FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

Wonthaggi Secondary College is one of 166 Victorian Government schools selected to participate in the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership. This National Partnership is providing funding to schools across Australia to participate in a range of programs designed to support school autonomy, allowing us to respond in more locally specific ways to our students’ needs. As a participating school, we will receive $50 000. This will allow us to specialise in a curriculum field of our choice.

We have chosen to specialise in Surfing and Life-Saving. Our location in the Bass Coast provides us with a unique opportunity to encourage our students to experience this activity. This will not detract from student learning in the more “academic” learning areas. We believe that it is likely to in fact enhance student connection with school. Wonthaggi Secondary College students already have opportunities to participate in an extensive range of “extra – curricular” programs. This program will provide yet another opportunity for our students to develop in all areas. Wonthaggi Secondary College already operates extensive elective programs in Surfing and Life-Saving. Our ADVANCE program at Years 9 and 10 provides an elite sporting and learning option for around 60 students. At year 8 students can also do Surfing as an elective option.

The Specialisation Grant will have little impact on existing programs. The purchase of cold weather wetsuits from some of the Grant money will however enable us to be in the water for more of the year. The main impact will be an expansion of access to a surfing and water safety program for Year 7 and Year 6 students. This will generally take the form of “taster” programs for all students. It is likely that we will also run some one-day special programs for more accomplished surfers across all Year levels. Most of the Grant money will be spent during 2013. If the programs we develop as a result of the Grant are successful we will be looking at ways of securing funding beyond 2013 to continue those elements that are successful.

At this stage we have had only preliminary discussions with some local primary schools. Our plan is to deliver short programs to Year 6 students. As well as providing qualified teaching staff to run these programs it is our intention to involve our Year 10 ADVANCE students in supporting and teaching Grade 6 students. Arrangements such as this have been extremely successful in the past and provide significant benefits to both the older and younger students as well as to our respective schools. We hope to trial a Year 6 surfing day before the end of 2012.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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<th>Month</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Fri 27th - Sun 29th</td>
<td>Volleyball Camp</td>
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<td>Sun 29th – 3rd Aug</td>
<td>Year 12 ski camp</td>
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<td>Sun 29th July</td>
<td>JLTAV morning Monash Uni</td>
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<td>Tuesday 31st</td>
<td>Yr7 Girls Soccer</td>
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<td>Tuesday 31st</td>
<td>Yr 10 Career Expo Lardner Park</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Wed 1st</td>
<td>Yr 12 drama solo performance workshop, Kernot Hall Morwell</td>
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<td>Thurs 2nd</td>
<td>Gippsland Netball @ Traralgon</td>
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<td>Sun 5th - Fri 10th</td>
<td>Year 12 ski camp</td>
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<td>Wed 8th</td>
<td>Gippsland Badminton Yr 7 &amp; 8</td>
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<td>Thurs 9th</td>
<td>Gippsland Badminton Intermediate</td>
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<td>Monday 13th</td>
<td>Yarram Eisteddfod</td>
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<td>Mon 13th - Fri 17th</td>
<td>Health and PE Week</td>
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POPULAR TEEN AUTHOR, ARCHIE FUSILLO, VISITS YEAR 8’S

You could see what half of the students were thinking as they headed for their seats – ‘No, not a boring old dude yakkin’ on about books again...’ But Archie is a very funny man and within a couple of minutes he had the crowd eating out of his hands. Students were engaged, entertained, moved and informed about his story as a writer. Did the students appreciate the presentation? Well ... the raucous applause of thanks at the end said it all! Talented writers in Year 8 were also given the chance to attend a writer’s workshop with Archie and we’ve had some very positive feedback about how good the opportunity was.

The English faculty and the Dudley library pooled their resources to put this special event on for Year 8’s. We hope to see Archie’s books flying out the door

EMA

Applications for the second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) are currently open and will close on Friday 3rd August 2012. **If you applied for and received the first instalment of the EMA then you DO NOT need to reapply** - we will process your application automatically.

To be eligible for the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* (i.e the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card) or be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI) or be a foster parent.

If you are eligible for the EMA and did not receive or did not apply for the EMA earlier in the year, ... at the office of either campus before Friday 3rd August. Please direct any queries to the school on 5671 3700.
On Thursday 28th June a team of six students from Wonthaggi Secondary College travelled to Monash University (Gippsland) for the Maths Madness Problem Solving Challenge. The students were from the year eight and nine PAL classes and competed as a team, known as the PALICANS. They competed against eleven other schools in five rounds of mathematical challenges. They had lots of problem solving questions, a number crossword, a maths relay, the 'Numbers' game from TV and other problems to complete throughout the day. It was a very intense day with all students working hard and sharing the questions around.

After lunch the category winners were announced. Of the three categories announced, Wonthaggi won the problem solving, were joint winners in the crossword and won the relay. Wonthaggi Secondary College were the overall winners, with the school being awarded a magnificent, framed Escher print, and the students each receiving a very challenging mind-bender puzzle.

The Australian Mathematics Competition will take place on Thursday August 2nd.

The number of places for the Maths Competition are limited with the cost of the competition covered by the school.

McBride Campus students should have already registered their interest with their teacher or Ms Tschiderer.

