FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

WELCOME BACK!
We hope all members of our school community have had a safe and relaxing summer break! Hopefully our students are refreshed and raring to go as we tackle the 2013 school year. It promises to be another exciting year. We would like to extend a special welcome to those families who’s children are joining us for the first time. The journey through secondary education seems to fly by and it doesn’t seem to take long for those new Year 7 students to be heading off into the world in pursuit of jobs, apprenticeships and university courses and the like.

All families are encouraged to contact the school if they require assistance for their child at any stage during the year. You are also encouraged to stay “in the loop” with the information from our newsletters which are created every fortnight (and are also available on the web). We email out the newsletter to families so you are encouraged to provide us with your email if you have not done so already.

NEW YEAR - NEW STAFF!
We start the year with an enrolment of approximately 1180 students and the equivalent of 89 full time teaching staff (this is consistent with recent years). The first week of school for 2013 has started smoothly and students have settled well into their classes.

We have some new and returning staff at the College in 2013. Danielle Hradsky and Megan Webb join us as English / Drama teachers at the Dudley campus. Rebecca Manning, also at Dudley, joins us working in the area of Home Economics and Humanities. Teachers Skye Winder, Robbie Groom and Adrian Sorati return to WSC after extended leave periods.

Our trainee program continues once again this year. Three former students will be completing traineeships at WSC in 2013. Sarah Shaw and Tessa Papadopolous will be assisting students and staff in our Physical Education / Outdoor Education areas, while Morgan Brent will be working in our Computer Support team.

L-R :Bec Manning, Skye Winder, Robbie Groom, Danielle Hradsky, Megan Webb
**IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dudley Campus School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>McBride Campus School Photos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Swimming Sports</td>
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<td>Thursday 21st</td>
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<td>Immunisation Yr 7,9 and 10</td>
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<td>Tuesday 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-School Swimming</td>
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<td>Wednesday 27th</td>
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<td>Yr 12 RYDA Driver Safety workshop</td>
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**INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND WORK BANS / UPDATES ON CAMPS**

You will have noticed in the press recently that teachers who are members of the Australian Education Union (AEU) are currently involved in an ongoing industrial dispute with the State Government over a new enterprise agreement. Most of our staff are AEU members and are therefore involved in a protected industrial action that imposes the banning of work which would involve members in schools working more than their required duties. Significantly, this ban includes involvement in activities such as camps that require staff to attend outside normal school hours.

As a result, the Year 12 Tertiary Camp planned for early in the year has been postponed (and the potential for a future date is being investigated). A notice regarding this was sent home on Wednesday with Year 12 students. Other events, such as the Year 7 Camp, are also at risk due to the same circumstances and we are investigating options for this and will update families as developments occur.

We understand that many families will be disappointed with these situations and it has been a decision with which many staff have struggled. We do note though that the teachers involved in these bans are in fact doing so under a protected industrial action.

We hope that an agreement is reached in the very near future!

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

You will find some important information regarding the WSC Council accompanying this newsletter. In 2013 we are seeking four new parent representatives for the School Council. Three of the vacancies are for a two year period while the fourth is a casual vacancy with tenure of one year. School Council representation is a great way to be actively involved in supporting our students. Please consider the information supplied (nomination forms are included) and don’t hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.
**Bus Passes**

Please note that once again this year we continue to have very limited spare seating available on our buses and are not able to accommodate requests for bus passes. As a result parents, carers and students should consider other transport options. Requests of an urgent nature should be applied for in advance of the day through our Bus Coordinator, Robert Aitken, who is based at the McBride Campus. Regular bus travellers will continue to utilise the service as normal.

**Use of Student Images/Names**

At Wonthaggi Secondary College we celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation in school events and their achievements in our newsletter. Occasionally, photographs of the students are included. We also include photographs of our students in the school magazine along with examples of their work. Some students may have their photos and names on the school web site.

As we take much pride in the achievements of the students in our school, we also publicise their accomplishments in the media, and quite often photographs accompany the articles.

Please notify the General Office if you do not give approval for images of your child and his/her name to be used in the above ways if this has not already been done. If you do not contact the school it will be assumed that it is permitted to use images and to use the name of your child in school and media publications, school diaries and school web site. If at any time your circumstances change and you do not wish your child’s name or image used it is vital that you contact the Campus Principal immediately.

**EMA Reminder - Applications close February 28, 2013**

Just a reminder to all eligible parents that you can still claim an EMA ($300 for year 7 students & $250 for year 8 and above).

EMA is payable to eligible parents of students up to 16 years of age to assist with the cost of school books, uniforms, camps, excursions, school charges......

To receive your EMA you must complete an EMA application and lodge it at the school **BEFORE February 28th 2013**. Late applications cannot be accepted.

To be eligible to claim an EMA you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Holder of a Health Care Card valid as at 29th January 2013
- Holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card valid as at 29th January 2013
- Holder of a Pensioner Concession Card valid as at 29th January 2013

A foster parent (documentation confirming status required)

**EMA Applications close at the close of business on Thursday 28th February, 2013.**

**EMA APPLICATIONS CLOSE FEB 28, 2013 - we can not take applications after this date.**

*Stephen Plumb - Business Manager*

**Need to Catch Up on Homework?**

Any Dudley students who need to catch up on homework, Mr Allan will be in Room 7 every Wednesday lunchtimes and after school every Monday.

At McBride, lunchtime assistance is available with Miss Tschiiderer in Room 24 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
**DUDLEY LOCKERS**

A change in staff roles in 2013 has resulted in staff not being available to co-ordinate Dudley locker keys. We are therefore moving to a system where students will be made more responsible for their own keys, however at Year 7 students will be supported by their Peer Support Leaders in taking responsibility for their keys.

