Welcome back staff, students and parents for what promises to be a busy but rewarding year ahead. The 2015 school year has been one of the smoothest starts to a year that any of us can remember, even though the school has had a huge influx of students from other schools.

Our new Year 7 cohort is the largest Year 7 group we have ever had. They have settled in incredibly well which is a testament to the enormous effort of the Transition team, Year 7 Co-Ordinators, Home Group teachers and Peer Support Leaders.

Our Year 11 and 12 students have hit the ground running as they begin to work towards their VCE goals. The Year 12 students have just attended their Tertiary Camp which has given the students a greater understanding of their possible career pathways and has given them a motivational boost to start the school year.

As we move forward this year, we would like to remind you that most of our school operations (eg. attendance, contact between staff and parents) is now co-ordinated by the ‘Compass’ computer system. At some stage we aim to perform all our reporting of student progress through this system, with a trial of ‘Grade Point Averages (GPA’s)’ occurring this term. Due to our movement to this system it is vitally important that we have email addresses and accurate mobile phone numbers for the parents of each student. Parents are asked to please check their details that are incorrect and provide an email address if you have not already. This will enable us to email newsletters, permission forms, information (eg. for camps) to you and allow you to access your child’s progress reports (GPA’s).

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.

Ross Bramley

Below: Age Group Swimming Champions
Important Dates

FEBRUARY
Tuesday 24  Interschool Swimming Sports @ Korumburra
Friday 27  Dudley Student Leader Investiture - Unit 2
           McBride Student Leader Investiture - Unit 4

MARCH
Monday 2 - Wednesday 4  Year 7 Camp @ Phillip Island Adventure Resort
Monday 2  Interschool boys cricket, girls tennis & volleyball
Monday 9  Labour Day
Friday 13  Interschool girls cricket, boys tennis
Friday 20  House Athletics

From The Business Manager

2015 SCHOOL CHARGES

Statements were sent out recently to all families who still have charges outstanding for 2015. If you have voluntary charges (prefaced with an asterisk *) that you don't wish to pay, please notify the school to have them removed. Payment can be made at the office by cash, card or you can pay on-line directly into the school's bank account.

The school's bank details are:
Bank: Westpac
B.S.B: 033-265
Account Number: 194569
Account Name: Wonthaggi Secondary College Official Account
Details: 3 letter, 4 digit Student ID.

If you want your payment to go to a specific charge, please indicate this in the detail section. For example: If John Citizen wants $20 to go to his zoo excursion he should put CIT0001-ZOO in the details. If he wanted to pay $20 off his curriculum charge he would put CIT0001-CURRIC.

CENTREPAY

Centrepay is a free direct bill paying service available to Centrelink customers who receive an Australian Government Department of Human Services Centrelink payment, family assistance payment or Parental Leave Pay.

Wonthaggi Secondary College is now a registered service provider for Centrepay. If you would like to nominate Wonthaggi Secondary College to receive deductions from your Centrelink payments you will need to complete a Centrelink SA325 form. You can do this by logging on to www.humanservices.gov.au/centrepay or you can pick up a form from the administration office at either McBride or Dudley Campus.

There a couple of details you will need to know when completing the SA325 form:

Service Providers Centrepay Reference Number  555-111-259-L
Your account number with the Service Provider  Student ID number if 1 student at school.
           Family ID number if more than 1 student at school.

If you are unsure of what number to record or want more information on Centrepay; please ring the school on 03 5671 3700 for assistance.

Steve Plumb - Business Manager
Information about Grade Point Average Scores (GPAs)

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) is a process that will become part of Wonthaggi Secondary College’s Teaching and Learning culture.

All teachers give scores that generate a PERSONAL LEARNING report indicating how students are managing their learning. This is in addition to the half year reports issued at the end of each semester. This form of regularly repeated feedback to parents, teachers and students we hope will prove to be highly effective to improve student grades, motivation and responsibility.

The GPA process involves

- Every student being given a rating for Behaviour, Effort, Self Management, Revision/Homework and Classwork in every subject.
- Teachers rating students using a common scoring system.
- GPAs occurring at approx. 5 week intervals.

By the end of 2015, year 7 -11 students will have six GPA reports; Year 12 students will have five. The reports produce trend data for student progress and identify areas for individual attention.

A copy of the matrix used is readily available to students, parents/carers on our School Website under the Parent Resources tab. We urge parents to discuss this ongoing feedback with students using this Matrix for better understanding of possible ways to improve their performance.

Jacqui Hilton - Teaching and Learning Team

Top Designs 2015

As the school year was winding up last year, the Arts department at McBride received some exciting news regarding the achievements of the Year 12 VCE Media class. Two of our students were successful in being chosen as part of the 2015 Top Designs exhibition.

