Dear Families,

This Friday (6th of May) is the Cluster Athletics Sports day. It is being hosted by Concongella and being held in Stawell at North Park. All parents are to arrange their own transport for their child/ren to and from Stawell. If you are having difficulty with arranging something for one way or the other, please let us know and we’ll put a call out for any carpooling opportunities. Some information:

- All students to arrive at North Park no later than 8.40am. Teachers will be there from 8.30am.
- All students be in full uniform (minus any facepaint, hair accessories, etc) After the marching we will have time to apply any required supportive “trimmings.”
- $2 charge per car is to be paid when going through the North Park entrance – please have it ready to speed up moving through the gate
- If you have not pre-ordered lunch there is a BBQ
- If weather prevents the sports from going ahead they will take place the following Monday but be aware the weather has to be pretty terrible for a postponement. Some of you will remember last year’s drizzly day …… brrrrr

Can someone with a large car boot or ute please pick up the school gazebo on Thursday evening and take it to the sports?

AND …… if anyone would like to volunteer to be the official photographer please let me know. It’s not a huge job. It requires ensuring we get an individual shot of all students competing and a happy snap of students and parents at the end of the day. Even a couple of volunteers will be helpful.

Good luck to Paddy, Archie and Isobel who head to St. Arnaud tomorrow to compete in the Division Cross Country competition.

Our students are thoroughly enjoying petanque on Tuesday afternoons. We have really appreciated the parent helpers and hope to see even more there in the coming weeks.

Ja-San Trimble
Principal
Every day counts – school attendance

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

WHY READ AT HOME FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?

Reading is “brain food”
Our brains develop as we “feed” them with experiences. The experience of reading (whether you’re the reader or the one being read to) activates and “exercises” many of the areas of the brain. The visual cortex works as your eyes track the words on the page and look at the illustrations. Your memory makes connections between what you already know about the topic of the story and its content. You integrate new information learned through reading further strengthening and growing your network of knowledge. Reading provides one of the most enriching and complex brain activities available in life.

Reading improves listening skills
What parent doesn’t want their child to be a good listener? The experience of being read to helps children develop good listening skills by keying them into the components of language. Through reading they learn to recognize phonemes (the sound building blocks of language), learn new words to add to their oral vocabularies and connect written words to their real world applications.

Practice makes perfect
Generally, the more time you are exposed to something and the more time you spend practicing it, the better you’ll become at performing it. This is absolutely true for reading.

Reading improves academic performance
There is a strong correlation between a child’s ability to read and her academic performance. Because so much of our schooling relies on our abilities to read, children must have strong reading skills to succeed and thrive in school.

Reading improves relationships
Because we are often busy it can be difficult to have “quality” one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.

YOUR INVITATION

Stawell Secondary College Information Evening
For 2017 Year 7 Students

Grade 5 & 6 students, parents & guardians are invited to the College’s Information Evening
This is your opportunity to discover Stawell Secondary College’s latest developments and initiatives with guided tours. You will also meet current students, teaching staff and our Principal, Mr Nicholas Lynch. Workshops and Subject Area Presentations will be conducted on the night.
We look forward to seeing you on
Thursday 5 May 2016
Registration from 6.45pm
Program Commencing at 7pm
At the College
79-97 Patrick St, Stawell

High Performing School with Success Opportunities for All
## May 2016

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### Mother's Day

Sunday 8th May

## June 2016

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Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday

Early Dismissal End of Term 2