Dudley Campus will be running practice sessions for the Maths Competition in the Flexi Centre at lunchtime – on Thursday July 26th, Friday July 27th and Monday 30th July, starting at 1pm. Any student who wants to take part should come along to the practice sessions to register their interest and do some practice questions.

If you would like your newsletter emailed please contact Meagan at the Dudley Office on 56720900.
When you take 14 keen Aussie kids and 2 dedicated teachers to Japan, what do you get? A trip of a lifetime, that’s what!!

On Thursday the 5th of July, we departed from the freezing cold of Melbourne to the hot and humid summer climate of Japan. This trip was a first for many of us to travel abroad (except of course for our worldly travellers Tom and Tegan, this trip being their second with the school to Japan) and excluding the gruelling 13 hour plane ride, it really was an exciting adventure for all of us.

We spent 5 days living with our exceptionally nice host families, in the town of Hakui on Japan’s main island, Honshu. The home stay program was a really great experience, and gave us all a full insight into the daily life of living in Japan – and what full days they were too!!

The 3 days spent at Hakui High School were full, exhausting, but absolutely fantastic! We definitely stood out in the crowds, but that didn’t at all seem to matter from the very friendly and welcoming greetings from everyone we saw, teachers and students alike. With the many “hello’s” and “konichiwa’s” in the corridors, and the classes ranging from Sport class to English class (we were pretty good at that one), we felt at home straight away. And so it was with some teary “goodbye’s” and “sayonara’s” that too soon the time came to leave Hakui, but with all of us having made some long lasting friendships.

The following part of the trip was spent in the city of Kyoto, where we went sightseeing and travelled to the nearby cities of Osaka and Nara. From the Golden Temple to ancient castles to a massive theme park to Samurai Movie Village to roaming deer in the streets to jam-packed Gion Festival to vending machines containing business ties, we saw it all. And everywhere we went, the food was AMAZING – if you can use chopsticks to be able to eat it, that is!! There were so many cultural differences that were completely foreign from what we know in Oz, that we could only experience by travelling there; the train stations and schools were spotless, trains and buses ran on time (often down to the second), the super high tech toilets, rice with every meal, and when they say something’s old, it’s really old!

Too quickly came the time to fly us back home again to the Australian winter, where, at first, adjusting back to speaking proper English, and to stop bowing to each other was proving to be difficult. It was a great chance for us to practise our Japanese and to experience Japanese culture, and best of all it was great fun! None of this would have been possible without the dedication and efforts of Mr Misawa for organising, guiding and bringing us all back again, and Miss Copeland for not losing any of us (for too long), Arigato! We are all looking forward to seeing some of our friends from Hakui when they come to Wonthaggi next year, and hope to give them as good a welcome as they gave us. For anyone studying Japanese, we would definitely recommend this as an absolute must-do, and say; “IKIMASHO!!” (Let’s Go!)
**JUNIOR BOYS & GIRLS FOOTBALL**

Since our last newsletter both our Junior Girls (Years 7, 8 & 9) and our Year 7 Boys football teams have taken part in the Gippsland Football Finals. Both teams trained at lunchtimes in preparation for the event and played with great skill, spirit and discipline on the day. The Junior girls finished second and the Year 7 boys finished third.

Best players for the girls were Molly Edwards, Holly Forsyth, Emma Sprunt and Courtney ‘Hitman’ Dunlop.

Best players for the boys were Campbell McKenzie, Andre Toussaint, Oscar Toussaint, Josh Bracher, Sean Casey and Hunter Marks.

The boys and girls would like to thank their coaches Mr. Bramley, Miss. Blundy and Liam Wall for all their work.

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**MANAGED INDIVIDUAL PATHWAYS PROGRAM**

**Year 9 Pathways day on Tuesday September 4th.**

As part of the Managed Individual Pathways Program this year, all Year 9 students are involved in the following activities as part of their studies;

1. **Business Maths**
2. **Financial Literacy in Humanities**
3. **Resume and job application writing in English.**

All students have already been involved in a two hour workshop in which they have completed their Pathways Plan in a folder. They are currently studying interviewing techniques, personal presentation and skills which will assist them in their pursuit of future employment goals.

On Tuesday September 4, Year 9 students will attend one of the many business and community organisations within the Wonthaggi township for a mock interview process. All students will be interviewed by their English teacher and a local business person in a panel situation. Students will be interviewed in groups of three and the time allocated for each interview is approximately 15 minutes. Students are expected to dress appropriately for their interview.

All students, with support of their English teachers, will soon begin preparing their job application for a position at “Bramley Mart”. They will complete a hard copy of their job application and lodge this in the application box provided in the school foyer.

The job interview process is one part of their day on September 4. Another aspect will be Year 10 course counselling provided by a team of teaching and Principal class staff from both campuses of the college. These course counselling sessions will be taking place in Wonthaggi Town Hall and appointment times will be allocated in the next few weeks. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend in order to discuss and clarify subject pathways/choices and opportunities for their child. Please stay tune for updates regarding this special day.

Kathy Moore
Managed Individual Pathways Coordinator (Dudley Campus)
In the first week of Term 3, 70 Year 12 students attended the annual Melbourne Camp. The days were very busy with students visiting a range of tertiary institutions as part of their preparation for life after WSC! The evenings saw them ten-pin bowling and having dinner at Dracula’s Theatre Restaurant. It was a very successful event – thanks to Antonio Castello for coordinating the event!
Talented Student Concert