



Friday 15th December 2023

COLO HIGH SCHOOL

Principal Update

To our parents and carers,

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support in 2023. It has been a fantastic year and has been wonderful to celebrate the success of our students at our Presentation Evening and Recognition Assemblies. As we come to the end of the term, please acknowledge the positives your child has achieved at school. For every student this will be different. It could be an improvement in their effort rating on reports, greater participation in activities or more positive entries from their teachers. Success looks different for everyone, and I am so proud of our students and all they have achieved in 2023.

Please see below some reminders and important information for the year ahead.

Uniform



Please ensure when purchasing uniform for next year we are following the Colo High School Uniform Procedures and expectations. I am always so proud of how well our students are dressed each day and they are known in the community for their professionalism, pride and how well they identify themselves as members of our school. Please review the images of incorrect shoe choices. These are the most common shoes that parents often get told are accepted here at Colo. Our shoes must be all black and most importantly safe for our practical subjects. Please purchase leather or leather like, fully enclosed shoes. Please do not purchase the shoes shown.

I really need the support of our parents to ensure students are dressed for success every day. I know teenagers can be challenging and most of the time when I contact families our students have the uniform, they are just choosing not to wear it.

Below is a link to our website where it outlines the uniform for Colo High School. Let's work together to ensure our students are dressed appropriately, safe and dressed for success.

<https://colo-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/rules-and-policies/uniform-policy.html>



Stationery Lists

Please see below the link to our Stationery recommended lists for 2024. We are a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school and all students need a laptop in Years 7-12 to complete their learning. If there are any financial difficulties or reasons your child does not have a computer, please contact the school to discuss so we can try and support them with an alternative for the year.

<https://colo-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/news/2023/equipment-requirements-for-2024.html>

P&C Thanks

I would like to take a moment to thank our P&C for all their support and contributions to our school this year. We have a new team of parents who have a vision for positive change into the future and it has been a pleasure collaborating with them throughout the year. Our P&C have contributed to our Principal Morning Teas and our Presentation Evening. They have some great goals for next year and I strongly encourage our families to consider coming to the monthly meetings.

We have several families and volunteers across our community who step up and help our Canteen run throughout the year. If you have volunteered for us we are so grateful for all you do to support this initiative. Profits from our Canteen and Uniform Shop go straight back to our students and school. Please consider supporting this if possible next year.

School Fees

We understand the cost of living has increased over the last 12 months, but we have seen a significant reduction in our families paying school fees. We rely on this funding to pay for materials in Elective Subjects and ensure our school is well resourced for our students to learn and thrive. If families are having financial difficulties, please reach out if we can assist you in any way.

We really need our community support to ensure Elective Fees are paid as a minimum to ensure we can continue to run these courses into the future. Please see link below to School Bytes where you can check what each of your children have due:

<https://online.schoolbytes.education/sbadmin/home>

Colo Merit System

This year we have had a strong focus on recognising the achievements of our students. We have seen a significant increase in students receiving awards and are so proud of everyone who has achieved one or more Gold Award in 2023. As part of our review, we will need to increase the amount of Silver Awards needed to get a Gold Award. From the start of 2024, students will need to have 5 of each award level to move onto the next category. We think this is very achievable and know our students will continue to strive for these prestigious awards each year. Please see on the next page the information that provides and overview of the Colo Merit System.



COLO MERIT SYSTEM

Student engagement/effort/extracurricular/etc.

Teacher enters positive Sentral incident.

POSITIVE SENTRAL ENTRY

Meeting CARE expectations, community service, improvement, achievement, school representation, etc.

DIGITAL AWARD

1 Bronze Award (10 points)

5 Bronze Awards (50 points) automatically generates a Silver Award Nomination in Sentral.

SILVER AWARD

Printed and issued at Weekly Year Assemblies. 50 points issued.

Silver Awards can be issued for excellent attendance, zero negative entries each term, exemplary effort and engagement across all school settings or outstanding contribution to the school through service or representation.

5 Silver Awards (250 points) automatically generates a Gold Award (Principal's Award) including an invite to the Principal's Morning Tea.

GOLD AWARD

Principal's Morning Tea
Only 1 invite per year to this event

COLO MEDAL

6 Gold Awards – 1 per calendar year equals Colo Medal



Deputy Principal Changes

We would like to acknowledge the work of Mr Andrew King at Colo High School over many years. He has been an outstanding contributor to our school community and made amazing connections with our students and families. Mr King has recently been successful in being appointed to the permanent Principal position at Cecil Hills High School. We wish him all the best at his new school and thank him for his service to Colo High School.

Parent Forums

During Term 1 we will be hosting several parent forums to get some feedback from our community for our future. We will be writing a new Strategic Improvement Plan for 2024 and want to make sure we hear your voice and what you are passionate about for your children. We would love if you are interested being part of a forum to complete the link below. This will give us an indication of best dates and times to support our community.

<https://forms.gle/Z4uQMrGTalczzuR96>

Wellbeing Resources

Attached to this letter is a series of links to support materials for our students and families around mental health and being well these holidays. There are lots of supports available in our community should anyone need them. Don't hesitate to contact us when school resumes if we can help in any way to support your child.

Important Dates 2023

Please see on the following page, important dates for 2024. We are looking forward to welcoming Years 7, 11 & 12 on Thursday 1st February and Years 8, 9 & 10 on Friday 2nd February 2024.

I hope our families have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. As always, if I can support you and your children in any way, don't hesitate to contact the school and we will make a time to meet with you. I am so proud to be the leader of Colo High School and excited for all the opportunities for our students in 2024.

Regards,

Tara Cullen
(Principal)





KEY DATES 2024

FEB 01

YEARS 7, 11 AND 12
Commence Term 1

FEB 02

YEARS 8, 9 AND 10
Commence Term 1
YEAR 7 BYOD BOOTCAMP

FEB 08

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

FEB 13

YEAR 7 WELCOME BBQ

WK 7-8

NAPLAN

MAR 26

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

MAR 29

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

APR 01

PUBLIC HOLIDAY



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Being Well these School Holidays

Resources

- Be You [mental health support services infographic](#)
- [13YARN](#) (13 92 76, available 24/7) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support crisis support phone line
- [NSW Mental Health Line](#) (1800 011 511, available 24/7) provides advice, assessment and referral for mental health issues.

For Students

Information

- headspace [How to stay healthy over the holidays](#)
- headspace [Tips for a healthy headspace](#)
- headspace [Healthy headspace Action Plan](#)
- headspace [How to handle tough times](#)
- headspace [How to help a friend going through a tough time](#)
- Reach Out [Helping friends](#)
- Reach Out [Ways to chill for cheap](#)

It can also be useful to have some information about what to expect when receiving support online or phone, such as:

- Reach Out's video about ['What happens when I call a helpline?'](#)
- Reach Out's factsheet ['How to call a helpline'](#)

Services

- [Kids Helpline](#) (1800 55 1800, available 24/7)
- Local headspace centre
- [headspace online mental health service](#) speak with professional counsellors over the phone or webchat (9am-1am/7 days)
- [headspace online work and study support](#) speak with a careers advisor to plan your career, find employment or work towards further education



For Parents/Carers

Information

- Headspace factsheet [Keeping healthy over the holidays - for friends and family](#)
- [Reach Out Parents](#) has information for parents and carers on a range of topics.
- [Raising Children](#) has tips and advice around a range of topics that can assist parents in supporting young people.
- [Head to Health](#) provides a national mental health resource and service directory for yourself or your young person.
- Beyond Blue has some tips on [supporting healthy home and habits](#) and [how to talk about mental health](#) if you are wanting to start a conversation with your young person