**FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM**

This is our last newsletter for the year and we would like to wish all members of our school community the very best for the festive season. It has been a year with lots to celebrate for Wonthaggi Secondary College and we value all the contributions made by students, staff and College supporters. Have a safe and relaxing summer break.

**STUDENT REPORTS**

As reported in previous newsletters reports will be posted out to parents in the last week of term. As you are aware there has been an ongoing industrial dispute between the state government and the Australian Education Union over a new enterprise agreement. As part of this industrial campaign we have been notified that the Australian Education Union has imposed a ban on the provision of any written or numerical assessment data on student reports (reporting of VELs progression points and satisfactory/unsatisfactory for VCE, VCAL and VET is not included in the ban).

Our school has a very clear and comprehensive student reporting policy and the expectation is that teachers will report as per the school policy. However, those teachers who choose to participate in the industrial action and provide less than the school would normally require are participating in protected industrial action provided the teacher is a member of the AEU.

We certainly understand the inconvenience associated with this. While all students will receive reports indicating their progress, there will not be the comprehensive information usually provided in reports by those staff involved in protected industrial action. Teachers will still be assessing all student work and will be available to meet with you should you wish to discuss your child’s progress.

**BOOK SELLING DAYS CHANGED FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

**Wednesday, 23rd January, 2013 from 1.00pm to 7.00pm.**

**Thursday, 24th January, 2013 from 9.30am to 2.30pm.**

Please note the change of time on Wednesday, 23rd January. We received feedback this year from a number of parents who found it difficult to make the necessary arrangements to collect the books between the usual hours of 9.30am to 2.30pm. In 2013 we will be trialling an alternate times for the Wednesday.

On these two days you can pay for and collect your child’s 2013 school books, pay your 2013 school charges and subject levies, and purchase school uniform.

Parents who are eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) can also apply for their 2013 EMA. Parents who wish to use their EMA to pay for school books, purchase uniform or pay school charges can enter into a credit arrangement with the school on these days.
IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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<th>December 2012</th>
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<td>Wed 19th</td>
<td>Year 7 presentation 10.00am</td>
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<td>Middle school presentation 1.00pm</td>
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<td>VCE Presentation 7.30pm</td>
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<th>Jan 2013</th>
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<td>Wed 23rd</td>
<td>Book Selling days</td>
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<td>1.00pm to 7.00pm</td>
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<td>Thurs 24th</td>
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<td>9.30am to 2.30pm</td>
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<td>Wed 30th</td>
<td>Tertiary Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 13th – Friday 15th</td>
<td>Yr 7 camp</td>
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<th>March 2013</th>
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<td>Mon 4th—Wed 6th</td>
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CHANGES AND UPDATES TO 2013 BOOKLISTS

STUDENTS considering purchasing second hand texts for 2013, please be aware of the following:

YEAR 10
ENGLISH: Successful English1 – Student Book DO NOT PURCHASE FOR 2013 – removed from Booklist.
MATHEMATICS: Mathematics Level A & Level B NEW TEXT FOR 2013: Maths Quest 10+10a AC (Student Text & eBook)
VCE General Mathematics 1 & 2 NEW EDITION FOR 2013: Maths Quest 11 Stand.Gen 2E eBk & Free TIInspire Companion STUDENTS CAN PURCHASE THE NEW 2ND EDITION OR STILL USE THE OLD 1ST EDITION.

YEAR 11
LEGAL STUDIES: 1 & 2 ; NEW EDITION FOR 2013: Key Concepts VCE Legal Studies
MATHEMATICS: General Maths B 1 & 2: NEW EDITION FOR 2013: Maths Quest 11 St.Gen. 2E STUDENTS CAN PURCHASE THE NEW 2ND EDITION OR STILL USE THE OLD 1ST EDITION.

YEAR 12
BIOLOGY: NEW TEXT FOR 2013: Nature of Biology Book 2 (in place of Heinemann Biology Two – Units 3 & 4)
CHEMISTRY: NEW EDITION FOR 2013: Cambridge Checkpoints VCE Chemistry Units 3 & 4

2013 BOOKLISTS

The 2013 booklists have been sent home shortly. The books can be ordered online at either www.wonthaggisc.vic.edu.au (click on “school info” and then “Landmark books”) or www.elandmark.com.au (must use code VJNJ if using landmark website). If you don’t want to use the on-line option, you can return your completed booklist to the school by Friday 14th December and we will forward it on to the book supplier for you.
**Horticulture garlic expo**

The final class of Horticulture for 2012 was marked with the first annual ‘plaiting of the garlic’. For the students who had worked hard all year it was a great opportunity to take something home for the family, and possibly stick in the Christmas stocking or under the tree. For those who stayed home you missed a great opportunity to share something with your loved ones (so nah). The students had planted the garlic in June and harvested it in late November. The garlic was a mixture of Asiatic Purple and Persian White and Mr. Sibly taught the students how to plait the garlic with stalks of rosemary. Mr. Sibly wishes all his Horticulture students all the best as they head to the McBride Campus. Their efforts this semester have been outstanding.

