26 February 2016

Principal’s Message

I extend a warm welcome to new and returning students and families of Coorparoo Secondary College. The year is well and truly underway with classwork, swimming carnival, trials and auditions already occurring across the college. Since being appointed as the permanent Principal of Coorparoo Secondary College I have met with a variety of people associated with this unique community and getting to know as many of you as possible during this time. As a leader and a parent I am strongly focused on ensuring that each student has an opportunity to achieve their full potential by building upon Coorparoo’s culture that models and promotes high expectations of: Teaching & Learning, Behaviour and Uniform.

My expectations since arriving at Coorparoo SC has been focused upon ensuring the school systems and procedures to assist your child in their learning at the school are reinforced and maintained. There is no substitute for hard work and the best advice I can give students and parents is:

Attendance, positive behaviour and full completion of class work, homework and assessment are the keys to achieving the best possible results for all students.

Coorparoo SC continues to build an exciting school community through this clear focus on high expectations and clearly defined standards. Congratulations to our staff and parents who have done an outstanding job in helping the students to prepare for, and enjoy, their first weeks at school. Our school has many outstanding opportunities available to our students and I look forward to students and families taking advantage of this. Our school website, Facebook page and our new e-newsletter provides a great way to keep up to date with the latest information from school.

Who is new @ Coorparoo Secondary College?

Coorparoo SC welcomes new and returning staff to the school in 2016.

Helen Ramsay, Judith Henwood and Dianna Burgess join the CSC teaching team.

We also welcome Jackie Newbegin who joins the college as the acting Business Services Manager.

Consistency & the Basics…From the teaching staff:-

Simple Key messages that have been and will continue to be communicated to ALL students:

- Punctuality to class & school,
- Carry their diaries everywhere (their passport), It is on the desk in every class
- Be prepared for all classes with the right equipment,
- Zero tolerance of physical violence & verbal abuse,
- Wear the correct school uniform with pride
- Respect others & the environment - pick up litter.
- And a fundamental moral purpose and belief that every student can learn and achieve

Great state. Great opportunity.
Learning Matters

Going for goals!

What kind of progress is your teenager making at school? Is homework being done? Is s/he working to potential? Does s/he see school in a positive light? If your teenager does complain about school, that’s pretty normal. However because you’re their key role model, it is worthwhile trying to help them see the relevance of school. One way to do this is by talking to them about their goals, and more importantly, how school helps to achieve them. At the end of Term 1, students will be issued an interim report card. This will be issued in the last couple of days of the school term. At this time, parents will also be able to book parent/teacher interviews. These take place on Tuesday 19th April from 3.30pm to 7.50pm.

Our 2016 School Priorities

Our school Improvement priorities for 2016 are targeting:

- Reading
- Learning Skills
- Student Success

These are underpinned by:

- High expectations of and for all
- Data informed decision making
- A whole school culture that promotes learning
- Schoolwide expectations of I am Safe, I am Responsible and I am Respectful

Responsible Behaviour at Coorparoo Secondary College

The Behaviour Traffic Lights

Over the last week the administration team have visited all classes to explain and discuss the expectations around ‘Responsible Behaviour at Coorparoo Secondary College’. The poster below is prominent in every classroom and across the college. Students will be constantly reminded to be ‘Working and Learning in the Green Zone’. Please ask your son/daughter about the Behaviour Traffic Lights at Coorparoo. A part of the process will involve parents signing the student’s behaviour review form if and when they may be required to work in the ‘yellow’ Alternative Workspace zone.

Beliefs behind the Behaviour Traffic Lights

At Coorparoo Secondary College we believe that each individual:

1. Makes choices about how they act and treat each other.
2. Is responsible for their behaviour and the choices they make.
3. Should accept the consequences of their actions and understand the importance of making amends.
4. Can choose to change their behaviour.

