



Richmond High School - In Focus

Thursday 8 June 2017

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From the Foundation Principal



Seriously I think we are all lost for words after events in London, Paris and Melbourne and the continued horrors in the middle east. If you are like us, we have not had the news on at home and are avoiding reading too much about it.

This did not stop my daughter coming and wanting to understand the facts of the recent events and the history behind this modern madness one evening this week – we had a long and sometimes upsetting conversation. I have to admit as I described events from before the attacks in New York in the early 2000s it became more and more inexplicable to me. It really is incumbent on our world leaders to do so much better if we want to stop this continuing for decades more and dominating the lives of our children. In terms of our children I think it best to only answer questions when asked and to do our best, as parents, to give our children confidence and allay fears. And I suspect hug them a bit closer at night.

This week saw the first Advisory Group Meeting happen, hosted by Abbotsford Primary School. I updated them on the progress of our Richmond High School Project and we had some further uniform discussions.

Prospective parent Karen Hovenga has done some detailed thinking about the three common uniform types in secondary schools in three categories. She is calling these 1. Full formal uniform, 2. "Compromise" formal uniform and 3. Comfort based uniform. She has created a matrix of the pros and cons which is attached to this newsletter and on the Facebook Community Page. Karen is the parent nominee from Richmond West Primary School and is interested in teasing out the uniform discussion further as part of this role.

The Seesaw company will be asking for comments about the uniform in terms of branding so if you have not signed up to the consultation process please do.

The feedback to the Victorian School Building Authority, verbally to the primary school principal group and to me in forums has been for an Albert Park Style Uniform - but not the stripe. My newsletter requests indicate a very strong interest for a typical wearable school uniform not aggressively implemented in terms of gender or time of year it is worn. This is what I plan to try and implement.

For reference think of the Albert Park College look but with more flexibility in seasonal dates and rules that reflect the inner-city ethos.

I would value you emailing me at hello.richmondhs@gmail.com with your views either way. I will collate this with the other material I have. I am sure Karen would be happy for you to ask her questions. She has included her contact on the document. Please provide feedback as soon as you get this and before one week passes.

There was the concern raised at the meeting that Hawthorn West Primary School are not on the Advisory Group. Just to close this off. I have been asked by the department to specifically work with the Richmond schools but I have included all Prahran schools and Hawthorn West in all correspondence and contact. Hawthorn West Primary School is in another secondary school's area and region, but part of their area is in ours. Hence the challenge. The Advisory Group has the local schools but in 2018 will not be part of the School Council. All of them were on the New School Planning Group. Hawthorn West Primary School never was.

Your address will dictate secondary school connection - and if you live in Richmond you are mine and I commit our school to you. I have had many conversations with HWPS families and a number have enrolled. I ask the community to not be offended, my interest is serving your needs along with all other children who live in Richmond.

Today I met with the New School Planning Group for Preston High School. I have committed to assisting and supporting other schools involved in the new school process. I aim to support the Prahran High School Project and next week will meet with the Executive Principal of Beaumaris High School.

As a proud state educator I love all the building projects being undertaken in this state. New schools = better communities, better educational outcomes and better equity outcomes for children. I am ashamedly excited by all the work occurring. If it interests you at all check out the VSBA site:

<http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/pages/home.aspx>

Keep warm everyone and remember the shortest day of the year is not so far away, then the cycle commences again.

I do not do a newsletter in shorter weeks, and as Monday is a public holiday I will speak to you next on Thursday 22 June.

COLIN SIMPSON