

Benalla P-12 College

Executive Principal - Tony Clark

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

COLLEGE VISION

'Benalla P-12 College ensures that every child learns and is prepared for the future through a commitment to excellence in teaching, high expectations and positive relationships in a safe and inclusive environment'

Dear Parents and Carers,

Each year students from Grade 4 to Year 12 are invited to participate in the annual Student Attitudes to School Survey. This is the same survey across the state and is completed online by students. It provides valuable information about our student's experiences at school in a range of areas. This information helps us plan for improvements and gives students a voice in how the school looks and runs.

As a follow up to 2020 and remote learning, this year there are some additional questions about wellbeing. These will only be made available to secondary students. There is a letter from the Department of Education attached to this newsletter which outlines these questions in more details and explains the process to follow if you would like your child to opt out. If you do not opt out, it is assumed you are consenting for your child to complete the full survey.

Students in Grade 4-6 will not complete any additional questions about wellbeing and will just undertake the standard survey as they have in previous years.

Last year I wrote about the review of the Grade 5/6 hub at Clarke Street. This work is still ongoing and school council has set up a working party to investigate in more detail. This group consists of staff, students, parents and community representatives. The group meets fortnightly and has been looking at data and discussing how to collect additional information about the hub to help inform any decision. The process will be sure to engage with as many stakeholders as possible along the way and keep people informed.

Email: benalla.p12@education.vic.gov.au

Web: www.benallap12.vic.edu.au

Avon St
Yrs F-4
P: 035762 1646
Attendance
Hotline
035762 1646

Waller St
Yrs F-4
P: 035762 2600
Attendance
Hotline
035762 2600

Clarke St
Yrs 5-6 Hub
P: 035761 2272
Attendance
Hotline
035761 2752

Faithfull St
Yrs 7-12
P: 035761 2777
Attendance
Hotline
035761 2747



DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 5-7 May

- Year 8/9 Music Camp-Lake Nillahcootie

Thursday 6-7 May

- Year 9 OED-Mount Samaria

Tuesday 11 May

School Photos

- Avon Campus P-4 9am start
- Waller Campus P-4 9am start
- Faithfull Campus Yrs 10-12 - commence 12.00pm

Wednesday 12 May

- Year 7 Band Performance 7.30- PAC Faithfull Street

Monday 17 May

- Year 9 Future Makers Camp 1- 15 Mile Creek

Wednesday 19 May

- Uniform Shop Open-Faithfull Street Campus-3.00-5.30pm

Our College Values

Respect

Responsibility

High Expectations

Integrity

Finally, thank you to those parents and family members who attended our 5-12 assembly for ANZAC day last Tuesday. The College Captains did an outstanding job of running a very respectful assembly, with a highlight being a reading about the role of indigenous soldiers in the defence forces by Year 12 student Madison Stovell. This was a great assembly and a real opportunity to demonstrate our College values to ourselves and the wider community.

Regards,
Tony Clark
Executive Principal.



Don't
Forget!

SCHOOL PHOTOS TUESDAY 1TH MAY

Avon Campus P-4 9am start
Waller Campus P-4 9am start
Faithfull Campus Yrs 10-12 - commence 12.00pm

Students have been issued with payment envelopes which should be returned on the photographer on the day.

Family photos will be taken at 8.15am.

Please note parents of multi campus families will need to arrange transport to and from the relevant campus for family photos.



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TERM 2 DATES, MONDAY 19TH APRIL– FRIDAY 25TH JUNE



SCHOOL UNIFORM DATES-FAITHFULL ST CAMPUS

Wednesday 19th May 3- 5.30pm

Wednesday 9th June 3- 5.30pm

Wednesday 14th July 3- 5.30pm

Orders can also be placed over the phone and delivered to your campus.

Call Judds Yarrawonga on
5744 1269 for any further details





GOLDEN SHOVEL & RED APRON AWARDS

Congratulations to this weeks Golden Shovel and Red Apron award winners, well done Jolene, Liam, Angus, Tyson, Tyler and Xavier (abs)

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Well done to our below students of the week Remi, Tyler, Riley, Jagga and Riley

RAY WHITE AWARD



This months Ray White award winner went to Evie Exton. Evie has demonstrated our four College values Integrity, Responsibility, Respect and High Expectations.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Congratulations to Ms Hartridge Year 3/4 class, who received a free sausage in bread for 98% attendance in Term 1. Great achievement, well done!



