

Dear Parents and Guardians

Developing fluency in reading is fundamental to achieving academic excellence across all subject areas. As such Kambrya College has focused strategically on developing a reading program across years 7, 8 and 9. The Independent Reading Program (IRP) was trialled in 2015 and is now in the early stages of full implementation. Students select a 'just right' book from the many available on the bookshelves that have been assembled in each classroom. Students develop reading goals and identify which reading strategies they will use during their independent reading session. Each student is conferenced periodically by their teacher or a support staff member; the purpose of which is to gain a greater understanding of the student's strengths and areas for improvement. Teachers encourage their students to extend themselves through reading and to experience a variety of texts. Parents of students in years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to talk to their children about the program.

Interestingly research says that the typical vocabulary range for an adult native speaker is 20,000-35,000 words. Those on the upper end of that scale generally acquire their extensive vocabulary through reading. Unfortunately, many of us don't make time for reading for pleasure in our busy day to day schedules; however, I encourage you to support your child's interest in reading by picking up a good book and taking some time to read yourself. In doing so you will be modelling good reading habits to your child. To take this one step further, any parent who is interested in coming together to form a 'book club' please contact Ms Nalini Naidu at the college. The club will provide us with an opportunity to share our thoughts on specific books and provide a forum for parents new to the community to meet one another.

In closing I would like to remind you all that you will shortly be receiving a ballot paper in the mail for the School Council elections. Completed ballots can be mailed or lodged directly at the school through the front office. The ballot closes at 4pm on the 2nd of March.

Warm Regards,

Jo Wastle
Acting Principal

Key Dates

Tuesday 23rd February
Parents and Friends Group
Inaugural Meeting

Thursday 3rd March
Swimming Carnival

Monday 14th March
Labour Day Public Holiday

Saturday 19th March
Working Bee

Wednesday 23rd March
Student FREE day
Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday 24th March
Cross Country Run
Last Day of Term 1

Monday 11th April
First Day of Term 2

Tuesday 19th April
Athletics Carnival

Friday 22nd April
Student FREE day
Staff Professional Learning Day

Monday 25th April
ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Essential Information

- To ensure the safety of students, parents are reminded that the staff car park is not to be used as a drop off and pick up zone for students.
- Parents who are holders of a Health Care Card may be eligible to receive the Camps Sport and Excursion Fund. Please note that applications close on 29th February. Please see attached for details.
- Any parent who has recently changed their contact details, including residential address and /or telephone please inform the front office as a matter of priority or ask your child to collect a 'change of details' form from the front of the office.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

Kambrya College

8421

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date / /



CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
 - a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
 - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. .

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.