

College Principal – David Adamson



Our Vision: To develop accomplished citizens who contribute, live meaningfully and succeed

2020 has been a challenging year for Essendon Keilor College.

We always encourage students to get involved in as many activities as possible and even though this has been difficult we have been able to run a number of on-line activities this term. We started with the VCE Music Soiree and followed up with the College Art Show. We finished the year with the Presentation Afternoon. All events were live streamed and also made available for families to watch at their leisure. The feedback has been so positive we will continue to live stream events next year so that more members of the College can have access to our students work.

At this time of the year I always thank the Principal Team, Teachers and Education Support staff on all three Campuses for their focus on teaching and learning and this year has been a difficult one. But they have risen to the occasion and with the support of families the educational program has continued and students have continued to learn.

The challenge of COVID that we have all faced has brought us closer together as a school community and fills me with a sense of optimism about the future. We all learnt a lot this year about what is important and we can build on that experience to continue to provide students of Essendon Keilor College with a great educational experience.

I am looking forward to 2021, but will certainly enjoy the break and the associated festivities. Thank you again to everybody associated with Essendon Keilor College for your support in 2020. Enjoy the times with your families over the next few weeks. Be safe and see you all next year.

College Phone Numbers

East Keilor	8331 0109
Niddrie	9375 8400
Essendon	9319 1300

Absence Lines

East Keilor	8331 0108
Niddrie	9375 8405
Essendon	9319 1305

Click [here](#) for College website

Dates for your diary

8th Feb – Swimming Sports

22nd Feb – College photos

8th March – Labour Day Public holiday

15th March – Parent Teacher conversations

30th March – Athletic sports

Term Dates 2021

Term 1 Thu 28th Jan – Thu 1st April

Term 2 Mon 19th Apr – Fri 25th Jun

Term 3 Mon 12th Jul – Fri 17th Sep

Term 4 Mon 4th Oct – Fri 17th Dec



Essendon Campus – Principal Lisa Nugent

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

On behalf of the Essendon Campus, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support throughout this year. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. There was a smooth return to the Campus in Term 4 and we were able to do many of our events online. The links to our Music Soiree, Art Show, Valedictory and Presentation Day are still open and will be available to download at a later date.

Thank you to each and every student for the contribution you made to the Essendon Campus this year, I hope the skill, strategies and knowledge you have developed over the year will equip you for the challenges ahead. All Orientation materials have been uploaded to the Orientation Google Classroom. Special mention to our Year 12 class of 2020, they had a very challenging year to finish off their secondary education. I wish them well for their upcoming results and pathways.

I would like to acknowledge the teachers, support staff and community members, who have been passionate about all students and their progress and well-being this year. They have guided learning growth, organised events, celebrated achievements and provided support. I would especially like to acknowledge support provided by our wonderful General Office staff, Julie and Anna who work tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly, going above and beyond to support students, staff and parents. Special mention to Mr Mark McNerney who has provided never ending assistance and guidance to our staff and students based at the Essendon Campus. I will definitely miss his leadership and support, he has been an integral part of our Leadership team. Mark will be the Assistant Principal at the Niddrie Campus in 2021. Heather Hawkins will be joining the Essendon Campus Team as part of the College Principal Team in 2021. Heather's leadership, experience and wisdom will add to the strength of our team.



The Education Department announced the Tutor program for 2021, Ms Dianne Basile, Ms Julia Bianchin and Mrs Laura Slater will be able to increase their work hours to support students in and out of the classroom.

In conclusion I wish Mr Richard Myddleton, Miss Martina Quinn, Miss Amy Mangion, Miss Sena Gonen and Ms Joana Teixeira who are moving on from the College, all the very best for their future and thank them for their collegiality and service to our community. Best wishes to Ms Vanessa Huynh (Vietnamese Aide/Admin support) on her upcoming family leave.

Congratulations and thank you for many, many years of service to the College to Mrs Virginia Brown who retired earlier this year.

The end of the year is always a great opportunity to reflect on our achievements both individually and within our communities. Thinking about our values of respect, engage, aspire and learn, I ask everyone to take a moment to reflect on your year.

To all members of our College community, I wish a safe and happy break. Hoping all the very best things in life come your way in 2021 and beyond.

