



Issue 1

17th February, 2017

### Ace Foundation Study Sessions

ACE Foundation is an established non-profit education foundation which operates from Thompson Road Clinic 2 Woodbine Road Cranbourne North.

They are holding free study sessions to any Year 7 - 12 students Monday – Wednesday night 4.30 – 6.30 pm. (Thursday to be confirmed). Students are not required to stay the whole evening. These sessions will be supervised by volunteer university teaching students. These students must have a working with children's check before considered to be suitable to supervise.

Students will have a secure place to study and access to computers, internet, photocopier and office supplies in a quiet environment. In addition they will have access to the tea room and bathroom facilities.

Students cannot gain any access to medical equipment or rooms.

Students or parents will be expected to sign the **Permission Slip** and **Acceptable Use Agreement**, prior to attending the clinic.

The ACE Foundation will support and encourage students learning.

For further information or to receive a permission slip (for students under 18) please contact the College on 9703 1266.

### Responsible Service of Alcohol Course

**Hallam Senior College is running a Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Course for anyone interested in obtaining this certificate.**

The course is open to the community but is recommended for people over 16 years of age. One day courses will be running on the following dates (provided there are enough people enrolled):

February 18, March 18, May 13 or June 17 2017

The course runs from 9:00am to 1:20pm and include all materials, certificate of course completion and morning tea. Classes are dependent on a minimum number of confirmed enrolments. Course cost is \$60 – payment and enrolment forms are required one week prior to course date. Click [here](#) for a course enrolment form or visit the Hallam Senior College Website. **Please note** students will be required to have a Unique Student Identifier number for enrolment. This is applied for separately [here](#) or at <http://www.usi.gov.au/create-your-USI/Pages/default.aspx>

### Important Dates

#### Wednesday 22nd February

Yr 11 Outdoor Ed. 1000 Steps Hike

#### Tuesday 28th February

Yr 12 Community Services Homelessness Workshop

#### Wednesday 1st March

Yr 12 Allied Health Day Out

#### Thursday 2nd March

Pancake Day

#### Friday 10th March

Parent Teacher bookings open on Compass

#### Saturday 18th March

RSA Course running at HSC

#### Friday 31st March

End of Term 1

#### Tuesday 18th April

First day Term 2



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## One Million Stars to End Violence

One Million Stars to End Violence is a peaceful global weaving project that engages communities in a conversation about ending all forms of violence. It is an event where groups get together to weave stars which will be sent up to Brisbane as part of the Commonwealth Games 2018 - where there will be a display of One Million Stars. Ms Wieringa and the team in the Library have been running workshops and teaching staff and students how to create the fantastic looking stars, to help support this great cause.

To get involved yourself or to learn more about this initiative please visit <http://www.onemillionstars.net/>

Some pictures from the library with a few hundred stars created from people within the College community.



## Stymie & Cyber Safety

On Monday the 13th of February Hallam Senior College's Year 10 students had a visit from the team at Stymie. Stymie is available online and allows users to login and send anonymous notifications to Your School, about someone who they believe is being bullied or harmed. The notification interface allows bystanders to upload evidence like screen shots of Facebook discussions, Snapchats, text messages or instant message conversations and an outline of the incident(s). Your School receives the Stymie Notifications in the form of an email alert. You may choose which members of staff receive these emails. The notifications are encrypted, anonymous and confidential. Stymie does not store any information; they are merely the road upon which it travels. Stymie complements Your School's existing student well-being/pastoral care framework. To learn more about Stymie please [click here](#) or visit <https://stymie.com.au/#!Home>.

Please find below an article for parents and carers from the Director of Stymie about 'Getting your Techno Power Back'.

### Getting Your Techno Power Back!

I'm just going to say it.

It is irresponsible for you to give your child unsupervised access to a device that allows them free and open access to the world and all of its dark and uninhibited places, without appropriate levels of control.

All too often, I am having conversations with parents who feel as though they have 'lost control' over their children's level of engagement with technology. This is a concern, because losing control means that you are giving away a level of protection.

Your kids do not need a 30 or 40-something year old friend. It is much harder for you to set protective boundaries if you have a friendship with them. In your home, you are the boss. Your job is to love, nurture, provide, teach values and protect. It does not matter if your child pays for the 'phones or the internet access. Your home, your rules. You are the experienced grown up charged with providing a safe environment.

80% of what most Australian children do online is hidden from their parents and carers. 80%!!

## Getting Your Techno Power Back

We have been persuaded into thinking that our kids are entitled to more privacy than we would often allow our - grown up - partners. I have experienced first-hand how this unsupervised access is disaffecting their peer relationships, their self-esteem and their learning.

