HEATHMONT COLLEGE ICT
The last two weeks have seen the deployment of the new notebook management system for Heathmont College. Along with the ongoing ICT infrastructure upgrades, this program allows students and parents to accurately monitor the status of any notebook repairs. Students will have noticed the new display in the ICT office which shows the status of their notebook. The program is designed to assist students with managing their time at school effectively and will mean the end of queues at the ICT office. I would like to remind all students that they are responsible for the backup of their data – they can choose to do this via a USB, an external hard drive or Internet based back up.

UNIFORM
The school community would be aware of the importance that the College places on the correct presentation of the students in school uniform. School Council has agreed to a new Uniform Sub-Committee being set up at the College. It is designed to ensure that the uniform expectations are clearly communicated to the College community but also to allow for parents/guardians to be involved in any decisions to do with College uniform. This Committee will be headed up by Amanda Rienits, Assistant Principal, with staff, student and School Council representation. Parents are invited to give feedback, in writing, to Ms Rienits who will then raise the matter at the meeting. There will be reviews of current policy and any recommendations will be forwarded to the School Council for ratification.

I would like to remind everyone that the Heathmont College uniform is to be worn as designated. The College also has an expectation, as outlined in the uniform policy, that it is to be worn correctly whilst travelling to and from school. Neatness and cleanliness are part of being properly dressed.

A number of people within the local community commented to me recently that they have observed our students wearing the correct uniform with a sense of pride. Thank you to all the families who have supported the College Uniform Policy at home with the students.

Johanna Walker
Principal

REMINDER - College Tour
In addition to our weekday tours a special one will be held on Saturday March 29 at 9:30 am. Please book on 9871 4888.
HEATHMONT COLLEGE recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and parents to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, ensuring inclusive, safe and orderly environments for children and young people.

This Statement of Values sets out our behavioural expectations of all members in this school community, including the principal, all school staff, parents, students and visitors. It respects the diversity of individuals in our school community and addresses the shared responsibilities of all members in building safe and respectful school communities.

Discrimination, sexual and other forms of harassment, bullying, violence, aggression and threatening behaviour are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this school.

Our Statement of Values acknowledges that parents and school staff are strongly motivated to do their best for every child. Everyone has the right to differing opinions and views and to raise concerns, as long as we do this respectfully as a community working together.

RESPONSIBILITIES

AS PRINCIPALS AND SCHOOL LEADERS, WE WILL:

- Work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe conduct is expected of everyone.
- Behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide inclusive, safe and orderly environments.
- Plan, implement and monitor arrangements to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students in attendance at the school is protected.
- Identify and support students who are or may be at risk.
- Do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential.
- Work with parents to understand their child’s needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly.
- Respond appropriately when inclusive, safe or orderly behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required.
- Make known to parents the school’s communication and complaints procedures.
- Ask any person who is acting in an offensive or disorderly way to leave the school grounds.

AS TEACHERS AND ALL NON-TEACHING STAFF, WE WILL:

- Model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession.
- Proactively engage with parents about student outcomes.
- Work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly.
- Work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs.
- Communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect.

AS PARENTS, WE WILL:

- Model positive behaviour to our child.
- Ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction.
- Take an interest in our child’s school and learning.
- Work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child.
- Communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.
- Follow the school’s complaints processes if there are complaints.
- Treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.
AS STUDENTS, WE WILL:
- Model positive behaviour to other students.
- Comply with and model school values.
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner.
- Respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment.
- Actively participate in school.
- Not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WE WILL:
- Model positive behaviour to the school community.
- Treat other members of the school community with respect.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.
- Utilise the school’s communications policy to communicate with the school.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT WILL:
- Provide support and advice to principals to equip them to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools respond to and prevent bullying and promote cyber-safety and wellbeing.
- Provide access to evidence based resources and strategies to increase student safety, wellbeing and engagement.
- Provide schools with practical and legal support as required.
- Provide parents with practical guidance and resources to resolve conflicts with the school.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILING TO UPHOLD THE STATEMENT OF VALUES

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS
Behaviours that are considered inappropriate on and adjacent to school grounds or in relation to school business and that do not uphold the principles of this Statement of Values include when a person:
- is rude, aggressive or harasses others
- sends rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- is manipulative or threatening
- speaks in an aggressive tone, either in person or over the telephone
- makes sexist, racist or derogatory comments
- inappropriately uses social media as a forum to raise concerns/make complaints against the school
- is physically intimidating, e.g. standing very close.

CONSEQUENCES
Principals are responsible for determining what constitutes reasonable and unreasonable behaviour.
Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this Statement of Values may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences. This may include:
- utilising mediation and counselling services
- alternative communication strategies being applied
- formal notice preventing entry onto school premises or attendance at school activities. Written notice will follow any verbal notice given.
- an intervention order being sought
- informing the police which may result in a charge of trespass or assault

By agreeing to meet specified standards of positive behaviour, everyone in our school community can be assured that they will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, this will help to create a school that is safe and orderly, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.
So far this year the Student Representative Council has talked a lot about what’s going on this year. We’ve talked about the upcoming Inauguration Evening and Open Night for the College. We have discussed these events and the roles each year level captain will have on both nights. We’ve also discussed how we will use the donations from the casual-dress days the school will be having throughout the year. We would like to involve activities at lunch time into the cause, such as a teacher vs. student basketball game or a down ball tournament. The SRC team has also given some ideas for the space that will open up after some portables are removed later this term. At every SRC meeting there is always something to discuss and help with. It’s never dull and I’m sure everyone involved is very excited about the new school year and how to help the college, students and staff.

