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.

Important Diary Dates for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11 Mar</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 14 Mar</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep–12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27 Mar</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep–12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 28 Mar</td>
<td>Professional Learning Day (student free)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27 Mar</td>
<td>Term 1 concludes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 15 Apr</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 25 Apr</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Jun</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Jun</td>
<td>Report Writing Day (student free)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 28 Jun</td>
<td>Term 2 concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 22 Jul</td>
<td>Term 3 concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 13 Aug</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep–5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 22 Aug</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews (Prep–12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23 Aug</td>
<td>Professional Learning Day (student free)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Sep</td>
<td>Term 3 concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 07 Oct</td>
<td>Term 4 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 04 Nov</td>
<td>Mid Term Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 05 Nov</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22 Nov</td>
<td>Report Writing Day (student free)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 09 Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Night (Years 3 to 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11 Dec</td>
<td>Term 4 concludes</td>
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Term dates for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>4/5 February</td>
<td>28 March</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>28 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>20 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>7 October</td>
<td>11 December</td>
</tr>
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Thought: “Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.” Franklin D. Roosevelt

From the Principal

The past fortnight has seen a hive of activity; Year 7 Camp, Musical auditions, Year 9/10 Galway Sport, Year 8-12 House Swimming carnival, Information evenings as well as students partaking in the normal classroom academic program. Our new students have settled in well and are growing in confidence each day.

The Parents and Friends Committee met this week and are busy organising their fundraising activities; a reminder that the current Business directory will close off at the end of this Term and the new Business Directory will commence from Term 2. An information sheet is attached if you would like to have your Business listed.

Please also put in your diaries Wednesday, 27 March from 3.00pm - 6.00pm as a time for the Parents and Friends Second Hand Uniform Sale in the Senior School Common Room (CR2) on the lower ring road. A gold coin donation per family is requested. This is an opportunity to purchase winter uniform items in particular.

Mrs Josie Crisara
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Greenvale Bus Services: The Tullamarine Bus Lines services that drop students off at the Greenvale shops each afternoon are very crowded. Contrary to this, we have a number of vacancies (seated in comfort) on the Greenvale charter bus which runs through Greenvale. The route and stops can be seen at:


If you are interested in booking a seat on this service, please contact Miss Diana Cohn via Reception.
**Aitken College Canteen:** Metropolitan Canteens have commenced operating the Aitken College canteen. The new menu was included with the Parent Notices mailed home in January and is on the College website at: [http://www.aitkencollege.edu.au/enrolment-information/canteen-list/](http://www.aitkencollege.edu.au/enrolment-information/canteen-list/)

On-line ordering for Prep to Year 6 students is now available. To Register, go to: www.flexischools.com.au, click on the ‘Register’ button and follow the instructions to set up an account. You can then place an order for school lunches that will be delivered to the classroom. An on-line ordering guide brochure is included with the menus on the website. Ordering may also be done using the Flexischools app for iPad or iPhone (search for Flexischools in the App store).

**Brookhill School Notices**

Congratulations and thanks are due to the Senior School students for their behaviour and participation in this week’s House Swimming Sports. The day was a huge success, due in large part to the excellent example set by the students from the Senior School and the Senior House and Sports Captains.

Thank you to all parents who came to the Year 12 parent information evening on Wednesday, 20 February. At the evening, parents learnt about the Study Skills program students have been undertaking throughout Brookhill. There was also an informative discussion about the range of distractions which Year 12 students must be aware of; it is important that families and the College work together to help senior students keep focussed on the important task of preparing for their final exams.

Coming up on Friday, 1 March, all Year 11 students will take part in Clean-Up Australia day. This event is a part of the wider College commitment to Community Service and the environment. The students will be spending the day cleaning up the area at and around the Williamstown Foreshore, as well as taking part in House based activities.

**VCAL News**

Last week the VCAL students enjoyed an active day of Team Building, Communication, Leadership and Challenge Courses run by Edventures. On the incursion, they were provided with opportunities that allowed everyone in the class to explore ways to grow and develop. A number of outcomes from the day included enhanced personal and group development, increased understanding of self and others and a sense of empowerment for individuals and the VCAL group as a whole. The students certainly gained much from the day.

