FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

OPEN NIGHT
Last Monday evening we conducted our inaugural ‘Open Night’ at the Dudley Campus. The night was for primary school students and their parents to visit the school and see what WSC has to offer. The evening started with tours of the school where students and their parents visited displays of student work and viewed presentations from our staff. The tours were followed by speeches from two former WSC students; local engineer Matt Coyne (1998-2003) and chiropractor Penny Jones (1999-2004). The two guests as well as current Year 9 student, Jayde Gray, spoke about their lives and their experiences at WSC. Finally, all of the students and their parents were treated to a piano recital from 2011 Year 12 student Josh Hooke who is currently home from university on holidays. The night was a great success with over 300 people attending the evening. Special thanks to all of the staff involved in making the night such a wonderful event.

REPORTS
Reports this term will be comprehensive written reports based on your child’s progress this semester, and will be given to students on the final day of term (Friday 29th June) to take home to parents. Please note that reports will not be posted home and therefore if your child is not in attendance on the final day of this term, their reports will need to be collected from the relevant General Office at the start of term 3.

BIG BAND BLOW OUT

The annual ‘Big Band Blowout’ was held on Friday evening, 15th June. The event was a showcase of the ‘big bands’ from each of the Secondary Colleges involved in the South Gippsland Secondary Music Program and was held at the Wonthaggi Workmen’s Club.

All of the bands involved in the SGSMP had been preparing for this performance by working with renowned musician Greg Clarkson.

The ‘Big Band Blowout’ involved WSC’s Big Band conducted by Paul Berger. Our band proved to be one of the highlights of the evening with their outstanding musical talents. Many of our students also backed up to play in other bands which consisted of a combination of students from across all of the Secondary Colleges.

Congratulations to all of our students involved in this amazing event and to all of the music staff for their dedication to the program and our students.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

School finishes at 2.30pm on Friday, 29th June.
### Important Dates for Your Calendar

**June**
- Wednesday 27th - Talented Students - evening show **SOLD OUT**
- Friday 29th - Last Day 2.30pm finish

**July**
- Monday 16th - Term 3 starts
- Tuesday 17th - State Cross country
- Tues 17th-Thurs 19th - Year 12 tertiary camp
- Thurs 26th - Sun 29th - Volleyball Camp
- 29th July – 3rd August - Year 12 ski camp
- Sun 29th July - JLTAV morning Monash Uni

**August**
- 5 August- 10 August - Year 12 ski camp

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**VCE Geography – Wilson’s Promontory Fieldwork**

Year 10 and 11 VCE Unit 1 Geography students recently conducted fieldwork at Wilson’s Prom National Park. These excursions provided students with a great opportunity to gather information in the ‘field.’ The students researched the variations in vegetation found on the Tidal Outlook walk, using field sketching, notes and GPS units to record their findings. This information is used to create reports describing and explaining the different ecosystems observed.

Congratulations to both groups, who were highly engaged in all activities, behaved excellently, and have created some outstanding visual displays.

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**Year 9 Drama Performance at Inverloch Primary School**

On the 18th of June Miss Stephens and her year 9 Drama class caught the bus out to Inverloch Primary School to perform four short plays for the grade 5 and 6s. Each play was adapted from a fairytale and focused around issues that the year 9s thought were relevant for the Primary audience. The grade 5/6s loved all the performances and all the students involved should be proud of their achievement.
STATE SURF TITLES

Well done to all the students who represented the State Schools Team Surfing Titles at Smiths Beach. They competed in two heats an hour in length against three other schools. In their first heat everything went well for the team with plenty of high scoring waves coming through. Everyone surfed brilliantly. In the final the situation tightened up with limited choice for waves and excellent competition presented by the opposing teams. Everyone surfed well in this heat although we didn't get the score to win the final. We placed second but kept the State Schools Title as the highest placed state school. Well done to the team and all the best next year.

YEAR 7 QUIZMASTER

All throughout term two we have been running qualifying rounds for our trivia competition “QUIZMASTER”. After an exhaustive qualifying process each home group in year 7 (except for 7H) now has their representatives to go on to play “BUZZ” on the big screen in the Flexible Learning Centre in term three. Each quarter final round will see two players eliminated and two players go onto the semi finals. In a cerebral marathon we will finally whittle our way down to the fastest and smartest trivia buff in year 7 who will be crowned our inaugural Quizmaster for 2012. The qualifying students are as follows:

7A – Jarred Woods, Zac Ray, Blake Harmon
7B – Maddie Atley
7C – Corey Trevena, Ethan Milkins, Jesse Kellow, Al Babu
7D – Andy Arney, Brad Kent, Nathan Tong, Daisy Filippi
7E – Dyarnah Bateman, Tom Robinson, Renee Dunbar, Ricky Gow.
7F – Jacob Knowles, Campbell McKenzie, Max Humberstone, Colin Barlow
7G – Josh Reda, Liam Robb, Tyson Gage, Connor Emery
7I – Lizzie Potter, Jacob Horton, Manny Kranabetter, Brooke Carberry.

Well done to all of the qualifying students, and let the games begin..........next term.

YEAR 7 FOOTY SUPERTIPPING 2012

Year 7 footy super tipping is on in earnest with students religiously selecting their tips each week in the hope of taking out the champion super tipping title at the end of the home and away season of the AFL. After round 12 our top Year 7 student tipsters are:

81 - Andy Arney
80 - Brad Kent and Maddi Wilson
77 - Oscar Toussaint and Ally Kershaw
76 - Mark Crutchfield and Louis Paxton
74 - Andrew Adames and Tanika McCaughan
73 - Josh Bracher, Flynn Anderson and Harry McInnes
72 - Chloe Bannister, Louis Paxton, Ally Kershaw, Dayle Egan, Flynn Brosnan, and Max Dyball

These are impressive scores from our “Super Tippers”, especially Louis Paxton who filled in all of his tips before going away on a term long holiday with his family. Nice work Louis! Now, with over half of the AFL season still to be played there is plenty of time for other challengers to make their mark on the competition.

