Dear Westall Secondary College Community,

Welcome Back – I would like to welcome back all students to Westall Secondary College for 2016 and a special welcome to all of our Year 7 students and students new to the school. It has been a very calm and smooth start which is a credit to all parents, staff and students.

Uniform – Continuing from last year we will be very strict with this. Full uniform must be worn at all times. Students will be sent to the front office if not in full uniform for the issue to be addressed. All staff will check uniform at the beginning of each lesson.

Punctuality – Being on time is important on so many levels. Ultimately our job is getting students ready for the workplace and as I am sure you all know, when you have a paid job, the “boss” isn’t going to accept lateness. Let’s get into a good routine straight away. Being early is more relaxing too and gives you time to get things organised properly and arrive at class calm and ready to learn. We ask for the support of all parents and carers in helping ensure students arrive at school on time.

Personal Best and Wobble Zone – All we want and ask of students is to give their best effort at all times in all subjects. Our staff are here to support all students and our job is to help students achieve their own personal best. The “wobble zone” comes from the example of when your are learning to ride a bike you will “wobble”. We are trying to find the wobble zone for each student in each subject. The point where the work is not too easy, not too hard, but challenging and making students improve and grow. This is what our staff call differentiation.

Aim High – Part of our differentiated model is knowing in every class which students are working above the expected level. There will be some form of assessment over the next month in every subject so that staff know who these students are. I encourage students and parents/carers to talk about “Aim High” with teachers and to have a goal in this area. Students, think of your favourite subject or the subject you perform best in and have a goal to be an Aim High student for that subject at least. Many of you might have multiple subjects where you qualify for Aim High. Being an Aim High student is something you can be proud of and something you can refer to in your resume.

Facebook, Website and Digital Sign at the front of school – I encourage you to check these 3 digital platforms out. Lots of information and communication will occur via these platforms throughout the year. If you have a facebook account, be sure to add Westall Secondary College as a favourite.

Swimming Sports – A fantastic day for our Swimming Sports yesterday. These events are such an important part of our school calendar. I was so proud of our whole school community on the success of the day. Great support, teamwork and swimming talent where all on show. Results from the day will be communicated.

Yr 11 and VCAL Camp – Thanks to the staff who supported and attended this camp and congratulations to all the students involved. I know you will have gained a lot from this experience and I look forward to hearing more about the camp over the next few weeks.
Message from the Principal continued ...

Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools
I am writing to reassure you in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days. Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.
If you have any questions please contact me.

Kids Nation Magazine
Mia Setyawan (nee Ouw) is an ex student of Westall Secondary College and now Editor of international publication, “Kids Nation” magazine. Mia is a real success story and one of many examples of students from Westall Secondary College who have gone on to become incredibly successful. Mia has offered to provide our school community free digital access to this valuable resource. I have included Mia’s bio below with a link to the latest edition of this magazine. I hope you enjoy it.

Have a great weekend.
Tristan Lanarus
Principal

I’m Mia. I graduated from Westall Secondary College in 1998.
My family and I moved to Australia 19 years ago, from a non English-speaking country. My parents decided to enroll me and my sister in Westall Language Centre. When I came to the centre, it was my first time meeting people from different countries, languages and cultures. It was an eye opener, as I never travelled to other countries before in my life.
After completing the language school, I enrolled in Year 10 Westall Secondary College and completed my VCE.
One of the fondest memories I had was becoming a host family for some exchange students from Japan. The very first Japanese students we hosted were Rie and Emi. We took them around Melbourne including Mount Buller for snow trip. They only stayed at our house for 2 weeks but the memories stayed forever.
I made many friends from Cambodia, Vietnam, East Timor, Philippines and many other countries, during my school years; most of which became lifelong friends.
Being educated in such a multicultural environment such as Westall Secondary College has helped me to learn to respect other cultures and be flexible in working with people from different backgrounds.
Research shows that cross cultural competency is one of the top skills that will be critical for success in the future workforce. Thanks to Westall teachers who have created such a great, culturally diverse environment for children to learn in.

