



13 February
Primary Information Evening

5 March
Year 7 Immunisations

24hr Absentee Line
Please ring 5991 0801 (not the school's main number) to alert the school of a child's absence.

SEQTA Parent Login
engage.caseygrammar.vic.edu.au



15 February
Primary Leaders Commissioning

9 March
School Photo Day



General Enquiries
5991 0800

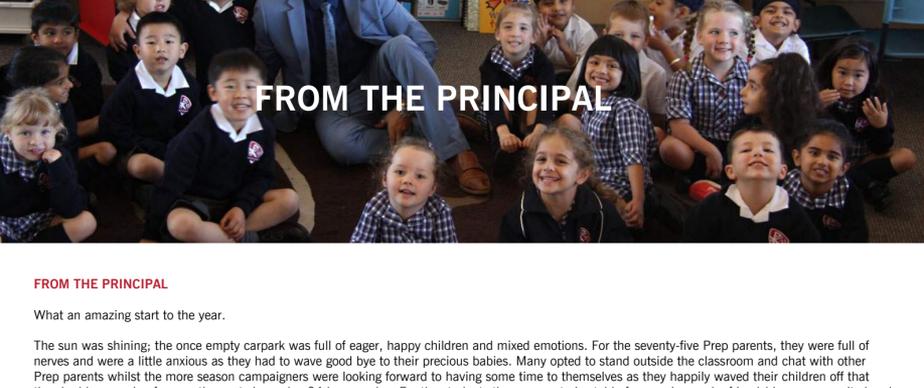


SEQTA Student Login
www.learn.caseygrammar.vic.edu.au

26 February
Open Morning

Thursday 12 October
Year 6 Excursion
Class of 2016 Reunion

Make a Payment
CGS online payment facility



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What an amazing start to the year.

The sun was shining; the once empty carpark was full of eager, happy children and mixed emotions. For the seventy-five Prep parents, they were full of nerves and were a little anxious as they had to wave good bye to their precious babies. Many opted to stand outside the classroom and chat with other Prep parents whilst the more season campaigners were looking forward to having some time to themselves as they happily waved their children off that they had been caring for over the past six weeks, 24 hours a day. For the students there were stories told of memories made, friendships were reunited and tears of nerves were replaced with tears of joy. The anticipation around a New Year, new opportunities and new beginnings was very present.

The day started with a junior school assembly, and I was very impressed with the Primary school children proudly singing the Australian National Anthem. Later that morning we had a full Senior School assembly led by the School Captains. Their message was very powerful, expressing their passion for the school and encouraging the students to make the most of every moment. There was a real sense of pride in the students. Later that day as I walked around at recess, lunch and after school, I was inundated by friendly students all asking how my day was and introducing themselves to me. I was continuously reminded from parents and staff how wonderful our school is.

At 7pm I left the office to head home, so very proud of the school, the people and the community and am looking forward to leading the school in 2018 and beyond.

I am pleased to announce that Casey Grammar School had 100% graduation for their VCE in 2017.

Bradley Harris was our School DUX with an ATAR of 95.05, and Liam Foley was our Proxime Accessit with an ATAR of 95.4 followed by Danielle Duncan who also achieved an ATAR above 90 (91.55). Students achieved scores above 40 in Drama, Outdoor Education, Business Management and Economics. I would like to thank all of the CGS staff for their hard work and commitment throughout 2017, and I look forward to continuing this great work as we strive toward excellence in 2018.

Congratulations to Ms Brittany Scott and Mrs Rachel Doran who are expecting their first and third child respectively. Parents will be updated on staffing arrangements to cover maternity leave as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,
Richard Baird

FROM THE SCHOOL CAPTAINS



Welcome to the start of the new school year. As your school captains there are a few things in which we hope to accomplish by the end of the year, we hope that our school is more involved in the wider community, we hope to see new and positive attitudes towards studies and extracurricular activities but most importantly we want students to take pride in Casey Grammar and the values in which we possess.

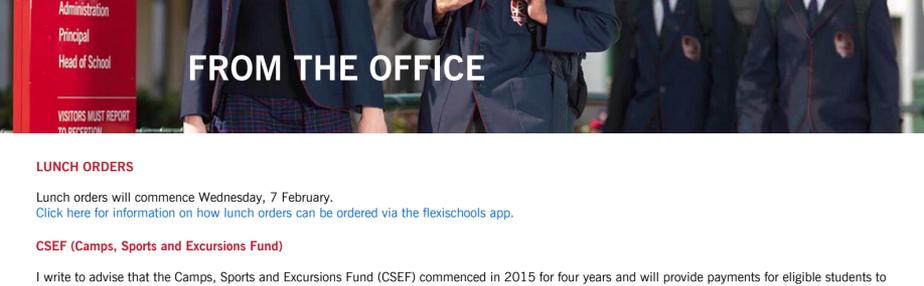
This year we will encourage each individual to strive for excellence, in your studies, sports, music, friendships and family but most importantly excellence within yourself. We hope that each and every one of you can finish this year knowing you have done your best. Even if you fail, try again. I want to remind you all that greatness does not come easy and hard work, persistence and motivation are what it takes to become something great.



