class.

Primary children have one class of Art every week in the Primary Visual Arts room. Every child must wear a protective Art smock which has long sleeves and openings that are easy to secure. The art smock should cover the whole school uniform. Parents please name your child's art smock and ensure that it comes to school during the first week of Term 1. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Welcome back to Mrs Ira (Miss Gervasi) who is teaching part time in the Primary Visual Arts area this year.

Mrs Michelle McKay
Head of Faculty – Visual Arts

Physical Education News

Welcome back to all students and parents for 2010. Two new staff members will join the PE department this year; Mr Stephen Brewer - Year 1 and 2 PE and Mr Nigel Keegin - Year 6 PE and Year 5/6 Sport. I would also like to welcome and introduce our two Sports Captains for 2010 - Sarah Dickinson and Monique Rutledge. Both of these girls are excellent role models and have made a tremendous impact in all sports at Aitken College so far.

Term 1 is always very busy for the PE staff as there are countless school and interschool carnivals and trainings. I would like to encourage all parents to become involved and support us in any way you can to make the carnivals bigger and better than ever. Our Sports Captains are eager and will introduce some new and exciting programs for all students.

As you are well aware we will have many interruptions this year to our gymnasium. Although this will create some re-arranging of venues in our school the end product will be a great inclusion to our PE program - something that the PE department is looking forward to.

Just a few reminders to all parents; our morning swimming training will begin on Tuesday 9 February. A list of dates will be given to students. Swimming

training will be every Tuesday and Thursday mornings in Terms 1, 2 and 4 and will be held at Cragieburn Leisure Centre. These sessions will run from 7.15am to 8.15am. All students from Years 2 – Year 12 are encouraged to come along. Students who are younger can come along as long as they are able to swim 25m. These sessions are squad like sessions and are not 'swimming lessons'. Swimming lessons are done in Terms 2, 3 and 4 in PE classes at school.

We are a Sunsmart school so it is compulsory for all students to have their Aitken College caps in Terms 1 and 4. Also could you please ensure that your child has appropriate swimwear, hat and sunscreen for all carnivals especially the swimming carnival. Although staff will be reminding students on the day it is the students responsibility to make sure they are Sunsmart.

An ongoing issue of appropriate footwear i.e sports runners has been a concern over the past year. When purchasing appropriate footwear for Physical education classes could you ensure that your child has appropriate fitted runners and not the slip on shoes that students might wear. This is quite dangerous for students as they can easily cause injury. I realise that runners these days can be quite costly however, your child's health should override this and prevent ongoing problems in the future. Your support on this would be appreciated!!

Listed below are PE staff with responsibilities in 2010. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have any queries.

Head of PE/Health Faculty	Mrs Christine Pocervina
Secondary House Sport Co-ordinator	Miss Julie Brown
GALWAY Sports Co-ordinator -Years 7/8	Mr Matt Clark
GALWAY Sports Coordinator -Years 9/10	Mr Damien Zanic
Primary Sports Coordinator	Miss Brigitte Seivers

Important Term 1 Dates:

- Years 8-12 House Swimming Carnival
St Albans Leisure Centre
Tuesday 16 February
- GALWAY Interschool Swimming
Friday 26 February
- GALWAY 11/12 Sports Day
Tuesday 2 March
- 7/8 GALWAY Round Robin Day
Wednesday 10 March
- Years 8-12 House Athletics
Monday 15 March
- VPSSA Primary Regional Swimming
Wednesday 17 March
- 9/10 GALWAY Round Robin Day
Wednesday 17 March
- Years 8-12 House Athletics
Monday 15 March

Enjoy our nice warm weather and hopefully we will see some of you at our carnivals.

Mrs Christine Pocervina
Head of Faculty – Physical Education

VCAL News

The school ducks have been a bit hot over the summer months. If you have a clam shell style pool that you no longer need the ducks would appreciate having a new swimming pool! If you are able to donate one of these to the College please contact Miss Claire Stipic at cstipic@aitkencollege.edu.au

WANTED: If you have an adult size Mountain bike or Hybrid bike (in fairly decent condition, however, we will be fixing them up) that you no longer want, the VCAL program is looking for donations of these. They will be used in teaching students bike maintenance, road safety and also for students to use as transport on the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. If you are able to donate a bike to the VCAL program please contact Mr Duncan Sadler at dsadler@aitkencollege.edu.au or Miss Claire Stipic cstipic@aitkencollege.edu.au at the College. Many thanks in advance.

