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 2014 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, 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 2014 has started smoothly and students have settled well into their classes. We have some new and returning staff at the College in 2014. Aiden Harris and Andrew Hay join us as Humanities teachers at the Dudley campus. Amy Wallace, also at Dudley, joins us working in the area of Maths / Science and Kori Stewart joins us to teach Maths / Science at McBride. Teachers Susan Howard, Mark Ritterman and Bree Chadwick 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 2014. Sophie Bolding and Jake Joyce will be assisting students and staff in our Physical Education / Outdoor Education areas, while Ryan Spatz, will be working in our Computer Support team.

CHANGES TO THE PRINCIPAL TEAM FOR TERM 1, 2014
During term one College Principal Garry Dennis is on long service leave. That has led to several changes to the leadership team for the duration of the term.

Darren Parker is taking on the role of Acting College Principal and Ross Bramley has moved to the McBride campus for the term to take on the role of Acting McBride Campus Principal. Glenn Sullivan has taken on the role of Acting Dudley Campus Principal while Gay Findlay continues with her Assistant College Principal role, working with the Teaching and Learning team and managing the Integration program.

CONGRATULATIONS LORETTA CHUMBLEY

Loretta Chumbley of Year 12 is travelling to Alice Springs next week as a member of the inaugural Victorian Women’s Imparja Cup cricket squad. The Imparja Cup is Australia’s National Indigenous Cricket Carnival held annually in Alice Springs during February. From its humble beginnings, the Imparja Cup has grown to now become a national celebration of cricket and Indigenous culture. Loretta’s team will be competing in a round-robin tournament against NSW, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

A fantastic achievement – well done Loretta!
ITALIC IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th</td>
<td>Immunisation Yr 7,9 and 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12th to Fri 14th</td>
<td>Year 12 Tertiary Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th</td>
<td>Dudley Student Leader Investiture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25th</td>
<td>Interschool Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th March</td>
<td>Susan McLean—Cybersafety presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 3rd &amp; Fri 4th Apr</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews at Dudley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN AT SCHOOL

On orientation day in December last year WSC ran a session for the new year 7 parents with the aim of improving parent’s connectedness with the school. While it is a difficult thing to manage, staying involved in your child’s education is one of the biggest determining factors of student success.

One way we encourage you to stay connected is to stay in touch with what your child is doing at school, read the newsletter, and access our web page. All junior students are issued with a diary and using the diary is the best way that parents can stay informed. If you want to get information to your child’s teachers then you can write a note and have your child show it to the teacher. Your child should also be recording when work is due. Have your child take their diary home regularly and check that they are making good use of it.

Providing the school with an email contact is another way to keep in touch. Compass, the schools new attendance system, allows teachers to email parents for much quicker and more effective communication. We hope to have this communication line open before too long.

Our aim is to help your child to find success so please stay in touch with the school and your child’s teachers.

COMPASS ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

We have started the 2014 school year with a new computer attendance system. The Compass attendance system offers some excellent possibilities which we will be developing over the next twelve months.

Compass is an internet based system so parents will soon be able to keep track of student attendance on-line. We will be releasing more details about this in the near future. We are still in the very early stages of using the new system and are learning more about it each day.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

You will find some important information regarding the WSC Council accompanying this newsletter. In 2014 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.

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.
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, 2014

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 2014. 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 28th January 2014
- Holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card valid as at 28th January 2014
- Holder of a Pensioner Concession Card valid as at 28th January 2014
- A foster parent (documentation confirming status required)

EMA applications close at the close of business on Thursday 28th February, 2014.
RING 5671 3700 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

EMA APPLICATIONS CLOSE FEB 28, 2014 - we can not take applications after this date.

Stephen Plumb - Business Manager

MATHEMATICS TEXT BOOKS.

All students from years 7 to 10 should now have their own Mathematics text OR e-book as outlined in the booklists. The only exception is for the support classes at years 8 and 9 and the 10A home group.

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.

Please contact Ms Tschiderer at McBride or Ms Forwood at Dudley for further information.
DUDLEY LOCKERS

Each student at Dudley has been issued with a locker. During 2013 students were made more responsible for their own keys, however at Year 7, students are still 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 Glenn Sullivan (Acting Dudley Campus Principal) on 56720900.

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 16th.

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.

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).
**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 an SMS attendance alert system, which will work in conjunction with our 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 look forward to your support with this important issue. Please contact the school should you have any questions or encounter any problems.

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE – AMBULANCE COVER ARRANGEMENTS**

Schools are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.

**READ IN BED - IT’S TERRIFIC!**

WSC has a special reading program for students in Year 7 called RIBIT - Read in Bed - It’s Terrific. It’s aim is to encourage students to enjoy reading and read more books. Each English class comes into the library once every third week and is provided with a presentation of great books of a particular genre - eg sport. They then have an opportunity to record their reading, to borrow and to read quietly. We encourage students to read at their own level and hope they will challenge themselves as the year progresses. We consider reading to be a skill that will be better developed through practice.