Student Leaders

It is my great pleasure to welcome the College Captains for 2016. The school captains Cienna Smith and Liam Pettigrew, Vice Captains, Eleanor Lindert and Aidan Hopper will be ambassadors who embody the school values by modelling the way, investing their energy, thinking and time in working to make a difference at Coorparoo Secondary College; connecting and interacting with others in order to strengthen the school community and inspiring others to think differently in the search for inspiration and opportunity in everyday learning. I am confident that all our student leaders of Coorparoo Secondary College as selected by their fellow students and school staff will act as a team by being relational, approachable, reliable and trustworthy with high expectations of themselves and others by taking a proactive role in all aspects of the school community. Congratulations to all CSC student leaders and I look forward to working with each of them in order for them to leave a legacy that will last for years to come. Our leaders are:

- Indigenous Captain: Keinita Fairman
- Student Representative Council Captains: Angelica Virsu, Joshua McKernie
- Arts Captains: Lucy Sawyer, Jordyn Zeller
- Sports Captains: Sarah Smajlovic, Ryan Nancarrow
- House Captains: Apollo - Jordyn Zeller, Sam D’Alessandro
- Orion - Karl Brinsmead
- Titan - Georgia Croft, Caleb Brook

STAR is here! Spend Time and Read

In Week 4 of this term Coorparoo Secondary College launched STAR- Spend Time and Read. This program places a strong focus on reading for students across the school. The STAR program involves the whole school community (Students, teachers and non-teaching staff) spending 10 minutes every day reading. An important aspect of the program and developing the culture across the school is the current emphasis on students selecting reading material of their choice. In addition to this we also encourage families to continue this focus on reading at home. Reading can open up many opportunities for students across all subject areas and will continue to be a strong focus throughout the year. As a school we will have a clear focus on developing student vocabulary (and using these words in speech and print), fluency (being able to read quickly and naturally, recognising words automatically and grouping words quickly) and comprehension (building meaning and making
inferences from text). All subject areas will be working to assist across all year levels to help enhance our student’s work in this area. STAR will occur during the first 10 minutes of the lesson on 4 days of the week as follows:

- Monday period 3 – 11.50 to 12.00
- Tuesday period 4 – 1.40 to 1.50
- Thursday period 4 – 1.40 to 1.50
- Friday period 3 – 11.50 to 12.00

We will not undertake the program on a Wednesday

Following are the guiding principles for objectives behind STAR:

- “The six elements of effective reading instruction don’t require much time or money – just educator’s decision to put them in place.” (Allington & Gabriel)
- Every child reads something he or she chooses.
- Every child reads accurately.
- Every child reads something he or she understands.
- Every child writes about something personally meaningful.
- Every child talks with peers about reading and writing.
- Every child listens to a fluent adult read aloud.

‘Mobile phones and using technology to Work and Learn in the Green Zone’

The Green Box! CSC is working to build a schoolwide culture of responsible use of mobile phones and technology to Work and Learn in the Green Zone.

In line with the College’s schoolwide expectations we are looking to reinforce a culture within and beyond the classroom to ensure that students are not using their mobile phones in classes and are using technology for the intended purpose:- That is as a ‘learning tool’ rather than as a source for engaging in ‘games’ and social media.

How it works?

- A Green container has been placed at the front of each classroom
- Students using their mobile phones in classes or not using technology for the intended purpose will be asked to place the item (phone/ technology) into the Green Box. It is made clear to the students that they can collect it at the end of the lesson.

- At the end of the lesson the teacher monitors the collection of the item to ensure it is returned to the student. The teacher discusses with the student regarding the reasons you asked them to use the Green Box in terms of the schoolwide expectations

POPSTARS the Musical is coming in 2016.

There are 48 students and 5 staff currently working each Wednesday from 1.20-4.30 on creating a great musical at CSC. Students are currently rehearsing scenes 1 and 2 in class and at home. Each student has a book or script for notes and music scores for rehearsal as they prepare for the opening night later in the year.

FIRE and EVACUATION PROCEDURES

With recent media releases regarding school evacuations re bomb threats, we can assure all our Parents that three weeks ago on Friday 5th February, our whole school practiced the Fire Evacuation Procedures. On Monday February 15, we also practiced the Lockdown Procedures to ensure the welfare and safety of all the school community.

2016 P & C needs your help

The AGM of the Coorparoo Secondary College P&C will be conducted on Monday 21 March in the Library. The P&C do an outstanding job supporting our students and work hard to ensure our uniform shop and canteen are providing a great service to the school community. I would encourage all parents from our school to engage with this important group. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month from 6.30pm in the Library.

I encourage all parents to consider becoming involved in this vitally important aspect of CSC. If you would like to nominate for any of the positions or find out what the position entails please contact the P&C at pandc@coorparooschool@coorparoossecodarycollege.eq.edu.au. Any way you can assist would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the college community for welcoming me into your school and the many parents, caregivers, teachers and students who support the colleges’ high expectations culture on a daily basis. I look forward to continuing the work to strengthen the college community of this proud school where the schoolwide expectations are: I am Safe, I am Responsible and I am Respectful.