Students will still be able to get spare keys if they require them but once they have collected it, that key is their responsibility. Where possible staff will try to keep one key spare at all times.

If students lose a key it is now their responsibility to get spare keys cut themselves. They will need to make sure that any spares they get cut also have the number of their key stamped onto their new key.

If students lose all of their keys they will be required to pay to replace that lock before they will be allocated a new lock from the school. We do not want students buying their own locks as some locks are not tamper proof and we would like all student locks to be on the one system to make co-ordination of locker allocations easier.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact Ross Bramley (Dudley Campus Principal) on 56720900

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**YEAR 11 WORK EXPERIENCE**

This year the Colleges work experience program for Year 11 students is optional and as such there will be no designated week set aside for the program. Instead students will have the opportunity to negotiate their week of work experience, in conjunction with the school, and the time it best suits the employers. It is envisaged that the majority of the program would be concluded by May 17th.

Whilst the program is optional the school would strongly encourage as many students to participate as possible. The school sees work experience as an opportunity to develop employability skills, knowledge and attitudes valued within the community. It is an excellent opportunity for students to explore careers and the world of work as well as exposing them to possible future employers.

It will be the students responsibility to inform their class teachers of their involvement in the program and catch up on any work they may miss.

Students are expected to contact employers themselves but will first need to check with myself to ensure that some employers are not swamped with requests. The Wonthaggi Veterinary Clinic (including branches at Inverloch and Newhaven) will need to be contacted via myself. The Wonthaggi Hospital will not be taking students in clinical related streams but are happy to accommodate in allied health and non health related areas.

Students may participate in Work Experience anywhere in Victoria however, transport and accommodation is the responsibility of the student and their family.

If students need assistance in organising their work experience please contact Jack Taylor at McBride.

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**YEAR 10 MATHEMATICS - 10B - G.**

All students should now have their own copy of Maths Quest 10 + 10A text OR e-book.

It is required for every class, and to provide your child with the best opportunity in Maths this year please ensure they have a copy. A scientific calculator is also required.

There a some brand new texts and second hand calculators at the school for purchase.

Please contact Ms Tschiderer at McBride.
STUDENT ACCIDENT ARRANGEMENTS & PERSONAL PROPERTY AT SCHOOL

Please note that the Department of Education and Early Childhood development (DEECD) does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or School Council employee or volunteer.

In the past some families have organised accident insurance through private agencies. These agencies often contact the College and we would be happy to pass on this information if you are interested.

There is similar advice regarding the personal property that is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This includes mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. **DEECD does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property** (so please think carefully about bringing expensive items to school).

DUDLEY STUDENT DROP OFFS

The Dudley Campus is not well set up for large volumes of traffic and this is why we ask parents to please keep their cars out of the school grounds at the busy drop-off and pick-up times. We are very mindful of student safety and this will assist in the smooth operation of the College. Thank you for your support.

STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE & SMS ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

Improving student attendances, and efficiently recording legitimate absences, are major goals at our College. Quite simply, students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful! With this in mind, we have implemented an SMS attendance alert system, which will work in conjunction with our current electronic roll marking system.

Initially the system’s main purpose will be to provide parents and carers with notification if their child has not arrived at school (before 10.30 am). Please note this will only be for *unexplained* absences and families with students with legitimate absences (e.g. due to illness) are asked to continue the current practice of notifying the school (in advance of the day where possible, or on the morning of the absence before 9.30 am – McBride Telephone: 5671 3700; Dudley telephone; 5672 0900).

At this stage, it is anticipated that the SMS for students with unexplained absences will be generated and sent to families at approximately 10.30 am. The SMS will have information about the absences and a number on which you can text a reply. A simple explanation of why your son/daughter is away is fine. The SMS will then be processed back at school and the rolls changed accordingly.

We do realize that new systems do sometimes bring about new problems, but believe this process to be particularly important as the ultimate goal is improved attendance across the student body and better outcomes for our kids.

We look forward to your support with this important issue. Please contact the school should you have any questions or encounter any problems.
Community Announcements

REGISTRATION DAY SEASON 2013

To be held at the Wonthaggi North Primary School Stadium

Monday, February 4, 2013, 4-6pm
Monday, February 11, 2013, 4-6pm

Junior girls / boys - U10, U12, U14, U16 & U18
Fees $100 per season plus $30 yearly insurance, if not paid last year

Senior Women / Men - A & B (Numbers permitting)
Fees $110 per season, plus $30 insurance, if not paid last year
Senior team and individual entries accepted. Team entries must list all players on team registration sheet and fees must be paid prior to start of competition. Senior team must supply a referee for their competition.

2013 competition commences Monday, March 4

“The Corinella & Waterline Youth Drop in Centre is now open every Wednesday evening from 4pm-6pm. The Corinella & Waterline Youth Action Group meetings will also be held every Wednesday evenings from 5pm-6pm providing young people with the opportunity to organise and run youth events for young people from the Waterline area. Held at the Corinella District Community Centre, 48 Smythe Street, Corinella.

The Wonthaggi Youth Action Group meetings will be held on Monday afternoons from 4pm-5pm starting 11th February. Held at the Wonthaggi Town Hall Foyer on Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi

Both the Youth Drop in Centre & Youth Action Group meeting participation is 100% Free and transport is available. For more information please contact Allison Fry from UnitingCare Gippsland (03) 5662 5150 or email allison.fry@ucgipps.org.au or speak to your student advisor.”