PHC Strategic Plan – Developing a Long-Term View of the School’s Direction

As you are aware by the school is working on developing a new School Strategic Plan. The school strategic plan is the school’s statement to its community about what it stands for and intends to do over the next four years to improve student outcomes. It defines what the school values most and sets out the school’s goals and targets, key strategies for improvement and resourcing priorities. It provides an important means for involving the school community in setting the school’s direction.

The first piece of work for us is to look at the school profile which covers the school’s purpose – asking ‘What are we here for?’ for example, to provide a friendly, caring and dynamic learning environment that engages students to work to achieve their personal best and values – asking ‘What are our guiding principles and beliefs?’ for example, our school demonstrates excellence, integrity and respect for all.

The school’s purpose and values have been discussed by staff, below is a starting point for discussion and feedback. I invite you to have input and provide feedback on what has been developed by staff so far. Please feel free to come in and chat to Fiona or me, or ring us at school on Ph. 5455 7377 with your thoughts. Thank you.

Purpose

Pyramid Hill College develops independent lifelong learners, valuing academic excellence and student wellbeing in a caring community environment.

Values

RESPECT – For Self, Others and Environment
Resilience
Empathy
Success
Personal best
Excellence
Community
Tolerance

Condolences to the Cookson Family

The school community is very saddened by the sudden loss of Jessica, a valued past member of our school. We pass on our deepest sympathy to Mark and family at this difficult time. Last week the school was contacted by Jenny (headspace Manager Bendigo) to provide support and comfort. Last Friday a number of staff attended attend Jessica’s funeral in Melbourne. Please feel free to contact Fiona Moon or myself for information about the school’s support plan or if you have any concerns about your son/daughter. Contacting us is an important way of ensuring you receive consistent and accurate information and for us to be aware of all parent concerns.

Thought for the Week:

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King Jnr.

Joe Mazzarella, Principal
**Year P-6 Learning Neighbourhood**

**Student of the Week**
- **Kobi Manton** - for using good manners
- **Kaitlin Broad** - for being a positive role model and trying her best in class.
- **Haydyn Clough** - for using good manners and being friendly and helpful in class.

Students swimming times are:
- Monday and Friday - after recess - 11.45
- Tuesdays - after lunch - 2.00

**Lion King**
Tickets need to be finalised early in March. Many parents have already returned a deposit ($15) or full payment ($50) for each student. For those who have only paid a deposit, could you please send the balance of $35 as soon as possible. There are still families who have not indicated that they wish their children to attend, so if you would like them to take advantage of this great opportunity, please let us know and make full payment as soon as possible.

**Swimming Sports**
Following a very successful swimming sports on Friday, students in P-2 were presented with certificates of participation. (See photo below)
Swimming classes will continue this week and next week - weather permitting.

**Window Display** - There is now a window display for the P-6 area - just outside the conference room, please check it out next time you are at school.

**Parent Info Session re Free Program**
- **Monday, 23rd February, 2-3.30pm**

Have you ever thought about wanting some new ways to help your child cope with the ups and downs of life? To help teach your kids about strong feelings and how they can manage them better? To learn parent approaches to remain calm when things get stressful in your family? These feelings skills are really important to help children make and keep friends, do well at school and feel good about themselves.

Parents of children in Pre-School to grade 6 have an opportunity in Term 2 2015 to participate in a free parent program at our school. It is an 8 week program which runs from **1.15 am to 3.15pm on Mondays** at Pyramid Hill College commencing on **Monday 13th April 2015** and conclude on **Monday 1st June 2015**.

If you would like to find out more about the program, please come and meet presenters Kerry Holland and Megan Rohde from Bendigo CASEA (Bendigo Health) from **2.00 to 3.30 pm on Monday 23rd February**.

If you cannot make this time and would like some more information on the program please call Kerry or Megan directly on Ph. 5442 7596.

To express your interest in this program, please R.S.V.P – June Smith Ph. 5455 7377.

**Reminders**
- Year 2/3 students require an art smock for Art on Mondays
- Year 2/3 students have homework each week, which is due on Wednesdays.

