



Principal's Report

In the Newsletter of May 26 I wrote about the 7 Secondary Schools in Maroondah – Parkwood, Norwood, Croydon, Maroondah, Ringwood and Heathmont Secondary Colleges and Croydon Community School – that make up the Maroondah Education Coalition (MEC).

The MEC has been undertaking extensive planning at Principal and School Council level around ways of improving educational access and outcomes for all of our students.

In the recent budget the State Government supported this planning with an allocation of \$1 million. The money is to support planning for the refurbishment and rebuilding of the seven schools on five sites.

The proposal is subject to community consultation and support. Three initial meetings were planned for Monday June 1, Thursday June 4 and Tuesday June 9.

At the meeting last night over 100 parents from the seven schools attended and had the opportunity to provide input into our thinking.

I felt the meeting was an excellent one with many of the important issues being raised that we can include in our planning.

The meeting was led by Mr Jim Watterston, Regional Director, Eastern Metropolitan Region of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Mr Watterston expanded on the information provided to date.

He explained that we have received specialist advice from an expert firm of architects called Architectus who have recommended we could achieve our aims by :

- Bringing together Parkwood and Norwood Secondary Colleges on the Parkwood site in completely rebuilt and expanded facilities.
- Bringing together Maroondah and Croydon Secondary Colleges on the Maroondah site in completely rebuilt facilities.
- Substantial redevelopment of Heathmont and Ringwood Secondary Colleges.
- The redevelopment of Croydon Community School.

Mr Watterston emphasised that this proposal would not proceed without community support.

I believe this represents a once in a life time opportunity to reshape and rebuild state secondary education in Maroondah so that it best meets the needs of our young people well into the future.

The most important thing we can give to our young people is the best possible education and we now have the



opportunity to do it.

Today at sub-school meetings I gave our students an outline of our proposal and told them how they could have a say through their student leadership group in the coming weeks and next semester.

I urge you to go along to one of the remaining two public meetings and have your say about this proposal. I am acutely aware that for us to do nothing would be a great disservice to future generations of students in our schools.

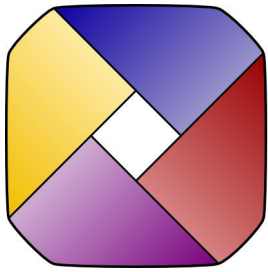
I have attached the original invitation which was published in last week's Newsletter and which contains details of the next two meetings.

I will continue to provide advice and information to the community about this proposal, as it develops.

Student Free Day

As advised earlier in the year, Friday 12 June 2009 has been set aside for a report writing day. No students are required at school on this day.

Vin Virtue
Principal



MEC
LEADING & TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

INVITATION Community Forum

Dr. Jim Watterston, Regional Director of Eastern Metropolitan Region DEECD, Secondary Principals from MEC Schools and The Maroondah Network Leader invite current school community members to hear about the latest developments and plans for the Maroondah Regeneration Project and to contribute to initial community feedback.

When: Monday June 1
Thursday June 4
Tuesday June 9

Where: 'Maroondah Room'
Karralyka Function Centre
Mines Road
Ringwood East

Time: 7.30pm-9.00pm

RSVP: ***Parkwood Secondary College: parkwood.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au***

