

PARENT NOTICES

January 2010



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 |

**Please note: Prep to Year 7 and Year 12 students commence on Monday 1 February. All students are required on Tuesday 2 February.*

Important Diary Dates for 2010

| | | |
|------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 29 & | 30 Jan | Year 12 Retreat |
| 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 |

2009 VCE Results: Congratulations to the Year 12 Class of 2009 who achieved excellent VCE results. There was a 100% successful completion of the VCE with 11% of the students gaining an Enter score greater than 90 and 24% gaining an Enter score greater than 80. 32 of our students gained 1 or more study scores of 40 or greater.

Congratulations to Taylor Hodge our College dux who

gained an Enter score of 99.7 and also to the following students who have permitted us to publish their results. Three other student also received Enter scores above 90:

Michael Brinkhuis (99.05), Ian Jackson-Smith (97.4), Deniz Tat (96.9), Matthew Moore (96.7), James Tzaferis (94.6), Alex Mega (92.35), Carla Aldemir (90.2) and Tara Krake (90.15).

Six Year 12 students also successfully completed VCAL studies and will move into TAFE, apprenticeships and traineeships.

It is great to see the success achieved by students in both our VCE and VCAL programs which enable our young people to make decisions to follow different academic and "hands on" pathways.

Aitken College Foundation: The Aitken College Foundation accepts donations for building projects; contributions made to the fund are fully tax deductible. The normal recommended contribution for 2010 by parents is \$200 per student.

However, as you drive into the College for the start of the year you will see that a number of building projects are underway. A significant proportion of the funding for these has been achieved through the Federal Governments BER funding program. We also need to meet some of the costs of these building programs and I would encourage families to contribute to the Aitken College Foundation. Please note that a \$500 donation will enable you to have your donation acknowledged on a name plaque put into the Library or Gymnasium extension. These donations are tax deductible. Please complete an Aitken College Foundation form which is available on our website.

Parent Communication: I would remind parents that a College newsletter is produced at the start and end of each term and fortnightly during term time. Please make sure you read the information it contains which includes news from each of the five schools and notices about upcoming events. The newsletter can be found under 'News and Events' on the College website www.aitkencollege.edu.au.

In 2010 we will be trialling communicating with parents by email. You will receive a student details form at the commencement of the term. Please ensure that you complete all sections including that which requests your email details.

Canteen: The Canteen will be open from the first day of school. A price list is attached to this newsletter and will also be made available on the College website.

Uniform: Students are to wear summer uniform in Term 1. A reminder that shoes for students in Years 3-12 are to be black lace up (with heel less than 2 cm); girls' dress length to be below the knee, boys are to have College grey socks and girls College white socks.

House T-shirts: A reminder that students in Years 3-12 are required to wear a House coloured t-shirt with House name for all House events. The t-shirts can be ordered by phone from Trenz on 9338 0385.

Second Hand Uniform List: A list of second hand uniform items for sale can be obtained from Reception. Buyers contact sellers directly.

ID Cards and Photocopying / Printing / Internet: Students in Years 4, 7 and 10 will be issued with a new ID card. Photocopying, printing and internet usage will be linked to the student's ID card and students who exceed printing and download limits will be charged.

Students are responsible for the security of their ID card and network log-in password. They must not allow others to use these; please discuss this with your child.

Food Allergies and Anaphylaxis: A number of Aitken College students suffer anaphylactic / allergic reactions to some foods, especially but not limited to nuts. Please remember this when preparing your child's lunch or providing snacks for school. Remind your children to never share their food with other students. Consider possible food allergies when inviting your child's friends to your home. If you plan to send birthday treats to school, please first consult with your child's Homeroom teacher. The College has an anaphylaxis management plan in place for each affected student. Enquiries should be directed to your child's Homeroom teacher or Head of School. Further information about anaphylaxis can be found at www.allergyfacts.org.au.

Collection of Books and Stationery: Books and stationery orders must be collected from the Senior School Common Room 1 (CR1) at the College on Wednesday 27 January from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm; 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Note that you may cancel book and stationery orders on this day if you have been able to obtain second hand copies of the correct edition of texts. You will be required to pay for the items on the day of collection if they have not been prepaid. Payments may be made by cash, cheque or credit card.

Please contact Landmark School Supplies on 9379 7900 if you have any queries related to booklists.

Diaries will be distributed by Homeroom teachers during the first week of school. They will not be available on the book collection day.

Fees: Term 1 fees have been mailed and are due to be paid by Friday 5 February, 2010. An administration fee of \$55 will be charged if fees are not paid by the due date. Parents who wish to take advantage of the 5% discount for paying the full year's fees in advance are reminded that fees need to be paid in full by Friday 29 January, 2010. If you have any queries in relation to school fees, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Manager.

Parents wishing to pay by monthly instalments must make an appointment with the Finance Manager before the start of Term.

Lunch Boxes and Drink Bottles: In 2010, all students are strongly encouraged to bring a re-usable lunch box and drink bottle to school. This will help reduce the amount of litter created by single use packaging. Many lunch boxes will keep food clean and fresh without using any form of wrapping.

Student Property and Mobile Phones: Families are reminded that students must not bring personal music players to school. Mobile phones must not be used for any purpose during the school day; parents must not call their child's mobile phone.

Students are not permitted to use liquid white-out or permanent markers.

