### Important Dates:

**TERM ONE**
- Thursday 3rd March—Division Swimming
- Monday 7th to 9th March—Year 7 Camp
- Monday 14th March—Labour Day
- Tuesday 15th March—Year 7 Sport
- Thursday 17th March—House Athletics
- Thursday 24th March—End of Term 1
- Monday 11th April—Term 2 Begins
- Thursday 28th April—Senior Sport
- Tuesday 7th June—Year 8 Sport
- Monday 13th June—Queens Birthday
- Tuesday 14th June—Junior Girls Football
- Thursday 16th June—Intermediate Sport
- Monday 20th June—Senior Girls/ Boys Football
- Thursday 23rd June—SMR X Country
- Friday 24th June—End of Term 2
- Monday 11th July—Term 3 Begins

### BELL TIMES 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warning Bell 8.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50 am - 9.47 am</td>
<td>Period 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.51 am - 10.48 am</td>
<td>Period 2</td>
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<td>9.12 am - 10.09 am</td>
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<td>12.13 am - 1.10 pm</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
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<td>13.58 pm - 2.55 pm</td>
<td>Period 5</td>
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Swimming Carnival!
The Principal

Principals Report
I would like to begin by extending a warm welcome back to all students and families returning to the college and an especially warm welcome to new students and their families. I hope all students enjoy a positive and productive year that produces great outcomes!

Our Focus for 2016
Our focus for this year and of our Strategic Plan, will continue to be on our core business – Teaching and Learning. Our priority is your child’s learning and our key aim is to accurately map students to the AusVELS continuum and develop a differentiated, challenging and engaging personalised curriculum program for every student in every class. Our targets centre on the growth our students make during each semester of their schooling, how we measure that growth, and how this growth is tracked and informs the continued differentiated learning program for each student. Our other key focus is on Accountability for all of us and our part in the school program.

College Facilities
During the holidays much work was undertaken by various staff to ensure our facilities and environment were in tip top condition for our students return. Significant work has been undertaken on our new Year 8 Learning Centre to enhance the new approach to teaching and learning at this year level. The seating in the auditorium has been upgraded and Our Trade Training Centre is almost complete with the new equipment arriving shortly. Several rooms have been upgraded for this year, including our new Library, and several landscaping projects are underway. During the holidays also, our partnership with Abacus commenced with them taking possession of the disused trade wing on our Western boundary and we welcome their use and upgrade of this facility.

A busy and productive start to the year
Although this is the first newsletter, we are almost half way through the term! Already we have had the swimming carnival, Year 9 and Year 12 excursions to Somers School Camp, the rehearsals for our School Production in 2016 ‘Man Of Steel’ have commenced, we have had our first whole school assembly, Hands On Learning and the SBAT and VET groups have started for 2016 and several students have already been involved in the interschool sports program! We are well underway for another busy school year.

Parents and Friends
A great way to be involved in your child’s school is through the Parents and Friends Association. This association runs some activities through the year and supports different programs and events. The coordinator this year is Ms Chantelle Steffens. Please contact her at the college for more information about the association and how to get involved.

College Council
Another way parents can get involved in the school is through the College Council. Elections for these roles are underway and you should have received correspondence in the mail from the school regarding this process. The undertaking for councilors is to meet about eight times a year for around two hours and look at various aspects of the college management, voting on issues as required. Therefore it is not too onerous and I would encourage any parent at all interested to nominate or contact me at the college for more information.

Senior Student Leaders 2016
At our first School Assembly our senior student leaders for 2016 were announced and congratulated. They are:

School Captains – Bridgette Kupsch, Andre Harrison
Vice Captains – Delaney Kupsch, Tyler Cornford, Maddison Morrisey
Music Captain – Rebecca Harding
Art Captain – Maddison Watson-Bell
Sports Captains – Zoe Mitchell, Kaila Paarlberg, Scott Harvey
Environment Captain – Luke Reardon
Transition Captains – Tyler Cornford, Sarah Freeman-Wright

Key Staff Contacts
The main point of contact for your child through the year are Learning Level Leaders (LLL) that focus on the Teaching and Learning and Team Leaders (TL) who will coordinate many of the programs and any interventions that your child may require.