Happy Super Tipping!
On Thursday 21st of June WSC was well represented at the Regional Cross Country with 47 students travelling to Lardner Park, in wet and muddy weather.

All competitors performed to the best of their ability in trying conditions.

Wonthaggi Secondary College came away from the day with the following titles:
15 Boys Gippsland Champions
13 Boys Gippsland Runner’s Up
14 Girls Gippsland Runner’s Up
15 Girls Gippsland Runner’s Up

We are proud of the 18 competitors who will be competing at State level on Tuesday 17th July at Bundoora.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO ALL PARENTS

Both the recent State and Federal Budgets announced significant changes to funding assistance which will affect both Schools and parents. Most of the press around this time was quite negative and confusing. Letters are being sent to every household explaining the changes in detail. Here is a brief overview of the changes to parental assistance payments and the Schools procedures:

SCHOOL START BONUS:
The $300 per year School Start Bonus for year 7 students has been scrapped. There will be no School Start Bonus for parents of Students going into year 7 in 2013. The cancelation of this payment is being offset somewhat by an increase in the EMA payment to eligible parents of year 7 students, the one off 2012 Schoolkids bonus in June 2012 and payment of the 2013 Schoolkids Bonus in Term 1 and Term 3.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA):
The EMA is being restructured to increase the focus on direct support to parents. The EMA provides financial assistance to families on a low income to help with the cost of essential educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms, camps & excursions etc. EMA is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Valid Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs concession card or be a registered Foster Parent to be eligible.

Under the new arrangements, school-based payments will be discontinued and parental payments increased.

The changes to the EMA starting in 2013 include:

- Total EMA payments (Parent Payment & School Payment) reduced from $470:
  - Parent Payment increased from $235 to $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
  - Parent Payment increased from $235 to $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

- School-based EMA payments ($235.00 per secondary school student) will be discontinued

The EMA in 2013 will still be paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August). This equates to:

- $210 in March and $90 in August for Year 7 students and
- $175 in March and $75 in August for all other eligible students under 16.

The August 2012 (P2) payments will not be affected by the changes.

Lodgement of 2013 EMA Applications
Applications for EMA need to be lodged with the school before the closing date (usually the end of February for EMA 1 and the end of July for EMA 2). We start accepting applications on year 7 orientation day (usually the first week in December) and at our school bookselling days planned for Wednesday 23rd January 2013, 1.00pm to 7.00pm and Thursday 24th January 2013, 9.30am to 2.30pm.

How will EMA be paid in 2013?
The existing payment options for the EMA payment to parents will not change. Parents will still have the choice on the EMA application form whether to have their EMA paid directly into their bank account (EFT) or paid by cheque - which will be posted to the school.

Please note: The school will only enter into Credit Arrangements with Parents who select the payment by Cheque option. If you want to use your EMA to pay for Books, Uniforms, Camps and School charges, you must select the Cheque option. We cannot approve credit arrangements for parents who select the EFT option.
Who can parents and schools contact if they have concerns regarding their EMA payments?
Parents should contact the school on 56713700 for information about their EMA payments. Information for parents is also available on the EMA website: www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/ema.htm

EDUCATION TAX REFUND:

The School kids Bonus will replace the Education Tax Refund. The Government is making this change because around 80 per cent of families were not receiving their full entitlements under the Education Tax Refund.

The Government announced in this year’s Budget that 1.3 million Australian families with kids in school will start receiving new assistance to help them make ends meet. From 1 January 2013, families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A, veterans’ payments plus young people in school receiving Youth Allowance will receive $410 for each child in primary school and $820 for each child in secondary school. Your child must be in primary or secondary education to receive this payment.

From 2013 the School kids Bonus will be automatically paid to eligible families in two separate installments each year – before the start of Term One and Term Three – so parents have extra money in their pockets when they need it most. This new payment will help the families of 2.2 million school kids pay for uniforms, books, school camps & excursions, stationery, and other costs like music lessons and sports registration fees. Around 1 million families will receive more money from the School kids Bonus. And because the School kids Bonus will be paid automatically and upfront, it means:

Parents don’t need to keep receipts for months and months – it’s a guaranteed payment. Parents will receive the full amount every time, so families won’t miss out if they lose receipts.

Parents don’t have to pay out of their own pocket, then wait months to get paid back - the payment will be paid up front, twice a year, before the start of Term 1 and Term 3. No paperwork is required.

Lump-sum payment in June 2012
As part of the transition to the new Schoolkids Bonus, the Education Tax Refund for 2011-12 will be paid out in full to all eligible families as a lump sum payment. In June this year, families will receive $818 for each child in high school and $409 for each primary school child, paid directly into your bank account from 20 June. This means families will receive their full Education Tax Refund entitlement ahead of tax time – so parents won’t have to worry about keeping receipts or making claims when they do their tax this year.

When you receive this payment it will be a good opportunity to clear any outstanding 2012 charges.

Another option you might wish to consider is to use this payment to place your account with the school in credit. You could then use this credit to cover any further Camps, Excursions, Uniform purchases etc …that may arise between now and the end of the year. Any credit left over at the end of the year is be carried forward to assist with Books, Uniform, Camps and school charges for 2013. Accounts in Credit can be paid out to parents at any time upon request.