By Jacqui
Year 9 Captain

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**CASUAL DRESS DAY**

**When : 18th march**

**Bring a $2.00 donation**

**All donations will be going to the Royal Children's Hospital.**

**Don’t forget there will be a teachers vs students down ball competition at lunch! time.**
The Year 7 transition camp 2014 was a camp about bonding, building friendships, relationships, using teamwork and above all having fun! Our favourite event was the Island games on Night One, where each and every game and event included teamwork, cheering and helping each other out. This all made for a very fun, exciting and enjoyable first night.

The beach party on the second night was amazing and lots of fun too, where we all danced, sang, laughed and strutted our stuff on the island catwalk at the best dressed competition. We ended the night with a fabulous game of limbo with Ms Birchall and the Year 10s. Overall we believe strongly that this was a great transition camp that was enjoyable and a camp to remember.

Christian H & Abi N
Yr 8 Captains
BRIDGE INDONESIAN VISIT

On February 25, Heathmont College hosted a visit by 16 BRIDGE teachers from Indonesia and 3 Asia Education Foundation staff. These teachers were part of the Australia-Indonesia sister-school partnership. The visit featured part of an introduction to Australian education and school systems plus observation of a BRIDGE school. The Indonesian guests were attending BRIDGE workshops in Victoria for 4 days before being placed in various schools throughout Australia for a two-week school and home stay program.

Their visit started with a welcome by the principal team followed by a live skype session with teachers from our Indonesian sister school. They then visited the Year 12 History class with Mr Steen, Year 7 Mathematics with Mr Thorpe, Year 9 Sports with Mr Wright, Year 9 Cooking with Ms Haggar and Year 12 Music with Mr Ferrier.

Their school visit concluded with a presentation about Heathmont College and the Australian education and school systems by Ms Walker.

Prema Devathas
Languages Coordinator

Chatting to Indonesia on live skype

Tom Collins and guests
YEAR 7
As part of their study of “Introduction to Science” the Year 7 students have been making their own lava lamps. Using vegetable oil, water, food dye and the properties of density in different liquids, the students have colourfully reproduced a 70s icon.

YEAR 8
As part of their study of “Being Scientific” the Year 8 students have been exploring what yeast likes to eat. With many balloons and some impressive gas production, the students have also expanded their own knowledge.

LIBRARY NEWS
Open every day 8:30—3:30
Librarians: Wendy Averay & Elizabeth Downey

If you loved John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*, try some of these similar books. Some deal with first love, some deal with cancer, all are well written with biting humour and aching heart.
Uniform Shop Hours

SCHOOL TRADING HOURS
Tuesdays 2.30pm – 5.00pm
Thursdays 12noon – 2.00pm

Uniforms can also be purchased directly from
Klad Sports 2/9 Macro Crt. Rowville
Tel: 9763 0266
Monday – Thur: 8:30am – 5:00pm.
Fri: 8:30am - 4:30pm
Saturdays: 9:00am – 1:00pm
~ Cheques are not accepted ~

SELL YOUR SECOND HAND UNIFORM ITEMS
Klad sports now offers a second hand uniform service.
Uniform items of good quality can be submitted for sale on consignment
Take your freshly laundered quality uniform items to KLAD Sports
at either the College uniform shop or to their Rowville store. Set a price and a sell by date. If the items are sold KLAD Sports will contact you and arrange payment. If items are unsold you will be contacted to collect your items
For more information please contact KLAD Sports on 9763 0266

STUDENT ABSENCES
Parents are requested to ring the College absence line before 9:00am if their student is to be late, away due to illness or for any other reason. We encourage parents to use the College’s Compass Parent Portal to register absences. Unfortunately late arrivals cannot be registered.
Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in this matter. Phone 9871 4888 then select 1

HEATHMONT COLLEGE TOURS
Parent tours are conducted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:15 am.
This is an opportunity to meet the principal Johanna Walker and view the College facilities. Please contact 9871 4888 to make a booking.
Due to increased demand an additional College tour will be held on Saturday March 29 at 9:30 am.
Please book on the above number.

WHAT’S AHEAD
- INTERIM REPORTS will be available on COMPASS on Thursday March 27
- PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS will be on Thursday April 3
Details will be on the parent portal closer to the date.

MATHS HELP
Where: Library
When: After school till 4:00pm
Who: Students of all year levels are welcome

Klad Sports will be closed for the school holidays and re-open on 22/4/14
Lost property can be collected from the general office on Wednesday lunchtime.

Lost property

Important
In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost a week every term – that’s four weeks of school per year.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference.

Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

**“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – When students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au