



ESPERANCE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2024

Important Dates for Term 2 2024

15th April	College re-opens for Term 2 at 3.00pm
16th April	School starts
18th April	Protective Behaviours Workshops for staff and students
25th April	ANZAC Day public holiday. College remains open
27th April	School Ball
4th May	Wharton Beach day trip
23rd - 31st May	Yr 11 & 12 Exams
1st - 3rd June	WA Day long weekend. College remains open
24th June	Country Week starts
28th June	Last day of Term 2, College closes at 5.00pm

Dear parents, carers and staff

I can't believe it's Easter time already. It will be a particularly busy term two, as an extra week is added and there is two public holidays for Anzac Day and WA Day. The College is open throughout these Public holidays, but please check these dates as it's good for the students to know what the plan is for those times and whether arrangements are made to spend time here in Esperance or go home and spend quality time with their family. This is so important for our students, who sometimes just need to touch base and reset for the next few weeks.

Staffing wise, there are a few changes as the active after hours staff commences. Conor Magennis and Brian Bridges will be sharing this role, which involves being in the College between 10pm and 7am. Other staff will remain on College grounds during that time and will be called when needed for extra support. Andrea Hearn will return from Long Service Leave mid Term 2 and we are finalising the recruitment process for a new Male Senior Supervisor as well.

Also during the school holidays, supervisory staff will be attending a conference with all the other College staff from around the State. This is a really valuable training and learning opportunity and I'm sure staff, and in turn the students, will benefit from the interaction with other staff and their shared experiences.

Finally the students have access to four tutors between Monday and Thursday., with two being available each night. Please encourage your child to use them as they provide support to students at all levels.

Have a great Easter.

Peter Jarzabek College Manager



Helpful information for Parents

Over the past couple of years as everything is becoming more digitised and available online, the College has been implementing a couple of different programs to keep up with it all; the main 2 being REACH and Consent2Go.



REACH Student Life Management App is a tool for parents to access their students' information through a portal which gives them the ability to set up leave requests, add or remove people from the sign-out list, and see in real time the whereabouts of their student. As with any program, it is essential for parents to sign in and interact with it. Setting up sign-outs and leave requests beforehand, saves a lot of time and effort later on.



The Consent2Go program has been designed to eventually do away with paper forms and having to send home permission forms for parents to sign and return. The idea behind it is to plan activities and have all of the permission forms, risk assessments and other paperwork in one place that parents can then sign on, read the document and then digitally sign the forms. The College is then notified when the forms are signed and ready to go.

Parents will receive prompts via email to update their students' details or review changes that have been made from the College's side, but these won't be a frequent thing. They will also be notified when there are forms to be signed.

These 2 programs are going to be mainstreamed into everyday use at the College and it is important for all parents to be able to navigate through them to benefit the most from them. Please contact the College if you have any questions about the programs, we are always happy to help.

Updated Medication Policy

Due to the increasing needs of our students and to keep on top of administering and recording accurately medications that have been dispensed, it is now a requirement for parents to provide their student's medications in webster packs. The webster pack is a way of packaging medications into daily doses, with all of the medication and patient details outlined on the top so that there is no chance of the wrong medications being given to the wrong person. Staff have undergone extra training to help support our students and this is one of the methods that has been incorporated into our policy to adhere to our procedures.



Unfortunately it is an added cost of \$6 per script for them to be packed into the daily/weekly/monthly packs, but it ensures your students medications are dispensed accurately, it is recorded properly and that it is a visual reminder to everyone of how much medication is left and when reminders need to be sent out for re-fills.

In order to assist staff in helping the students, please organise a local doctor for your child.

The local pharmacy Terry Whites is the best one to talk to about webster packs, as they can customise the packaging to your needs - ie: if your student only takes one a day, you can have 28 days worth in one sheet, or 2 a day, you can have 14 days worth in 1 sheet etc.