The program is most successful with the assistance of parents. You could help your child in the following ways:

1. By encouraging them to read regularly, preferably most nights for at least half an hour.
2. Show an interest in the books they bring home. If possible, read some yourself and discuss with them.
3. Encourage them to join the wonderful and free local public library.

Students are rewarded for their reading, receiving certificates and stickers. At the end of each semester our most dedicated readers are treated to a lunch.

We look forward to student and parent enthusiasm and support. You are welcome to contact the school if you have any questions about the Year 7 RIBIT Program.

**CONTACT US**

**McBRIDE CAMPUS**
McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi 3995  
Phone: 5671 3700  Fax: 5672 1578  
MAIL ADDRESS:  PO Box 119, Wonthaggi 3995  
EMAIL ADDRESS:  wonthaggi.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

**DUDLEY CAMPUS**
South Dudley Road, Wonthaggi 3995  
Phone: 5672 0900  Fax: 5672 4136  
WEB ADDRESS: www.wonthaggisc.vic.edu.au
ON HOT DAYS, NEVER LEAVE KIDS ALONE IN CARS.
NO EXCEPTIONS. NO ExcUSES.

On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car.
The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside.
Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death.
Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.
If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No excuses.

GARNHAM BACK IN FRONT

Yesterday, February 6 saw over 500 students head to the Korumburra Outdoor Pool to compete in the House Swimming Sports. Students were dressed in their house colours and cheered loud enough for locals to hear.
There were many close finishes on the day but the highlight was the last event, staff vs student relay. With all lanes filled, four Dudley student teams, a McBride team and three staff teams battling for bragging rights. Congratulations to the McBride student team who were marginal winners over one of the staff teams. Well done to Lovett who won the cheering contest closely followed by Luke.

Well done to the winning house, Garnham on 481 points followed by, Berry 473 points, Lovett 428 points and Luke 404 points.

AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS WERE:
13 Years – Jacob Kiley, Jarrod Muir & Lily Robinson
14 Years – Jake Benson & Melody Notley
15 Years – Alex Lowe & Chloe Moxey
16 Years – Ben Riley & Taya Murdoch
OPEN – Travis Zappa & Molly Edwards

RUNNER UP AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS:
13 Years – Ben Chapman & Sophia Chapman
14 Years – Max Dyball & Ella Hughes
15 Years – Kyle Spinks & Bonnie Mullins
16 Years – Dylan Riley & Mallory Bradley
OPEN – Oliver Bates & Surrey Fisher & Jen McFee

The College wishes the best of luck to the students who will represent the College at the Interschool Swimming Championships to be held on February 25 at the Korumburra Pool.
HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS PHOTOS

Above: Age Group Champions & Runners Up

Above: Winners - GARNHAM HOUSE CAPTAINS
Community Announcements

**Keeping Kids On Track**

**FUNRUN**

Kilcunda-Wonthaggi Rail Trail

**Sat 15th March 2014**

3km, 5km run/walk
10km, 15km + 21.1km run

enter online: www.basscoasttri.com

**Wonthaggi District Netball Association - 2014 Season**

Registration for Saturday competition/Net Set Go, 12th and 19th February 4-5pm at Wonthaggi Netball Courts.

Refer to website for further details and to download Registration forms from Feb 12th.

www.wonthaggidna.netball.com.au

**Study at your Library**

With free, unlimited WiFi, online reference databases, helpful staff and comfortable spaces there’s no better place to study than at your local library: see over for locations & opening hours.

Or access our 24 hour Online Library from home including FREE access to downloadable eBooks, eMagazines & online databases like Press Display, Encyclopaedia Britannica and the World Book. All available anywhere you have a web connection. Visit www.wgllc.vic.gov.au to find out more or call 5622 2649 for further information.

www.wgllc.vic.gov.au
School Council Elections 2014 – Information for Parents

Parents interested in nominating for School Council are invited to do so by completing the nomination form (see over) and returning it to the school by Wednesday February 19. There are three vacancies (2 year terms).

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **Elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school.

- **Elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate. Once the nomination form (see over) is completed, return it to the Principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Please contact the school if you would like to discuss the option of standing for school council. Darren Parker, Acting College Principal, contact phone number: 56 71 3700
Wonthaggi SC School Council – Parent Representatives needed

Parents interested in nominating for School Council are invited to do so by completing the nomination form below and returning it to the school by Wednesday February 19. There are three vacancies.

Please contact the Acting College Principal (Darren Parker) for further information (ph. 56 71 3700).

---

School Council Elections - Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate: .................................................................

Name of person making nomination: .................................................................

Residential address: .........................................................................................

Home phone: ................................................................. Business Phone: .................................................................

e-mail: .........................................................................................

I am the parent/guardian of ................................................................., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of .................................................................

who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

Yes / No (please circle)

Signature of Nominator: .................................................................

Date: .................................................................

---

Candidate to complete

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the abovenamed school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate: ................................................................. Date: .................................................................

Please return to the office at either campus by 4pm Wednesday 19 February 2014