Year 7 LLL: Nicki Piesse-Smith
Year 8 LLL: Andrew Aldham
Year 9 LLL: Chris Quinn
Year 10 LLL: Jenni Hodgins
VCE LLL: Kara Dunstan

Year 7 TL: Jarryd Pack
Year 8 TL: Vicki Tsarouhas
Year 9 TL: John Heffernan
Year 10 TL: Jenni Hodgins
Year 11 TL: Lily Hibbert
Year 12 TL: Wendy Rule

Team leaders and Learning Level Leaders are always available to you if you need any assistance. Please feel free to contact them at the college or through Compass.

Uniform
A College uniform is seen as a consistent and affordable option for students and the school will not tolerate students being out of uniform. Detailed information about uniform and in particular shoes deemed appropriate as school shoes can be found at:
The supplier of College uniform is Beleza, who have a store at:
Shop 8, 13 Eramosa Rd West, Somerville (near Safeway), 5977-5277
Principal Continued:

Keep Informed:
Website - www.westernportsc.vic.edu.au
TiqBiz – register via the website
Compass – via the website or contact the General Office
Facebook – friend us via www.facebook.com
The College does have a Facebook site – please join this for College updates via social media.

Feedback:
I always welcome feedback from our parents and the wider community. Please feel free to contact me via phone or arrange an appointment via the office.

Michael Devine
College Principal

Assistant Principal

Department of Education and Training guidelines and School policies and priorities

Car park protocols
We appreciate the fact that the majority of parents/care givers and vistors that use the school car park to visit the General Office or pick up and drop off children use common sense and courteous behaviour. There have, however, been instances of staff being abused when they have politely asked parents to move along in the car park to prevent congestion or to obey the ‘No Standing’ signs. At times congestion in the car park can block incoming traffic and the school buses from entering. The buses are on a strict schedule and must be given priority. We ask that all visitors move along as quickly as possible, filling in any gaps in the car park, and that students are not dropped off in ‘No Standing’ zones.

The entire school site, including the car park, is a non-smoking zone as authorised by DET. We respectfully ask that parents refrain from smoking in cars in the car park. While we respect an individual's right to make the choice to smoke, the school is strictly a smoke free zone.

Rubbish in the school yard
We are considering reducing the places in the school where students can eat. At the first assembly for the year, I set students the challenge of using the bins provided and reducing the rubbish. Unfortunately littering continues to be a problem and if we don’t see an improvement before the end of term, eating will be restricted to the three courtyard areas. As a 5 star school we aim to reduce the waste to landfill and the Environment Team will be introducing, designing and creating new waste stations that allow for recycling of comingled waste.

‘Hands On Learning’ Program
We have been able to fund the ‘Hands On Learning’ program for 2016. John Eldridge worked in the ‘Hands On Learning’ Program for many years and in more recent years has worked as resident artisan at WPSC creating projects with many students. He is joined by Loren Flemming, who has had many years experience working in the program in other schools.

This multi age program will run on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with a group of ten students on each day. The first two projects that students will be involved in are landscaping the grounds around ABACUS centre situated on the school site and continuing the front wall along to the main car park. The rendered wavy wall between the bus bay and footpath was built by the original ‘Hands On Learning’ program students. This program develops social capabilities as well as giving participants a repertoire of practical skills.

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal
What a wonderful way to begin 2016, with all Year 12 VCE and VCAL students participating in the Somers Study Experience. Students participated in a range of study, team building and challenging activities. The staff at the camp ground were so impressed by the way students represented the College they sent the principal a letter including the following excerpt.