Regards

Jeff Barnett
Principal
Student Success

Welcome back to another exciting, yet busy year. I would like to extend a very special welcome to our many new students and their families including our new Principal, Mr Barnett. Welcome to our Coorparoo family. We hope that you enjoy coming to school as much as we do.

This year will be about celebrating the success of our students.

Firstly though, I would like to congratulate the graduating seniors from 2015. Each student received their QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education). CSC now has consecutive years of 100% student QCE attainment. The challenge is for the 2016 graduates to achieve the same. Thirteen out of the seventeen students who received an OP scored between 1 & 15. One student deserves a special mention due to her outstanding results. Ursula Brown achieved an OP 1 and due to her hard work has been accepted to Cambridge to commence study in September. Well done Ursula. For our other graduating students who were successful in their QTAC application, they will now be commencing orientation with their studies beginning next week. We are very proud of our students and wish them well as they commence the next phase of their life.

It has been a great start to the year with the first Academic Recognition Assembly (for Semester 2 2015) held on Thursday 11th February. It was great to see the increase in students receiving bronze and silver awards this year however the challenge is to move the silvers to gold for the next ceremony. All groups were photographed receiving their awards and the photographs attached for your perusal. I also have these displayed in my room on my Student Success board.

Thursday 25th February was the Senior Leaders Induction ceremony. This is a very special day in our calendar, where we recognise those Year 12 students who have been elected to leadership positions by their peers and teaching staff. On this day, we also recognised the elected Form representatives who will be the voice for their House Year Level on the SRC, Student Representative Council. This year the SRC will be supervised by our Chaplain, Tamar Mulholland and lead by our SRC captains, Angelica Virsu and Joshua Mc Kernie. Our senior leaders have already undertaken their first fundraising venture for the year with a celebration of Valentine’s Day. The morning was a great success.

Attendance - Attending school is a vital part of student’s success. We must make sure that every day counts for every student. Our College goal on attendance is 95% this year. This equates to each student being absent for a total of 10 school days over the year. The current overall attendance rating is at 91% and this need more attention. I have found that following this data to be very interesting and would like to share the statistics.

- Year 7 – 96.3%
- Year 8 – 93.3%
- Year 9 – 89.3%
- Year 10 – 90.3%
- Year 11 – 89.3%
- Year 12 – 90.0%

The top Form class attendance thus far is 7A with 96.8%. There are 5 other Form classes in the 90% and above range and they include, 7O (93.5%), 7T (92.9%), 11A (91.58%), 12T (90.82%) and 8T (90.23%). Each of the mentioned Form Groups have each scored 20 credits for the SPIRIT CUP, with 7A receiving a further 20 credits as the top Form for the month. I will continue to monitor this data. If your child is not at school for whatever reason please call the CSC Absence Line (33948813) and explain the absence.

It is important to keep the communications between school and home open. If you have changed your address, email or phone number/s recently, please make sure that you have informed the office of the changes. It is vital to have up to date information at all times.

The Senior Schooling Information Evening has been postponed and rescheduled for Tuesday the 8th March. A letter will go out to all year 10s-12s regarding the evening and the topics to be covered. The letter is also attached on the link below. I would recommend every year 10 & 12 family to attend so that everyone is clear on the aspects that affect students in their final years of study. The evening will run from 6:30 to 8.00pm and will be held in the Auditorium. From this evening, I will organise a number of twilight sessions for interested families in relation to QCS and study techniques for seniors.

Call out for old uniforms: I am continuing my plea, requesting uniform and school shoe donations from my families who have students who’ve out grown or moved from junior to senior and no longer need certain items. My boys don’t seem to have belts so if you have old belts black or grey at home that are not used please add them to my donations pile. A big thanks to everyone who has helped out thus far. You make my job so much easier.

In closing for this month, ask your child/ren about what kind of learner they are? What criterion best represents who they are as learners? Are they a wombat, dolphin, eagle or kangaroo? All year 10s, 11s and 12s have, with their Access teacher,
on Wednesday examined their personality type and identified themselves with a particular critter. Each student will then have an illustration on their diary to denote the sort of learner they are. Students will be required to think about how they learn, and what makes learning easier for them. It’s very interesting in that every student, that I have had a discussion with around their learning, agrees with the comments of the personality characteristics. The more that we understand about ourselves, the easier it is to change our environments to encourage greater engagement in our own learning. It is about being self-reliant.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me regarding your son or daughter on 3394 8822.