First Day Arrangements: Parents of students in P-9 will receive a letter with details of their child's Homeroom teacher and classroom for this year.

- Year 12 students start with the Retreat on Friday 29 January and commence classes on Monday 1 February.
- Prep to Year 7 students start on Monday 1 February. Prep to Year 6 go directly to homerooms by 8.45 am (advised in separate letter) and Year 7 go to the Lower Plaza from 8.30 am.
- Students in Years 8 to 11 start on Tuesday 2 February and go to homerooms at 8.45 am. Years 10-102 homeroom lists will be placed on notice boards.

Music Tuition / Fee Arrangements: Invoices for students enrolled in instrumental lessons have been sent out. Payment is required before lessons commence. Students will not be allocated lesson time unless payment is received by the start of Term 1, which is Monday 1 February. If you wish to enrol your child in lessons for Semester 1, please come in and pick up an enrolment form as soon as possible.

New Staff: Welcome to the following new staff.

| | | |
|-----|---------|-------------------------------|
| Mr | Dixon | Head of Faculty Drama & Media |
| Mr | Keegan | Primary Teacher |
| Ms | Koullas | Primary Teacher |
| Mrs | Radley | Primary Teacher |
| Mr | Rees | Primary Teacher |
| Mrs | Sadler | Science/Maths Teacher |

Parent Information Evenings: Parents are expected to attend these important information evenings. School and home expectations will be discussed and parents will be provided with a curriculum overview from the homeroom teachers.

Students are not required to attend. All meetings will be held in the Chapel and Performing Arts Centre commencing at 7.30 pm. Please include the following dates in your diary:

- Years P-2 Monday 8 February 2010**
- Years 3-5 Wednesday 3 February 2010**
- Years 6 & 7 Tuesday 2 February 2010**
- Years 8 & 9 Tuesday 9 February 2010**
- Years 10-12 Thursday 4 February 2010**

Traffic Management: During the first two weeks of school, traffic at the school site can be very busy. Please be patient and follow directions as given by staff until the routine settles. Please note the following:

- (1) The ring road within the school is closed to traffic between 9.15 am and 2.30 pm.
- (2) Car parking is as follows:
 - a. The northern (windmill) car park is for staff and short term visitors only. (Some bays are reserved).
 - b. The western car park is for staff, parents and visitors to the school. Please follow routes as per signs.
 - c. The eastern car park is for staff. Some spaces are available for Preparatory school parents to drop off / pick up children; but children must be accompanied by parents when crossing the road. There is **NO** crossing supervisor provided at this point.
 - d. Drivers must not leave their vehicle unattended in the 'drop off' and 'pick up' designated area on the internal ring road.
 - e. No right turn (at peak hours) at the College road exit to Mickleham Road. All cars must turn left at these times.
- (3) **Cars MUST NOT queue at the boom gate before 2.30 pm. The road must be kept clear for visitors, buses and emergency vehicles. Parents arriving for afternoon pick-up before the ringroad opens must wait in the western car park; the car park exit permits turning right into the College driveway at this time.**

Before and After School Drop Off / Pick Up: Children are not permitted to arrive at school before 8.00 am when supervision commences. Children are dismissed from school at 3.05 pm (Prep to Year 5) or 3.15 pm (Years 6 to 12). Parents are requested to collect them at that time; teacher supervision is only scheduled for a short time after school. Children in Years Prep to 5 who are not collected by 3.30 pm will

be sent to Out of Hours School Care. Children in Years 6 and 7 who are not collected by 4.00 pm will be sent to OHSC. OHSC is operated by Camp Australia and will charge a casual fee of \$21.85 per hour. Students in Year 6 and above are permitted to work in the Library after school.

Principal's Afternoon Tea: Parents are welcome to meet with the Principal and Deputy Principal for afternoon tea in the CPA foyer from 2.30 pm to 3.00 pm on the following Fridays:

- Friday 5 March 2010
- Friday 30 April 2010
- Friday 4 June 2010
- Friday 6 August 2010
- Friday 3 September 2010
- Friday 5 November 2010
- Friday 3 December 2010

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



Uniting Care Orana Family Services Out of Home Care

Want to make a difference...Orana Family Services is looking to recruit new Foster Carers to provide care for young people aged 12 to 18 years old who are part of the Teenage Foster Care Program. This can be a difficult time for young people and being able to provide support and guidance in a caring environment can make a difference in a young person's life.

If you live in the Hume and/or Moreland areas please phone Glenda or Danielle on 9302 2700 or 9301 2625.

Voluntary Assistance: If you are able to volunteer to assist in the Canteen or Library, please complete the reply slips provided and return them to Reception by the dates shown. All such help is appreciated by your children.

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**AITKEN COLLEGE
LIBRARY REPLY SLIP**

(Please return to Mrs Kerr by 5 February 2010)

I am interested in joining/continuing on the Library Roster for 2010.

Name:

Phone:

Preferred day/s:

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**AITKEN COLLEGE
CANTEEN VOLUNTEER REPLY SLIP**
(Please return to Reception by 5 February 2010)

Name: *(please print)*

Phone Number:

Child's Name:

Child's Year Level:

I can help once a:

- Week
- Fortnight
- Month
- Term

On a:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday

*Aitken College complies with the National Privacy Principles.
The school has a Privacy Policy in conformity with the legislation
and a copy is available from Reception.*