**Table tennis state finals mixed bag – Girls top two for third year running**

Wonthaggi Secondary College was well represented by three teams at the recent State Table Tennis Finals held at MSAC, with our Year 9 girls narrowly missing out on a second consecutive state title.

The girls were unbeaten in all of their preliminary rounds, although they won by a miniscule 7 points over Waverley SC in the last match before the semi finals. Our team won through to the Grand Final after a comfortable semi final victory but they had to have a re-match with Waverley to take the championship. Although the girls battled hard in all of their 6 matches, the tables were turned with Waverley defeating WSC by a handful of points.

The WSC girls therefore finished second in the state, as they did as Year 7 students in 2010. In 2011 as Year 8’s they were the state champions, and in each of their three state finals appearances they were clearly the best country school in Victoria. In the vast arena of Secondary School sport this sort of achievement by one particular group is a rarity. The girls who have represented this team over the past three years can be justifiably proud of their contribution to table tennis at Wonthaggi Secondary College.

The day after the Year 9 girls finished their campaign it was the boys turn with a Year 8 and a Year 9 boys team representing WSC at state level. The Year 8 boys battled manfully in their preliminary rounds just missing out on a semi-final birth on a countback. The Year 9 boys came up against some very hot competition in the Intermediate (9/10) tournament and to their credit they never gave in despite playing boys who were in a higher year level. All in all our players gained some very valuable experience at this standard and it was a great effort for them to gain a place in the state final.

Well done to all of our Table Tennis teams. You were a credit to yourselves and Wonthaggi Secondary College.

The Year 8 boys state finalist team was represented by Heitor Hilberto, Sean Michael, Travis Chapman and Simon Thomas.

The Intermediate boys state finalist team was represented by Dan Chetland, Sam Chetland, Jayden Medola, Kien Le and Dean Snelling.

Andrew McIntosh
(Proud Coach)

Pictured are the Year 9 girls Victorian State Runners Up from left to right: Caitlyn Taylor, Tanya Milnes, Brittney Taylor, Jett Dalmau and Daisy Filippi.
BRONZE CAMP 2012
YEAR 7 GOLDEN TICKET WINNERS ENJOY SOME “ICE MAGIC”

It was 34 degrees outside on Friday the 7th of December but for 50 deserving Year seven students it was as cold as ice. These worthy students were given a day out of school to go ice skating at the Oakleigh skating rink as a just reward for earning a “Golden ticket” in our golden spot competition.

Each week throughout term four, Year 7 teachers spent some positive time placing a “golden spot” next to the name of students in their classes who consistently exhibited positive behaviours such as hard work, kindness, and good manners. These lists were kept on display in the staff room but it wasn’t until week eight that our top fifty students were notified.

The students and staff had a great day out enjoying each other’s company whilst showing their best “Blades of Glory” moves on the ice, although some ‘would be Olympic speed skaters’ ended up impersonating penguins sliding on their stomachs down to the ocean.

Well done to ALL year seven students who were golden “spotted” throughout term four, and especially for those who were recognised for their above average conduct in gaining a golden ticket. The students who were given the opportunity to go skating on the 7th displayed exemplary behaviour that reflected brilliantly on our school.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all concerned and it just goes to prove the old adage:

“……good things come to those who skate!”
- Andrew McIntosh
Financial Assistance - Information
For New Parents

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):**
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013, the annual EMA amount is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.
- $300 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16.

**How to Apply:** Contact the school office to complete an application form for the EMA.

**Closing Date:** Parents/guardians need to lodge an EMA application form by 28 February 2013.


**Schoolkids Bonus:**
From January 2013, a new payment called the 'Schoolkids Bonus' will be introduced by the Commonwealth Government.

The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid by Centrelink in January and July each year to help families with school costs.

Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A will receive:
- up to $410 for each child in primary school
- up to $820 for each child in secondary school.