“During my 17 years at the camp I have met many students from Western Port SC, usually ranging between fantastic, challenging and very challenging. This year, however, when I met the Year 12s I thought: “Wow this must be a good year” but when the Year 9s arrived the next day I was blown away.

I and my colleagues were so utterly impressed with how positive and supportive the students were towards each other. I didn’t hear one derogatory comment throughout the 2 days - everything was about congratulations and encouragement.

When I expressed my delight to one of your staff she told me about the Project 9 program that was introduced in your school and that this year’s Year 12 students are the product of its inception.

I want to say a heartfelt congratulations on what you are achieving at Western Port SC. The students so obviously like and respect the teachers that came with them to Somers Camp and that says a great deal about the school as a whole.”

These sentiments reflect what we already know - that our students are constantly representing themselves and the college as exemplary individuals. With a smaller school we are able to build and sustain relationships, expectations and academic success, knowing each young person and their abilities. We are so proud of our students, not just Year 9 and 12 – across the school we have an amazing cohort of students!

Techie Breakies
Just a reminder that the College is running Techie Breakies in Term 1 – every Tuesday morning from 8.15am until 8.45am in the Community Meeting room. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians and students to meet informally with the I.T specialists in the school to ask questions, check and problem solve I.T related issues etc. Please see the Compass Calendar for focus topics and dates.

VET/SBAT
All TAFE and School Based Apprenticeships/traineeships have commenced for 2016. Any students with issues or questions related to these areas are encouraged to speak directly to the VET/SBAT Coordinator Kevin Hall in the Senior School Office.

Internet and Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement
Parents are reminded that the 2 documents on Compass to be authorised are now overdue. If you have not sat with your son/daughter (s) and completed these permissions, please do so this week.

BYOD Devices from previous years
Students that had their BYO devices imaged by the school are required to connect to the school’s network for the Windows and Office licenses to remain activated.

After 3 months without connecting to a school network, these licenses will de-activate.

A deactivated copy of windows will still function, but will not receive any Windows updates.

The Windows and Office licenses will automatically re-activate upon re-connecting to the school’s network.

Any student wishing to have their device factory reset must provide the Windows license key that was supplied with the device at the time of purchase.

Donna Geritz
Assistant Principal

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**HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

The House Athletics Carnival is on Thursday March 17th at the Athletics Track. All students are expected to attend as it is a normal school day; therefore a note for absences will be required. Barbeque sausages and drinks will be available. The day will follow the scheduled times of 8.50a.m. to 2.55p.m. Buses will depart at their regular times. All parents are welcome to attend.

The first House meeting will be on Monday February 29th and a follow up assembly is on Thursday March 10th to finalise participants. All students are encouraged to participate. It is a fun day with so many different events available. The theme is “MOVIES”.

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Somers Camp

Students had a fantastic time at Somers Camp this week as part of Project 9. They worked together to establish positive relationships and supported each other to step out of their comfort zones. They faced challenges in activities such as the flying fox, giant swing, archery, initiative activities and beach games.

SHED 11

At Shed 11 (Hastings Youth Centre) the Year 9’s got to meet some really amazing people and explore some important social issues. Everyone was challenged to think about how careful we should be with our life choices and how we shouldn’t be afraid to be ourselves. A huge thank-you to Shed 11 and our presenters from – Youth law, Peninsula pride, Hastings Shire and Brent Alford.
Year 8 News

Things are beginning to take shape in the new Year 8 Learning Space. Our first coat of paint has dried and the furniture is beginning to arrive to fully create our flexible learning space. Students have been learning about positive and negative numbers, writing picture story books and medieval village life. Last week students started construction of our new stage area in preparation for the delivery of our green screen backdrop. Given the task to measure, cut and build the stage to fit the required space, students had to draw upon their maths and design skills whilst staff observed their teamwork, problem solving and communication skills as they worked to complete the project.

