

Collingwood Park State Secondary College

Term 3 Newsletter



Message from the Principal – Ben Jack

As we move toward the end of Term 3, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly remarkable term at Collingwood Park State Secondary College. As a brand-new school, every term brings “firsts,” and I could not be prouder of the achievements, spirit and commitment shown by our students, staff and community.

This term we have proudly celebrated and achieved many milestones, including:

- Our first Academic Awards Ceremony, recognising excellence and effort across learning.
- Students representing our school for the very first time in athletics.
- Our music students participating in a regional workshop, showcasing their talent at a wider level.
- Our inaugural Science Week and Book Week, filled with curiosity, creativity and fun.
- The school’s first NAIDOC Week celebrations, honouring and respecting culture and community.
- Hosting our first Twilight Open Evening, welcoming families and future staff members into our learning spaces.
- Marking Teacher Aide Appreciation Week for the very first time, celebrating the incredible support staff who make such a difference every day.
- Our first basketball match against QPS, proudly wearing our school colours on the court.
- Welcoming our first cohort of Year 6 students to experience a morning in high school as part of their transition journey.

Looking ahead, we are excitedly preparing for our first Culture Night in Term 4, a special event that will bring together our school community to celebrate diversity, inclusion and belonging.

Thank you to our staff, students, parents and carers for the support and enthusiasm you have shown in helping us build the culture and identity of our college. Together, we are laying strong foundations and creating lasting traditions for many years to come.

Ben Jack
Principal

Message from Mr Horskins – Year 7 Deputy Principal

It has been a fantastic Term 3 for our Year 7 students at Collingwood Park State Secondary College. I would like to extend a huge congratulations to our many Year 7 students who were recognised with Academic, Effort, Behaviour, and Attendance Awards at our very first official Awards Ceremony. This was a proud moment for our College and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements and dedication of our students.

I would also like to thank all of our Year 7s for showing such strong Perseverance throughout the term, particularly during the timetable and room changes we experienced at the beginning of Term 3. Change can be challenging, but our students adapted with positivity and resilience, and they should be commended for the way they handled this transition.

As the term has progressed, I have noticed a real increase in maturity across the cohort. Many of our students are now well and truly settled into high school life. They are showing greater independence, taking ownership of their learning, and developing stronger relationships with both their peers and teachers.

This term, Year 7 students have also demonstrated their talents and school spirit through participation in sporting, cultural, and classroom activities. It has been wonderful to see so many of them engaging actively in the wider life of the school.

Looking ahead to Term 4, I encourage all students to continue setting personal goals and to finish the year strongly. With the foundation of skills and habits built this year, I am confident that our Year 7s will continue to grow and achieve even greater success.

Congratulations once again to all of our students on a very positive Term 3.

Dan Horskins
Deputy Principal – Year 7

Message from Ms Downie – Year 8 Deputy Principal

Year 8 & Inclusion News

Term 3 Update

Term 3 has been a vibrant and rewarding time for our Year 8 students, filled with experiences that encouraged connection, learning, and celebration.

NAIDOC Week

We were delighted to begin the term with **NAIDOC Week**, an important opportunity to recognise and honour the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Students took part in **CP Connect activities**, including a yarning circle where they used conversation cards to spark meaningful conversations and build stronger connections with one another. This simple but powerful activity helped students share their stories, listen to others, and learn more about their peers.

The highlight of the week was our **inaugural NAIDOC Assembly**. Our First Nations students led the way, proudly sharing their culture with the whole school. They opened the assembly with a beautiful Welcome Dance and showcased a collection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artefacts. It was a proud moment for our school community as we deepened our understanding of Indigenous culture and celebrated the voices of our First Nations students.





Academic Awards

It was fantastic to see so many of our Year 8 students recognised at the recent Academic Awards ceremony. Congratulations to all who received awards for their outstanding achievement! In addition, students who have consistently demonstrated high standards of effort and behaviour in class were also celebrated. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and commitment shown by our Year 8 cohort.



Year 8 Gold Academic Awards



Year 8 Silver Academic Awards



Year 8 Bronze Academic Awards

Culture and Community Fest

Looking ahead, we are excited about our very first **Culture and Community Fest** on **Thursday 16 October**. This will be an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the richness of our school community. We warmly invite all families to lock the date into your diaries and come along to be part of this very special occasion.

Thank You to Parents and Carers

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Year 8 parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout the term. Your encouragement at home, partnership with teachers, and involvement in school life make a huge difference in the success and wellbeing of our students. Together, we are helping our young people grow, achieve, and thrive.