**Glenarthur School Notices**

At assembly last week, the Principal, Mrs Crisara, spoke with the students and congratulated our Student Council for 2013. The induction of College Leaders is on Tuesday, 5 March and parents will receive an invitation in due course. These student leaders will be expected to serve the College as guides at various functions, such as the College’s Open Day on Wednesday, 6 March. These ambassadors will attend a Leaders’ Training session day on Thursday, 28 February; a permission form will come home for your signature. Congratulations to:
SCHOOL CAPTAINS  |  Kyra Tsitsinaris    |  Matthew White
HOUSE CAPTAINS
Millar          |  Bridget Le Roy   |  Tyler Tannenberg
Cameron         |  Rachelle Ritchie |  Daniel Charalambous
Clarke          |  Ebony McCarthy   |  Mehmet Topalhasan
Brodie          |  Hannah Wilson    |  Lachlan Ellis

An information letter will come home, electronically, regarding the highly successful Oxygen Factory seminars; Year 8 students on 7 March; Year 9 on 8 March. The cost of $22.00 [unchanged for a few years now] will appear in your Term account.

I must say, with pride, that the children were exemplary in their behaviour at the swimming carnival on Tuesday. I often get comments from the coach drivers of how well-behaved our students are. This is due to your unflagging efforts, parents – thank you.

Year 9 students will attend StartSmart, an in-school Commerce seminar, on 26 February run by the Commonwealth Bank with regard to financial matters such as phone contracts, saving plans, sensible budgeting and their ilk. There is no charge for this program.

College Photos: The College photographer, Mr Robertson [and Mr Bond] send their thanks to all students for their pleasant and polite behavior during the recent photo sessions. Our compliments to you, parents, on your children’s conduct and presentation.

Tax File Numbers: Australian Taxation Office forms and parent permission forms are available from Mr Bond. The student must be aged 13 or over. This is possibly the easiest process for students to obtain a tax file number, as the College certifies proof of age and identity, without the need for a range of identifying documents parents would normally be required to submit if applying to the ATO directly.

Dunhelen School Notices
What a busy start! So far the Year 7 students have already been on camp, the Year 6 students have spent time with their buddies and we have also had candidates for the position of School and House Captains give their speeches. I must say all the speeches were fantastic and all candidates should be proud of themselves; now to count the votes. Good luck to all!

Our newly elected House and School Captains will participate in a Leadership Training afternoon on Thursday, 28 February at Sherwood Receptions. At this event, captains will gain important leadership skills and have their role as a leader of Aitken College, outlined to them. It is sure to be a wonderful afternoon.

For the parents of newly elected School and House Captains, I would like to invite you to our Chapel and Performing Arts Centre (CPA) for the College Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, 5 March during period 1. At this formal ceremony, all the College School and House Captains will receive their captains’ badge.

The Year 7 camp to Phillip Island went very well and this is due to the wonderful behavior of the Year 7 students and the fantastic effort of all the teachers who came along. We were even lucky enough to have a visit by our Principal, Mrs Josie Crisara, although the boys who accidentally tipped her canoe over weren’t feeling so lucky. However, she still got out of the lake with a smile on her face! It was a wonderful camp and I am sure the students have many wonderful stories and memories to share.

As the term progresses students will find that their workload may increase. Some students may even begin to feel overwhelmed. Please help your children to try and maintain a homework routine and be patient with them as they learn to prioritise their time and work. It is also important that your children know that their teachers are available to help them.

Mrs Francis Scuderi & Mr Ben Prentice
Head and Assistant Head of Dunhelen
Cumberland School Notices

Thank you to the parents who attended the Cumberland Parent Information Night. I trust that you found the evening informative.

My message to parents was about resilience and dealing with disappointment in a positive way and moving forward. Disappointment is the difference between expectation and reality and, whilst we can all become disappointed from time to time, it is not the end of the world. Parents need to talk to their disappointed child and work with the child to find positive outcomes. Not doing so is of no benefit to anyone, least of all the child.

At this time of year we are part way through the leadership selection for 2013. Congratulations to the following students who have been elected Class Captain for Semester One:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Corey Akers and Shaelyn Maljanek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Thomas Crowley and Olivia Pettinella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4R</td>
<td>Marcus Lagana and Alessia Saggio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4S</td>
<td>Alexander Milojkovic and Devindi Perera</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Their first official duty was to officiate at the School Captain elections this week.

**Marcus (4R) officiating when Connor (3W) came to vote.**

The names of the leaders elected will appear in the next newsletter.