Walt Disney was once told that he lacked imagination and had no good ideas, today Walt Disney has created over 151 movies. Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team and is now recognised as the greatest basketballer of all times, Oprah Winfrey was fired from her first TV show as an anchor. Despite all of these failures these successful individuals never let anyone stand in their way, which brings me to Albert Einstein; Einstein arguably one of the world's most intelligent person who in fact did not start speaking until he was four, reading until he was seven, and was thought to be mentally handicapped.

If you're wondering how these people relate to Casey Grammar, well they don't. However, their stories do. We hope that you all try your absolute hardest in 2018 and with the support of all of us here today you can achieve the level of greatness you're striving for.

Jack Mepstead and Madein Goring



FROM THE OFFICE

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders will commence Wednesday, 7 February.
[Click here for information on how lunch orders can be ordered via the flexischools app.](#)

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)

I write to advise that the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. \$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with \$225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. A special consideration eligibility category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. Payments will go directly to the school and be allocated to the families account for camp and excursion costs. Eligible families will need to apply through the school by completing the CSEF Application form and returning the form, together with a copy of a valid concession card, to the school by 30 March, 2018.

[Click here to download the CSEF form from the school website.](#)

Further information is provided on the attached flyer from the Department of Education & Training or at www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Yours sincerely,
Simone Strauss
School Accountant

NEW STAFF



Ms Charlotte Bouman - Prep C Teacher

It seems a little surreal to be back at Casey Grammar, in the same classroom and year level after seven years working in the Northern Territory! The impact of quality early education upon children's self-image and future achievements is my passion. Much of our focus was on developing oral language and working with children who had experienced significant trauma. It was challenging and very rewarding! It is lovely to be back home with my family and friends and to teach Prep at CGS... and to experience decent coffee again! It has been a whirlwind return; moving, painting, Christmas in the presence of a granddaughter, Anna on January 18.



Ms Danielle Warburton - Year 4W Teacher

I will be teaching Year 4 this year at Casey Grammar School. I am twenty-eight years old and grew up in Mount Gambier, South Australia. I have been teaching for five years now and have taught from Prep to Year 12. I love teaching all subjects but am particularly passionate about visual art.



Ms Harna Chandra - Risk & Compliance Officer

My role involves preparing for and managing the risks associated with the conduct of the school. Which involves reviewing and creating policies that accurately reflect the needs of the company and the staff, to improving the overall wellbeing and future viability of the school.



Ms Laura Dascoli - Year 5D Teacher

I'm a passionate teacher of eleven years. I have come from a local school, where I taught Years 5 and 6. As a pastime, I enjoy photography, riding and training my three horses. I also compete in dressage. I play the saxophone and have accomplished all of the exams on offer. I am very much looking forward to working with the students at Casey Grammar this year!



Ms Sarah Nolan - Year 5N Teacher

I previously worked at Casey Grammar School as a Learning Assistant while studying to become a teacher. After a two year stint at a local school as a graduate teacher, I am thrilled to be back working as a Year 5 teacher at Casey Grammar School for 2018!

I live with my three children who are aged 19, 18 and 14, and a pet Maltese named Crystal. I enjoy music, dancing, shopping, reading and fashion. I am a diehard 'Kylie Minogue' fan and love nothing better than walking along a beach on a sunny day.



Mr Ryan Subban - VCE Commerce & Secondary Business and Economics Teacher

In my role at Casey Grammar School, I will have the pleasure of largely working with the Year 11 and Year 12 students in the Commerce field as well as teaching Business and Economics in Years 9 & 10. I live in Berwick & so there is a good chance of bumping into me at the Eden Rise Shopping Centre! I am neither Indian or Sri Lankan (as many people first guess) but rather South African; spending the first 8 years of my life in the country. I have played and coached both soccer and cricket over the years, and am a keen golfer and basketballer.

