A warm welcome to all our returning families and an especially warm welcome to the students and families who are new to St Arnaud Secondary College.

University offers were made during the holidays. Of the 12 students who applied for tertiary places, 10 received their first preference and 2 their third.

4 students gained entry into nursing and the remainder were successful in securing places in; Applied Science, Outdoor Education, Health-Food Nutrition, Science, Geology, Professional Writing and Criminology. Our students are certainly destined for some very exciting studies and vocations and we wish them well with their studies.

School Council Elections... Call for nominations

The table below sets out the timeline for our school council election process.

We have 6 parent, 4 staff and 4 community positions available on our school council.

This year 4 parent positions and 1 staff position become vacant.

Parent members Doug Horsfall and Meagan Ferguson, Department members Colin Macgowan and Anthony Briggs were elected last year and they will continue in their positions this year.

If as a parent / guardian you would like to nominate yourself or nominate another parent / guardian, nomination forms are available from the front office.

Nominations close 4PM Monday 16th February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Arnaud Secondary College</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Closing date for nominations</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
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<td>d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
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<td>e) Close of ballot</td>
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<td>f) Vote count</td>
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<td>g) Declaration of poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>h) Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
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Welcome to our very first Year 7 Newsletter for 2015.

I hope that you have all experienced a fantastic and not too stressful start to your child’s secondary school education. The Year 7 students have made a very positive transition to their schooling. They have demonstrated the College values of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND RESILIENCE in an exemplary manner and I commend them on this.

Each week I will put in a Year 7 News page on this newsletter with homework, subject topics and activities, important dates and upcoming events. This newsletter includes the timetable for each class which you may wish to place in a prominent area.

Term One is very sports oriented with the House Swimming, Interschool Swimming, Northern Zone Triathlon and Interschool Athletics. The dates of these events will be on the calendar in this newsletter. It would be great to see parents and friends attend as spectators to support all students.

By now students should be becoming familiar with the school routine and know the resources required for each class. They should have received a list of each resource required for every subject from teachers and this should be glued into their locker. Please ask your child if they have all equipment as a few students are still missing diaries and textbooks.

Student diaries are their most important resource at school and it is imperative that these are viewed and signed by parents/guardians each week. Our form assembly is held on a Friday after lunch and students must have their diary signed.

The Year 7 Camp to Halls Gap will occur on Mon 2nd – Wed 4th of March and offers a fantastic opportunity for all students to build on their positive social relationships and further develop their teamwork skills and their resilience. By now you should have received all of the permission slips in regards to this and if you have any questions please contact me to discuss.

Our Year 7 Family BBQ will occur on Wednesday the 11th of March. An RSVP has been sent home asking for numbers and dietary requirements. It is hoped all families can attend to meet all College staff and enjoy an informal get-together to support your child’s education.

Please feel free to contact me at any time in order for me to provide the best support for your child’s education.

Roxanne Egan (Yr 7 Coord) on 54 951811 or egan.roxanne.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Welcome back to what will hopefully be another exciting and successful school year! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and holidays.

Students were bombarded with forms during their first form assembly last Friday. These included the general permission slip/medical form (to be returned ASAP), lunch pass (for students wishing to go home at lunch), MIPS form (to be returned to Mr. Reynolds by 12/2), and for some students another Immunisation form (return ASAP!).

Form Assemblies will now be held every Friday, so students will need to have their diary signed prior to this each week. Support group teachers for 2015 are Mr Cornwell, Mrs Leach and Miss Swanton. We will be conducting SRC nominations and elections next week. I encourage all students to have a good think about who they feel would best represent Year 10.

If you have any questions/concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Tania Hadzig
Year 10 Coordinator
hadzig.tania.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
5495 1811

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<tr>
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<td>PE</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>English</td>
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SCHOOL IS BACK

As Gary says, its like a box of pencils!

