



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the senior school. We trust that you and your child's time this year is a happy and rewarding one.

This booklet is an overview of relevant information to aid you and your child whilst they are in the senior level of the school.

Our aim is to work with you, as a partnership, in the education of your child. Whether it be help in the classroom, attending sporting events, coming on excursions, doing things for graduation or just listening to your child read at home, we want our students to feel supported in all areas of their lives.

We are always available to discuss concerns or problems and celebrate successes. You can contact us via phone, drop in before or after school most days or drop us a line in your child's diary.

We are looking forward to a great year!

Regards

Paul Moons, Leanne Stoffels and Jan Mustac

(Grade 5/6 Teachers)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2019

TERM 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● District Swimming Carnival – February 22nd● Grade 5/6 informal “Meet and Greet”, get to know you, session February 28th, 3.45 to 5 pm in 5/6 classrooms● Coonawarra Camp - March 4th - 8th● District Swimming Carnival - March 6th● Athletics Carnival - April 3rd
TERM 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● ANZAC DAY Ceremony - April 25th TBA● School Photos - May 2nd● District Cross Country - May 24th● Division Cross Country - June 4th● Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday - June 10th● Winter Sports Day 1 - June 11th● Winter Sports Day 2 - June 26th
TERM 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sex Ed Session 1- July 26th● Sex Ed Session 2 - Aug 2nd● District Basketball - August 9th● Sex Ed Session 3 - Aug 16th● Summer Sports Day 1 - August 22nd● Summer Sports Day 2 - September 3rd● Summer Sports Back up Day - September 6th● Division Athletics - September 18th
TERM 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday - Nov 5th● MSO Excursion - November 15th● Remembrance Day – November 11th● Year 6 Graduation - TBD



DIARIES

Diaries are an integral form of communication between school and home, as well as an organisational tool for our students. Our diaries run along similar lines to that of secondary school ones, so that they will be thoroughly prepared in its use by the time they reach Year 7.

At the beginning of each week, all events, homework, notices being given out, due dates are put in. We ask that the parents sign the diary each week which indicates to us that you are aware of what is happening for the week. We may write a comment to you through the diary or make a request for you to contact us. You can also do the same in the diary. There are absence slips in the back of the diary for your convenience when your child has been absent from school or you can log this information straight on Compass.

Diaries need to be at school each day and placed on the student's work space. It goes into their bags at 3.30pm to go home. Diaries need to 'live' in their bags when otherwise not being checked by parents or notices being taken out of them and handed over, or homework being logged.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Over the year, homework will consist of various literacy and numeracy activities, reinforcing what is being taught in the classroom. Homework is set on a Monday and due on Friday. Tasks may vary week to week and it will be up to each student to record and monitor their homework tasks in their diaries.

Occasionally, unfinished work will also go home to be completed, often a student choice. This allows students to develop a good routine to apply in secondary school.



RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEARNING

At the senior school level, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning; whether it be getting tasks finished on time and to the best of their ability (including homework), and the ways to do this, or ensuring that they have everything ready on their table at the start of each session (and hasn't been left at home). They are provided with options on how best to do this.

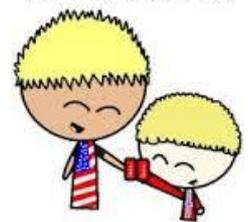
They set their goals for improvement and monitor them through reflection and self-evaluation tools. They develop the steps to help them achieve their goals. We use Habits of the Mind such as: Striving for Accuracy, Being Persistent, and Finding Humour in Situations to help them in their approach to learning.

BEHAVIOUR

We use the restorative practice philosophy, the You Can Do It Keys, the Habits of the Mind and Boys/Girls Club to promote positive behaviour both within and outside of the classroom. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, owning up to their mistakes and setting about rectifying them.

BUDDIES

The Grade 5/6 teachers work in collaboration with the Prep teachers to provide a fun and engaging buddy program that benefits both the Grade 6 student and the Prep child entering their first year of primary school. This year, each Grade 6 student has been assigned 1 or 2 prep buddies to help introduce them to schooling life and provide them with someone to look up to at school. Grade 6s visit their buddies every Friday for lunch, which includes completing an activity with them every second week. Having a buddy provides the Grade 6s with the opportunity to mentor a younger student, as well as the responsibility of caring for someone else, both in and out of the classroom.



GRADUATION

At the end of the year, a much looked forward to event is always the Grade 6 Graduation. Due to last year's overwhelming success, the Grade 6 Graduation Week will run very similarly to last year. As always, this will take place in the last week of Term 4.



You will be provided with more information later in the year.

TRANSITION

For the Grade 6 students, the transition process starts early in the year. Students will be given forms to take home for parents to fill in their secondary school choices. It is a good idea for all senior school students to attend the various open nights offered by our neighbouring schools, to get a feel for which secondary school may suit your child and their needs. We would also encourage you to go on school tours to see the secondary school in its day to day working mode.

We have to abide by the Departmental timeline so it is essential that the transition forms are back to us by the due date. You usually have about 3 weeks to get them back to us.

In Term 3 we will notify you of your child's successful placement.

OPEN LEARNING SPACE

We are very lucky again this year that Grade 5/6 have the privilege of working in Wattleview's new building. This has provided us with a fantastic open and flexible learning environment, allowing us to interact across classrooms, a computer laboratory, a theatrette and a project room. This space gives students the opportunity to be taught by all three Grade 5/6 teachers and interact with all students within the level. As well as this, all three teachers work very closely to ensure that a consistent curriculum is delivered to all students across the level, utilising all of the great facilities we have on offer. In addition to this, the open learning style allows students to continue to develop their organisational skills and increase their independence as they prepare for secondary school.