Mia Setyawan (nee Ouw)
Editor
Kids Nation magazine
www.kidsnationmag.com

Here is the link to the new edition – issue#9:

In this issue:
TIPS: Helping children to stand up for themselves and others
INSPIRE: People who stand up to bullying
FATHERHOOD: 3 ways to not bully your kids
STORY: The bully too close to home
SPECIAL NEEDS: Learning to empower my kids to become their own advocates
FAMILY RECIPE: Cheese sticks
Plus Free friendship memory book printable, DIY Valentine Secret code message for little spy kids and Readers Offer
Happy New Year to All members of our community and a very warm welcome to our Year 7 students and all new stu-
dents who have joined our College in 2016. I hope everyone is well rested and returned to school with lots of energy to
make the most of what is ahead.

Some Important matters for your attention:

**Immunisation Program:**
Consent cards, for the School Immunisation Program, were given to all students in year 7. It is most important that parents
and carers of students in year 7, complete all details required, sign and return the Consent Cards to the College by Friday the 12th of
February. **Please note that Vaccinations cannot be given to a student without a card signed by a parent.**

**College Photo Day:**
On Monday 22nd of February we will be having our College Photos taken. Envelopes with further information will be distributed
to students early next week.

Please note that the College will not be handling any money for the purchase of student photos and the envelops must be given
directly to the photographers on our photo day. Instructions how to order school photos on—line, will also be provided.

**SAFETY concern – Entering and Exiting School Car Parking areas**
Please note that for SAFETY reasons, school Car Parks are NOT to be used for dropping off or picking up students.
The Balook LC car park (Gate A) is not a drop off or pick up area and should not be used as such. Students are to be dropped off
and collected from the street parking area, in a safe manner. Please observe the parking restrictions and signage to avoid any
fines.

**Holidays only during school holiday period**
A reminder to all families that all students are required to be at school during the school term and not book holidays during school
dates.

**International Students Program**
Happy Luna New Year to all and especially to our Vietnamese and Chinese students and families!
Welcome back to all International students who returned to their home country over the summer period to see parents and fami-
ly. We understand how difficult it is to leave loved ones behind, after a few weeks of family life, and return to study abroad. At
Westall SC we are committed to assisting our students in every way possible and we are looking forward to having outstanding
results from everyone who chose to study in Australia!

A very warm welcome to all our new International students pictured below, who came to our College and our English Language
Centre this year.
Clare O’Neill Community Award

Congratulations to Mary in Year 12, for receiving the Community Spirit and Leadership Award in December 2015, at the special ceremony held at East Bentleigh Primary school by Clare O’Neil, Federal Member for Hotham.

Mary was nominated for this Award for her contribution to the community and leadership in the College. Accompanied by Mrs Kesidis, Mary proudly represented Westall Secondary College at this annual event organised by Ms Clare O’Neil.

We would encourage all students to be inspired by Mary’s example and strive for leadership and community involvement.

Earn and Learn

Late last year Westall Secondary College participated in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Staff & students collected stickers that went towards getting free Sports equipment for our school. We were able to get enough reward points to purchase 17 multi purpose tennis bats that will come in extremely useful on College camps and as part of our Sports program. I would like to thank all of the staff & students who contributed to this project.

Thanks

Mr Scott Newton
Health & Physical Education Coordinator.

Canteen News

Please note: We have a new supplier for our Fried Rice and it is no longer gluten free.

We are also introducing a new .50c item into the canteen called Strawberry/Sultana Straps.

Thank you,
Bellbrook Catering

Happy Lunar New Year 2016

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Happy Lunar New Year 2016
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section. Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) Application Form

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details
Surname
First name
Address
Town/suburb
State
Postcode
Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

OR

Foster parent* OR Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdrew it by contacting the school.

• I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

• If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

• Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and for State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant

Date / /
January 20, 2016

The Principal
Westall Secondary College
88-128 Rosebank Avenue
CLAYTON SOUTH VIC 3169

Dear Principal,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO PASS ONTO PARENTS

Please find below some important information regarding Victoria's student and concession travel ticketing arrangements for 2016, which will be of interest to your school community. We encourage you to make this information available by inclusion in your school newsletter or intranet page.