Activities have commenced for all students. Students who have been assigned to a sport activity or to gardening may wear their sports uniform on the day. All other students must wear their full school uniform unless they have a timetabled PE class.

By now all children should have all their school requirements. Not having them can mean that a child cannot adequately participate in the College program. Library bags are included in this. All children require a library bag to protect the books being borrowed. Failure to have the correct requirements can incur a diary infringement.

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Fairview School Notices

When parents send their children to school they are concerned about many factors:

1. Is my child learning what is required?
2. Are they achieving set individual goals?
3. Are they progressing through reading and word levels adequately?
4. Are they making friends?
5. Do they have company during recess and lunch breaks?

We try to discourage parents to become fixated on levels and set goals; as all children will achieve at their own rate. Their learning ability is important; however, what is crucial is that they are healthy and happy. If children are in an environment that supports these issues, they will achieve to their fullest potential. What is important is that they are happy and feel safe. Therefore their overall wellbeing is imperative; that is their emotional, social, physical and educational needs.

The children’s homeroom teacher is a wonderful resource for parents; to support their queries and needs. They have the skills and ability to assist parents in identifying what they will need to focus on at home. We encourage parents to allow the children to have time to relax at home and have fun. This is the environment that parents control; it is crucial that parents provide the children with rules and limitations. The children have access to a great deal of gadgets e.g. iPods, iPads, Nintendo DSi, etc. These gadgets are a useful resource; however, they can occupy the majority of the children’s playtime. Establishing guidelines for technology is crucial, as children are now growing up in a world of amazing resources.

There are a few points that parents should all be encouraged to consider:

- Establish a consistent time where family talk occurs e.g. dinner time - the dining table is an amazing talking tool.
- Shared quiet and reading time at home.
- Establishing a routine where children are expected to follow rules and limitations e.g. set reasonable bedtime.
- Ensuring that children play with each other, not with technology but with each other.
Play is significant because it reinforces the following:

- Foundation to how children learn and interact with each other
- Foundation to their attention, response and processing skills
- They feel accepted, loved, happy and safe
- Building confidence, self-esteem and resilience
- Developing educational, emotional, social and physical skills
- Developing problem solving, language and communication skills
- Focusing on caring for others and their environment.

Ms Kerrie Neophytou
Head of Fairview

Careers News

Career News 2: The second edition of Career News for 2013 has been posted on the College website. The following link will take you to the careers newsletter: http://www.aitkencollege.edu.au/educational-programs/careers/careers-newsletter/. Edition 2 contains information about new sports facilities at VU St Albans, new trades facilities at VU Sunshine, new Music facilities at Monash Clayton, a variety of Gap year options and opportunities, a club for students interested in becoming Chartered Accountants, places available in William Angliss and the University of Ballarat Health Sciences courses, Open Day at the University of Melbourne Veterinary Science and Hospital facilities, new courses at ACU for 2012, the Youth Central website, the Young Worker Toolkit, Engineering and The Age and VCE Careers Expo and more.

You are also welcome to contact Careers staff in B21 or via email careers@aitkencollege.edu.au or by telephone 9333 1866.

Mrs Clare Borg and Ms Rae Gibbs
Careers Advisers

Library News

Our library programs aim to continually foster a love for reading and the library embraces technology so it is with enthusiasm that we anticipate the addition of an ebook lending platform this term. Students will be able to download a book from a selection of titles and have access rights to read the item for a designated period of time. It is evident that the printed book is not dead yet! 3,140 books have been loaned to students since the beginning of term. Read on Aitken College!

Our Annual Scholastic Book Fair will be held from 13 March until 23 March. Please support this event. The library earns a commission on the total sales and we look forward to being able to purchase resources for the school.

I would also like to invite any parents or grandparents who would be interested in joining the Parent Book Club run by the library. It is quite an informal meeting and we share reading recommendations and conversation over a cup of tea or coffee. Our first meeting is on Thursday, 28 February at 2.05pm in the library.

Mrs Mardy Kerr
Head of Library

Parents and Friends Association

Meeting dates for 2013: Tuesday 30 April; Wednesday 7 August; Thursday 17 October; Thursday 28 November – Annual General Meeting. All are invited to join us at any of our meetings to meet other parents and learn how we contribute to the College. New members are welcome at any time.