Lisa Nugent

Essendon Campus Principal

Congratulations to all our Music students and staff for a wonderful Musical Soiree.

Special mention to Carla Greco who received the Josh Baillon Award for 2020.

To watch our performances – click on the link below.

<https://vividav.com.au/essendon-keilor-college-music-soiree-2020/>

Congratulations to all our College Art students and staff for a wonderful Art Show.

Special mention to Jenny Grogan who was awarded the acquisition prize for her art work. Click on the link to see her amazing work.

To see our amazing art work – click on the link below.

<https://vividav.com.au/essendon-keilor-college-art-show/>

Congratulations to all our College Award winners and performers at our Presentation Day

See our presentation – Click on the link below.

<https://vividav.com.au/ekc-presentation/>



Essendon Campus News

Student Management Team

Mrs Heather Hawkins will oversee the Student Wellbeing team as part of her Principal Role

Student Management will be coordinated by our Campus Co-ordinator Ms Travers and supported by our VCE Co-ordinator Ms Coutts located in room 3 and 6

Year level Coordinators for 2021:

Year 10

Ms Suzanne Rose

Year 11

Mr Jarrod McDonald

Year 12

Ms Melissa Travers

International Student Coordinator

The coordination of International Students will be led by Mrs Kaye Coutts (Leading Teacher).

Members of the International Team include:

Mrs Carol Carland

Ms Chiu Kwan Tong (Chinese Aide/Admin support)

Ms Pei Fen Li (Chinese Teacher/Aide)

Curriculum and Learning Specialists

Ms Annamaria Deamicis and Ms Demi Dereli

Careers/Pathways

Mr Daniel Kingham

Mrs Michele Hamilton (Teacher Aide support)

2021 School Captains



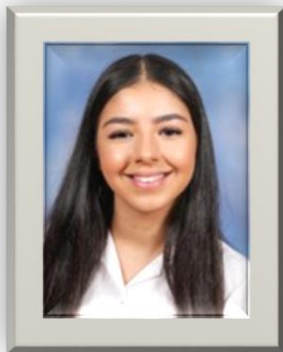
Keona Tapungao



Max Papotto

2021 School Vice Captains

Miriam Najjar



Anastasia Loutas



2021 International Student Captains



Melanie Vuong



Oliver Tran

2021 Sport Captains

***Imogen
Wolfe***



***Dylan
Payne***



2021 Performance Captain

Brian Le



Careers Update December 2020

Good luck to the 2020 Year 12 cohort who are now moving on to the next phase of their lives. It is very pleasing to see that a number of our students have already been employed as Apprentices in various Trade areas. The majority of our Year 12 students are planning to head on to further study at University or TAFE Institutions in 2021. For those students the upcoming 'Change of Preference' period (Dec 30th to Jan 4th) is a very important time.

After students get their results on the 30th of December they have a 6-day window to make any final changes to their VTAC preferences before the first round of offers. Mr Kingham will be available during this change of preference period to assist students.

Students and Parents should refer to these VTAC videos to understand change of preference and how offers are made: www.youtube.com/user/vtacmedia

Key VTAC Dates for Domestic Students:

Key Date	What do I need to have done?
30th December (7am)	Release of ATAR – check your results via the Results and ATAR Website or via your VTAC account
4th January (12pm)	*Change of Preference – Make sure your preferences are set in correct order by Midday of the 4th Jan to maximise your chances of a January Round offer
14th January (2pm)	January Round Offers Released – check your offer via your VTAC account. Offer will also be emailed. Follow instructions from institution to accept your offer
14th January (4pm) up until 21st January (12pm)	*Change of Preference – Make sure your preferences are set in correct order by 12pm on the 21st Jan to maximise your chances of a February Round offer
1st February (2pm)	February Round Offers Released – check your offer via your VTAC account from 2pm. Offer will also be emailed. Follow instructions from institution to accept your offer

Key VTAC Dates for International Students:

