



Swifts Creek

P-12 SCHOOL

Courage, Joy, Kindness

## NEWSLETTER

November 10th 2021 - Week 6 Term 4

### Whole School dates to remember:

**Nov 16th** - School Council

**Dec 8th** - Flagstaff Campus Celebration night

**Dec 9th** - Tambo Campus Celebration night

### Tambo Campus Dates to Remember

**Dec 1st** - Year 11 finish

**Dec 3rd** - Year 10 finish

**Dec 6th-8th** - Year 8/9 camp to Summit

### Flagstaff Campus Dates to Remember

**Nov 24-26th** - Year 3/4 Camp

### Principal's Message

Next week we will start a new opportunity for students. At lunch time on each Wednesday Mr Cawley will be running art classes for students at lunchtime. At this stage it will be for students on the Tambo campus. The focus for these voluntary sessions will be drawing skills. So if you are interested in developing your skills as an artist please see Mr Cawley and sign up for this opportunity. AT this stage the maximum group size we can accommodate is 20 students.

At this stage there will be no cost for students for the consumables that they will be using.

Last week I sent a letter home that has the potential to impact on the students at the Tambo campus. It appears that this has created some confusion for a few families. So I will endeavour to clarify the main points:

- 1 We have not changed the practice; we are piloting or trialling it to see if it works for all students and the community we live in.
- 2 There is a need to find out if students can manage the responsibility that goes with the changed arrangements.
- 3 An essential element of longer term change, if it occurs, is parent consent for the individuals who leave school grounds at lunchtime.

A question we might consider in our responses to this trial is whether we are dividing the school community or supporting the students through this trial.

So we will keep watching this space to see how the operational nature of this trial pans out.

The other simple aspect of the business of being a student is compliance around the Minister's legislation banning the use of mobile phones at school. We have phone lockers to enable this. Students do need to put their phone in these lockers. If they have lost their key the office staff do have a master key to open the locker for them.

Some of our bus travellers seem to be confused at the moment about what their responsibilities are when traveling on the bus. In the morning when students arrive at school they are to enter the school ground, not go down the street. The reason for this is twofold – one, so parents are aware of what their child is doing; two, students are setting their day up for success by not having a complex day due to their body being full of energy drinks or excess sugar. Bus travel is not a right, so for those students who are not able to meet this simple expectation then they may not be able to travel on the bus which unfortunately will create some complexities about them getting to school. So please, the logical thing is to use the school bus as expected.

Whilst I am being grumpy, the inability for some students in Years 7 to 10 to be in uniform for school is impacting on the decisions that they are making during the school day. Please, parents, a simple part you can play to support us to assist your child is to help them get dressed in the morning for school. At this stage of the school year students should have their uniform organised. It is great that some of our students have the latest in fashion but this needs to be saved for other occasions, not for school.

Robert Boucher

## Parents' Group - Father's Day Stall

Guess what? It is Father's Day soon. Confused? It's a confusing year! As we couldn't have the Father's Day stall back in September, we are going to have it in November. "You beauty" the dads are saying.

When is this happening you ask?

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 9:15am**

We will be setting up the stall outside to comply with current regulations. So please mums remember to send your child to school with some money if you want them to purchase some great gifts for their dad, pa or friend.

### **Nude Food Wednesdays**

The Outdoor Environmental Study class would like to introduce you to 'Nude Food Wednesdays'. Students tend to bring an excessive amount of plastic waste to school daily and Nude Food Wednesday encourages students to pack less single use waste. As every student on average brings around 5 pieces of food to school daily, every Wednesday morning, we will inspect your lunches and tally up how many pieces of plastic we see. Nude Food Wednesday will occur on two Wednesdays only the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Today (10<sup>th</sup>) we counted a total of 72 pieces of single use plastics throughout all students' lunchboxes as a whole school. This is a fantastic place to start. Our aim is to reduce single use plastic litter at school and nude food lunches also promotes healthier diets.

Here are some tips:

You want to pack	You want to avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Snacks in reusable containers</li><li>• Drinks in reusable bottles</li><li>• Reusable utensils when needed</li><li>• A reusable lunch box or back pack</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lunches packed in plastic bags, cling wrap or foil</li><li>• Disposable drink bottles, cans and cartons</li><li>• Disposable utensils</li><li>• Pre-packaged lunches or single serve items</li></ul>

The picture below shows examples of nude food lunches.



# Australian Indoor Rowing Championships 2021

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of October, during their PE lesson, some students took up the challenge and entered the 500m individual competition in the Australian Indoor Rowing Championships. Students had to use the indoor rowing machine to complete 500m as fast as possible. The competition took place virtually all across Australia and I am very proud to announce some incredible results from our very own students.