Banksia House	90711511
Genpar Surgery	90711956
Recherche Practise	90717799
Esperance Family Practice	90713100

It is essential that parents follow our policy to ensure their students' medications are packaged correctly, that they have their prescriptions up-to-date and that any new scripts are also packaged correctly in the future.

Term 1 Activities

Term 1 has been a very eventful term. With an influx of new students from all around the state, new staff coming on board and experienced staff going on leave, there have been quite a few new faces around the place.

The term started off a bit differently, with the Orientation Weekend being held on the second weekend of term instead of the first weekend. The TDA (Teamworks Development Australia) group from Perth came down to work with our students in activities ranging from problem solving to an obstacle course on the bottom oval. The weather was brilliant and everyone took advantage of the surf lessons and other outside activities that were run. As usual the College Karaoke went off with a bang, with quite a few newcomers giving it a go and surprising the socks off of everyone!

As usual the beach has featured heavily in this terms' activities and there hasn't been one week without at least 2 or more beach trips. Fishing has also been a student favourite, with many hours spent on the jetties and rock walls around the bay, catching everything from squid to gar fish.

The biggest event this term was, of course, the fire out beside the rec shed which ended up with the whole campus being evacuated. Public opinion was very positive - from the way the students made their way to the local stadium as a group to the overall management of the situation. As a College, our previously untested 'Whole College Evacuation Procedure' was put to the test and was pretty efficient once the initial stress was calmed down. The students were very well behaved and there was only minimal distress when it was realised that we may have had to stay at the stadium overnight. Parent assistance and understanding was unmatched and overall it was a very successful event. The brightest star of course was our maintenance man Brian, who valiantly stayed at the fire-front until the last second, keeping the LPG gas bullet cool to prevent a bigger emergency. The diligent adherence to keeping the firebreaks clear and the bushland maintained was the biggest advantage for the College and luckily a bigger disaster was averted.



Djeran Season– April May

Djeran season at last sees a break in the really hot weather. A key indicator of the change of season is the cool nights that once again bring a dewy presence for us to discover in the early mornings.

The winds have also changed, especially in their intensity, with light breezes being the go and generally swinging from southerly directions (i.e. southeast to southwest). Many flying ants can be seen cruising around in the light winds.

Djeran is a time of red flowers especially from the Red flowering gum (*Corimbia ficifolia*), as well as the smaller and more petite flowers of the Summer Flame (*Beaufortia aestiva*). As you travel around the Perth area, you may also notice the red 'rust' and seed cones forming on the male and female Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina fraseriana*). Banksias start to display their flowers, ensuring that there are nectar food sources for the many small mammals and birds that rely upon them.

Traditionally, foods at this time of year included the seeds that had been collected and stored for treatment from the Zamia last season along with the root bulbs of the Yanget (Bullrushes), fresh water fish, frogs and turtles.

As the season progresses, the nights will become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days which also means that traditionally mia mias (houses or shelters) were now repaired and updated to make sure they were waterproofed and facing in the right direction in readiness for the deep wintery months to come.

Bus trips - Just a quick reminder that the bus trips are a courtesy service and as such, students need to remember that with so many people wanting to be somewhere or picked up at the same time to allow 15 minutes in getting to and from your destination. We can't drop everything to do a drive and it requires students to plan ahead.



Students need to put appointments into the bus book (before school that day at the latest) so that trips can be planned in advance and routed to the best time advantage. Entering the drop off time 10 minutes BEFORE the actual appointment/training is best to make sure you are on time.

Outstanding fees for 2024

Parents please ensure your students boarding fees are up to date at the start of Term 2.

For online bank transfers our **Bank details are**
Bankwest BSB: 306037 ACC: 4730452



Congratulations to Mrs Barnes and her navy cadet unit TS Kybra for raising nearly \$3000 for leukaemia research and family Support.

They did a big drive at the local markets on Sunday 24th March and shaved and coloured their hair in front of a crowd of people who cheered them on.

It was great to see all the support from locals and the College kids got a great show while Miss Jodie got to shave Mrs Barnes' hair. There were a few wide-eyed looks from the kids as it was happening but it was for a great cause.