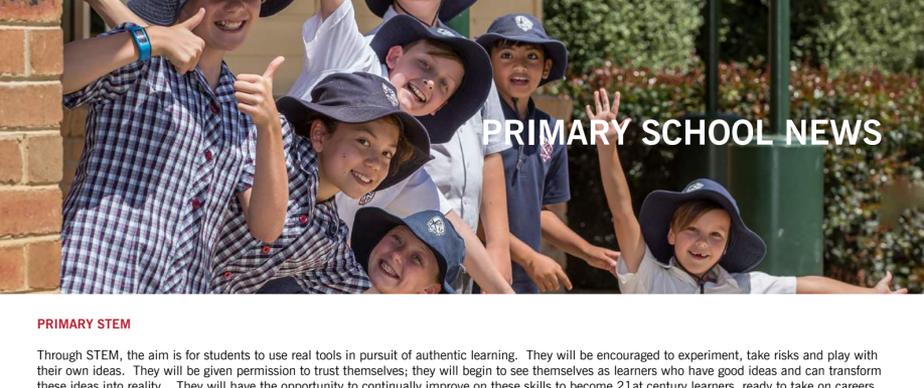
Last year, I have had the opportunity to travel and teach at some of the schools and education centres in Durban, South Africa – which was definitely an eye-opening experience both in and outside of the school. I was also able to complete my Masters in Education halfway through 2017; which I hope will further assist me as an ever-learning educator going forward.



Ms Cathy James - Drama Teacher

Prior to coming to Casey Grammar School this year, I was teaching at Moama Anglican Grammar, on the border of Echuca/Moama. I worked there for four years and was Head of Drama for two of those as well as coordinator of Public Speaking and Debating. Before making the move to Echuca, I also taught at Monivae College in Western Victoria. I completed my Masters of Education (Student Wellbeing) in 2016. I have been involved in amateur music theatre productions in Melbourne and in Shepparton, something I love to do. Singing and acting has always been a part of my life, completing a Bachelor of Performing Arts at Monash before heading into teaching.

At Casey Grammar School I will be teaching Drama and English. I am looking forward to meeting the students, parents and being involved in the community.



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

PRIMARY STEM

Through STEM, the aim is for students to use real tools in pursuit of authentic learning. They will be encouraged to experiment, take risks and play with their own ideas. They will be given permission to trust themselves; they will begin to see themselves as learners who have good ideas and can transform these ideas into reality. They will have the opportunity to continually improve on these skills to become 21st century learners, ready to take on careers which at this point in time have not even been created.

Students have begun the year using Cubelets to create robots.

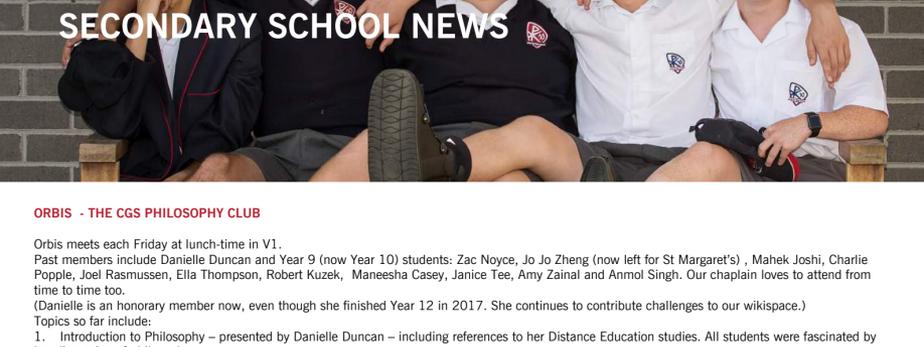
"We built our robot and realised that if you put the two distance sensors facing each other, then the robot would keep moving."

Sarah, Zoe, Latisha and Delaney

"We made our sensors, so they faced each other and learnt that if you put your fingers between the sensors it slowed the robot down, and if you put it closer to the sensor, the robot stopped."

Jack B, Jack W, Kyan and Justin

Mrs Sandra Torcasio
Primary Curriculum Coordinator



SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

ORBIS - THE CGS PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Orbis meets each Friday at lunch-time in V1.

Past members include Danielle Duncan and Year 9 (now Year 10) students: Zac Noyce, Jo Jo Zheng (now left for St Margaret's), Mahek Joshi, Charlie Poptele, Joel Rasmussen, Ella Thompson, Robert Kuzek, Maneesha Casey, Janice Tee, Amy Zainal and Anmol Singh. Our chaplain loves to attend from time to time too.

(Danielle is an honorary member now, even though she finished Year 12 in 2017. She continues to contribute challenges to our wikispace.)

Topics so far include:

1. Introduction to Philosophy – presented by Danielle Duncan – including references to her Distance Education studies. All of us were fascinated by her discussion of philosophers.

2. What is the meaning of life? – Jo Jo suggested that The meaning of life is the search for the meaning of life.

3. What is good and evil? Many students believed that interpretations depended on culture, religion and perspectives.

4. The philosophy of William Blake – poet, artist and philosopher. Last week, we studied his poem Tyger Tyger burning bright and began looking at his artwork.