In other Year 8 news, our Infinity class is underway with students currently planning excursions within the local area to visit Coolart Homestead and McClelland Gallery. The Infinity program is focused around our 4 main student groups; Bushrangers, Wetland Warriors, Art Attack or Market Managers. Each group has a different focus across the school with students planning improvements to our college environment, specifically the wetlands and Bush block, creating a sculpture trail and marketing products for fund raising opportunities.

GRIP

On the 16th of February, 2016, the Westernport Secondary Collage year 10 student leadership team attended the GRIP Leadership Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The sessions we participated were full of helpful knowledge that will help us in our job of peer support in the school. We learnt how to plan dynamic events, how to write dynamic speeches, how to motivate others, how to prevent and stop bulling and plenty of other information. We are lucky to have these opportunities and will become better leaders because of experiences like this.

Robert Clohesy- Year 10 Student Leader
Senior Study Camp

Our day at Somers wasn't just a day of fun and games. It was a day when we broke out of our comfort zones. We learnt to trust others and it was a day where we all supported and encouraged each other. At Somers Camp it truly showed me how close we all are and how understanding and compassionate we can be. Now we will recall the days of Yr 12 where the boys would complain about the pain of the harness near certain regions, where Matilda had the best scream on the Giant Swing and where us girls out ran the boys on the flying fox. Somers Girls Are We!  

Delaney Kupsch

Somers camp was a chance to step out of our comfort zone. Especially myself. The challenge of getting to the top of the Giant Swing was one I faced with a MASSIVE amount of fear. The exhilaration that was received as soon as the swing dropped was hands-down one of the best feelings in the world, although the after shock was traumatic. The fact that I had reached the top and got a 6/10 scream was as satisfying as eating a Kristy Kreme!  

Alesha Reid.

Our day at Somers was an amazing one. As much as it is always said, it really showed us how close our year level is and how supportive we all are of one another. It brought everyone together and made me trust people with basically my life. If they let go of the Giant Swing rope it wouldn't have ended well... for them...!  

The best part of the day was mastering the landing of the flying fox with Lana. Even if it took a few attempts and faces full of dirt, we eventually become pros.  

Madison Morrissey.

Senior Girls Volley Ball

On Monday the 22nd February, the Senior Girls volleyball team competed against other schools on the Peninsula at Mornington Secondary College. The girls won their first three games against Mt Eliza, Dromana and Mornington. It came down to the final round against Rosebud to decide the winner for the day. Western Port lost in a very tight game to come second overall.

Congratulations to all the Year 11 and 12 girls who competed on the day.

Awards for the day:  
Most improved – Alanah Sbisa  
MVP – Ayla Gallagher  
Sportsmanship – Delaney Kupsch

Team consisted of:  

Senior Tennis

On February 22nd, the Senior Boys Tennis team travelled to Red Hill to compete in a round robin tournament against the other local Peninsula Secondary Colleges. Our boys team won three of their four match only going down to Dromana who took out the entire day. The boys finished in second place and are to be commended for their sportsmanship on the day! Well done to Bailey, Matt, Jack and Adam.
School Holiday Program

Easter School Holidays
Moonlit Sanctuary Junior Ranger Program

Kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. Day includes: interactions with dingo, python, off-limits animals, feeding animals & food prep, animal enrichment activities, fun and games for ages 7-14 years.

Easter school holiday dates:
   Week 1: Tuesday 29th March to Friday 1st April 10am – 4pm
   Week 2: Monday 4th to Friday 8th April 10am – 4pm

Cost: $65.00 per day, or $175 for 3 days (pro rata for additional days).
Maximum 16 children per day.

Bookings essential as spaces are limited
Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and remember your hat or raincoat. BYO lunch or purchase at the café.

Moonlit Sanctuary
550 Tyabb-Tooradin Rd, Pearcedale
Phone 5978 7935
Open daily between 10am and 5pm
Brekkie club is up and running!