Key Date	What do I need to have done?
30th December (7am)	Release of ATAR – check your results via the Results and ATAR Website or via your VTAC account
4th January (12pm)	*Change of Preference – Make sure your preferences are set in correct order by Midday of the 4th Jan to maximise your chances of a January Round offer
7th January (2pm)	January Round 1 Offers Released – check your offer via your VTAC account. Offer will also be emailed. Follow instructions from institution to accept your offer
7th January (4pm) up until 8th January (4pm)	*Change of Preference – Make sure your preferences are set in correct order by 4pm on the 8th Jan to maximise your chances of a January Round 2 offer
12th January (2pm)	January Round 2 Offers Released – check your offer via your VTAC account from 2pm. Offer will also be emailed. Follow instructions from institution to accept your offer

Register now to access your

VCE Results and ATAR

at 7am on 30 December

resultsandatar.vic.edu.au

For a full list of key dates, students can refer to: <https://www.vtac.edu.au/dates.html>

Students also need to remember to register to receive their results and ATAR before Dec the 30th

Work Experience – Year 10 and 11

The Year 10 Work Experience program is planned to go ahead as normal next year during the last two weeks of Term 2. We strongly encourage students to try to get a placement secured before the end of the year, or alternatively use the summer break to find a placement. Congratulations to those students who have already found one. Many places are still not advertising 2021 Work Experience positions, but we expect that to change in the coming months. Students should check in regularly to the Year 10 Careers / Work Experience Google Classroom for links to various employers



Next year, we are also planning to give the Year 11 students the opportunity to take part in one week of Work Experience. Unfortunately, due to COVID these students missed out on undertaking Work Experience this year. This was a shame as many students had organised some really good placements. For Year 11 students it will be optional meaning only students who really want to do a placement will be doing it. There is no set time that this placement has to occur, it will up to the student to organise a placement and make sure it doesn't clash with important assessment tasks. Those of you who had organised a really good placement for this year may be able to do that planned placement in 2021. Michele Hamilton and I will be able to create Work Experience contracts for students but it will be up to the student to initially organise the placement.



Year 9 Morrisby Careers Assessment

Career Education is being strongly encouraged to begin at an earlier age these days.

Next year as well as all Year 9's completing a yearly Career Action Plan, they will be undertaking a thorough Careers Assessment called Morrisby during Term 2. This will involve a series of quizzes and questions and then a one on one interview from a trained Career Consultant. This will help students have a much greater understanding about the careers they may be suited to.

Strengthening Vocational and Applied Learning for School Students

The Victorian Government has announced a \$38 million investment to create a new single Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) that will give students flexibility to combine academic and applied learning in line with their interests, strengths and career aspirations.

The new single VCE senior secondary certificate will mean students no longer have to choose between doing VCE or VCAL. This will start to be implemented from 2023.

The move to a single certificate follows a review by former Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority CEO John Firth that found the change would provide all Victorian students with the best opportunity to develop both academic and practical vocational skills.

The review found evidence of outstanding programs across the State but that more needed to be done to ensure all young people had access to the training that engages them, delivers high demand skills and leads to quality jobs.

Our School will receive funding for a Jobs, Skills and Pathways Coordinator to support the delivery of our vocational and applied learning programs. Their job will be to provide advice and support for students choosing vocational and applied learning programs. They will also work with training providers and employers to ensure that students get the most out of their learning and training.

Our school will also have access to a Jobs, Skills and Pathways Manager to provide practical support to our school to deliver high quality vocational and applied learning programs.

Work has started and will continue in 2021 to support the introduction of a new vocational specialist pathway in the VCE.

The integration of a vocational and applied learning pathway within the VCE will offer high-quality pathways for all students so they are better prepared for lifelong learning and can transition more smoothly through school, further education or training and work.

Students currently completing VCAL or VET will not be affected by these changes. This includes students undertaking VET as part of their VCE. The new Vocational Specialist Pathway, embedded within the VCE will commence in 2023, and a fully integrated certificate will commence in 2025.

Students can continue to commence VCAL in 2021 and 2022. Transition plans will ensure all students enrolled in VCAL will be able to complete their Senior Secondary Certificate.

Further information and advice about the transition to the new Vocational Specialist Pathway for students will be provided to you in 2021.

Tutor learning initiative: Information for Parents, Carers and Families

This information is for parents, carers and guardians about the Tutor Learning Initiative, which will support students in their learning in 2021.