*Miss Claire Stipic
VCAL Co-ordinator*

Moonee Valley Bus Lines Sunbury Bus Vacancies 2010

Moonee Valley Bus Lines will have a limited number of vacancies on our school bus in 2010 that travels from Sunbury to Aitken College via Bulla. If you are interested in utilising our service, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa Kennedy at Moonee Valley Bus Lines on 9310 5286



Greenvale basketball Club New Players & Coaches Wanted

The Greenvale Basketball Club is looking for new players (both boys and girls) to begin the new season in March 2010. Players are required in the following age groups - Under 8 (born in 2003 & 2004), Under 10 (2001 & 2002) and Under 12 (1999 & 2000). Coaches for all age groups Under 8 to Under 18's

Why not come and join in this exciting growing sport?

Expressions of interest or for further enquiries please contact.

For boys, Lance Corby 0419330941 or John Formosa on email, johnf@jimsmowing.net

For girls, Fran Baker 9333 4240 or 0418 171 704 or email, mail@bakerfm.com



OSHC NEWS THIS WEEK

'we make kids smile'

Happy New Year and welcome all to Aitken College's OSHC News! I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Olanda and I will be taking over co-ordination of Aitken's Out of School Hours Care program for this year. Our previous co-ordinator Marnie Copeland has left to take up a position as a teachers' aide. We wish Marnie the very best of luck; both Camp Australia and Aitken are very grateful for her excellent contribution to the program over the past four years.

I have been an employee of Camp Australia for four years and have worked co-ordinating programs and at Head Office in administration and HR. I must say it is a great company to work for and they are truly committed to providing the very best quality care in the industry! Thankyou to the parents and staff at Aitken who are making me feel most welcome, I would ask you all to bear with me as I learn names.

This year promises to be another action packed year filled with fun and activities for everyone. At OSHC we not only aim to provide an environment where kids can feel safe and cared for, but also we want to make the best possible use of the time! So, we are committed to creating opportunities for kids to undertake a wide range of experiences.... from sports, crafts, to cooking and problem solving etc. It's a rewarding experience for your children to be in a supportive social environment that nurtures and challenges the growth and talents of individuals.

I look forward to spending more time getting to know and hear from the children what sorts of activities and environment they wish to have here at OSHC.

I have also applied for an Active After School Communities grant which is a government sponsored (no extra charge to parents) initiative to encourage physical fitness and health in young children, by sending out coaches from various sporting industries to run sessions with the kids.

OSHC STAFF:

Our staff consists of: Olanda Fabiano as (Program Co-ordinator) Jody Basso (Assistant Co-ordinator/BSC Co-ordinator) and our assistants are Tom Fox Hilton and Hatice Alemdarogulari.

CURRENT ENROLMENTS:

Please note enrolments will remain the same/carry over from last year unless you have notified Camp Australia otherwise. Please remember all accounts are processed at Head Office. Parents please ensure you inform either myself or Camp Australia if you wish to make a booking or a cancellation. Please remember that Camp Australia's policy states we require at least 7 days' (1 week) notice

of cancellation to avoid being charged. Also, please notify the school or **Camp Australia (1300 105 343)** if you need your child to attend care as a last minute emergency booking on the day. If you need to cancel on the day please ring and leave a message on the **OSHC phone (0401 050 498)** to save staff chasing up your missing child.

PREPS! A warm welcome to OSHC. Some of you will have already received a parent handbook and information from Camp Australia, if you have not please let me know. Also, if your child is attending the program it is very important that they know that they are so that when school finishes they wait by their classrooms for a staff member from OSHC to collect them and bring them to aftercare. Also note that a light snack will be provided for the kids and that any medical information pertaining to your child must be discussed with the OSHC co-ordinator as soon as possible. Thankyou for your co-operation.

It's that time of the year again- summer is here, therefore it's time to remind your kids to be sun smart! Parents please PLEASE- Remember to give your child a hat for school and remind them to bring it to OSHC. We understand that kids tend to lose their uniforms and also that they may be required to keep their hats in class. However if you could please perhaps pack a spare hat in their bags we will be able to let all children play out of doors. We will provide sunscreen, but SLIP, SLOP & SLAP is what is absolutely necessary. Of course we will not be outdoors in smouldering heat, but even on mildly sunny days children do need a hat or else they will have to be given quiet activities in a covered area. We will also endeavour to remind the children and speak to teachers about letting them bring their hats out of class. **Please Note: dairy products should not be packed for an after school snack and left in children's bags especially during the summer season.**

NEW ENROLMENTS

To parents who are new to the program and/or are looking to enrol their children into OSHC, please obtain a registration form from OSHC or the school office, fill out all sections and return to OSHC. Alternatively you can send it to Camp Australia: 1731 Malvern Road, Glen Iris VIC3146. It is very important to note that registration forms must be filled out and returned to OSHC before your child can attend the program. You must also contact either the Coordinator (Olanda, OSHC Phone: 0401050498) on or Camp Australia 1300 105 343 to let us know 'WHEN' you'd like your child to start. Thank you.

Olanda Fabiano