MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Student Safety
I am writing about new resources that the Victorian Government has recently released to support all of us in helping to stop bullying - Bully Stoppers: Make a stand. Lend a hand
Bullying is a serious issue for all of us. We know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences. We know that when the whole school community commits to addressing bullying, less bullying occurs. At Fairhills we are already committed to ensuring all students feel safe, that everyone is treated respectfully and that staff have the knowledge and skills needed to best support every child’s wellbeing, safety and confidence.
The good news at Fairhills is that each year in the Department Student Survey, our students rate ‘student safety’ higher than most of the other measures in the survey. In other words our students consider that our anti bullying strategies are working. Research, however, tells us that only 10 per cent of children involved in bullying actually report the incident. We also know that while there is broad awareness of the seriousness of bullying, most people would like more information on what to do to prevent it.
The Bully Stoppers online toolkit is designed to address this and provide advice to teachers, parents and students on what to do if they see or are targets of bullying. Developed with the support of leading experts, and tested with students and teachers, the resources offer advice for students, parents and teachers alike on dealing with challenging behaviour, bullying, discipline and cyber safety. Resources come in a number of different formats including fact sheets, learning modules and podcasts.
As a mark of how important this issue is to the wider community, the Victorian Government is also running a community information campaign. The clear message is that bullying can happen to any child but together we can help stop it by actively standing up for and supporting victims. As a further mark of our commitment to preventing bullying, our school is also joining other schools across the state in pledging to become a Bully Stoppers school.
I encourage you to learn more by going online at www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers and share the commitment to stop bullying in our school and local community.

Citizenship
Developing good citizenship is an important ingredient in our curriculum and in the values of our school families. I reprint with permission the following letter I recently received from a young mother in our community. Congratulations students, we are proud of you.

“I just wanted to provide some positive feedback about the demeanour and behaviour of a group of students from Fairhills Secondary College who were travelling on the same train as me on the morning of Wednesday 20 February. I had a pram with my 10 week old baby and my mother in tow and we were rushing to get onto the 9.01 train from Nunawading. Upon boarding the crowded train which was filled with Fairhills students, my mother and I were extremely impressed with the considerate and very polite way the students jumped up and moved out of the way to make room for us and quite a few of them stood up to offer us a seat. We were able to quickly and safely make our way through the crowded train to the disabled seat area and the students were all very proactive and careful to give us the room to do so. My mother and I then observed the very mature and calm way in which the students interacted with each other and the rest of the commuters on the train all the way into the city. When we disembarked at Southern Cross Station, again the students all quickly moved to the side and helped us to exit the train quickly and safely.
It is the first time I’ve used public transport as a new mum, and was quite nervous about boarding a train crowded with high school students with my pram. Your students were absolutely wonderful and I felt so grateful for their assistance and their lovely demeanour. I would be very appreciative if you could please pass this feedback on. I think the students were probably Year 9 or 10 level.”
School Council elections
The following have been elected unopposed to School Council for 2013 - 2014

Parents – Mike Hurd, Citty Milburn and Debbie Sparkman
Staff – Russell Poulier and Silvana La Leggia

At the Council’s first meeting last week, the following nominations were finalised:

Community Members - Paris Rowe (Year 10 Student), Neil Morris (Youth Organisation representation)

Council takes the opportunity to thank Kath Middleton for her valuable contribution as staff representative over a number of years.

We wish all Students, Staff and Parents a relaxing and safe break and look forward to your return on April the 15th.

Harvey Wood - Principal

CONGRATULATIONS RYAN PINCHBECK
Ryan recently represented Fairhills High School in the Eastern Regional School Swimming Sports and achieved the following amazing results.

1st in the 400 Freestyle, 100 Butterfly and 200 Freestyle.
2nd in the 100 Freestyle and 50 Butterfly.

On the 27th of March Ryan also competed at the State Schools Open Championships placing

1st in the 200 and 400

Congratulations Ryan on these outstanding results.

Parenting after Separation
This parenting program deals specifically with the issues of parenting after separation. It aims to improve your parenting relationship with your former partner and focus on the needs of your children.

This course is open to all separated parents and also meets the requirements for those ordered by the Family Court to attend a Post Separation Parenting Course; or if you are at risk of breaching existing orders.

Some topics covered include:
* Dealing with your former partner and developing boundaries
* Effective communication and conflict resolution
* Separating needs of children from emotions of separation
* Challenges of parenting and discipline styles
* Problem solving

**WHEN:** 6 x Tuesday evening sessions will be held - May 7th, 14th, 21st & June 4th, 11th & 18th

**TIME:** From 5.30pm to 7.30pm

**WHERE:** Family Mediation Centre, 367 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood.

Before the course commences, participants will need to attend an intake and assessment meeting of 1 hour.

**COST:** $90.00 for the course to be paid in full at the preliminary meeting – Concession available.

Refreshments provided

STUDENT ABSENCES – ABSENCE HOTLINE 9758 5060
Parents are requested to ring the school on the schools 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.

Lost and Found School Uniforms
Would parents please check that all items of their students’ 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.

Students from Global Classroom would like to thank.
“Flossy’s Fairy Floss”
www.flossys.com.au
For helping them with their Global Classroom Fundraising Project.

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