The 2020 school year has been an extraordinary and challenging one for every school community. Many Victorian students spent much of Terms 2 and 3 this year learning remotely and Victorian schools and their communities have made an exceptional effort to provide continuity of teaching and learning to our students during this time.

During Term 4, schools across Victoria have been focused on supporting students' mental health and wellbeing, in addition to assisting students to readjust to on-site learning. Teachers have also been focusing on assessing student learning, addressing individual learning gaps and identifying those students who need extra support for their learning, using classroom-based observation and assessments.

We know that the remote learning experience was different for every student. While some students thrived, some students may not have engaged as fully with remote learning. For most of our students, regular high-quality teaching in 2021 will be enough to help them progress to the expected level of learning. Some students will benefit from additional intensive learning support in 2021.

As you may be aware, in response to this, the Victorian Government is investing \$250 million in the Tutor Learning Initiative to enable schools across Victoria to engage around 4,100 teachers as tutors in 2021 to support students who need extra assistance with their learning. Schools will determine how this initiative is best implemented for their students and will ensure that students will get this support in a way that minimises disruptions to other learning or school activities.

By engaging additional teachers to support children with intensive learning, classroom teachers will have greater capacity to ensure that all other students' achievement, engagement and wellbeing needs are met, so that all students receive the support they need in 2021.

Further information about the Tutor Learning Initiative, and how it will be implemented for students who need individual learning support in our school, will be issued before students begin tutoring in 2021. During Term 4, schools will be working with students to understand their experience of remote learning and their return to onsite schooling.

If you are concerned about your child's engagement in their learning, while learning at home or following their return to school please contact your school.

East Keilor Campus – Principal Lisa Robinson



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the East Keilor Campus community. This year has demonstrated to me what a community of learning looks like when teachers, support staff, students and their families work together.

The overwhelming confidence and support given to all of us at the Campus this year to do our work ensured that we were able to respond to the ever-changing situation and get the best outcomes for our students. We are proud of what we achieved, proud of our young people and thankful for the support of our families. I look forward to 2021, we have lots of experiences behind us that have enriched us as learners and certainly cemented our connection as a community. I wrote a letter to our Year 7 students who only spent a small number of weeks at the college before they went remote. I thought I'd share this letter as it reflects how much we have enjoyed spending term 4 with all learner in Year 7 -9. Have a safe and restful break and see you in 2021.

I would like to officially welcome you back to the East Keilor Campus, you have been missed.

On behalf of all the teachers and staff, we are very proud of the way in which you have handled remote learning. You started 2020 as new Year 7's to the campus and were only here for 7 weeks before the COVID pandemic hit. It must have been very hard to commence learning at home during your first year of high school.

It is clear to us though, that our group of Year 7's in 2020 are very special. You are hard working, resilient and supportive of one another. Whatever we asked of you, you did and mostly with a smile!

Our commitment to you, as it has been all year, is to ensure you are supported to do your best. We will work hard over the next 10 weeks to ensure you have the best end to year 7 2020 and that you achieve lots in your learning. We want you to feel prepared for Year 8.

So forgive us if we talk too much to you today and ask lots of questions, or hang out with you at lunchtime. We are teachers, we like having you around.

Lisa Robinson

Lisa Robinson

Campus Principal

Student Leadership 2021

We'd like to congratulate the successful applicants for the 2021 student leadership team at East Keilor Campus. The quality of applications was very high and we thank all the students who applied. We're looking forward to working on some fantastic projects with you all next year.

2021 School Captains



Konatsu Bonar



Kyla Kirdi

Year Level Leaders



Chloe Gordon
Year 8



Samuel Craggs
Year 8



Trisha Tan
Year 9



Chanel Mai
Year 9

STEM Captain



Emika Liu

Performance Captain



Ria Yang

Music Captain



April Farrugia

House Sport Captains



Brady Coleman
Blue



Tenisha Tahitahi
Green



Brodie Lyons-Jones
White



Daniel Wilczynski
Red

Fundraising Committee Leaders

Sabrina Rachkidi
Amy Sawan

Fundraising Committee:

Christian Robottom
Mathew Abed
Spasoje (Junior) Lugonja
Ceyerra Wallington
Kate Lewis-Hamilton
Caprice Lyons-Jones
Mohamed Sharif

Emerging Artist



Di Bennett from Support Skills Program Support would like to share some exciting news from one of our students, Josh. Josh has had his artwork picked and shown in the school's ART GALLERY! They were unaware of Joshua's vision impairment as it was work submitted by the teachers from across all three school campuses. Congratulations to Josh, great to have another budding artist amongst the Support Skills students. Photos above are Joshua's artworks that were shown in the Art Gallery.