At the Annual General Meeting held in November the following office bearers and ordinary member of the committee for 2013 were elected:

**President:** Lorraine Akers  
**Vice President:** Siobhan Short  
**Treasurer:** Carolyn Cvek  
**Secretary:** Belinda Klaric

**Committee:** Lorraine Akers, Siobhan Short, Carolyn Cvek, Belinda Klaric, Amy Grady, Sandy Kerry, Gayle Baird, Suellen Evans and Caroline Moschetti.
Lunchtime ‘Mathematics Assist’ Classes

The Mathematics Department will be running lunchtime ‘Maths Assist’ sessions again this year. These sessions will be staffed by Mathematics teachers and cater for students who want some extra help with their Mathematics or just want a quiet place to sit and complete Mathematics homework. Year 6 to 12 students are welcome to attend the ‘Maths Assist’ sessions held every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** in room **B24** from **1.35pm to 2.05 pm**. The classes are informal and students are welcome for the whole lunchtime session or just for 10 minutes to clear up a problem or ask a question. The ‘Maths Assist’ classes will start on **Tuesday, 26 February** and will continue throughout the year.

Mr Grant Clifton
Head of Mathematics

Free Course for Parents in Mental Health and Physical Injury

I have been contacted by Melbourne University about a study involving Mental Health and Physical injury issues. Two free first aid courses are being offered to participants in these areas in return for some monitoring of the perceived effectiveness of the training offered. There is no charge. I recommend any parent concerned about these matters and interested in increasing their skills in these areas to investigate further by contacting Julie Fischer, Trial Manager at the University of Melbourne. Email: jfischer@unimelb.edu.au or visit www.tpot.net.au

Mr Chris Ward
Director Chaplaincy and Student Services

Aitken College Chartered Bus Service

**Expressions of Interest for 2013**

There are vacancies on the following Aitken College chartered services for 2013:

- **Oak Park**: From Oak Park, via Glenroy, Westmeadows, Attwood
- **Strathmore / Essendon**: from Strathmore via Essendon, Airport West and Gladstone Park
- **Roxburgh Park**: Meadow Heights via Roxburgh Park
- **Greenvale**: Greenvale
- **Sunbury**: Sunbury via Bulla

Please phone Diana Cohn on 9333 9124 if you would like further information.

GREENVALE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Greenvale Residents’ Association is made up of residents who meet together to deal with local issues concerning Greenvale. We need your support and involvement as well as your ideas to make our voice stronger with the authorities.

**WE NEXT MEET ON THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY – 7.00PM**
**AT THE GREENVALE RECREATION CENTRE**
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

CONTACT US
Website: gra3059.blogspot.com
Email: gra3059@gmail.com.au
Welcome back to OSHC 2013. We hope you had a great holiday. The staff here at OSHC are looking forward to a fun filled year ahead, offering plenty of entertainment for your children to enjoy.

**Bookings for this year**
Families who were booked into OSHC last year, your bookings will remain the same unless you contact Camp Australia 1300 105 343 and notify them of changes; alternatively, you can logon to the Camp Australia website: www.campaustralia.com.au and sign up to the parent online booking system, which will allow you to manage your own bookings. (see grey box opposite). Bear in mind that cancellations not made within 7 days of the absence will still be charged.

**Sunsmart**
Parents please ensure your children bring hats to the Aftercare program to enable them to participate in outdoor play during this summer season.

**New Bookings**
Please notify OSHC 0401 050 498 if you have a cancellation or casual booking as onsite staff need be notified in order to make sure your child arrives safely to OSHC.

**REMNINDERS**

**How to get started:** Before using our programs you must register online for an account. Registering is quick and easy. Visit our website to begin www.campaustralia.com.au

**Once registered** you can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day online. Keep in mind we are able to take bookings at short notice to help busy families.

**Save on Care:** You can save 50% or more on Before and After School Care fees with the non-means tested Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343 Monday to Friday.

**HOLIDAY CLUBS**
Please note that Camp Australia is opening a new holiday program at Mt Ridley Primary, so stay tuned for enrolment times for next holidays.

**WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beading</td>
<td>Begin Safety Week</td>
<td>Colouring</td>
<td>Air light clay</td>
<td>Computer time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>focus</td>
<td>Competition</td>
<td>Designs</td>
<td>Outdoor play</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie</td>
<td>Safety book</td>
<td>Book</td>
<td>Outdoor games</td>
<td>Colouring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Boards</td>
<td>Colouring</td>
<td>Outdoor play</td>
<td>Blocks &amp; board</td>
<td>Movies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Competition</td>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Blocks &amp; Leggo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Games and Activities</td>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>Safety charades</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Free play</td>
<td>Computer play</td>
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www.campaustralia.com.au
From the Director of Chaplaincy and Student Services

Request for Crucial Parent and Staff feedback

The Chaplaincy Program plays an important part in the community and educational life of Aitken College. Weekly Chapel services aim to present values and issues of faith to the students in a manner which encourages, challenges and inspires in a way which is different to the purely academic and secular subjects. The Chaplaincy team also provides counselling to students for a range of issues including family breakdown, grief and loss and peer relationships, as well as lunchtime activities for those wishing to engage with faith issues and make new friends.

We receive some funding from the Federal Government under the National Schools Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program which provides for a Chaplain 2 days per week. We are currently in our 5th year of the current funding arrangement and are now looking to secure this for 2013 and beyond. As part of accountability protocols the College is required to provide feedback from the school community with respect to perceptions and beliefs which relate to Chaplaincy provisions within the community, some of which I have outlined above.

To this end I am requesting parents and staff, or close members of the Aitken Community (Grandparents etc…) to give some feedback by completing the survey attached and returning to me, either in hard copy or to my email: cward@aitkencollege.edu.au. This will take only a little time but is essential for the College to meet ongoing funding requirements. I thank you in anticipation.

(Mr) Chris Ward
Director Chaplaincy and Student Services

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Q.1 Do you support the Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program at Aitken College as it offers Spiritual Direction and Emotional Well Being and Support services to the Community?
YES □ NO □ Comment: ______________________________

Q.2 Do you value the role Chaplaincy plays in a community such as Aitken College in underpinning the teaching concepts related to Faith, Values and the promotion of a Positive Ethos?
YES □ NO □ Comment: ______________________________

Q.3 Do you support Aitken College’s continued involvement with the federally funded National Schools Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program which currently provides funding for a staff member two days per week?
YES □ NO □ Comment: ______________________________

Please feel free to give any other relevant comments on this matter:
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
Happiness is the reward of virtue.
15 reasons to foster virtues, habitual good behaviours in children

1. **For over 2,500 years good habits, virtues, have been considered the building blocks of character.** This is true across most cultures. Yet in the last 50 years we are embarrassed to talk of virtues. Why?

2. **Virtues empower us to be happy:** Aristotle wrote, ‘Happiness is the reward of virtue.’

3. **Habits are most easily formed in childhood,** and good habits are the foundation of virtues. Remember, children learn most of all by imitation and first impressions can be virtually indelible. Quintilian wrote: ‘We are by nature most tenacious of childish impressions...further it is the worst impressions that are most durable.’ Because, as Aristotle observed, ‘We always like best whatever we first experience’ parents do well to put great care into the early experiences of children and focus on habits built in the younger years. Experts talk of ‘windows of opportunity’ for building particular virtues; for example a child who has not learned the importance of truthfulness by the middle of primary school may well have real difficulties in facing reality and responsibilities in adult life. If parents do not manage competing inputs from peer group and media, actively fostering positive habits, their children will suffer.

4. **The capacity to truly love others is a consequence of character with a well-rounded development of virtues.** Professor Donald DeMarco, author of *Heart of Virtue*, writes that virtues empower us to deliver love to others. This was the view of Augustine.

5. **Human maturity is a product of virtues,** the well rounded development of virtues. A weak character possesses poorly developed virtues, or vices.

6. **Virtues confer freedom.** Human virtues such as sound judgement and self control enable ease of action: they empower us to be self-directing in life - to be truly free. Freedom is not mere freedom from constraints but a capacity to carry noble convictions into action. Too often we human beings find ourselves limited and inhibited by our own failings, weaknesses of temperament, ignorance or unquestioning conformity. Virtues are the answer.

7. **An understanding of virtues is based on a proven psychology of the human being.** For example, if we possess a clearer understanding of the links between emotion, repetition and habit building we will be better able to build strategies to control our tempers, our laziness, or our negativity. Furthermore, we will be ready to cut others more slack as they struggle to master their own temperamental quirks... a tendency to be oversensitive, a tendency to react impulsively, etc.
8. **An understanding of virtues makes parenting much more effective.** Parents become much more aware of the need to establish good habits, to provide consistent routines and timetables, to follow up misbehaviour before it becomes entrenched, to help a child work against temperamental weaknesses such as timidity, impulsivity, etc. Repeated behaviours build habits. Repeated positive behaviours build virtues.