Danni Downie

Deputy Principal - Year 8

Message from Ms McKay – Pathways Deputy Principal

Term Three has been an exciting and productive time for our school community as we continue to grow and strengthen both our staff team and student pathways.

This term we hosted a very successful Twilight Evening, welcoming prospective teachers, administration staff, teacher aides, cleaners, and grounds staff. The evening provided opportunities for campus tours and information sessions about our school vision, culture, and commitment to excellence. Following this event, we completed our teacher recruitment process for 2026 and are pleased to share that we now have a full teaching team secured across all subject areas for next year.

Our focus on building a strong senior secondary program has also continued. This term, our Heads of Department visited Mabel Park SHS and Loganlea SHS to explore their innovative programs, subjects, and VET delivery models across Years 10–12. These insights are supporting the planning of our own senior secondary pathways. Additionally, a number of our teaching staff will complete their TAE (Training and Assessment) skill set next term, which will enable our school to move forward towards becoming a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). This will allow us to deliver a greater range of vocational pathways for our students in the future.

Another significant development this term has been the implementation of our Collingwood Park Reconnect Room (CPR Room). This restorative space provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their behaviours and consider the impact their actions have on peers, teachers, and the wider community. We are delighted to welcome Kellie Anderson to our team as Youth Worker, supporting students in the restorative process. Our Heads of Department also play a key role in ensuring students remain engaged with learning and assessment while working through the restorative process in the CPR Room.

Over the next week and into Term Four, our Year 8 students will begin the process of selecting their electives for 2026. This is an important step in shaping their future learning pathways. At the same time, students will also have the opportunity to apply for Junior Secondary Captain and House Captain leadership positions. These roles provide valuable experiences in student leadership and school service, and we encourage all interested students to consider applying.

I wish everyone an enjoyable September holiday break and look forward to the energy, learning, and success that term four will bring.

Bonnie McKay
Deputy Principal

Message from Ms Egan – Guidance Officer

Term 3 is always a busy and sometimes stressful term. Students and staff can get tired, and the daily tasks of life and work can feel heavier than usual. It's good to take time out to recharge and take care of yourself at these times.

I am encouraging students to take time to just THINK. With screens everywhere and non-stop, 24-hour social media, we very rarely just sit quietly and think. Taking a little time each day with no screen, no music, no talking, just thinking, can really help in many ways. Thinking unlocks our creativity, it helps us problem solve, it reduces stress by quieting the mind, and thinking allows us to process what's been going on in our lives.

We are all very excited to show you our very first **Culture and Community Fest** in week 2 of next term! Students have been working hard, practicing their performances for the night. Here are all the important details you need to know:

Event Details

- **Date** Thursday 16th October
- **Gate Opens:** 4:00pm
- **Art Gallery** 🎨
- **Live Music** from our Band & Bin Drumming Group 🎸 🎵
- **Student Performances Begin:** 5:45pm 🌟
- **Pot Luck Dinner Starts:** 5:00pm 🍲
- **Drinks on Sale** by the P&C 🍷
- **Children Welcome!** Younger children must be supervised by an adult.

🇬🇧 **Entry is FREE**, but bookings are essential so we can plan for numbers.

Please book your tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DDXPR>

Bringing a Dish for the Pot Luck Dinner

Thank you for sharing a taste of your culture with our community! Here's what you need to know:

- Please prepare your dish at home and bring it in a fully enclosed container by 4:00pm.
- Food will be served from 5:00pm – 6:00pm.
- Disposable plates, bowls, and cutlery will be provided.
- Please bring a serving spoon, tongs, or spatula for your dish.
- Label your containers and utensils with your name and take them home at the end of the night.

- Include a card with:
 - The name of your dish
 - The country of origin
 - A list of all ingredients

📄 To help us plan and ensure we have enough variety and quantity, please complete this short survey:

👉 <https://forms.office.com/r/GQTu6LVK1t>

Tracey Egan

tegan6@eq.edu.au

Message from Ms Beers– Head of Department Inclusion



Students with Disability – Collection of Data

Image has been sourced from

<https://studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/resources/nccd/>

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every August, all schools across Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process is an annual collection of information about Australian school students who have adjustments due to their disability. The Student Services team here at CPSSC have been working hard to ensure that all information available in the school accurately reflects the frequency and intensity of adjustments made to support the learning needs of students with disability.

Information provided to the Federal government for the NCCD includes:

- Year of schooling
- Category of disability – cognitive, physical, sensory or social/emotional
- The level of adjustment provided for the student – support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, or supplementary, substantial or extensive levels of adjustment.