If any students would like a 'brain challenge', join our weekly group on Fridays at lunch-time in V1 - All welcome.

Ms Pam Adams
English & History Teacher

SECONDARY SCHOOL CHOIR

Secondary Choir is Thursday Lunchtime in the Chapel. Year 7 students are most welcome to join this ensemble. Bring your lunch, your open mind and your awesome voice!! Join the Casey Grammar community choir.

Ms Danielle McAlister
Mary Carolyn McAlister



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2018 school year!

Although the first part of this reflection is from the start of the school holidays, it was an important time to help our school calendar, and those involved deserve formal acknowledgement. At the start of December, a number of senior students volunteered their time to help pack the baskets and gifts for various organisations as part of our Primary and Secondary Christmas Appeals. To see the Chapel overrun with generous donations from our school community definitely showed the Christmas spirit in action! It was very moving indeed to see people dropping off things and thinking of others in a time that can be quite consumeristic. My particular thanks to our 2018 Social Justice and Community Captain Shaylah Portelli-Moore, Mehdi Hussaini and Sakshi Puri, all of whom sacrificed time in the holidays to wrap and process the donations.

By the time we finished wrapping, Casey Grammar School had donated

- 11 Handbag packs to Share the Dignity
- 16 Baskets to individual families in need in our local area through the Salvation Army
- 1 pet pack to a local family in need through the Salvation Army
- 2 big boxes of books and games for Youth Projects
- 33 toiletries packs (including some larger ones for couples/ families) to Youth Projects. It was a wonderful way to conclude the year.

The end of January allows us to be excited about the possibility and potential of what is yet to come. As staff, we commenced the year with a Commissioning service where we considered the history of our staff within the past 25 years of the school's history. There is such a breadth of experience in our school, and our staff come from a wide range of places. This year alone, we are welcoming at least three new staff members from interstate. During the staff service, Richard Baird was commissioned as our new Principal. He is only our third in the history of the school, and so this year is significant because of the new direction he will lead the school in, as well as marking the beginning of our 25th anniversary. The reading in the service was from the book of Joshua where he is instructed to 'be strong and courageous'. It was meant to remind our 25th anniversary. The principal in the service was of us, 'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9). Reading on the holidays, families have shared both very positive experiences and difficult ones. Six weeks is a long time in a community and with over 800 students, there are many stories that have evolved over this time. Yet, this message of God's presence with us remains true, whether the person is a Principal beginning at a new school, a Prep student commencing formal education, a person processing difficult news or an individual starting a new challenge.

Over the coming few weeks, our Primary and Secondary Leadership Commissioning services will be held. Parents of leaders will be sent invitations to join in these special occasions.

May God bless you and your families as you begin the routines of the year.

Monique Riviere-Pendle
School Chaplain



WELLBEING

HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

Although a parent's role in their children's learning evolves as kids grow, one thing remains constant: we are our children's learning models. Our attitudes about education can inspire theirs and show them how to take charge of their own educational journey.

Be a role model for learning. When a young child begins formal school, the parent's job is to show her how school can extend the learning you began together at home, and how exciting and meaningful this learning can be.

Tune into how your child learns. Many children use a combination of modalities to study and learn. Some learn visually through making and seeing pictures, others through tactile experiences, like building block towers and working with clay. Still others are auditory learners who pay most attention to what they hear.

Practice what your child learns at school. Many teachers encourage parents to go over what their young children are learning in a non-pressured way and to practice what they may need extra help with.

Set aside time to read together. Read aloud regularly, even to older kids. If your child is a reluctant reader, reading aloud will expose her to the structure and vocabulary of good literature and get her interested in reading more. It also provides children with a greater understanding of the world.

Connect what your child learns to everyday life. Make learning part of your child's everyday experience, especially when it comes out of your child's natural questions. When you cook together, do measuring-math. When you drive in the car, count license plates and talk about the states. When you turn on the blender, explore how it works together. Have give-and-take conversations, listening to your child's ideas instead of pouring information into their heads.

Help your child take charge of his learning. We want them to be responsible for their successes and failures, show them how engaging learning is, and that the motivations for learning should be the child's intrinsic interests, not an external reward.

Don't over-schedule your child. Kids need downtime as much as they may need to pursue extra-curricular activities.

Keep TV and other screens use to a minimum. There is significant research identifying the harmful effect o screens on children's development, such as impaired concentration, poorer literacy, reduced social skills and many more.

Learn something new yourself. Learning something new yourself is a great way to model the learning process for your child. Take up a new language or craft, or read about an unfamiliar topic. Show your child what you are learning and how you may be struggling.

Mr Alan Clarke
School Psychologist

