Welcome to 2015. We hope the summer holiday period was a great family time and that you enjoyed this time together.

This year we welcome back Ms Naomi Silvester to ART / Technology, also Ms Casey Miller to ART and Ms Rachel Baggley to the Integration team. We look forward to their contributions to our school.

The students have settled in very well and are already well under way with their studies as they build on the strong Headstart program in 2014.

The staff have come back refreshed and ready for the challenges of delivering an impactful learning program, as well as incorporating the diverse extra-curricular program that allows us to provide a broad educational program for all students.

Currently, the Year 7 students are on camp at Allambee. They are enjoying a wide range of adventure and team building activities. I was fortunate to grab some time on Wednesday to visit the camp, talk with many of our new YSC community members and see all the kids in action.

This school identified, late last year, three priority areas for our continued search for improvement: Curriculum development; Collegiality and Professionalism; and student areas around leadership, reflection & goals, MIPS, relationships, personal and deeper learning, student voice, development of a GPA style assessment tool. More detail will be filtered out as we are ready to roll out these strategies.

Our aim is to become a very high performing school that allows any student to excel and to exit our school ready academically, socially and emotionally to be successful in their chosen endeavours.

I look forward to meeting with all parents and guardians at the various events throughout the year.

David Mowbray
Principal
LEARN TO SAIL
3 DAY COURSE
16,17,18 January, 2015
Adults $10 per day
Students 9-18 Free
10.30am-3.00pm
Book Now!
andrewsmacaulay@gmail.com
Jenny 51 851 233
www.facebook.com/PortAlbertYachtClub

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

UNIFORM PASSES- uniform passes are now to be obtained from the front office. You must get them first thing in the morning, before class. Passes will not be given for more than a school week, unless special circumstances. All students out of school jumpers will be given one for the day, which must be returned washed the next day.

STUDENT ILLNESS- if you are unwell please let the front office know. Do not text your parents!

F3 FORMS- Please note F3 forms will not be accepted without the money, or after the due date.

SECONDHAND UNIFORM AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON
click2sell

Yarram Secondary College are getting behind the new mobile phone app called Clk2Sell for the sale of secondhand school uniform.
The app has been launched for Apple iphones and will follow shortly with an Android version. Parents will be able to list their items of secondhand clothing together with the price, size and contact details under the Yarram Secondary College name. Please note the school will not be part of the deal. Buyers will be able to negotiate directly with the seller. The app is a Department of Education initiative and will eventually replace the secondhand uniform supplies at the schools.

Further information CLK2SELL.com

DRIVING LESSONS
Larry and Dianne Roberts donate $2.50 to us from each driving lesson for students of Yarram Secondary College. This money is used to help provide activities for students during recess and lunch breaks.

For driving lessons please contact them on 5182 6990 or 0409 407 109.

Instructions in driving and hazard perception.
THREE BIG CHANGES TO THE VACCINE PROGRAM

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Wellington Shire Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school on 5182 5522 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Wellington Shire Council.

2. In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The School must have up-to-date information if your child has a medical condition. This is especially important for students who are anaphylactic, who have allergies or are asthmatic or suffer other ailments.

It is important we have the appropriate action plans, signed off by your GP and up-to date medication supplied at the start of each year, if there has been an episode or if your circumstances, symptoms etc change. Please contact the school.

Thank you

*ATTENTION PARENTS*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Could all parents please ensure that the emergency contact details we have for your child is up to date and correct. This includes mobile phone numbers and addresses for yourself and emergency contacts. If you are unsure please check with the front office to see what details we have. Thank you.

- PHONING YOUR CHILD

Could parents please note, IF you need to speak to your child, please call during 1st recess 10.10am or lunchtime 1.15pm-2.00pm unless the message is URGENT ie: medical emergency. Students are NOT to have their mobile phones on them.

- LATE ARRIVAL / EARLY LEAVE

Please note: students who arrive late to school/or leave early, WITHOUT a note, shall be marked as late unexplained.

THIS CAN IMPACT ON YOUTH ALLOWANCE AND VCE ATTENDANCE RECORDS.

No note, no leave!

The school is accountable for all students’ whereabouts and must be recorded; a note confirms that parents know the whereabouts of their child.

- Accident Insurance

This is a reminder for schools that the Department does not provide accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. The cost of any medical attention or ambulance for a student will be borne by the parent/guardian. Parents are liable for all medical expenses incurred because of student injury, including transport costs such as ambulance or air ambulance costs.
**FIXING LIT-Tuesdays**  
3.30-4.30pm.

**BEAT MATHS-Mondays**  
3.30-4.30pm.

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**CASUAL BUS PASSES**

If you require a casual bus pass you must get a form from the front office, take it home and have it signed by a parent, giving 48hrs notice to the school. Once you have travelled on this bus you must then bring a note every time you wish to use it.

The process is the same every time you wish to travel on a different bus.

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**ESSENTIAL ITEMS FEES & CHARGES**

Remember essential items are items the school has to purchase for your child aside from their books. Items include lockers and locks, photocopying, books for the library, class sets of books, shared curriculum resources, computers. Parents are required to make a payment towards the provision of these essential items.

Thank you

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**Important Diary Dates**

**FEBRUARY**

19th InterHouse Swimming Sports  
20th School photos  
24th Music sign up BBQ

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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

HELPERS REQUIRED

Any parents interested in helping in the canteen during the year for recess and or lunchtime please contact the school asap.
MUSIC BBQ
Tuesday 24th Feb
5—7pm

WHO—All instrumental music students, choir and band members and their families (both PIP and Secondary), and students who are interested in beginning lessons.

WHERE—YSC MUSIC CENTRE

- 5.00pm—Meet the teachers, confirm lesson times, pay fees, informal performances.
- 5.30pm—Music items
- 5.45pm—Information session, including fees, camps, concerts.
- 6.00pm—Free BBQ. BYO salad to share.
For further info please contact Linnie Bowlen 51825522

YARRAM SECONDARY COLLEGE
What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term i each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term i each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
School council election process and timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Tuesday 17th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) The date by which the list of candidates, nominator and seconder will be displayed</td>
<td>Thursday 19th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) The date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>Tuesday 24th February 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Close of ballot</td>
<td>Monday 2nd March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) Vote count</td>
<td>Monday 2nd March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>g) Declaration of ballot</td>
<td>Monday 2nd March 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>h) Tentative first council meeting to appoint Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Tentative second council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Tuesday 10th March 2015</td>
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