The NCCD enables schools, education authorities and governments to better understand the needs of students with disability and how they can be best supported at school. Please note that while data is collected at a school level, personal details such as student names or student identifiers are not provided to Federal education authorities as part of the NCCD.

Please read the Fact Sheet for Parents, Guardians and Carers if you require further information.

Fact Sheet: https://www.nccd.edu.au/sites/default/files/nccd_parent_fact_sheet_english_0.pdf

If you have questions about the NCCD and your student, please contact Danni Downie, Deputy Principal – Inclusion, or Cara Beers, HoSES.

Cara Beers

cbeer16@eq.edu.au

Message from Mr Harvey– Head of Department HPE

HPE & Sport Update

It has been another exciting term in the world of sport and Health & Physical Education at our school!

Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to all students who participated in our 2025 Athletics Carnival. It was a fantastic day of competition, school spirit, and personal bests. A special well done to Wamangan, who were crowned overall champions for 2025!

School Sport

The interschool sport season for 2025 has now concluded. Thank you to all our students who represented our school with pride and commitment throughout the year. Looking ahead, we will commence weekly training sessions in Term 4 as we prepare our teams for the 2026 season.

HPE in the Classroom

Our HPE students have been working hard across a variety of topics this term. Lessons have focused on fitness, risk and safety education, and AFL skills and strategies. It has been wonderful to see students engaging with these important areas of learning and developing both their knowledge and practical abilities.

Jarrold Harvey

jharv178@eq.edu.au

Message from Ms Williams – Head of Department Mathematics and Science

Term 3 has been an exciting and hands-on term in Mathematics and Science.

In Mathematics, students explored the fascinating world of probability and statistics. They learned how to collect and analyse data, represent it using different graphs, and interpret patterns to make informed predictions. These skills will support their future learning and build a strong foundation for real-world applications of mathematics.

In Science, we celebrated Science Week with the theme “Decoding the Universe”. Students participated in a range of hands-on activities, including:

- Investigating the colour of stars using spectrosopes
- Extracting DNA from strawberries in a fun and messy experiment
- Testing their knowledge in a fast-paced Periodic Table Bingo challenge



Throughout the term, Year 7 students have been delving into the world of physics, investigating different types of forces and their effects. In Week 10, they will showcase their understanding by designing and racing balloon-powered cars, combining scientific knowledge with creativity and problem-solving skills.

Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been developing their understanding of chemistry, learning to distinguish between physical change and chemical change. They have been honing their laboratory skills while experimenting with various substances to observe and analyse physical and chemical properties in action.

It has been inspiring to see our students challenging themselves, collaborating with peers, and embracing the wonders of science and mathematics this term.

Stephanie Williams
swill699@eq.edu.au

Message from Mr Betts – Head of Department Digital Technologies

As Term 3 comes to a close, there is time to reflect on the great digital learning opportunities our students have had access to this year. Students in Year 7 & 8 have experienced virtual Roman worlds, moved planets around our solar system to experience seasons, and explored various networks in everyday life through our Virtual Reality rooms. Within classrooms, students continue to use their laptop or iPad to engage with QLearn lessons, complete online discussion boards, quizzes and activities and even complete online exams! Every day our students are given opportunities to engage with the digital world and build their 21st century skills, growing into confident, considerate citizens of the future.

This term we rolled out our laptop phrases. In every classroom, every day, students will now hear "*Turn to me*" or "*Park It*" and they know to either turn their device to the teacher or put it away for later. This helps students engage in the classroom as the expectation is clear and consistent, reducing student cognitive load and allowing them to continue to meet our PARK values.

We finished our Term with a Mario Kart tournament held in our auditorium on Tuesday of Week 10. Lots of fun was had!

Looking to Term 4, students in Year 7 and 8 will have more curriculum opportunities to experience Virtual Reality, Digital Technologies students will delve into the world of Arduino's and electronic circuits, and interested students will be able to register for the Supanova Excursion which will occur Friday 7th November.