Coach Approach

On the 10th of December Coach Approach, a group of elite and professional athletes, came to encourage us to keep active and initiate positive growth within the students here at the East Keilor Campus. There were 4 elite and professional

athletes that led groups with a set of activities for the students to do. Each group started with a variety of activities that required collaborative teamwork and communication. Thanks to Coach Approach, the students of East Keilor participated in sports such as Taekwondo, Ultimate Frisbee, Hip-hop and Lacrosse.

These activities allowed students to improve their sets of skills, they were able to work collaboratively with a variety of age groups and progress their

critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The Year 9's were also given the opportunity to showcase their leadership skills and roles. We

were fortunate enough to experience the Athletes approach at educating us students on how to communicate, collaborate and cooperate as well as encouraging each other.

During the engaging activities, a group of students went out of their way to volunteer to help prepare the sausage sizzle for everyone else to enjoy. Whilst enjoying the tasty sausages students talked and recounted on the fun activities that had just occurred.

- Chanel Mai & Trisha Tan, 9A

MAT Program

This term we continued the MAT program back at school. It was good to have our instructor Guy come to school instead of doing our sessions over the computer on ZOOM.

The main messages of the MAT program are to be strong, be calm, be kind and try hard.

Our favourite activities were the noodle dodge and breaking the brick during the last session. The noodle dodge was to teach us to make decisions under pressure and breaking the brick was to celebrate our journey through the program. It made us realise what you can achieve when you work towards something. The program was heaps of fun and also taught us to be self-aware and show resilience.

Sam Craggs 7A

Mathew Abed 7B





NGV Japanese Workshop for High-Ability Students –Keilor & Niddrie

On November 26th, a group of Year 8 students were privileged enough to participate in a Japanese Language Challenge with artist Kyoko Imazu. The program allowed students to learn about different Japanese language skills using Kyoko's artworks and was held in an online meeting. Kyoko taught us new Japanese onomatopoeia by showing us Japanese poems to interpret. These poems are traditional Japanese poems called Haiku. Kyoko read the poems out to us and asked us to guess which word was the onomatopoeia, words like 'aka aka' (deep red) and 'yurari yurari' (swaying slowly) are examples of Japanese onomatopoeia. Kyoko advanced our Japanese vocabulary and enhanced our understanding of Japanese poetry.