9. **Parenting itself comes down to a collection of habits,** for better or for worse. A good parent does not throw in the towel. James Stenson holds that parents who do not take responsibility for the moral upbringing of their children are more likely to fail as parents.

10. **The family is the natural environment for fostering virtue.** Virtues are best learned in a family, where an overriding motivation is the welfare of the other members. In such an environment the motive for action is love. In the family, love is unconditional but failures to act well are corrected. The family, is the environment *par excellence* for fostering virtue. Institutions can also assist in fostering virtue, provided the culture is right: respect for others; high but realistic expectations; a positive approach where mistakes are part of the process of learning and where a crisis is not a disaster but an event that brings underlying causes of behaviour to light so they can be addressed.

11. **An understanding of virtues brings an appreciation of the debilitating effects of bad habits, vices.** ‘A young person’s character is like wax for the growth of bad habits’ observed the old Roman soldier poet Horace. Like virtues, vices too are fostered by repeated actions. For example, a boy who repeatedly dodges homework develops an entrenched irresponsibility; a girl repeatedly teasing others creates a habit whereby she becomes hardened to the difficulties of others.

12. **An appreciation of virtue brings with it a conviction that our heads should govern our feelings and passions.** Sound judgement, the virtue of the intellect, was regarded in ancient times as the ‘chariot driver’ of the other virtues. Only by choosing and judging well are we able to act well.

13. **Virtues make good deeds possible; a person who strives to acquire virtue will do more good for others.** Good intentions are not enough. The end point of all parenting is that young people act well and freely from their own dearly cherished convictions. So, the essential challenge in teenage years is to help a young person internalize the values they have learned. Good values must lead to a good heart, and to habitually good choices. ‘It is no profit to have learnt well, if we neglect to do well,’ wrote Publilius Syrus sometime during the 1st century BC. Virtues bestow good habits of acting. The bottom line is that kids without virtue lack the wherewithal to do good in their lives.

14. **Virtues enable us to show personal responsibility in a democratic society.** Virtues affirm personal responsibility: in normal circumstances, I am responsible for what I do and for what I decide. A society which denies personal responsibility will be doomed to mediocrity and then to decline. The virtue of justice underpins respect for others and responsibility to others.

15. **Academic performance, and ultimately the welfare of our society, are clearly linked to character,** especially to virtues of industriousness, justice, perseverance and honesty. In the 1990's social critique *Why Johnny can’t tell right from wrong,* William Kirkpatrick wrote: ‘The core problem facing our schools is a moral one. All other problems derive from it. Even academic reform depends on putting character first.’

**Source:** Institute of Advanced Family Studies, Internatinonal University of Catalonia, e-MEF program
http://www.uic.es/en/marriage-education-family

*Parenting Tips* is provided as a service to the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia
To receive *Parenting Tips* email: parentingtips@pared.edu.au
Parents & Friends Association

Many families in the Aitken College Community manage or own a business. As a fundraiser for Term 1 2013, the Parents and Friends Association are compiling a Community Business Directory to provide a way in which we can support each other in buying local and helping your business.

The Business Directory should be available by the end of March 2013 and will be appear on the College website in searchable format and as a pdf document. All money raised will be used by the Parents and Friends Association to improve the environment, facilities and equipment of the school, to benefit your children.

Aitken families may purchase a space in the Business directory promoting their business for $50. This is a very inexpensive way to advertise your business for twelve months. If you would like to participate in this exciting initiative, please complete the attached form and place it, along with your payment, in the Parents and Friends box at Reception as soon as possible and no later than 28 February 2013.

Payment is required via cash or cheque (Aitken College Parents and Friends Association) or Credit Card.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Akers
President of the Aitken College Parents and Friends Association.

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### Aitken College Community Business Directory Details (Return via Accounts Office by 28 February 2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Phone No:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Type:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business description : (50 words or less)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Phone Number:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Mobile Number:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Website Details:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment Method:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Credit Card ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please tick: Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex ☐</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Card no.:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Expiry date:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name on card:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount to be charged: $</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
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