Unless you know the how to use their devices, where they go on them and who they invite into your house with them, you have no control over who they are spending (significant amounts) time with. This means that you also don't know who is having an affect on their feelings, values and attitudes. You also won't know if your child is not treating others with respect either.

Through experience, I have found a couple of ways, which may help you, regain some footing in actively supervising your child's use of technology. They are all very simple and they work. And, please note my use of the words 'actively supervise'! Passive supervision doesn't solve anything!

**Know which sites your child holds membership to and have the passwords** I suggest that if they are a member of ask.fm or use kik, that they need to be taken off it. Your kids do not need to be using anonymous forms of communication. It provides a platform for them to be untruthful and to watch stuff that they need not be watching. Allowing this, takes away their responsibility for anything they may say to others or others may say to them. A lack of consequence for things kids are saying to each other is having disastrous effects.



**Know how to change the Wi-Fi password** Only let your kids have access to the password when they've done their jobs their homework, or fulfilled whichever responsibilities you need them to. This is the now-day equivalent of my Mum not letting me ride my BMX until I did my jobs! You can Google how to do it, it is very simple. Many, many kids, set alarms and wake up when the grown ups are asleep to access the internet! Find out what "flavour" your modem is (Belkin or Netgear for example) and search "How to change Belkin modem password." You can change the password every day if needs be. Xbox and PlayStation time is limited by this too.

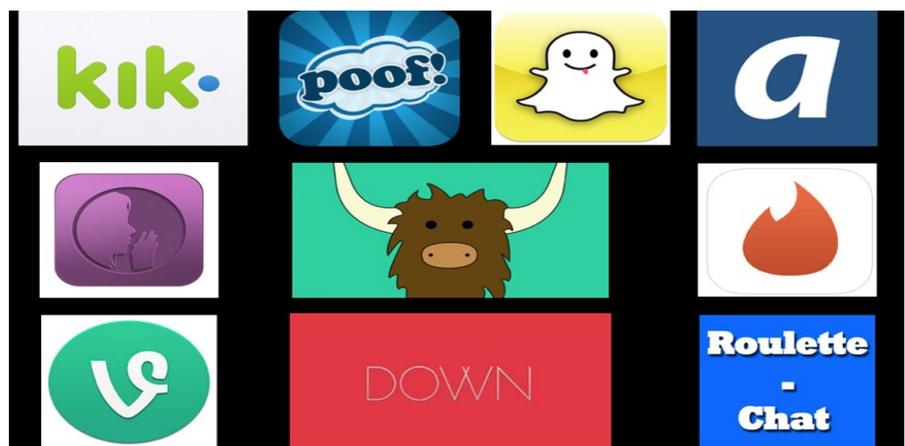
**Know their social networking friends** Our children hang out in 'virtual villages'. There are many of them speaking with each other about everything, for hours on end. You need to know who else is having an input into how your child thinks and the concepts they are exposed to. Kids share all kinds of porn, images and messages that we would not approve of. I'm not joking.

**Have a central location for computers** This is all about active supervision. The dining room table, the breakfast bar, the lounge room; make sure you can see what they are accessing.

**Take their 'phones at bedtime** Set an alarm on your own 'phone to remind you. If you child makes a fuss about this, you've just answered whether or not they've already been tempted to do the wrong thing. I literally have kids fall asleep in class because they are not getting enough sleep (I don't think it is my teaching!). Kids do not need to be texting or networking with their friends or playing games right up until the second they fall asleep. Their brains need a chance to refresh, which means they need quiet time. Another tip, don't give the 'phone back until after they're ready for school in the morning. Their friends can call your landline if there is something important that needs addressing.

I'm not saying it is easy and I do know how hard it can be. You have to be consistent and strong. Speaking with other parents will also help.

With kindest regards and lots of luck!  
Rachel Downie  
Director



### School Council Notice of Election and Call for Nominations 2017

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Hallam Senior College.

Nominations open on **Monday 20 February**. Nomination forms may be obtained from the General Office and must be lodged by **3.00 pm on Friday 24 February 2017**. Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the College.

If the number of nominations is greater than the number of vacancies in any category, a ballot will take place and a notice to that effect will be posted at the College. The ballot will close at **4.00 pm on Friday 3 March 2017**.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in <b>2017</b> and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in <b>2019</b> .	<b>2</b>
DET employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in <b>2017</b> and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in <b>2019</b> .	<b>1</b>
Community member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in <b>2017</b> and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in <b>2018</b> .	<b>3</b>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely



**ANNE MARTIN**

Principal

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### School Council Elections

#### What is a School Council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

#### Who is on the School Council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

#### Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

#### Do I need special experience to be on School Council?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

#### How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council encouraging another person to stand for election.

#### What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

#### REMEMBER

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do

Consider standing for election to school council this year

Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the principal for further information.**