FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

WSC PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEW BOOKINGS GO ON-LINE

At the completion of this term we will once again be offering students and their parents the opportunity to participate in Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews. In previous times our interviews have been organised through coordinating appointments with teachers via a booking sheet. However, this term we will be offering parents an online booking procedure in an effort to streamline the making of appointments for parents and teachers.

We will provide parents with the details of how to book appointments later in the term, including instructions for parents who do not have access to the internet, but wanted to make our school community aware now of this change in process.

EARLY PICK UPS FROM SCHOOL

As you will notice, this newsletter contains information about the importance of students attending and being on time for school. We would like to remind all students and parents of the need to be in classes as much as possible to make the most of their educational opportunities.

Recently, we have seen that a substantial number of students are being picked up early from school. Students who are being picked up early from school are missing important information from their classes, and period 6 lessons are being regularly interrupted by office staff who are getting students out of class. It is our preferred option that students are not picked up from school early, unless for exceptional circumstances. If it is urgent, and you need to collect your child early, we ask that you please contact the General Office during the day and arrange for your child to be waiting for you.

2013 SUBJECT SELECTIONS AT THE SENIOR CAMPUSS

Please note for students entering Year 10 and Year 11 in our College next year that the process for selecting subjects commences with two important Information Evenings this month.

Current Year 9 students will receive information and handbooks regarding Year 10 courses in Week 7 of this term. The Information Evening for this important transition in our school will occur on Thursday August 30 at the Flexible Learning Centre (Dudley Campus).

The Information Evening for Year 10 students entering Year 11 next year is scheduled for Thursday August 23 at the Kirra Room (Wonthaggi Workman's Club).

Both sessions provide important information about the range of subjects and programs, the timeline and process for selecting subjects, and also opportunities to seek advice from key staff members. The Information Evenings commence at 7pm and parents and carers are encouraged to attend. The support of families during this important planning process is valued.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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<td>Yarram Eisteddfod (TBC)</td>
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<td>Thurs 23rd</td>
<td>Yr 11 2013 information evening</td>
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Wonthaggi Secondary College Takes Medals at Volleyball Victorian Schools’ Cup

Three Wonthaggi Secondary College volleyball teams competed in the Crazy John’s Victorian Volleyball Schools Cup on the weekend of the 29 of July. Students from both the Dudley campus and McBride campus competed and all were eager to test their skills against the quality competition.

The Year 7 Girls team came 3rd in First Division. Coach, Sally McNiece, was very impressed with her teams outcome, “The girls improved immensely over the weekend and put in an excellent effort, getting home late at night and leaving early in the morning. I was impressed by all girls’ skills: Lar Ler’s serving; Gemmah’s setting; Allie’s spiking; Lyla’s passing and general skills; Esinath’s skill improvement; Jess’ improved confidence; Tess’ ability under pressure; and Paw Wah, Sally and Jorja’s encouragement and support of their team members.”

The Year 10 Girls won Under 17 Division One, and did not lose a set throughout the entire tournament. Kasey Teakle was the MVP for the weekend - she completed intense preparation for the tournament representing Victoria at the National Championships in June. All team members competed extremely well with Ri’s spiking and Courtney’s setting identified by the coach, Darrel Wilson, as highlights.

Year 8 Girls showed great improvement throughout the tournament and by the tournament’s completion were the fourth best team. Hannah McRae displayed great potential and her natural sporting flare was clearly evident across the weekend.

Darrel Wilson, Senior Coach, said, “The College has been competing in this tournament for well over 20 years and we have consistently achieved strong results. This has been due to eager students who consistently attend training, past and present coaches and supportive parents.”

Well done to all players, parents and coaches. We all look forward to the National Titles in December.
**NETBALL**

Thursday August 2, saw the College send over sixty students to Traralgon to participate in the Gippsland Netball Finals. All students participated well and showed great endeavour.

The Junior Boys played exceptionally well after many lunchtime trainings. Unfortunately they missed out on proceeding to the next level but were runners up Gippsland Champions.

The Intermediate Boys were out-played by a classy Lavalla side; however the boys enjoyed the day and still came home runner’s up for the event.

The Intermediate Girls B team won all their games and are Gippsland Champions. Congratulations to Sarah Blundell (our AFL trainee ) on excellent coaching.

The Year 8 Girls had some every close and tough games and missed out on winning by the smallest of margins.

The Senior Girls and Senior Boys teams played some marvellous netball and showed some great plays of athleticism. Congratulations to both teams who are Gippsland Champions and will now play at the Southern Conference. Best of luck to both sides.

**SENIOR BOYS SOCCER MAKE IT TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Senior Boy’s Soccer Team travelled to Morwell last week to compete in the Gippsland Region finals. The opposition came from Bairnsdale (East Gippsland), Traralgon SC ( Wellington Region )and Lowanna (West Gippsland region).