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Our **Week 2 Students of the Week** were:
L-R: Harley, Ava, Scarlett, Char-Leah, Vito & Eli

ATTENDANCE AWARDS



Mrs Milvan's class grade 3/4WMA won the highest attendance percentage for term 1 this year of 95.88%. The class choose to have hot chips with sauce for their prize.



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

For Willow Plex, moving to Melbourne and living at Trinity College gave her the opportunity to give everything a go and be who she wanted to be, while also helping others to feel free to express themselves as individuals.

Willow Plex says that attending the small school of Benalla P-12 College in northeast Victoria meant she got to wear a lot of hats and didn't need to fit into a particular clique. She was school captain and a music student, and played a lot of sport outside school. 'I didn't get defined into a box and I was really happy about that,' she says. 'I was lucky to be able to do a bit of everything and it's kind of what made me the person I am – I could explore all of my interests all at once.'

When Willow left school, she wanted to study medicine and was originally planning to attend university in Albury, commuting from Benalla. It wasn't ideal, but she saw it as the most feasible option. This was until her school was visited by a representative from Trinity College in Melbourne, who explained that scholarships were available to students with financial need. Suddenly a move to the big city and on-campus living became a possibility.



Above: Willow in her Trinity Colours

'I visited the University of Melbourne for an open day and had this overwhelming feeling when I visited Trinity College,' remembers Willow. 'I was like, "I need to go here!" It's just beautiful, it's in the middle of Melbourne, the people here are amazing. After that it was like, "I'm desperate for this scholarship, I need to get it." And I was so fortunate that I did.'

Going to college has meant Willow can also pursue her many interests and take on new opportunities. 'Every opportunity that's presented to me, I just take it on, I love it. There are so many opportunities out there for sports teams, art pursuits, cultural learning, leadership positions, everything. You're never lacking in opportunities here and there aren't any boundaries – like I'm not going to find myself as just a sport person or just an art person – I can try everything.'

As well as sport and art, Willow has become a student coordinator at Trinity – looking after other students in her corridor, helps facilitate the kitchen volunteering program, is part of the cooking and dining society, and has joined the outreach committee, which organises volunteering opportunities and fundraising for the college.

As well as getting involved in day-to-day activities, Willow has also appreciated the college's supportive and inclusive environment. 'During O Week it kind of set the tone that this is a place for learning and a place for respect,' she says. 'We were reminded that people come from different backgrounds and might not have the same education around certain topics, so it's your role to pull people up and help them learn, and that's something I've taken on going forward. Don't be afraid to pull people up, or if you see that someone's uncomfortable with something, address that. I think that's a really important part of my time here at Trinity.'

When it comes to life more generally in the big city, Willow jokes that one of the highlights is that things are open past 8pm and she doesn't need to drive 30 minutes to get to the shops anymore. But she also appreciates Melbourne's culture and diversity. 'People are always out and there's different fashion senses,' she says. 'The political mindset is kind of what I agree with too. It's very respectful and very centered around cultural learning and respect, which is something I struggled with at home, in that there were quite a few different opinions around race and sexuality and stuff, and it felt like a constant barrier to learning.'

In a sense, Melbourne offered a fresh start.

'It was kind of nice coming to Melbourne and knowing absolutely no one. I had no connections, I didn't know a single soul. And so, coming in, no one had expectations of me, no one wanted to define me by my previous experiences,' she says. 'I'm really fortunate that I've been able to come in and make friends with people from all different backgrounds. I feel very lucky.'

Willow.



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KINDNESS AWARD

Kindness award- Harry Skelton


**Kindness
Matters.**

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Emily Mackay, Cooper Walsh, Charli Button,
Jorja Adams, Pharon MacFarlane & Edward
Lockhart



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Tyler Vaughan, Hailey Ziebell, Mystique Vella,
Imogen Williams, Emiky Milner & Taylah Watts

We are now starting to have university, TAFE and other visitors giving presentation for senior students. All senior students are encouraged to attend presentations from tertiary and other institutions as they happen throughout the year, in order to find out more about possible career pathways, as well as what life is like at university in general and other opportunities available with further study.



FEDERATION UNIVERSITY VISIT

Students were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with Helen Johnson from Federation Uni when she was here on 27 April.

Helen told interested students about courses, new courses, pathways, accommodation and student services available at the various Fed Uni campuses.