Or, should that be chocolates?
Years 7 & 12 do lunch & games
The Christmas Parade

The pennants & costumes created by Year 8 Textiles students last year were a colourful addition to the Annual Christmas Parade.

ST.A.S.C. was able to hit the streets with thanks to Alex, Bree, Brooke, Cody, Kyla, Imogen, Maddie, Melissa, Sam & Vincent, who volunteered to wear the costumes & carry the pennants. What a great way to demonstrate school spirit & civic pride. Well done to you all!
Three big changes to the vaccine program

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

The Northern Grampians Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school Principal on 54951811 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Northern Grampians Shire Council.

In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s. Most would have received them last year. If you haven’t returned them you need to regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au.

Please return forms to the box outside the Assistant Principals’ office or to Mrs Chapman.
2nd February 2015

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Expressions of interest are being sought for participants for the 2015 State Schools Spectacular.

The Victorian State Schools Spectacular is one of the largest performing arts events in Australia. It is a professionally staged production performed annually to an audience of over 10,000 people. The Spectacular includes a cast of almost 3000 Victorian government school students, working towards a common goal in a collaborative, competition-free environment. Its dual aim is to provide an invaluable performing arts opportunity to Victoria’s government school students and to showcase the enormous talent that exists in our schools. This all comes together in a 2-3 hour scripted show that celebrates a diversity of performance mediums, including choir, dance, vocal, drama, and orchestra.

The event will be held on Saturday 12th September in Melbourne, but students will need to be available for the 3 days prior as well, Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th September.

In addition there will be mass rehearsals which at this stage will take place for a whole day in March, May, June and August.

A limited number of places have been allocated so if you would like to register your interest could you please complete the section below and return it to the St Arnaud Secondary College office by Friday 13th February.

______________________________

Expression of Interest – 2015 State Schools Spectacular

I give my consent for my child to be considered for the 2015 State Schools Spectacular.

Student Name: ________________________________

Parent Name: ________________________________

Parent Signature: ________________________________

Contact Phone Number: ________________________________
ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL ITEMS
Parent Charges 2015

To reduce the number of requests for payment throughout the year, a single charge has been applied to all parents/guardians of students attending St. Arnaud Secondary College. This is the Essential Educational Items charge.

The funds collected from families for this charge contribute directly to your child’s educational experiences and make it possible for St. Arnaud Secondary College to continue to provide an excellent range of services including travel to sporting venues, sporting equipment, school magazine, Student ID, photocopying, library resources, subsidize class materials for practical subjects (eg: Art, Woodwork, Food Technology), access to computers/printing, and many other items – all of which improve the quality of education available. In some classes, class sets are used instead of asking parents to purchase textbooks.

The College Council, of whom the majority are parents, is mindful of the costs incurred by parents/guardians. After careful consideration, it has been determined that the annual Essential Educational Items 2015 charge will be:

- Year 7 & 10 - $80.00
- VCE – $90.00
- VCAL – $45.00
- Years 8, 9 & 10 Maths Homework Book—$15.00
- North Central Cluster Fees – Enrolment fees range from $25.00-60.00 per subject each Semester
- Invoices are sent out to Families of students attending.

Other Charges
These items have been classified as an Optional Extra and available on a user pays basis. Non-payment of these elective charges may result in the student not being able to participate in the activity.

Optional Extra charged throughout the year to cover costs, if applicable, such as:
- Year 7 Halls Gap Camp
- Year 8 Rubicon Camp
- Middle School Camps
- Driver Education
- Faculty Excursions
- Cost of providing specialist materials (ie photography printing, woodwork items, food materials)
- Materials charge on completion of item that is taken home.