Two goals from Callum McCarthy in the first game against Traralgon secured a 2 nil victory, an equalizer from Thomas Morgan in the second half against Bairnsdale resulted in a one all draw, and 2 goals from Gerson Pacheco were enough for a 2 - 1 win against Lowanna.

Eli Richards in goals made some amazing saves throughout the day, our defence kept out opposition forward moves whenever they arose and the midfield and forwards worked tirelessly to provide us with the opportunities to score.

As a result, Wonthaggi were crowned Regional champions and will now move directly to the State Championships next month.

**JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER**

The Junior Girls’ soccer side were unfortunately defeated on Tuesday this week at the Gippsland titles by Lavalla Catholic College, 0 – 11. However, they must be congratulated for their optimism and sports-womanship during the match and throughout the entire day. MVP goes to Sharon Sand for her goalie work in the first half of the match!

**NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL**

If you would like your newsletter emailed please contact Meagan at the Dudley Office on 56720900.
EMA

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
  - 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 Schoolkids 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 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 Schoolkids Bonus will be automatically paid to eligible families in two separate instalments 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 Schoolkids Bonus. And because the Schoolkids 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.
INDUSTRIAL ACTION – WORK BANS

The Australian Education Union is taking industrial action in support of new enterprise agreements for teachers, principals, and support staff. One of the industrial actions is a ban on taking extras. Because of this ban, the school will often be unable to ask other teachers to cover a class when its regular teacher is absent. Most teachers are members of the AEU so the ban on extras is likely to have a significant impact on the operation of our school.

Wonthaggi SC students are able to participate in an extensive range of sports teams, camps and excursions. These activities take teachers out of the school and require other teachers to take the classes of the absent teachers. Although we have resources to employ some casual teachers we rely heavily on the goodwill of other teachers to take replacement classes (extras). Other than activities that take place in normal class time it is unlikely that we will be able to conduct our regular sports teams, camps or excursions program during the period of the bans. At this stage it is not known how long the bans will be in place.

Further information will be provided as it is available

ROMEO & JULIET

Forty-two Year 9 students enjoyed an excursion to St Kilda on Wednesday 27th July to attend a performance, by Bell Shakespeare, of ‘Romeo and Juliet’. The play is an important text for both the Literature Class and the PAL class and it was pleasing that nearly all students took up the opportunity to attend.

The bus arrived in the heart of St Kilda at 11.00, giving the party enough time to explore the sugary delights of the Acland Street cake shops. Black Forest cakes, chocolate cakes, vanilla slices, continental donuts, you name it, all fresh and dripping in creamy, sugary sweetness.

The performance began at 1.00pm in the fading splendour of the National Theatre. The seats were excellent and the group waited expectantly as the house lights dimmed. The set, festooned with laundry hanging from long lines and dominated by a sandy beach and pier, confused many who expected to see the Renaissance splendour of Verona 400 years ago. Then the actors appeared, dressed as Italian villagers post World War 2. Confusion! Mercutio was a woman! More confusion! Shouldn’t the men be wearing coloured tights and pirate shirts and shouldn’t the women be wearing gowns and pointy hats? Yet more confusion! Bell Shakespeare cleverly confounded expectations and challenged the audience to re-imagine Shakespeare’s vision.

While the setting and time were interpretations, the Bard’s lines were faithfully told. The students followed the well known tale and were surprised by the humour that lies within the tragedy. Inexorably however, the drama emerged. You could have heard a pin drop as the humorous moments dwindled; now a combination of bloody feud, of parents deaf to their children and of blind chance precipitated the inevitable journey the leads make to their final deadly scene.

Back to the present and the regular classrooms we work in each school day. There are no theatre lights, no music, and a lack of ‘dramatic’ atmosphere. Despite this, the classes are immersed in activities stemming from the day and from their own reading of the play. If only all English classes could engage with texts and glimpse the power of language and ideas that Shakespeare still gives young minds 400 years since he wrote about the ‘star-cross’d lovers’.
I have organised a Relay for Life team in honour of a dear friend named Leigh who lost his fight with Leukaemia last November. Our team ‘Live for Leigh’ hopes to raise as much funds as possible which can be donated to the Cancer Council for our team.

We are asking all of you, students, parents and teachers of the school to please support our team in fundraising for the Cancer Council in honour of Leigh and all the other’s who have lost their battle with this terrible disease.

We have placed a collection bucket at the Dudley front office for any donations in support of our team in the Relay for Life.

Bree Worden Year 9

Young Endeavour

Australia's national sail training ship Young Endeavour is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between January and June 2013. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for the ballot at www.youngendeavour.gov.au until 31 August 2012. No sailing experience is required.

Since 1988 the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, has provided challenging training voyages for over 11,000 young Australians in the tall ship Young Endeavour. The specially designed program delivered aboard the ship increases the youth crew’s self awareness, develops team-work and leadership skills, and fosters a strong sense of community spirit.

For more information, including voyage dates and fees, please visit www.youngendeavour.gov.au or contact our office on 1800 020 444.