Minister's message – Education Week 2022

Education Minister, James Merlino encourages parents, students and others to support public education especially during Education Week 2022. (Supplied)

Education Week is always a time of celebration, but this year's feels extra special.

This year, Victoria is marking the historic milestone of 150 years of public education, and it is the theme of this Education Week.

Of the schools opened in 1872, which was the year the public education act was enshrined into law, more than 150 state schools are still open today. In 2022, there are now more than 1500 schools providing education to Victorian communities, cementing our future as the Education State.

Public education has changed lives – there's no doubt about that. It is the great enabler. We know that with the right support, every child thrives.

During Education Week – from May 22-28 – I encourage every student, parent, carer, teacher, and educator to take part in the variety of events and activities being held across the state. You will get so much out of it.

This year is all about commemorating the past, celebrating the present and imagining the future of education here in Victoria.

It's an opportunity for all schools, higher education providers and early childhood education and care services to showcase their role in our state's education story. A story that now includes successfully navigating all the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Victorians are also invited to contribute to a 150 Years of Public Education digital time capsule by emailing school memories, be it photos, reports, or trivia, to 150years@education.vic.gov.au.

For details of events in your area, go to vic.gov.au/education-week-2022 or for more information about 150 year celebrations visit vic.gov.au/150years.

I encourage everyone to celebrate and support public education in Victoria and Education Week 2022.

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education

Geelong Grammar School's Corio campus is hosting a Discovery Day on Friday, August 12. (Supplied)

Day boarding is growing in popularity

Families in the Geelong and surrounding region have been taking an increased interest in their children day boarding at Geelong Grammar School's Corio campus.

Students can start in the vibrant middle school from year 5 as a day student and year 7 as a boarding student. All students in year 9 transition to full boarding at the Timbertop campus in the Victorian Alps. Students can join senior school – years 10 to year 12 – as a day boarder or full boarder.

Day students in middle school enjoy the benefits and advantages that a boarding school structure provides whilst also enjoying the comforts of home. With a slightly longer school day, until 5pm several nights a week, students can participate in after-school sports and co-curricular activities before returning home.

> "You really get to know everyone on campus and feel connected"
>
> - Isabel Longo, year 12 student

In senior school, day boarders enjoy a longer day at school until 8.30pm most weeknights, where they complete sports training, co-curricular pursuits, enjoy dinner with friends and complete evening 'prep' (homework) under supervision and support of teachers and mentors.

Year 12 student Isabel Longo says day boarding provides the opportunity to work as a team after school and connect with others.

"Doing your homework with other people and helping them with questions allows you to consolidate your knowledge," she says.

"Playing sports after school has also allowed me to have friendships with students from other year levels and houses – you really get to know everyone on campus and feel connected."

For working parents who are trying to co-ordinate their child's after-school activities with their own busy schedules, day boarding provides uninterrupted access to exceptional facilities, supportive staff and opportunities well beyond classroom learning.

Year 9 students enjoy a year at the Timbertop campus. (Supplied)

"The pressure to rush home from work to manage after school sports plus extracurricular activities while also preparing dinner is simply removed," parent Melissa Temple says.

The Geelong Grammar School Class of 2021 achieved outstanding academic results with a combined median ATAR (VCE and IB Diploma) of 84.5, with 25 per cent of students receiving an ATAR of 98-plus (top two per cent of the state). The median score for students completing the IB Diploma was 38 (ATAR 96.25).

Geelong Grammar School's Corio campus will be hosting a Discovery Day on Friday, August 12 for all families interested to learn more about the school .

For further information, visit www.ggs.vic.edu.au or phone (03) 5273 9307.