Proof of concession entitlement

All students aged 17 years and over, or those requiring a half yearly or yearly Student Pass (regardless of age), are required to obtain a 2016 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. Application details and a copy of this year’s form are contained within this letter. It is important to note that school issued student identification cards are not accepted as entitlement to concession travel on public transport.

2016 Victorian Student Pass

The Victorian Student Pass provides travel for students on all metropolitan trains, trams and buses, all regional bus services and all V/Line train and coach services operating wholly within Victoria. The Victorian Student Pass is issued on a myki.

2016 Regional Transit Student Passes

Regional Transit Student Passes provide travel for students on buses in the Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo Transit Systems and limited V/Line rail services in these transit areas. The Regional Transit Student Pass is issued on a concession myki. Regional Transit Student Passes for Southwest Transit, Colac Transit and Portland Transit will continue to be issued as paper passes.

How to apply for a 2016 VPT Student Concession Card and/or a Student Pass

The 2016 VPT Student Concession Card & Student Pass Application Form (enclosed) can be obtained from:

- metropolitan premium train stations
- PTV Hubs (Southern Cross Station, Docklands, Geelong & Bendigo)
- V/Line staffed stations and ticket agents
- PTV Call Centre by calling 1800 800 007
- online at ptv.vic.gov.au.
- **Students wishing to purchase a Half Yearly ($285.00) or Yearly ($546.00) Victorian Student Pass** will be required to obtain a 2016 VPT Student Concession Card, regardless of age, as proof of their concession entitlement. The standard $9 fee applies. Students can have their 2016 Yearly or Half Yearly Victorian Student Pass loaded to their existing myki card at a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled V/Line staffed station or from a PTV Hub (located at Docklands, Geelong or Bendigo). If the student does not already have a myki, the Student Pass will be loaded onto a new myki. This myki will be issued on the spot with the myki card fee waived.

- **Students 16 years and under, who do not wish to purchase a Student Pass** are not required to obtain a VPT Student Concession Card but can still get a child myki for concession travel by visiting a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, a myki retailer, visiting ptv.vic.gov.au, or calling 1800 800 007. A $3 card fee applies.

- **Students 17 years and over, who require a VPT Student Concession Card** as proof of their concession entitlement can obtain a VPT Student Concession Card and apply for a free concession myki (if required) at the same time. Students will need to complete the enclosed form and lodge it at a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, the PTV Hub at Southern Cross Station or the PTV Hub at 750 Collins St, Docklands. They will then be issued with their 2016 VPT Student Concession Card ($9 fee applies) and a free concession myki (if required). Those students who already have a concession myki can continue to use it and only need to renew their concession entitlement by completing the 2016 VPT Student Concession Card form.

**Registration**

Registration is optional for students that hold a student pass. It is, however, strongly recommended that students register their myki online at ptv.vic.gov.au or by calling 1800 800 007. Benefits of registering a myki include:

- The balance on the myki is protected if it is reported lost or stolen
- Option to manage myki with an online account
- Option of auto top up for ‘set and forget’ convenience

If a myki is not registered, there is no way for a student to recover the value held on the card in the event it is lost or stolen.

Further information specific to student travel arrangements under myki can be obtained by visiting ptv.vic.gov.au and going to the student area under the Tickets > Concessions > Students on the website. For information about non-myki Regional Transit Student Passes, visit http://ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/regional-fares/ under the section ‘Student concessions’.

I would be grateful if you could share this information with your staff and students.

Yours sincerely

Alan Fedda
Director, Customer Experience
Public Transport Victoria
WANTED: HOMESTAY PROVIDERS

Do you have a spare bedroom?
Could you provide a caring, safe and supportive environment for an international student?

Do you speak English at home?

Westall Secondary College’s International Program is looking for English speaking families who can provide a welcoming family environment for international students for both short and long term stays. Families will receive payment for providing this valuable service.

For further information please contact:
Po Sim Ngian, International Student Coordinator
Phone: 95463233, Email: png@westallsc.vic.edu.au

College Blazer—$110.00—buy direct from the General Office

LOOK GREAT IN 2016!
The College Blazer can be purchased from the College for only $110.
Students are encouraged to wear their Blazer to and from School every day.

Community News