Regards

Allison Tumini
Deputy Principal

Junior Secondary Deputy Principal’s Report

LOST PROPERTY

Ms Lunney has a bag full of hats and water bottles! I have been taking them to parade but have not found the owners! If you are missing anything please come and see me.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUNIOR SRC MEMBERS

On Thursday we had our Senior Induction Ceremony. Our Junior SRC Members were recognised. Juniors nominate for the position and will work alongside the Senior Leaders as part of the Student Representative Council. Congratulations to our members.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to Titan for winning the recent Swimming Carnival. Not to worry Apollo, we will make up for it at the Cross Country (15th April) and Athletics Carnivals (24th June).

S.T.A.R. READING

As per Principal Jeff Barnett’s email last week, S.T.A.R. (Spend Time and Read) begins on Monday this week at CSC. Teachers asked all students to write in their Student Diaries last week to bring a book. Each day (except Wednesdays), for the remainder of the school year, our whole school will Spend Time and Read for 10 minutes a day. S.T.A.R. is a part of the school’s targeted improvement agenda for all students. Reading is everything. Reading regularly improves our writing, our spelling, our punctuation and grammar and our concentration in class. I look forward to sitting in class beside our Junior Secondary Students reading silently for 10 minutes each day and conversing with them in the playground during the breaks about what they are reading.

LAPTOPS

Mrs Thomson, Mrs Webber and Mrs Garrett have been busy chasing students for their laptop paperwork in order to issue each student their laptop. Students were given laptop paperwork to take home and get signed, unless parents already signed the paperwork with Mrs Soper when they paid fees. If you have not seen any laptop paperwork from your student, please let me know and I will follow it up for you. Once the laptop paperwork is signed, students take their paperwork to the Library and ask to see Mrs Webber. Mrs Webber will issue the laptop.

LOCKERS

Mrs Thomson has been busy allocating lockers. Each day, Mrs Thomas has been going to Form Class to allocate students their lockers. If your student has not received their locker yet, please let me know. I will ask Mrs Thomas to follow this up for you.

FIRE AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

With recent media releases regarding school evacuations re bomb threats, I thought I would assure our Junior Secondary Parents that two weeks ago on Friday 5th February, our whole school practised the Fire Evacuation Procedures. On Monday, we are going to practise (as before) the Lockdown Procedures.

TIMETABLE

If you would like a copy of your student’s timetable, please email me and I will send you one.

TERM 1 REPORT CARD

At the end of Term 1, students will be issued a report card. This will be issued in the last couple of days of the school term. At this time, parents will also be able to book parent/teacher interviews. These take place on Tuesday 19th April from 3.30pm to 7.50pm.

SPELLING WORDS

Each term, students are issued ten spelling words by their individual subject teachers. Students are to write these spelling words in their Student Diary. I ask all parents to kindly check their student’s diary and ensure your child has recorded these words. The lists are on page 6. All students are issued a pre-test at the start of the term and a post-test at the end of the term based on the spelling words. The spelling words are directly related to the subject matter of the curriculum being taught.

PERSONAL LEARNING TARGETS

You will also see on page 2 of the Student Diary where students and teachers record the student’s negotiated target of achievement for that particular subject. Once students have recorded all targets, they are to get their parent/carer to sign on page 2. Form Teachers check the diaries regularly to see if they have been signed.

If you ever wish to discuss your child’s learning or personal needs, please never hesitate to phone me.

Thanks

Amy Lunney
Deputy Principal
Swimming Carnival Age Champions

Thursday 4th February saw our students and staff head to Musgrave Park Pool for our annual swimming carnival.

Participation on the day was great and we must say a big congratulations to the winning house and our age champions listed below.

12yrs girls Taylor S.
13yrs girls Jaimee T., 13yrs boys Blake G.
14yrs girls Kalani H., 14yrs boys William G.
15yrs girls Jemima M., 15yrs boys Tai G.
16 yrs girls Donna M., 16yrs boys Curtis C.
17yrs girls Mikayla Cu., 17yrs boys Morgan W.
18yrs boys Callum P.

Winning house Titan.

Basketball Training

Basketball training has started and runs every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3pm – 4.30pm. Junior boys have commenced their Friday night competition and the senior boys will start after Easter.

Year 7 Update

The Year 7s got off to a flying start at CSC this year. During Transition Week students engaged in a range of activities building new friendships and learning about CSC, School Wide Expectations and the day-to-day running of the college.