PAYMENT OPTIONS
Payments may be made at any time using cash, cheque or BPay.
Family Invoices will be sent out at the start of the 2015 year.
All Family Statements include BPay reference details. To ensure the correct allocation of payments, parents using this facility are kindly requested to forward to the school General Office, the remittance advice from their Family Statement with the charges being paid clearly marked. Payments by Instalments can be arranged—please contact Business Manager, Kerrie Swanton.
Central Grampians Drug Action Taskforce encourages people to take the Febfast challenge

Febfast is a health challenge asking Australians to take a 28 day alcohol, sugar, caffeine or digital detox this February. This short break is both a timely health kick and a vital community fundraiser: money raised helps tackle youth addiction issues and supports thousands of young people with drug and alcohol problems.

Each day of the year, more than 160 teenagers turn to alcohol and drug support services across the country for support. Families and the lives of young people are often at crisis point as substance abuse and addiction takes its toll. Febfast raises money for Family Drug Support and Youth Support + Advocacy Service helping thousands regain control in their lives from alcohol and drug misuse.

The Central Grampians Drug Action Taskforce (CGDAT) takes an ‘all of community’ approach to preventing and minimising the harms caused by alcohol and other drugs in the Central Grampians communities. The CGDAT is comprised of representatives from a broad range of local organisations and community members. Chair of the Taskforce, Marianne Hendron says that “the CGDAT supports the Febfast message and encourages community members to take up the challenge of Feb Fast in 2015. It’s a good opportunity to restore our bodies after the holiday excesses and perhaps reflect on changes we might like to make in our lives and even in our communities.”

“Febfast is all about taking a circuit breaker from some of our creeping bad habits” says Howard Ralley, National Director of FebFast “Not only will you have improved your health as you tame a habit, you will also have helped raise money to tackle youth addiction”

For more information on how to become a part of Febfast or to donate visit their website febfast.org.au.

For more information on the Central Grampians Drug Action Taskforce contact Lauren or Marianne on 5352 6200 or email cgd@grampianscommunityhealth.org.au.
MUSIC NEWS

The College has again been allocated a substantial amount of teaching time by the Departmental Region for instruction in practical music. The instrumental program is open to all students and places are filled on a first-come-first-served basis, according to the availability of instruments and the size of classes.

Instruction is offered in nine instruments and lessons are free of cost, except where a school-owned woodwind instrument is being hired. Hire fees are spent on the maintenance of these instruments and remain at the 1998 level of $40.00 per term.

Instrumental lessons are weekly, and students are withdrawn from class on a rotating timetable to minimise disruption. Students who participate in the program are reminded that the Region requires them to be available for performances as directed by the music coordinator.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss the program with their children and complete the form below if they are interested. Places are limited, so make sure to return the completed form as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the college if you wish to discuss the program.

Anthony Briggs
Music Coordinator

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NOMINATION FORM – 2014

Name of Student __________________________ Form group _____

Place numbers (1-3) to indicate preference of instrument:

___ Flute  ___ Guitar  ___ Keyboard

___ Clarinet  ___ Bass guitar  ___ Drums

___ Saxophone  ___ Ukulele  ___ Voice

Parent/Guardian signature __________________________ Date ___________
Calendar 2015

Term 1 Semester 1

Monday 16th February
Tuesday 24th February

Thursday 26th February
Monday 2nd-4th March
Thursday 5th March
Monday 9th March
Tuesday 10th—13th March
Friday 13th March
Tuesday 17th March
Thursday 19th March
Tuesday 24th March

**Friday 27th March**

NCD Swimming
Immunisations Years 7-10
Year 12 Studio Arts Excursion
Investiture Day PM
Year 7 Halls Gap Camp
Year 12 Physics Excursion
Labour Day Holiday
Year 8 Rubicon Camp
Interim Reports Distributed
LMR Swimming
NCD Triathlon
House Athletics

*School Photos*

*End of Term 1 2.0 dismissal*

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Term 2 Semester 1

Monday 13th April
Wednesday 15th April
April 20th—24th
Wednesday 29th April

School Resumes
SSV Swimming
Boys Work Experience
Parent Teacher Interviews

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**Bell Times**

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*Fri. Form Ass.*

*1.36 Assembly*