**Spare Clothing**
If you have any blue school polo tops in sizes 10-12, that you no longer require, could you please send them along to school.
Year 7-10 Learning Neighbourhood

College Captains
Congratulations to Steven Gunther and Dan Hercott on being elected College Captains. Congratulations to Abbey Dingwall, Jasmine Lacey and Hugh Miller who are the Vice Captains for 2015. Together you will all make a terrific leadership team.

Swimming Sports
Congratulations to our House Captains Hugh Miller & Jasmine Lacey and Abbey Dingwall & Tess Hampson, who all did a fantastic job at Friday’s swimming sports. Congratulations also to the entire 7-10 sub-school who were present on the day. You all participated fully and volunteered wherever you saw a need. You all displayed wonderful team spirit.

Reminder to Year 7-10 – It’s not OK to be away – you fall behind and your friends miss you!!

Berwick Students to Visit
Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th of March. Traditionally this has been a great chance for our year 9/10 students to make new friends and introduce the city kids to a little of our country lifestyle. All students from both schools will undertake a session of community service on the Thursday.

Year 7-8 ‘Mates Camp’
Congratulations to all year 7 and 8 students who have settled into the routines of their classes very quickly. It is great to see that all students are putting their hands up for jobs and participating enthusiastically in all areas. At present staff are busy organising a camp for year 7 and 8 which will focus on team building, self-esteem, friendships and fun. This camp will hopefully take place this term depending upon the availability of appropriate campsites. More details will be coming soon.

Barb Bear MIPS – next visit Wed March 11th
Motivational Media Years - Friday March 13th
Duke of Ed Practice Canoe Camp - Wed 18th March – Friday 20th March
Year 10 Loddon Prison Visit - Tuesday March 24th
Work Experience- Year 10 only - Dates 14th – 18th September
(the last week of Term 3)

Mrs L Talbot
Neighbourhood Leader

Music Lessons
Please note that payment for term one must be received before students can begin their music lessons.

School Requisites/Home Eco
Payment for all school requisites including Home Eco for those paying for the term or year, should made as soon as possible please. If you are unsure about what is owing, please contact the office. Parents are able to use EFTPOS (available in the office) or Online Banking for any payments to school.
Banking details are:
BSB 083-693
A/c No. 60880 2159
Please identify your payment when processing.

Immunisation
Thank you to everyone for returning the permission cards so promptly. Immunising will be on Thursday, 19th March. Year 9 and 10 students who will be away on the Canoe trip, can catch up at the next local infant immunising session and will be transported there by car.

Homework Night
Thursday Nights
In the Science Room from 3.30—4.30 (Healthy Snack included)
Teacher assistance available
All students from Years 5-10 welcome

Change of Contact Details
If you have moved house or changed your mobile or home phone number, could you please let us know.
It is disappointing when calling a parent to receive the message that “this phone is no longer connected” and we have not been given an alternative number.

Every Day Counts
We have reactivated the “Student Whereabouts” book in the office, so if a student is late to school or leaves early, they must sign in and out giving a reason for their late arrival or early departure.
Students will also need to account for their absence with a note/phone call/diary entry as to why they have been absent.
**House Swimming Sports**

A great day of swimming was held last Friday with the Pyramid Hill College and St Patrick’s Primary School House Swimming Sports taking place. Participation and sportsmanship displayed by all students was great to witness and the standard of swimming was excellent. Thank you to all staff and parents who helped out throughout the day in particular Miss Wilson for organising the P-2 events in the afternoon.

Congratulations to our House captains: Loddon - Abbey & Tess; Terrick - Hugh & Jasmine for their great leadership and organisation throughout the day. A special mention to all of the senior students who were fantastic on the day and conducted themselves very well.

Overall results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yrs 3-10</th>
<th>Loddon</th>
<th>445</th>
<th>Years P-2</th>
<th>Loddon</th>
<th>161</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Terrick</td>
<td>369</td>
<td></td>
<td>Terrick</td>
<td>283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Overall | Loddon | 606 | Terrick | 652 |

**RECORDS**

Although the swimming participation and standard was great, only one record was broken this year:

Abbey Dingwall  OPEN Breaststroke – 29.09sec (R Hickmott 1983- 29.23)

Thank you to all the parents and family members who participated in the traditional Teachers / Parents vs Students relay race. It was a fantastic way to finish off the day.