VISIT FROM CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

Katie from Charles Sturt University visited the school on 27 April to speak to students about the university and the courses they offer, the way students apply for courses, the different options for study whether face to face or online, accommodation options and much more



Q&A WITH MAJOR SUE FIELD

Major Field was our guest speaker at the ANZAC Assembly and was gracious enough to do a question and answer with students before the assembly. Students found out about her pathway as well as the many options of career areas in the ADF and

A CONCERT TO REMEMBER

Support Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation and buy your tickets to see Josh Piterman Live with John Foreman OAM, Des Flanagan and Lisa Edwards



Josh Piterman
Phantom Of The Opera
London, Sydney



John Foreman OAM
Musical Director,
Pianist, Composer



Des Flanagan
Moulin Rouge!
The Musical Australia



Lisa Edwards
Acclaimed
International Singer

**SUNDAY
9 MAY, 2:00PM**

**WANGARATTA PERFORMING ARTS
& CONVENTION CENTRE**
BOOK TICKETS WWW.WPACC.COM.AU



ISSUE 3 IS

ONLINE NOW!

**ORDERS CLOSE 9.00AM
10th May**

Orders can only be paid for online through Scholastic Book Club Loop Orders using your credit card. Three easy steps can be found on the back page of the catalogue or follow the below link take you to the registration page:

[https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/ Register.aspx?ReturnUrl=](https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Register.aspx?ReturnUrl=)

**Enter your details | Add Child | Search
for our School & your child's class |
Ready to Order!**

**Thanks for
supporting our school!**

For more information contact Scholastic Book
Club 1800 021 233



**MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID
Australia**



WHEN:

Wednesdays in May
5.30-9.30pm

Light supper provided.

Cost: \$20 (to cover manual)

WHERE:

Benalla Community Care
45 Coster St, Benalla
(Activity Room 1)

A comprehensive Youth Mental Health First Aid course over four sessions. Learn about adolescent development, the signs and symptoms of mental health problems, how and where to get help and what sort of help is most effective.

For more information and to register your interest go to benalla.vic.gov.au/EOI-YMHFA

Limited places are available. Expressions of Interest close Monday 26 April 2021.

Contact Council's Youth Development Team on 03 5760 2600 for more information.



**BENALLA
RURAL CITY**

Brought to you by Live4Life Benalla Partnership Group
and Youth Live4Life Inc.



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SCHOLASTIC



Every Child Deserves a Good Book



Following the March 4 Justice rallies families have been urged to talk to their children about consent. Many parents are unsure where to start and how to go about it. Here are some ideas to assist parents in this most important topic.

Start the consent ball rolling from an early age

Consent education begins with adults teaching and modelling respectful treatment related to children's development stages. Holding discussions about body boundaries, checking in with feelings, respecting the feelings and voices of others, and listening to children's concerns are the types of behaviours that will help you develop a culture of respect in your family.

Is your home a place where children can talk about any topic? Sexuality and relationship education are subjects that many parents place in the 'let's talk about this when you are older' basket.

Professor Kerry Robinson, who is in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology and the Sexualities and Genders Research Network at Western Sydney University advises parents to be factual when answering children's questions, emphasising the importance of staying informed about the subject kids are interested in.

In a recent article in The Guardian, she said "... have set it up early with your child that when they talk about certain things you give open, simple, honest answers, then you set a precedent that you can build on."

Professor Robinson also advises parents not to fob off children's questions: "Straight away you're setting a pattern of not answering and putting it off. Kids learn really quickly that this is a taboo subject. They will talk to their friends about it: they won't talk to their parents and other adults about it because it's taboo."

Teach no means no

Children learn about mutual consent through their play and sharing. A child who doesn't want to share their toys has a right to be left alone, rather than being scolded to change their mind. A parent who withdraws a privilege in response to a teenager's poor behaviour shouldn't be subjected to repeated attempts to negotiate a different outcome. Reinforce with children and young people that a no is not an invitation to ask again.

Emphasise choices

The biggest lesson to reinforce for children and young people is that they have a choice in how they behave, and how they react. The young person who blames alcohol for sexual assault has neglected the role that choice plays in their decisions. Blaming alcohol, the dress or the demeanour of another person are older versions of 'it's not my fault because he/she made me do it' that children so often use when asked to account for poor behaviour.



parenting*ideas

Framing behaviour as a choice is a central consent strategy for children of all ages. A young child who shares a toy with a friend can be told, "Good choice Harry. Now you can have fun together." A primary school child who completes their homework assignment early can be reminded "Now you've got plenty of time to relax. Smart choice." The teenager who quietly helps you prepare a meal can be told, "You could have done anything after school, but you chose to help me. I appreciate that."