Kyla Kirdi and Konatsu Bonar 8B

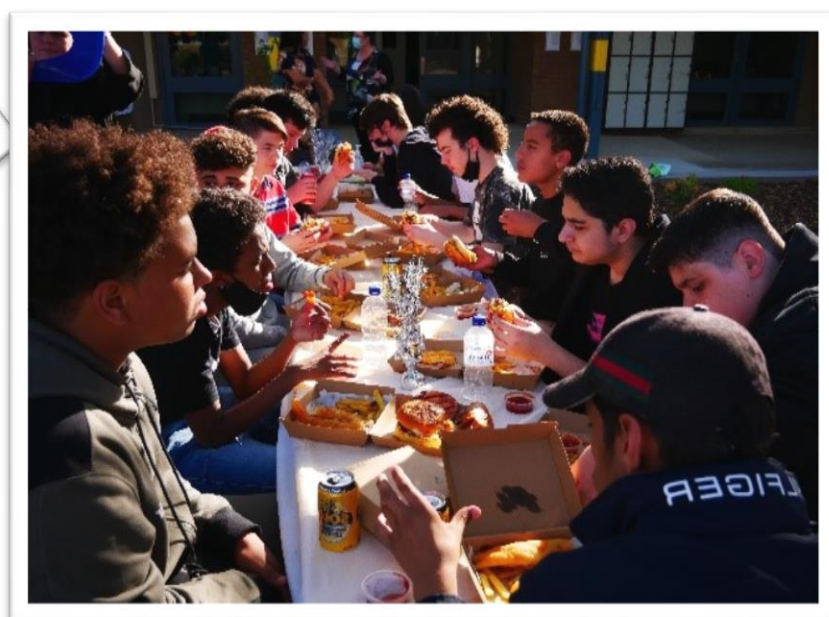




Year 9 Graduation – East Keilor Campus

The last day for the year 9's at East Keilor Campus was a day of celebration. We began the festivities with an assembly, in which the Year 9 students were led out to the courtyard through a guard of honour formed by the Year 7 and 8 students. We finished the assembly with music, icy-poles and a game of staff v Year 9 students basketball (staff won!!!)

Our Year 9's then came back to the Campus at 5pm for a Graduation Dinner and Awards Night with the staff. We had a photo wall, music and dinner. We then finished the night with novelty awards for every student. It was a fantastic way to finish three years of learning at East Keilor Campus. We wish all the East Keilor students the best of luck on their Senior School journey.





The Staff and Students have taken such pride in returning to onsite learning this term. The term has been jam-packed with classroom learning, hands on activities, reading, sports competitions, music performances and rocket creations in STEM, garden creations in Horticulture, farewells and more recently stepping up into the 2021 school program. It has been fantastic to have students back into the routine of coming to school each day.

REAL Reward Winners

Each student received a \$5 voucher to spend at the canteen throughout the term.
Well done to you all!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Aidan Borg-McGlone	Amy Bektash	Cassandra Sesto
Cody Kotoski	Madi Knowles	Ethan Berger
Ellie Liron	Lillie McCosh	Evie Mudge
Jordan Rein	Kyle Willis	Bella Jarvie
Karl Bebbington	Oliver Galloway	Aiden Gray



Martial Arts Therapy (M.A.T) Program

This term a small number of Year 7 students have been fortunate enough to learn a new skill of martial arts. Undertaking a weekly session, the boys have learnt how to control their emotions, work together and boy movements. We look forward to extending this program to more students next year.

Kick 4 Kids Fundraiser – Nov 19th

The Student Leadership team planned and lead the Term 4 fundraiser with much success. It was great to see the students dressed up in their favourite sport colours and get involved in the sports activities on the day.



Farewell Year 9s

On Thursday 3rd December we farewelled our current Year 9s in a ceremony that was certainly one to remember. Whilst the students enjoyed a lunch together, they were entertained by student performance, speeches and awards. We wish all the students all the best for their next three years at the senior campus.



Orientation Day – Dec 8th

We welcomed our 2021 Year 7 students to the Campus on Tuesday 8th December and the excitement and anticipation was obvious.

The Transition team have worked very closely with the primary schools to develop a transition program to allow the new students to experience a taste of secondary school in preparation for next year. Our future students are looking forward to next year and many positive comments were heard from smiling faces which was terrific to see.



Common Assessment Tasks – What are These?

This year all students have been completing Common Assessment Tasks (CATS) in each of their classes. Teachers have been consistently working together to plan, create, differentiate and moderate these tasks with an aim to not only improve student learning but to increase feedback to students on their learning. Please engage in conversation with your child about these tasks and be sure to log into Compass to read your child's end of semester report.

Student Leadership Team

An area the campus prides itself in, is the development of students as leaders. We are committed to hearing the voices of our students and encourage student agency in learning. I would like to introduce our Student Leadership team for 2021:

2021 School Captains



Xavier Bassett



Luca Stellato

Year Level Leaders



Amy Bektash
Year 9



Madi Knowles
Year 9



Madison Spring Brown
Year 8



Lucy de Bono
Year 8

STEM Captain



Lily Thompson

Performance Captain



McKenzie-Rose Florrimell

Music Captain



Bailey Dodd

House Sport Captains



*Gracie
Henderson*



Holly Belot



Tegan Anderson



Thomas Sutherland

Fundraising Committee Leaders

Shania Ragland
Finnley Atkinson

Fundraising Committee:

Stevie Windebank, Yazmin Sultan, Dechlan Major, James Worrall, Nikita Marzovilla-Siclari, George Joseph, Michael Zakkour

Please note, nominations for 2021 Year 7 Class Captains will be take place in Term 1 of next year.

