

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – 21 March, 2014

SPRING FAIR

As a result of the \$35,000 raised at the 2013 spring fair, we would like the School community to put forward submissions that will improve the College Programs and resources. Projects that impact on the wider school community will also be considered. The categories and their nominal amounts are listed below.

CATEGORY	Nominal Max for any 1 grant	Past Examples
1. Indigenous program	\$2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous Mural• Indigenous garden
2. School Travel Scholarship	\$4000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Orchestra tour• China Trip Sponsor• Camps for disadvantaged
3. Kitchen Garden Program Subsidy	\$7000	
4. Resources Grants	\$6000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media cameras/video• Talking story poles for library• Badge Maker
5. School Donation	\$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asylum Seekers• Cancer Foundation
6. School Improvement Projects <i>*Whole school projects are the preferred ones</i>	\$15000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theatre lighting• Indoor/Outdoor furnishings• Canteen• Parent Association gear

The final call for requests has a deadline of Close of Business on Wednesday, 26 March.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

I urge all parents to attend the inaugural AGM on Monday, 31 March in the library, which will be followed by an election of office bearers. Again I ask all parents to think about nominating for these important roles. The strength of our school lies in its community and we need a strong and active PA to give our parent voice more representation.

School Council

Anthony Crowley is stepping down as a school councillor and SC president due to work commitments. I would like to thank Anthony for his kind support and active participation in the governance of this school. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and enthusiasm to this school that has been inspiring to many. I still remember the night when I picked Anthony out of the open night audience and asked why he was considering Collingwood College for his children. His

impromptu heartfelt response was amazing with his strong message of support for our “little oasis” and he described why creativity was an important ‘ingredient’ in the education he was seeking for his children. Anthony now has 3 beautiful children at Collingwood College. Thanks Anthony and I look forward to working with you again in the near future.

RIDE to SCHOOL DAY – R2S

This was our first attempt at promoting R2S Day and it was great to see the spirit and enthusiasm for many forms of travel. The staff and families celebrated the importance of the day with a fruit breakfast and there was a great atmosphere. Many thanks go out to the army of volunteers who supported the day but in particular Tara Watson (Parent and Travel Planner extraordinaire) and Liria and the band of SRC reps.

COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN

The leadership team and staff have been preparing for development of our new 4 year Strategic Plan. We had planned for a Peer Review as part of our lead in to the plan development however the department is to implement a new scheme that is yet to be fully announced. Our strategic plan will set goals and targets for our entire educational program under 4 headings – Achievement, Student Wellbeing, Student Engagement and Productivity.

FEES AND PAYMENTS

I would like to remind the community that next **Friday, 28 MARCH** is the due date for all fees including Class contribution fees and Instrumental Music fees. This is the day when the second and final payment is due. If families are struggling with the payment of these fees then I ask that you make an appointment to come and have a confidential chat about the possible ways these financial commitments can be met. This may involve a payment plan or others means. If you cannot make payment now then a plan is still relevant in formalising a commitment to addressing the matter in the future.

REFUNDS ON CAMPS and EXCURSIONS

I would like to point out to parents that in most cases, camps and excursions require forward planning and so bookings and upfront payments are commonly required well in advance. There are also the hidden costs such as teacher replacement and program fees. Our policy is that in the event that a student is withdrawn from a camp or excursion, that they may receive a full or partial refund, providing that there are no costs to the school due to the withdrawal. Most activities have a small portion that is designed to create a surplus

for each event but unfortunately even this buffer may not make a full refund possible without a cost being passed on to the school. If more than one withdrawal occurs, then consideration will be given to the merits of each case to determine who receives a refund.