Well done to the following students who participated on the day:

- ◇ Nathan Sutherland (Year 9)
- ◇ Kaden Lavery (Year 8)
- ◇ Kejie Collins (Year 8)
- ◇ Jack Gilmore (Year 8)
- ◇ Ruby Newton (Year 9)
- ◇ Joanna Crellin (Year 8)
- ◇ Evie Walker (Year 9)
- ◇ Emma Airs (Year 10)
- ◇ Claire Gray (Year 10)
- ◇ Zoe Crisp (Year 10)
- ◇ Emma Mitchell (Year 8)
- ◇ Jasmine Kerrison (Year 9)
- ◇ Emma Reid (Year 10)
- ◇ Brylee Johnson (Year 10)



Congratulations to the following students who finished in the top 50 of their age group:

- ◇ Jack Batty (Year 9 – U16 Boys)
- ◇ Matilda Sheean (Year 7 – U14 Girls)

Congratulations to the following students who finished in the top 20 in their age group:

- ◇ Colten Pendergast (Year 8 – U14 Boys)
- ◇ Jack Reid (Year 7 – U14 Boys)
- ◇ Wayde Airs (Year 8 – U14 Boys)
- ◇ Beau Wrigley (Year 7 – U14 Boys)
- ◇ Max Darby (Year 7 – U14 Boys)



Congratulations to the following student who finished in the top 10 of their age group:

- ◇ Joshua Jeff (Year 9 – U16 Boys)

Well done to everyone who participated, you all did yourselves and our school proud!

Mr Barker



## End of the Road for our Year 12s

Our Year 12 VCE and VCAL students recently officially finished their final classes for the year, and their thirteen years of school education. Congratulations to all for making it this far. For our VCE students they of course continue with their final exams, which will ultimately finish up next week.

We would usually celebrate this occasion with our Big Breakfast, but with current rules this unfortunately wasn't possible. Instead we had a small BBQ lunch and they then took part in creating the traditional wall handprints and signing to help commemorate their time at Swifts Creek P-12 School. There's a few photos below of this occasion.

Following a tough two years completing their senior years of school in and out of lockdown, the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* recently interviewed the school captains from Orbest SC and Lakes Entrance SC, along with our very own Josephine Gallagher. This article was featured in last week's newspaper. All three graduating students had some very interesting thoughts and good advice, and the article is well worth a read by all. We have included it with this week's newsletter, so if you missed it please have a look.

John O'Neill  
Later Years Coordinator



# Tackling year 12 in lockdown head on

2021 year 12 students across Victoria have suffered more than most in terms of face-to-face education.

Over the past week, those students who sat through lengthy lockdowns in both the penultimate and final year of their secondary education, have begun sitting their final exams. What is next remains unknown.

As Victoria comes out of COVID restrictions, the options are endless. Those seeking a change of scenery in the city may have fallen back in love with their homeland having been forced to complete home schooling, others can't wait to make the most of freedom.

Given the tumultuous nature of senior schooling in 2020/21, we asked three graduating year 12 students – Lakes Entrance Secondary College captain, Jessika Perrett, Orbst Secondary College captain, Molly Short, and Swifts Creek P-12 College's Josephine Gallagher – five questions about their experience and their short-term goals once finishing exams.

**Q1 - Are you relieved to be finished or worried about leaving school?**

**Jessika:** I'm honestly glad that the year is over. Two years of school in and out of lockdown really has taken a toll on my and many year 12 students' mental health.

However, I am worried about not having the same daily structure for the next couple months until uni starts next year.

**Molly:** With or without the impacts of coronavirus and online learning, from year seven I've been motivated to get through high school and go onto bigger and better things.

The idea of finishing exams and officially graduating is what has got me through the year. I enjoy school, but the relief to be finished and finally free of the stress is the biggest motivator.

**Josephine:** I guess I have mixed feelings about leaving school, because its structure is almost all you have ever known for the past 13 years, and you get to see your friends practically every day. But on the other hand I am so excited for the next part of my life and all the fun adventures it is next to contain.

**Q2 - Ambitions for the near future?**

**Jessika:** I wish to go to university and start my degree in psychology. I also want to go on one holiday at some point.

**Molly:** After exams I will be getting straight into work. Originally I had plans to head straight to uni, but amongst COVID and lockdowns I decided to take a gap year, buy a four-wheel drive and just enjoy where I live and the people around me.

In 2023 I will head off to uni to complete a commerce/public health and health promotion



Swifts Creek P-12 College's Josephine Gallagher, advocate for pineapple on pizza.



Lakes Entrance Secondary College captain, Jessika Perrett, future psychologist/psychology teacher.



Orbst Secondary College's Molly Short.

degree.  
**Josephine:** What's next? It's the big question I've been asking myself all year.

Currently, I am hoping to move to Melbourne and get a teaching degree at a university, but plans can always change so I guess we will have to wait and see.