Justin Betts
jgbet0@eq.edu.au



Message from Ms McNichol – Head of Department Arts

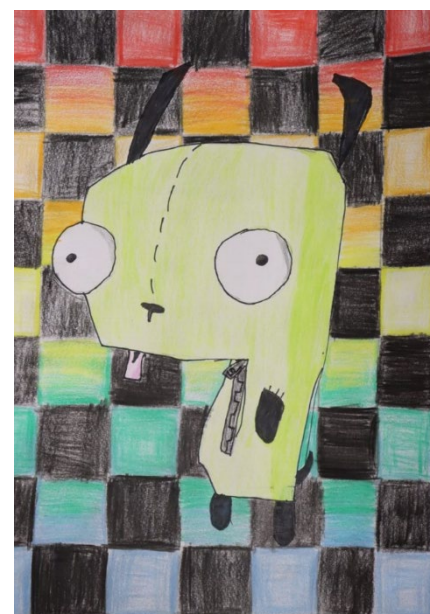
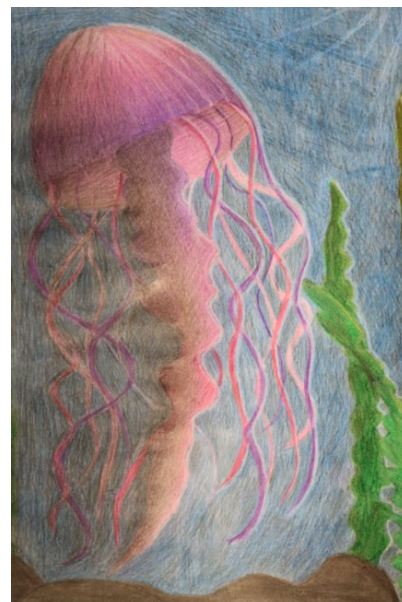
Our Year 7 Art students have had a busy and creative start to the year, focusing on the elements of art.

Students began the term exploring colour, learning how to create focal points and contrast. They produced beautiful title pages using coloured pencil skills to demonstrate blending, shading, and strong visual impact.

Next, the focus moved to line, where students developed control and variety through detailed line drawings. This task encouraged students to experiment with different types of lines to create rhythm, movement, and contrast in their artworks. Currently, students are learning about shape and form. In 3D, they are developing their skills through a clay project, exploring how shape becomes form when working with sculpture. In 2D, students are discovering the Japanese-inspired art of the Notan, where they use positive and negative space to create striking designs of shapes.

It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and creativity in the art room. We look forward to sharing more of the students' artwork as their skills and confidence continue to grow throughout the year.

Susan McNichol
smcni7@eq.edu.au



Message from Ms Stephens– Head of Department English and Humanities

English:

This term, the English Department has enjoyed celebrating a love of reading and all things 'Book Week'. Book week celebrations were held in week 6 this term, with students engaging in lunchtime events including **bookmark making** and **book-themed trivia**, and staff joining in the fun with a book themed **dress-up day**. As part of Book Week, The English faculty also ran a **Short Story Competition**, which received **18 impressive student submissions**. All participants were acknowledged during school assembly, and special awards were presented to the category winners. It has been wonderful to see our students' creativity and enthusiasm for literature on full display this term!

Humanities:

The Humanities Department has had an exciting and immersive term. Eight students participated in the **Australian History Competition**, and were recently acknowledged on school assembly, receiving certificates for their efforts. All **Year 7 and 8 students** also had the opportunity to explore history in a hands-on way through **Virtual Reality sessions**, which introduced their units of study for the term: **Year 7 – Ancient Rome** and **Year 8 – Medieval Europe**. Looking ahead to Term 4, Year 7 students will investigate **Ancient Australia**, focusing on the culturally significant World Heritage site of Budj Bim, while Year 8 students will explore the **Spanish Conquest**.

Lauren Stephens

lstep96@eq.edu.au

Message from Mrs Cox– Food Specialist Teacher

Year 7 & 8 – Food Specialisations: Kitchen Creations!

This term, our Year 7 and 8 students embarked on their Food Specialisations journey, stepping into the kitchen to develop essential cooking skills while exploring the value of nutrition and healthy eating. Through hands-on learning, students have experimented with new recipes, practised safe kitchen habits, and built practical skills that extend well beyond the classroom.

Each week, students worked individually or in pairs to prepare a variety of dishes, strengthening their teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities. From mastering knife skills to exploring a range of cooking techniques, students have grown in confidence and taken pride in their creations.

A standout highlight was the assessment task: designing and cooking their own healthy pizzas. This project encouraged students to showcase the skills they've developed while making thoughtful choices about nutrition. Many carefully selected ingredients to balance flavour, texture, and dietary value—producing pizzas that were both appealing and nourishing.



Next term, the focus will shift to food waste and sustainability. Students will take on a new challenge by designing and blending their own healthy smoothies, combining creativity with an awareness of sustainable food practices.

We are so proud of the energy and commitment our students have shown this term, and we look forward to seeing them continue to grow in skill and confidence in Term 4!

Mrs Cox

ccox88@eq.edu.au