Students participated in a three day program, culminating with a trip to South Bank. Staff and students had a great time, and have now settled in to the term.

Ashleigh Thomson
Junior Secondary Coordinator
Home Economics, Hospitality & Junior Science

Urgent Reminder from the Office

If your student is away for any reason please make sure you call the Student Absence line on 3394 8813 to notify us. We already have a large number of students with unexplained absences on file.

Focus on Year 9 Home Economics

Our Year 9 Home Economics students have begun the year in a flurry of action. Students have been developing their textiles knowledge and skills. They have been working diligently to complete a range of textile products including an apron, beanie and then their major assessment, a bucket hat. In this assignment, they have to utilise their textile knowledge, research sun safety then produce a sun safe hat teenagers would like to wear.

Mitchell
Phakjira, Jaydee, Moy & Selena
& Macy

Year 9 Manual Arts

Once students got over the shock that there were no chairs to sit at in the workshop we have got down to business with students busily working on their Spice Rack project. Most students have been working well and I have not had to give out any “band aids”. Let’s hope that continues.

Safety Issue

With the amount of traffic that we have outside the school at drop off and pickup times we would like to remind everyone to take care and slow down. A number of staff have reported cars speeding through pick up zones that are for buses only. This could put our students in danger. Please ensure that you vigilant in ensuring the safety of all of our students.
Laughter is the Best Medicine

How is it that the sound of laughter is far more contagious than any cough, sniffle, or a yawn?

Laughter is a natural part of life. The part of the brain that connects to and facilitates laughter is among the first parts of the nervous system to come on line after birth. Infants begin smiling during the first weeks of life and laugh out loud within months of being born. Even if you did not grow up in a household where laughter was a common sound, you can learn to laugh at any stage of life. Now is the time.

While humour and laughter can cause a domino effect of joy and amusement for anyone in range, it is well researched that this activity can make us healthier.

Though it can be difficult to define what exactly makes humour funny, laughter has long been considered helpful to the healing process. Substantial research indicates that humour and laughter play a health role.

Did you know that laughing:

- Exercises the internal organs (great for the stomach muscles and the cardiovascular system),
- With all that mouth opening and deep breathing, laughing gets more oxygen to the brain (to enhance alertness and thinking),
- Boosts endorphins (natural mood-elevating and pain-killing chemicals),
- Strengthens the immune system (to help fight off disease.)
- Laughter has also been shown to improve pain tolerance, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and protect the heart.

The social effects too are many. They include:

- Improving a person’s optimism and outlook on life
- Connecting you to others – others will want to spend time with you
- Fostering instant relaxation
- And most importantly IT MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

Unlike more invasive therapies, laughter therapy is cheap and has no harmful side effects - not bad for such an enjoyable activity.

The great Groucho Marx who spent his movie life clowning around stated: A clown is like an aspirin, only he works twice as fast.

But Humour must be used with care. Children should not be exposed to inappropriate adult humour. Never use humour to offend or shame another person. It’s not about laughing at another person but ensuring everyone enjoys the joke. If you feel a need to laugh at someone make sure that that someone is you.

Try these activities. They will benefit your child and you:

- Watch comedy DVD’s and TV shows
- Visit the circus – do some clowning around yourself
- Listen to comedy while driving – the news these days is very depressing
- Read comic authors/ tell jokes.
- Seek out funny people - spend less time with overly serious people.
- Bring humour into conversations. Tell and invite funny stories
- Just practise smiling and laughing. If you have to - ‘fake it till you make it’

Let’s see more people laughing, and smiling. Our communities, including schools and workplaces, can only benefit.


Sarah Round - Guidance Officer

P&C AGM

The P&C Association will be holding the AGM on Monday 21st March at 6.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Library. All are welcome to attend and we look forward to welcoming new faces to the team.

Assistance with School Costs

Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- School uniforms and text books
- Computers, laptops and tablets
- Excursions and camps
- Sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- Music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact David Smit, your local Saver Plus Worker:
- (07) 3115 6202/ 0417 436 183
- david.smit@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by CAR and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in South Australia by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
**Redbacks Netball Club**

Redbacks Netball Club are looking for open/senior (Under 17/18/19 and 20/30 years old players) to join our club.

There are several spots available in our opens team, in particularly GS and GA.

Training is Thursday nights at Coorparoo & games are 3.10pm or 4.30pm on Saturday also at Coorparoo.

Feel free to pass this onto anyone you may think is interested.

Please contact Madonna Hodge 0417 603 940 for further information.

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