



# COLO HIGH SCHOOL

## P&C Principal Report

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### Colo High School

Welcome back to another year at Colo High School. We have had an outstanding start to 2023 and everything feels 'normal' and positive which is well received after the last few years for Colo and our community. It is fantastic to be back leading the school and I am very grateful for the continued support of our families, especially our P&C and leadership of your team.

### Year 7 Welcome

We would like to officially welcome our new families and students in Year 7. They have had a great start to their High School journey and should be commended on how quickly they settled into Colo High School.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, it was great to have over 200 students, parents and staff onsite to welcome our Year 7 cohort. The BBQ was an opportunity for us to meet the parents, celebrate the commencement to Year 7 and also answer any questions for our families.

We also had Year 7 Camp on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February. This is a great initiative for our students to connect and build peer relationships. We had over 90% of the cohort attend which was outstanding.

### Welcome to our New Staff

We would like to welcome our new staff to Colo High School. We have some new permanent teachers and staff who have joined us again in a temporary capacity. We would like to welcome them to our school community and thank them for their support and service to our students.

Phil Gordon joins us for the year from Richmond High School as the Deputy Principal for Years 8, 10 & 12. He is an experienced Deputy Principal with over 10 years' experience. An external EOI was sent across the Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury Networks. Mrs Peta Wright, Mr Pat Ebsworth and myself held a panel on Staff Development Day.

Our new staff to Colo HS are listed below:

Permanent Teachers	Faculty
Salina Saluja	Science
Pardeep Kaur	Mathematics
Melanie Hartnett	Industrial Arts
Jadelyn Williamson	English

Temporary Positions	Faculty
Katrina Marshall & Suzie Miller	Science
Michaela Melinz	English
Sonia Eaton & Marich Brown	Mathematics
Joe Koink	Library
Lachlan Eldridge	PDHPE
Naz Marshian	Visual Arts
Kylie Skinner	Dance
Brent Hoare	Social Science
Sarah Dimech	English & Literacy Support

Tara Winmill	PDHPE
Tanya Ridgewell	COVID Tutoring Support
Matt Anderson	General Assistant
Renay Connolly	Student Learning and Support Officer
Dave Daniels	Student Learning and Support Officer
Julia Muller	Teacher
Jason Burgmann	Industrial Arts Teacher

### **Building Works**

We have had so many exciting changes and improvements to the school over the vacation period and at the end of 2022. We want our learning spaces and school to be inviting, modern and showcase that Colo is 'the place to be'.

We will continue to work hard to improve our school grounds and ensure it is the highest standard for our students, staff and community.

Some of the main changes and additions are as follows:

- Murals completed by Brad Eastman
- Lower Oval upgrade and resurfacing
- Upper Bus Bay Retaining Wall
- Yarning Circle and outdoor learning space
- Cooler Classrooms project completed to ensure all classrooms have air-conditioning
- LED Light upgrade to replace all lights across the school
- Disability Provisions Upgrade completed. 3x internal lifts and ramps put across the school to ensure all students have access to classrooms and learning spaces
- New welcome signs and core value totems installed
- PA System and upgraded bell system installed. This will be operational at the end of Term 1.
- Quad sound system upgraded for performances and assemblies

In Term 2 we are excited to have the following projects occurring:

- Planting of garden beds in the Upper Bus Bay and Lower Dam area
- Basketball court upgrade, resurfacing and new fences
- Digital Welcome Screen at Admin building and Executive Office

### **Cooler Classroom Report**

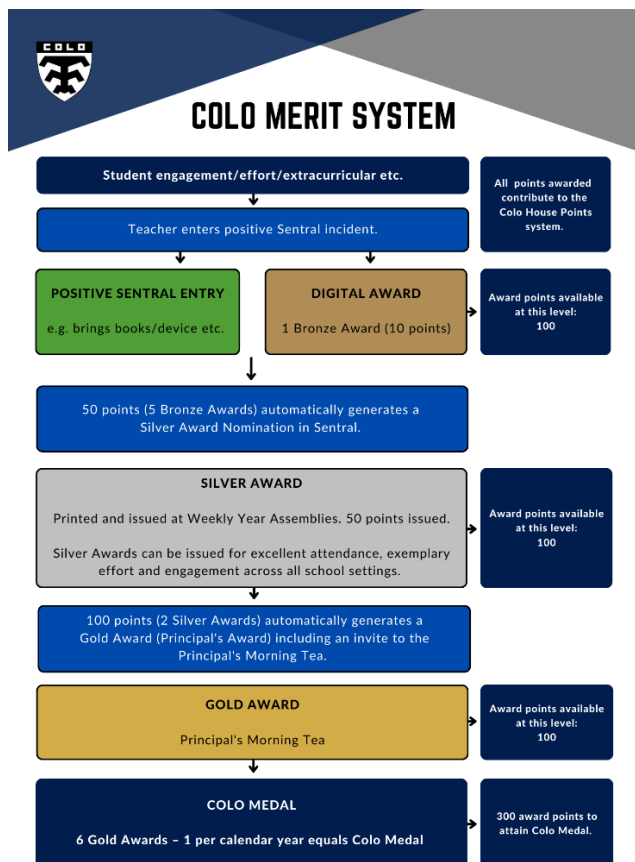
Cooler Classrooms are no longer on site and handover of machines occurred on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. They are under the contractor for 12 months and then go back to Assets Management Unit (DOE) to fix further issues.

### **Yarning Circle**

This project has taken longer than anticipated due to the major storms we had over the holidays and start of the year. The materials used washed away and we needed to reassess the design. The project has been finalized today and we anticipate handover later this week.

## Colo Merit System

We started the year with new reward system and are still working with designers for new awards. Principal showed team examples from printers during meeting. The Red and Yellow Awards can still be used towards new procedures and Principal's Morning Tea organization and structure will remain the same.



## Toilets

We have had significant complaints from students and the community about access to bathrooms. We have three sets of bathrooms open all day.

- Senior Bathrooms
- Theatre Bathrooms
- Office Bathrooms

During break times, all operational student bathrooms are open for access. If students need to go to the toilet during class time, due to Health and Safety reasons they need to go to the bathrooms listed above so we know where students are. They receive a pass so we know where they are located within the school.

Since the complaint from community, we have met with student leaders and completed an audit of the bathroom. I agree we need to open an additional set of bathrooms during Recess and Lunch. The Executive Team have been surveyed and a decision will be made tomorrow about what the solution will be for our students. This will be communicated to all students and staff on the Thursday assembly.

## Attendance


This year we are developing an attendance team and focusing on attendance as a school. The pandemic, floods and several factors has seen our Colo attendance impacted and it has been on the decline for the last few years. We want our students at school and learning every single day. EVERY DAY COUNTS!

There will be more information and initiatives occurring over the next few terms in an attempt to improve our attendance of all students.

## Uniform Shop Thank You

I just wanted to conclude my report with thanking Nicki and Jodie for their work in the holidays and supporting our transition for our Year 7 families. A special mention to the work that was required behind the scenes for the 'Back to School' vouchers. We are grateful for your hard work and know our community and families appreciate the work you did to make these vouchers happen for us.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara Cullen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tara Cullen (R/ Principal)

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