Message from the Principal

As a society we often debate about the ‘right’ amount of screen time and how best to keep children safe online. New advice now reflects the fact that children are growing up in an unavoidably digital age. What’s deemed most important is to help children learn healthy concepts of digital citizenship. Here are some ideas that may assist with making decisions regarding “screen time” and safety online at home.

**Location is key** Keep all electronic devices in a central spot in the home, where it’s easy to monitor their use (not in bedrooms).

Treat media as you would any other environment in your child’s life. The same parenting rules apply in both real and virtual environments. Set limits. Children need and expect them. Know their friends, both online and off. Know what platforms they are using, where they are going and what they are doing. In fact it is important that you are involved and know their ‘online playground’ in as much detail as you would know every detail of the school or local playground.

Be a good role model. Teach and model kindness online.

Know the value of face-to-face communication. Very young children learn best through two-way communication. Engaging in “talk time” remains critical for language development. That can be face-to-face or via video chat with a travelling parent or grandparent. It’s the back-and-forth conversation that improves language skills.

Teach them to protect their privacy While they won’t fully understand the consequences of revealing personal information online, you should still make sure your children know:
* never to give their name, phone number, e-mail address, password, postal address, school, or picture without your permission
* not to open e-mail from people they don’t know
* not to respond to hurtful or disturbing messages
* not to get together with anyone they ‘meet’ online.

Families who play together, learn together. Family participation in media encourages social interactions and learning. Play a video game with your kids. Your insight helps children put their media experience into perspective. It’s also a good way to demonstrate good sportsmanship and gaming etiquette.

Do your homework on apps. More than 80,000 apps are labelled as educational, but little research validates their quality. Products pitched as “interactive” should require more than “pushing and swiping.” Look to organizations like Common Sense Media for reviews on age-appropriate apps, games and programs.

Key dates this term:

**February**
- 24 District Swimming
- 25 & 26 Reconciliation Preparation Masses
- 27 Prep Fulltime

**March**
- 1 Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00am
- 4 Yr 5/6 Level Parish 6:00pm Mass
- 9 School Closure day
- 10 School Closure day
- 13 Labour day Public holiday
- 15 Open Day
- 20-23 Year 5/6 Canberra Tour
- 20 Year ½ W Class Mass 9:15am
- 24 PFA Barefoot Bowls Night
- 28 Open Day
- 31 9:00am Easter Liturgy Friendship Fair School Finishes for term 1

We acknowledge the East Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which our school now stands. May we take care to always walk gently on this land.

As always if you have any ideas, concerns or queries we would love to hear from you:

**Principal:** Ms Daniella Maddalena  
**E-mail:** dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

**Deputy Principal:** Ms Bern Bradley  
**E-mail:** bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

**Administration:** Ms Paula Ryan  
**E-mail:** paular@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

**Address:** 24 Glenhuntly Rd, Elwood Vic 3184  |  Ph: 03 9531 6560  |  Fax: 03 9531 5271
**Web:** www.scelwood.catholic.edu.au
Set limits and encourage playtime. Unstructured playtime stimulates creativity. Make unplugged playtime a daily priority, especially for very young children. Technology use, like all other activities, should have reasonable limits.

Create tech-free zones. Keep family mealtimes tech-free. Recharge devices overnight outside your child’s bedroom. These actions encourage family time, healthier eating habits and better sleep.

“Kids will be kids”. Children will make mistakes using media. Handle these mistakes with empathy and use them as teachable moments.

Project Compassion

Caritas Australia organises fundraising appeals and promotes an awareness to help end poverty and encourage social justice throughout Australia and other countries.

The theme for Project Compassion 2017 is “Love your neighbour” -Matt 22:39
This year, Project Compassion demonstrates how caring for our neighbours, can transform lives.

Project Compassion starts on Ash Wednesday. Each family will receive a Project Compassion box to take home. We ask that you to bring your box back Week 1 of Term 2.

During our Assemblies, we will share inspiring stories from the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Australia, Vietnam and Fiji, highlighting the importance of working hand in hand with communities around the world.

Thankyou
Social Justice Team

Sibling Enrolments 2018

I would ask that parents who have a child commencing Prep in 2018 to please enrol their child by the end of February so we can see how many places will be available to new families for 2018. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the school office.

Assemblies

Assembly is held at 9:00am on Friday mornings in the hall. Parents are invited to join us for this weekly event. Class awards and birthdays will be celebrated at each assembly. At assembly each year level has a chance to share their learning. Listed is the schedule:

Feb 24 - Year 1/2     March 3 - Year 3/4     March 17 - Prep     March 31 - Easter Liturgy

News from Year 1/2

In Bounceback we have been discussing lots of things about Bullying and how we can be upstanders in our schools. We created NO BULLYING posters to show people the importance of being kind to others and respecting everyone. Some of the key words we used were inclusion, acceptance, upstander, friendship, tolerance, consequences and respect.
In Inquiry and Religion, we have been learning about different places, people and things that are meaningful to us. We reflected on why places were important to us and ways we can stay connected to them even if they are far away.

**BASC**

Hi Everyone,

We still have a few available spots for the school closure day care on Thursday the 9th and Friday the 10th of March.
Cost per day: $60 per child before rebate
This includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and all activities.
Planned for the days:
Thursday- African Drumming
Friday- Woodwork
Also including a range of other activities including arts and craft, cooking and outdoor play on both days.
Kind Regards
BASC Team

**Secondary School Enrolments**

Dear Parents,

Please be aware the applications for enrolment to Catholic Secondary Colleges for 2018 close this month, and applications for 2019 close August this year.