**Q3 - How did you rate being in the generation who had to learn how to home school?**

**Jessika:** A solid 4/10. Not a lot of people choose to home school... and I can see why. It was so hard to get used to after 13 years of waking up at 8am every day to go to school. It was difficult to get used to looking at a screen all day as opposed to having concepts explained by a teacher to help deepen understanding.

However, by the end I did work out how to motivate myself to continue working hard.

**Molly:** I did not enjoy home schooling. I missed my social network, my teachers and also the usual senior school experience.

At the end of the day it was tough luck. A positive of these two years is I know I'm extremely resilient. I know firmly, being out and about in the world will not phase me and I'm ready for the independence and challenges.

**Josephine:** It was quite the experience. The price of living in such interesting times I suppose.

From my own experience I think that home schooling definitely had its benefits alongside the negatives, it provided flexibility and not to mention access to the pantry at all times.

However, I was definitely glad to be back in the classroom when restrictions eased.

They have helped me with both school and personal matters to the best of their ability and I appreciate them so much for it.

We were also able to have fun and tell jokes while we were learning information and it made the year so much more enjoyable than what it could have been considering the impact COVID has had on schooling.

So don't make enemies with your teachers, make friends with them.

**Molly:** Every student on earth has been effected by coronavirus. My advice would be put it aside, and at whatever age start thinking about life after school, imagine yourself doing the things you want to be doing and get excited.

Everything is ahead of you, so smash out the sacs and exams, enjoy your friends and family and do exactly what you want to do.

**Josephine:** I know it is a cliché, but year 12 is a marathon, not a sprint.

You need to be kind to yourself, make sure you are doing a little bit often, rather than all at once. This will make sure you don't burn yourself out, but also the consistent practice will be much more beneficial than a big cramming session. Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help, there are plenty of people cheering you on.

### **Parents Zone**

Anglicare Victoria are excited to present to you our November edition of the ParentZone@Home Newsletter. Please find the link below to the Newsletter that is on our website. You will find many activities, Calendar of events and ideas of creative play.

[https://0a4bb433-7d31-4523-9b27-a4adbb2c02fa.filesusr.com/ugd/7e437c\\_7dfd6c4fa48b4077bb26953e77005e6b.pdf](https://0a4bb433-7d31-4523-9b27-a4adbb2c02fa.filesusr.com/ugd/7e437c_7dfd6c4fa48b4077bb26953e77005e6b.pdf)



# ParentZone @ Home

## November 2021

By ParentZone Gippsland

Information for Parents and Carers Across  
Gippsland

**PARENTZONE**

**BETTER  
TOMORROWS**



**COVID  
REGULATIONS  
APPLY**

There is an attendance limit. Please phone or text your name to confirm your attendance 0400 776 040.

Please bring your mask.

# Take part in planning the future for Swifts Creek and District

## COMMUNITY MEETING

WED 10 NOV 2021

6-7:30PM

SWIFTS CREEK

P-12 SCHOOL

(outside undercover  
assembly area)

Please dress according  
to the weather.

The Victorian Forestry Plan will transition the Victorian timber industry away from native timber harvesting by 2030. The \$120 million Victorian Forestry Plan will support workers, businesses, and communities through this change. Come along to the meeting to be part of the conversation.



## What is the Local Development Strategy?

The Local Development Strategy (LDS) will support the community of Swifts Creek to plan for its economic future. The LDS will assist the community with the transition away from native timber harvesting and will result in long-term economic and social benefits for the community. The preparation of the plan will be locally led and undertaken in partnership with stakeholders from the community, business, government and the education and training sector.

## What we will talk about at the meeting?

We will talk about the Victorian Forestry Plan and the transition process.

We will talk about the funding for the LDS, why it will be placed with the Local Government Authority, East Gippsland Shire Council, as the auspice body, and how Council will use the funds to employ a Project Manager to work full-time on the Local Development Strategy.

We will talk about the next steps in the process.

## What will be open for discussion and when?

This meeting is to let you know what is happening and to answer your questions about the process. Once the Project Manager has been appointed, they will talk to the community more closely to find out what their aspirations for the community are and help put it into a plan.

## The Local Development Strategy process

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY GRANT AWARDED	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host agency selected</li> <li>• Grant agreement signed and grant provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project management group established</li> <li>• Project plan, milestones and deliverables agreed grant awarded</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project manager appointed</li> </ul>
CONTEXT ANALYSIS	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desktop analysis and interviews undertaken</li> <li>• Innovation opportunities defined and refined</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement when draft context analysis released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working groups formed</li> </ul>
ENTREPRENEURIAL DISCOVERY	03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steering Committee established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External advice sought where needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project plans and pilots underway</li> </ul>
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMPLETED	04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project plans completed</li> <li>• Local development strategy completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications to the Transition Fund in preparation</li> <li>• Ongoing governance arrangements are established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential sources of private investment identified</li> </ul>