MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students, Parents and Staff

KIOSC
I wish to clarify the situation regarding scheduled sessions at KIOSC, our new second campus.

At the outset, I need to make it quite clear that these KIOSC sessions are part of our core curriculum (ie. they are not optional excursions) and therefore attendance by all scheduled students is **compulsory** as for any other school day. The following points provide the context for this expectation:

Fairhills received 1.1 Million from the Federal Government to build a modern technical facility for our students on the condition that we not build it in our grounds but combine with the other Knox schools and Swinburne University to build a shared complex centrally located on the University site just south of Knox City so that it becomes a second campus for each school.

The school pays an annual fee of $20 per student per day to cover costs with all students in Years 7-10 being scheduled for two or three days per year depending on the year level. As this is based on our enrolments rather than the number of students who happen to attend, the school is wasting its money if some students don’t attend.

The program varies each semester but is designed to use specialist staff and sophisticated facilities and equipment to provide learning activities usually not possible in a regular school. They are designed to be both engaging to students and relevant to the Australian curriculum. Consequently we expect all students to attend consistently, take the work seriously, participate enthusiastically and comply cooperatively with the teachers’ behavioural expectations as for any other school day.

Parents are notified in writing a week or so before each scheduled day and are expected to ensure their students have suitable transport arrangements and attend promptly. (If transport is a problem, parents are invited to contact the school before the day to seek assistance).

If a student has a legitimate reason for not attending (illness, bereavement etc.), parents are expected to phone the Attendance Hotline and explain the reason as they would on any other school day.

Any other students who do not attend are recorded as ‘Truant’ in the school rolls.

If you need further information or assistance in this matter I ask that you phone the coordinator of the program, Ms Jenny Oliver. Your full support on this matter would be greatly appreciated.

ATHLETICS SPORTS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 20
This annual activity is a great opportunity for the whole school to enjoy a day together mixing the year levels, teachers and students helping each other, students acting as officials, attempting personal bests, competing for gold, silver and bronze awards and striving to win the House Competition.

It is a fun day for everybody, even those who don’t see themselves as athletic (teachers and students alike). You can contribute by acting as officials or cheering on your fellow students.

A reminder to parents - As for the KIOSC days, mentioned above, attendance of all students (Years 7 – 12) is **compulsory**. If your student is unable to attend for legitimate reasons please phone the Attendance Hotline (9758 5022 - Press One). Any other
students not attending will be marked in the rolls as “truant”. We would appreciate the support of every parent in ensuring their student’s attendance.

**GONSKI/BETTER SCHOOLS**
I was delighted to read this week that the Victorian Government has signed up to the “Better Schools” funding arrangements developed by the Federal Government.

This initiative has had strong support from schools and educationalists throughout the country, all three of the government, catholic and independent sectors and the majority of the state governments (hopefully, eventually all). We will appreciate the extra dollars involved but, more importantly, we will have a fairer, transparent, inclusive and student focused allocation model which will largely resolve the arguing and division which has characterised our Australian education provision for most of my career.

The states will retain their independence in managing education within some national parameters and guidelines in accordance with the Constitution, with the emphasis on providing ALL Australian students with a quality education via a standard, realistic per capita funding allocation with additional funds for recognised special needs and socio economic disadvantage. Schools and teachers will relish the opportunity to use the extra money strategically to ensure equal opportunity for all students.

Harvey Wood
Principal

**Fairhills Stars at the Regional German Poetry finals:**

*Having been placed in the top three for their year level in the regional finals, three Fairhills High School students have been invited to represent their school in the state finals of the AGTV German Poetry competition.*

On Thursday the 1st of August four students from Years 8 and 9 represented Fairhills at the regional network final of the German poetry competition, held at the Knox School.

Chloe Compson, Katelyn Nied, Jordan Ribchester (Year 8) and Emily Murphy (Year 9) learnt their respective German poems off by heart and performed them in front of a judging panel. All of them are to be applauded for the time and effort that went into their preparation for the competition. Katelyn Nied deserves a special mention considering she has only started learning German in year 7 and was competing against students who had been learning the language since the start of their schooling.

In the year 8 division Jordan Ribchester received first prize for her recital of the poem "Der Mann im Schnee". Chloe Compson received the third prize for the poem "Beim Kaufmann". In the year 9 division Emily Murphy received her second consecutive first placing for her recital of "Die Zeit". These three girls have now competed for the second time in the poetry competition and are to be commended for their desire to extend themselves as language learners.

We continue to encourage students to take advantage of the opportunities that language learning offers and these girls are reaping the benefits of their hard work and enthusiasm.
STUDENT DETAILS
It is important our student information details are correct and current. We ask parents to inform the General Office of any changes in address, telephone numbers or any other relevant details for your child as soon as practicable, please.

HAIRSPRAY – THE MUSICAL
[This year’s School Production]
will be performed at Fairhills High School Performing Arts Centre on – August 15, 16 and 17 at 7.30pm.
Tickets may be purchased through www.trybooking.com/50047.
Ticket prices –
- Adults $20
- Primary/Secondary students /concession $15
- Family – 2 Adults + 2 children $60.

OPEN DAYS – DATES 2013
Australian Catholic University – Ballarat August 25
Ballarat University – Mt Helen August 25
Box Hill Institute – August 25
Deakin University – Burwood August 25
Holmesglen TAFE – ‘Open Wednesdays’ check www.holmesglen.edu.au
La Trobe University – Melbourne August 25/ Albury, Wodonga August 30/Bendigo August 18/ Shepparton August 9/ Mildura August 14
Melbourne University – Parkville and Southbank August 18
Monash Gippsland/University of Ballarat – Gippsland August 25
Victoria University – August 25
William Angliss – Melbourne August 25
For dates of all institutions, go to the VTAC website and search for ‘open days’

SAVE THE DATE
The annual Chaplaincy trivia night, to raise funds to support Stewart MacCartney in his work at Fairhills High School, will be held on Friday August 30th. Please put the date in your diary and plan to be there with a table full of friends for a great night of fun.
If anyone can help with donations towards our raffle or silent auctions for the night, then please take these gifts to the school office. Maybe you have been given a gift that is not to your taste, please consider re-gifting it for the raffle. These donations must be new, please.
The Chaplaincy Committee is always interested in hearing from anyone in the school community who would like to help us in our fundraising efforts, either by joining the committee or by becoming a donor. Please don’t hesitate to contact me on 9762 2632.
I am looking forward to seeing many of you on August 30th.

Lost and Found School Uniforms
Would parents please check that all items of their student’s school uniform have been labelled with their student’s name. It has been brought to our attention that a number of uniform items have gone missing during PE sessions. Could parents please check that your student has not mistakenly brought home another students item of uniform. We also have a large number of items that need to be collected.
Any lost items of uniform can be collected from the Sickbay.

CAREERS INFORMATION
Careers information can be found on the school Website. Please go onto the school website and click on the link.
www.fairhills.vic.edu.au

STUDENT ABSENCES – ABSENCE HOTLINE 9758 5022 – Press 1
Parents are requested to ring the school on the Absence Hotline if your child will be absent or late due to illness or for any other reason. Please leave a message outlining the reason for the absence and if known, the length of time your child will be away.