We have started with Brekkie club again for 2016 and we are so excited to see all the young people who come in for a bite to eat. The Brekkie club is manned by a team of volunteers who get up early mornings on a Thursday to ensure there is breakfast every week. I would like to encourage everyone to make an effort to visit the Brekkie club in the Kitchen area every Thursday morning before school. Our menu includes an egg and bacon muffin, a hash brown, fruit salad and a fruit juice – enough “fuel” to start the day. And don’t forget this is also a time to sit down and meet some new friends, or catch up with old ones. See you there on Thursday morning.

The Chaplain

Western Port Secondary College is now using an App to communicate with you

Please install this free app onto any device to see all the college news and information.

Information from us, our Website, Facebook and soon the parent’s portal are all at your finger tips from this one great App. Available for Iphone, Androids, tablets and I pads and PC’s.

Visit www.tiqbiz.com.au for more information

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Tina Connor
0423 946 150
tinaglassglazing@hotmail.com.au

Police Check and Working with Children
Check
TRADE qualified
WPSC would like to announce that we now offer Centrepay as another means of payment. This is a system to assist families with automatic deductions from their Centrelink payments that can go towards College charges. There are no fees associated with this arrangement and the General Office is happy to assist with registration.

**Appropriate attitudes towards alcohol**

Did you know that parents have the greatest influence on their children attitudes about alcohol?

As children get older they are also influenced by their friends, the media and what they see on TV and in movies.

For children to develop a healthy attitude towards alcohol it is important to have positive role models.

As a parent, your child will challenge you about your own drinking so it is important to lead by positive example.

Here are some helpful ideas to promote appropriate attitudes towards alcohol:

- Limit the amount of alcohol you consume and encourage non-alcoholic family events
- Be honest with your kids. Talk to them about the importance of drinking alcohol moderately
- Never be afraid to answer their questions. It is a teenager’s desire to be treated like an adult which means discussing alcohol at home
- As a parent it is important to discuss the issue with your children and agree on rules and boundaries when it comes to alcohol.

DrinkWise has created this simple 5 point plan for parents (DELAY):

- **D**iscuss the issue
- **E**ducate by example
- **L**isten and engage
- **A** good relationship
- **Y**our expectations

More information can be found at [www.drinkwise.org.au](http://www.drinkwise.org.au)

**IMPORTANT**

**Camps, sports and Excursion Fund**

Any parent/Guardian who has not claimed the CSEF please contact the administration. Applications close on the 29th February.
IMPORTANT Camps, sports and Excursion Fund
Any parent/Guardian who has not claimed the CSEF please contact the administration. Applications close on the 29th February.

Tour Highlights Include:
- Disneyland
- Universal Studios
- Knott's Berry Farm
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- Stay with a host sister or brother
- Visit an American High School

“I wish all kids could have the amazing experiences EWT provides. Travel truly is the best gift we can give our kids!”

To find out more information contact
Mr Aldham
Phone: 03 5979 1577
Visit: www.ewt.com.au
Dear Parents

Did you know there is a high rate of depression and anxiety among young people in your community?

Do you have a child 8 to 15 years of age?

Would you like to help us prevent mental health problems in children?

If so, please contact us to be invited to a 1 hour meeting, with other parents, to discuss your views on mental health.

Child and youth-friendly activities will be available if required.

To be held during March at your local community centre.

Please contact Heidi Renner to express your interest in participating.

Heidi Renner, School of Psychology, Faculty of Health, Deakin University, Burwood Campus
Phone: +61 9244 6506 Email: heidi.renner@deakin.edu.au

Thank You!

This is part of a study aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and youth in the Mornington Peninsula, and is being conducted by Deakin University in partnership with Communities That Care Mornington Peninsula. This project has been approved by Deakin University Human Ethics Advisory Group (Ref: HEAG_H_156_2013) and the Department of Education and Training (Ref: 2015_002870).

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Associate Professor Andrew J. Lewis and/or Dr. Bosco Rowland on the following contact details:

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