**Literacy Parent Helper Course**

By popular demand – If you were interested in attending our Literacy Helper Course and were unable to make the daytime session. We have set aside Monday March 20th as a potential date for an evening session. If you are keen to attend please email Helen Hall hhall@scetwood.catholic.edu.au

**Yes – they’re back!!**

**Head lice**- Well it seems that not only are the children back but so is head lice. I ask that you please check your child’s hair over the weekend. The only way we can keep head lice at bay, is for everyone to be vigilant with regular checking.

**Parish News**

**Children’s liturgy sessions**

The Children’s liturgy program at St Columba’s in Elwood will run on the first Sunday of every month. The program hopes to encourage a larger number of families to attend mass on a more regular basis. These masses will include more family friendly content with more involvement from our younger parishioners in the prayers, readings, music etc. We will also be offering a structured children’s liturgy session where our young parishioners will be welcome to participate for a short period during each mass. Parents are welcome to come and children under 5 will need to be accompanied by an parent or older sibling. These sessions will be held in the Parish Centre space at St Columba’s Primary, which is child friendly and comfortable for children of all ages.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved and join the small group of volunteers behind this initiative please contact Maria mgGeorge@eskwparish.org

Please ensure that you have access to this app on either your phone or personal device.

We are very conscious of information overload so this year the newsletter will be emailed out on Friday mornings and any reminders, alerts, important messages will be done through TiqBiz only.
Support your child’s learning at home

The Australian Government has recently launched this useful site. There are many ideas and activities that will help you to support your child by reinforcing and building on concepts and skills encountered in the classroom.

http://www.learningpotential.edu.au/

PFA News

Our first parents social event, the **Barefoot Bowls ‘Fiesta’** is just 4 weeks away! It is an adults only event with a very laid back vibe. We will have some authentic Paella, cool music and lawns bowls to help kick the year off.

Tickets are available to purchase for Early bird price of $25 until March 1st, when the tickets will then go up to $30. Ticket price includes choice of two Paellas and lawn bowls.


If you are able to volunteer to help with the setup please volunteer here.


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Many Thanks,
Diana Nicoloudis on behalf of the PFA
0404 912 994
diana.hartshorn@gmail.com
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Grade 5 & Grade 6 families

In line with recommendations from Catholic Education Melbourne, offers of place for Year 7 positions at De La Salle College in both 2018 and 2019 will be finalised this year. Please see below, the important dates you need to keep in mind.

**YEAR 7, 2018**
Friday 17 February 2017
March 2017
Thursday 27 April 2017
Applications for Year 7, 2018 close
Enrollment interviews held for all applicants
Offers of place posted to prospective students

**YEAR 7, 2019**
Thursday 25 August 2017
September 2017
Friday 21 October 2017
Applications for Year 7, 2019 close
Enrollment interviews held for all applicants
Offers of place posted to prospective students

About our College
De La Salle College is an independent Catholic College for boys in Years 4 – 12. Located on two adjacent campuses in Malvern, our College provides a respectful and encouraging environment where strong family values are reinforced. De La Salle does not have designated parish catchment zones and can draw widely from all parts of Melbourne, with all parish primary schools given priority in the enrollment process.

*Applications are processed in accordance with our Enrolment Policy. Further details available on our website.

College tours
Our tours are a great way for families to see our school in action. During the group tours you will hear from the principal and have the opportunity to explore the school, ask questions about the curriculum and the enrollment process, and speak to current students. The 2017 tour dates are listed below:

Friday 10 February 2:00pm
Wednesday, 15 February 9:15am
Wednesday 22 March 9:00am
Wednesday 31 May 9:15am
Wednesday 21 June 2:00pm
Friday 30 July 2:00pm
Wednesday 5 August 9:15am
Wednesday 11 August 2:00am
Wednesday 8 September 9:15am
Friday 13 October 2:00pm

Tours are led by Year 9 and 10 student ambassadors and run for approximately 90 minutes. Bookings on tours are essential. Please register your place online via the College website: www.deласalle.vic.edu.au/enrolment/college-tours.

Further Information
If you would like to receive a College Prospective and Application Pack, or have any questions about our enrollment process, please contact Mrs Rachel Goda on 03 9608 2166 or by email: rgo@deласalle.vic.edu.au.
**Come visit** the Sunflower Forest 26 February 2017  
‘Acland Plaza’ corner Barkly St & Acland Street St Kilda  
- See the many sunflowers in Acland Plaza  
- Drop in anytime from 11am - 5pm  
- Free art event for children  
- Paint and learn about nature and pollination

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All day</td>
<td>PAINT plaster castings / a native pot plant with Salvatori to take home!</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15am</td>
<td>TALK - Pollination with Gio Fitzpatrick, Youth Wildlife Ambassador</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>WORKSHOP - Make an Insect Hotel with Gio Fitzpatrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>TALK - plants &amp; pollination with David Sparks, SKINC nursery</td>
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For more information: [www.sunflowerforest.org](http://www.sunflowerforest.org)

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**PARTNERS:**

[City of Port Phillip](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/)  
[Write on Target Australia](http://www.writeontarget.com.au/)  
[VEG-OUT](http://www.veg-out.org/)  
[SKINC](http://www.skinc.org.au/)  

This project has been assisted by the City of Port Phillip Council through the Vibrant Acland Street Seed Grant Program.
AFL Auskick 2017 is coming soon!  
All girls & boys aged 5 – 12 are welcome to join us at our Auskick group

ELSTERNWICK AUSKICK

VAFA Ground - Elsternwick Park
162 Glenhuntly Rd Elwood

Session time: 9.15 - 10.45am
Contact: Deborah O'Reilly
Email: deborah.oerilly@pml.com

Start Date: 22nd April 2017
Mob: 0407 513 908
Register: @ aflauskick.com.au

AFL AUSKICK.COM.AU  

Twitter  Youtube  Instagram