Collingwood Park State Secondary College
165 Eagle Street
Collingwood Park 4301

Letter to our Families and Community

In 2026 we experienced our fantastic Culture and Community Fest for the second year in a row. This event has very quickly become a special event on our school calendar, and we can't wait to see it grow each year. Next year, there will be some changes, and we wanted to write to you about these changes, and also ask you to think about how you might be able to help out.

This event does not happen without a huge amount of work. There were many staff and many hours that went into ensuring the rehearsals stayed on track, and the event itself went off without too many hiccups.

How can you help out next year?

We need you. We cannot do this without you. Please consider the following.

- Any adult who volunteers their time is very welcome.
- You MUST have a volunteer Working with Children card (Blue card). These are free and you can apply for one here: Apply for a Blue Card
- You MUST be signed in (at the administration office) and be wearing a lanyard.
- By law, we are not permitted allow adults into the school to work directly with students if they do not have a Blue Card and are not signed in properly.
- This includes helping with dressing students on the night.

We need Cultural Leaders and Tutors

We need volunteers to help teach cultural performances. Many cultures require a person with cultural knowledge and eldership to lead the development of these performances so that it is done in the right way. This year, we found it very challenging to find people who were willing and able to come and share their cultural knowledge with our students. Please think about whether you can commit to leading the students to learn and practice a cultural performance.

We need helpers on the night

On the night, we know that dressing for the performances is an important part of the cultural learning. We welcome family members to help out in this way on the night. Please note the requirements above in regard to Blue Cards and signing in process.

We need help with food on the night

In 2026 we had almost 1000 people, and unfortunately, we didn't quite have enough food. We are so grateful to all those who generously brought food! In 2027, food will look a bit different. We may

use some food trucks. We would still love for our community to be involved in the food as we know food is such an important part of sharing cultures. **Would you like to prepare and run a food stall?** We can work together to set up teams who are willing to prepare, serve and sell food on the night. You might like to run a Samoan food stall, or Greek stall! Perhaps you have a family restaurant and would like to prepare food to sell on the night. The school will cover expenses and takings will go back to covering costs for the event.

Next year we **will need to charge a small fee for tickets**. The event is clearly going to get bigger every year, and the cost over the past two years has mostly been provided by the school. We will charge $5 per ticket and that money will go toward the many costs associated with the event. Lastly, as you are no doubt aware, we will have a lot of construction going on around the school for the next 12+ months. This means we cannot run the event out on the oval like we did last year. There was a lot of love for the outdoor vibe, and we hope to return to that format as soon as construction is finished. Next year, we will run the event inside our newly finished Performing Arts Centre. The new space will accommodate about 500 people, so we will run two shows. Whilst this is not our preferred way to run it, this will enable us to keep the event onsite and make sure as many people as possible get to see it. The event will run in the later part of TERM 3, with the date to be confirmed pending constructions updates.

Please keep an eye on your email inbox and our Facebook page for more information. Please also get in touch with CC Fest coordinator Tracey Egan (tegan6@eq.edu.au) if you are able to support us next year.

With thanks,

The Collingwood Park State Secondary College Team