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14 November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A reminder to all families that from **Monday 20 November** we begin our 2024 Headstart program for all students currently in Years 7-11, transitioning to Years 8-12 2024. It is expected that all students returning to Mordialloc in 2024 attend these particularly important Headstart weeks. Students will be able to log into Compass on Friday 17 November to see their new timetables commencing in the next week. It is also important that all students have the required materials for their subjects. If you have not yet purchased the items from the booklist, please arrange to do so at your earliest convenience.

During this week, prior to beginning Headstart we are allowing some celebratory activities to occur before beginning the 2024 academic year. Middle School students will complete their Student Led Conference (compulsory for all students to complete) on Wednesday 15/11. On Thursday 16/11 they will participate in a full day excursion to Gumbuya World. Information about Student Led Conferences was sent out a couple of weeks ago. Students in Years 10 and 11 will still be completing exams and any exam catch-ups. Friday 17 November is a pupil free day for staff to prepare for their new classes.

On Monday 20 November, all students will commence 2024 classes period one, followed by a whole school assembly in the Gym. At this assembly we will introduce our new Mordialloc College Student Council (Leadership team) for 2024.

We have revised bell times for 2024 that will begin in Headstart. Please see the table below and note the slightly earlier finishing time at the end of the day. Music is played for 5 minutes prior to each lesson as travel time and students are expected to be on time to their allocated room, ready with their equipment. Students will receive a sticker to put in their planner.

Mordialloc College Bell Times							
	Period 1		Recess	Period 2	Period 3	Lunch	Period 4
M Tu Th F	9:05 - 10:15		10:15 – 10:40	10:40 - 11:50	11:55 - 1:05	1:05 - 1:50	1:50 - 3:00
	Period 1	YLA	Recess	YLM	Period 3	Lunch	Period 4
WED	9:05 - 10:15	10:15 - 10:45	10:45– 11:05	11:05 - 11:35	11:35 - 12:45	12:45 - 1:25	1:25 - 2:35

As a College, Headstart allows us to regroup and re-energise our focus on improving student learning. Here are some of the key things we are focussing on for Headstart 2024 as a school:

- In each class, students will use our school values to develop a Code of Cooperation with each other and their teachers. This aims to build a positive class culture through high expectations for learning and authentic relationships and will be referred to throughout the coming year to ensure students are striving to do their best.

- All teachers will complete initial diagnostics to determine learning styles and entry point of learning. Some senior school subjects may have assessment tasks due before the end of Headstart. During this time, students are asked to maximise their learning by completing all set tasks, including homework in a timely manner. Students who do not complete homework or set tasks will be allocated to Study Clubs in Headstart to ensure all work is completed.
- We anticipate that most of our students will have a positive Headstart in their new year level. If there are any concerns with a student, teachers will follow up with their Year Level Coordinator and parents may be contacted.
- All students in Years 10-12 will receive clearly defined holiday homework that will be due early in Term 1, 2024.

We are renewing our focus on the little things that help to create an orderly environment focused on learning, including:

- A reminder that a 90% attendance rate is required to meet the requirements and expectations of all year levels and any absence during Headstart will count towards your child's attendance record for 2024.
- It is expected that students will wear the correct summer or winter uniform each day. This includes the correct school shoes (not sneakers). A reminder only a single small stud in the nose is the only permitted facial piercing.
- From headstart all students will need to get changed for PE classes as they will always be wearing their full school uniform to school. The exception will be for 2024 Year 8 students on Friday for their weekly sport class. Students in SEP with a before school class can wear their SEP uniform to school but they will then need to get changed afterwards into their full school uniform. If any student has PE timetabled for period 4, they will be allowed to wear their PE uniform home. Students who cannot wear the correct uniform need to see the Year Level Coordinator before school with an explanatory note from home. Students will be followed up with appropriate consequences if they continue to wear the incorrect uniform.
- A reminder about hair colour – non-natural hair colours e.g., green, bright red, pink or purple etc are not permitted, as per our uniform policy set by School Council
- As per the government policy introduced in 2020, if students are bringing mobile phones and headphones/air pods to school, they must be locked in their locker and are not to be seen, heard, or used during the school day. Phones and headphones/air pods that are seen being used during the school day will be confiscated and will need to be collected from reception at the end of the day if it is their first confiscation.

To view our School Policies, including the Uniform Policy and Mobile Phone Policy, please follow this link: <https://www.mcsc.vic.edu.au/current-parents/school-policies/>

- Behaviour Management – All students have a right to always learn in a respectful and cooperative classroom. Students will be given two opportunities to correct any behaviour that

is impacting negatively on their learning, or the learning environment of the class, before being removed and sent to the relevant Director of Sub-school or Assistant Principal. After the lesson, a restorative conversation will be held, involving the student, teacher and leader where appropriate follow up actions will be discussed, and parents informed.

- We will continue to use Compass as our main way to communicate with families. Compass allows you to check attendance, authorise absences, pay for events and excursions, access key school information, and track your child's progress through the Learning Tasks and Analytics tabs.

As of Headstart 2024, you will be able to further support your child's learning journey by accessing teaching & learning information made available via their daily Compass Lesson Plans. 2023 end of Semester Two reports can be accessed through the Compass parent and student portals from Friday 1 December. Please see attached Compass User Guide if you are needing assistance navigating Compass, alternatively if you are having trouble accessing or using Compass, please see contact the General Office.

Lastly, we hope that all students and teachers have some fun during Headstart to celebrate the end of this year and build strong relationships to set them up for success for the rest of 2024. Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

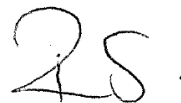
Yours sincerely,



Michelle Roberts
Principal



Tracey Bastin
Assistant Principal



Rachael Stone
Assistant Principal



Simon Cummins
Acting Assistant Principal