Looking forward to seeing all students back at the Campus in 2021.
Take care and enjoy your Summer break.

Take care,
Christine Cole
Niddrie Campus Principal

NIDDRIE- Student Leadership Wrap Up

We have all faced unprecedented challenges in 2020. The Niddrie Student Leadership team successfully manoeuvred these challenges, demonstrating great resilience, creativity and of course leadership as it adapted to the constantly evolving lockdown restrictions and regulations.

Student leaders started the school year hoping to implement many plans and initiatives that aimed to address student needs, promote community and fulfil their social responsibility through various projects like supporting the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal and The World's Greatest Shave. The Victorian GRIP Leadership Conference was booked for March and Student Leaders were keen to begin their various leadership duties. When COVID lockdown restrictions interrupted these plans our leaders revised, regrouped and adapted their plans so that goals were achieved.



To achieve these goals, our Student Leaders met every Thursday during their lunch period to discuss projects online. Organising and putting together some of these projects was quite involved and our Student Leaders sometimes met more than once a week giving up a lot of their personal time.

This is how our year unfolded.

CHARITY- Social Responsibility/ Promoting Community

Student Leaders selflessly thought of others during the pandemic. They were not perturbed by the Covid-19 restrictions and regulations imposed, settling for the fact that Campus celebrations couldn't be as elaborate as they usually were and exercising their social responsibility nevertheless. They organised and ran events supporting various foundations and organisations demonstrating the ability to overcome obstacles to achieve their goals. Some of these included Harmony Day, selling Remembrance Day Poppies for our local RSL and Kick for Kids Sports Day in support of the Starlight Foundation.

R U OK? Day went ahead online this year. Student Leadership coordinated a video montage where they delivered their messages of support and positivity. This montage was played at the whole online school assembly where students sported their yellow attire and/or accessories and participated in an EKC specific Kahoot which was aimed at having fun whilst promoting messages and strategies of mental health and wellbeing. Prizes were awarded for best dressed as well as the winners of the Kahoot.

Addressing Student Needs/ Promoting Community

During Lockdown and online lessons Student Leaders felt their number one priority was to look after their community by keeping everyone connected. They offered students various opportunities to connect virtually online. They also created student surveys to ascertain the needs of their peers during online learning. Student voice was loud and clear allowing student leaders to receive and provide teaching staff with feedback so student needs were addressed.

One such initiative was running the MMM –Monday Mental Meets which was a weekly lunchtime Google meet offering all students a safe place to visit virtually and simply hang out, socialise or voice any concerns. The Google meets drew students from every year level as well as Teachers. Amongst the most memorable meets were meets where students jammed by sharing their music compositions with each other or where

students shared art works they had created whilst in lock down. Some meets even turned into gaming sessions where students delighted in defeating teachers in a virtual world that was quickly becoming all too familiar to everyone. I'm so grateful to the Teachers and Students who gave up their lunchtimes to help run these meets although I believe it was beneficial to both organisers and participators as it was a great opportunity to socially connect outside of class time.

Other initiatives such as a Trick Shot Challenge and the ISO Life Photo Competition Challenge during Term 2 were also introduced to promote community. Student Leaders also decided to celebrate World Chocolate Day in October by introducing a Chocolate Master Chef challenge. Students showcased their cooking/ baking skills and the entries were indeed worthy enough for Master Chef!

The student leaders also created a toilet roll throwing montage for the end of Term 3 Assembly in the spirit of COVID 19 Lockdowns demonstrating their ability to stay connected and still have a laugh in the face of challenging situations.

Finally, our Student Leaders worked tirelessly to give our Year 9 students the farewell they deserved as their time on the Niddrie Campus came to an end. It was also an opportunity to celebrate overcoming what was such a challenging year.

As restrictions eased our intended Outdoor Soiree changed to an Indoor Celebration where the School Gym was transformed into a function area complete with festive decorations, white tablecloths, table centre pieces, mementos for each student, even a photo corner with funny props and a sit down lunch was made possible.

In a year like no other, I would like to congratulate our Student Leadership team's efforts.

Lia Siafalis-Tsiatsios

(Niddrie Student Leadership)