Teach kids to seek consent

While teaching kids the right to say no is a central consent message, children and young people should also develop the habit of seeking consent from others. "Ask your sister if it's okay for you to play that game next to her." "Ask grandma if she feels like a cuddle right now." Permission-seeking is another piece in respectful relationships puzzle that you can reinforce with kids.

Model consent

The use of consensual language is a community concern. A grandparent may need to be respectfully reminded to ask young children if they'd like a kiss or hug. Similarly, a relative should abide by a young child's wishes if they ask them to stop tickling or playing with them. A doctor should ask a child, "I'm going to take your temperature. Is that okay?" It's up to adults to frame requests in ways that children feel safe and comfortable.

Fathers step up

Dads can't leave consent and sexuality education to mothers, which still appears to be the case in many families. Fathers can help their daughters develop the confidence to say no by regular interactions with their daughters and encouraging them to be assertive. If they feel comfortable telling you to stop a game, they are more likely to feel comfortable saying no to other males in their lives later in life. Open the door to conversations about sexuality, relationships and consent with your teenage daughter, and she'll know she has a willing ally in you.

Fathers can model respectful behaviours for their sons through their treatment of women at home, and in the community at large. Start by calling out displays of derogatory behaviour towards women by men or young people. Reinforce in your sons that the standard of behaviour they ignore is the standard of behaviour that they accept. There are many powerful lessons that boys can absorb from their fathers.

In closing

The best age to start teaching your children about consent is when they are young. The second-best age is whatever age they are right now. Consent education is too big an issue to ignore or leave to schools to manage. It's something we all have to commit to if we want real change to occur.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.



PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION AND CONSENT LETTER

2021 Student Attitudes to School Survey

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you about the 2021 Student Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS), that your child is invited to participate in.

About the survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of your school.

The AtoSS is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist your child's school to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, bullying and life in general.

There are also some questions about student health and wellbeing. Understanding health and wellbeing needs is important to support students to learn and thrive at school. The Department is providing this addition to the core survey to allow your child's school to capture this information to support students.

Students from Year 7 – 12 will be asked about resilience, family relationships, community connections, health (including mental health), access to health services and physical activity.

This year, the AtoSS will be conducted at your school over the period of May 10th until June 10th for secondary students and May 3rd to May 28th for primary students.

What are the benefits?

In our experience, young people enjoy having their say. We have been running this survey for nearly 20 years and it has been invaluable in helping schools understand student views. Your school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

What are the risks?

While we do not anticipate many risks of participation, some students may find some of the survey questions too personal and sensitive in nature. Should you agree for your child to participate, they are still free to skip questions or to withdraw at any stage if the survey makes them upset or uncomfortable.

The survey been approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee. The questions are selected from validated survey instruments, are strength-based, and tailored for each year level group.

What will my child be asked to do?

Your child will be invited to complete the survey **online during class time** using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Please note:

- Student participation in the survey is voluntary and students may withdraw at any time.
- The survey will take around 20-45 minutes to complete.

How is my child's confidentiality protected?

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey from their teacher. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only.

Personally identifiable data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

How will results be reported?

The survey results will be reported back to the school in an aggregate form throughout the survey period. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified. Data suppression rules are used for schools with low student numbers per year level.

Your school may share the results of the survey with parents, in documents such as the School Annual Report.

Options for participation

Participation in this survey is **voluntary**. If you **do not** wish for your child to do the survey, please opt out via email to your school: Benalla.p12@education.vic.gov.au Please do so before Monday May 10th, stating that you wish to opt out of your child's participation, along with their name and year level.

If your school does not receive a Refusal of Consent email from yourself before the survey commencement date mentioned within this letter, it means that you give your consent for your child to participate in the 2021 Attitudes to School Survey.

A copy of the survey that we are asking your child to complete is available from your child's school. Please contact the administration office if you would like to see the survey before making your decision about whether you would like your child to participate.

If you would like more information, please speak to your child's teacher, or contact the Department at attitudes.school.survey@education.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

The Department of Education and Training Victoria