Top Designs, part of the Season of Excellence, is a collection of works from various disciplines in the Arts which are considered to be a sample of the best of the best A+ works from across the state. In VCE Media, Wonthaggi Secondary College had two successful entries in the photography area. This is particularly exciting as there are only eight photography productions selected out of the hundreds of entries submitted for consideration from schools across the state.

Congratulations to both Grant Hill and Hannah McKittrick on their amazing achievement. For those interested in seeing both Hannah’s and Grant’s work on display please visit the Melbourne Museum between the 20th of March and the 12th of July.
English/Library RIBIT Program

WSC has a wonderful program for students in Year 7 that is designed to promote reading. We want students to enjoy their experience of reading and to read lots of books. The scheme is called RIB-IT, which stands for Read in Bed – It's Terrific. All year 7 classes come into the library every third week where they have a presentation of books based around a particular genre – Science Fiction, Adventure etc. They are then encouraged to borrow books to take home. We spend a lot of time and effort selecting books that are suitable to the widest array of readers – from extremely advanced, to struggling – both in fiction and non-fiction.

Often we find struggling readers are most reluctant to borrow, but we believe reading is a skill that needs to be practiced. The more students read, the more accomplished they get at it – similar to most other skills. We have easy teenage reads, graphic novels, biography and magazines, all designed to spark some interest. So, we aim to get struggling readers borrowing suitable novels that will help improve their reading.

A reading program gets its best results with support from home. We hope you will become actively involved in your child's reading. You might do this by encouraging them to borrow, asking what they are reading, getting them into a habit of reading most evenings, buying them a bedside lamp, read to them or vice versa.

We are really looking forward to meeting your child and playing a part in their reading future.

Garnham Dominate In Pool

Thursday February 5, 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 local residents to hear.

There were many close finishes on the day but the highlight as has been in previous years was the last event, the staff vs student relay. With all lanes filled, five student teams and three staff teams battled for bragging rights. Congratulations to the Berry student team who were marginal winners over the Garnham student team and then the Science staff team.

A huge congratulations need to go to the House Captains, who showed great enthusiasm and sportsmanship towards all competitors on the day.

Well done to the winning house, Garnham on 572 points followed by, Berry 427 points, Luke 354 points and Lovett 347 points.

Age Group Champions were:

- 13 Years – Max Bruhn (Garnham) & Mayson Vanderkilk (Lovett)
- Runners Up – Noah T Anderson (Luke) & Gabby Martin (Lovett)
- 14 Years – Jarrod Muir (Garnham) & Lily Robinson (Garnham)
- Runners Up – Cooper Bolding (Garnham) & Sophie Chapman (Garnham)
- 15 Years – Jordan Patterson (Berry) & Melody Notley (Berry)
- Runners Up – Jake Benson (Luke) & Kaitlyn Scott (Garnham)
- 16 Years – Kyle Spinks (Berry) & Chloe Moxey (Luke)
- Runners Up – Kyle Ross (Lovett) & Jess Kiley (Berry)
- 17 Years – Angus Brown (Garnham) and Mallory Bradley (Lovett)
- Runners Up – Sam Watson (Lovett) & Taya Murdoch (Garnham)
- Open – Surrey Fisher (Garnham) & Molly Edwards (Berry)
- Runners Up - Charlotte Townsend (Luke)

The College wishes the best of luck to the students who will represent the College at the Interschool Swimming Championships.
**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

*Joseph Addison*

**WANTED:**

Horticulture at Dudley need 2, 1.5 and 1.25 litre plastic soft drink bottles to complete their greenhouse. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

**AFTER SCHOOL MATHS HELP CLASSES**

All students (Years 7-12) are invited to attend in Room 24 at McBride Campus Wednesday’s after school for maths help. Refreshments are provided and classes run until approximately 5pm.
Melbourne Football Club - Female Leadership Program Photos

Above left: Melbourne Football Players - Jack Grimes, Daniel Cross, Jordie McKenzie and Heritier Lumumba

Above right: Ally Kershaw, Jade Macdermid, Hannah McRae, Tahlia Andrighetto & Brianna Magro with Melbourne Football Players.

Three Big Changes to the Vaccine Program

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Bass Coast Shire Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Bass Coast Shire Council.

2. In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

Headlice

Head lice have been reported to the school - please check, and if necessary, treat your family for head lice. There is no need to treat everyone if no head lice are found but you need to look for the head lice.

If you find head lice in your family please tell anyone who has had head to head contact with the family member.

Accurate information on treatment and control of head lice can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safe Towns Bass Coast

WorkSafe Inspectors will be visiting the Bass Coast region in March to conduct a workplace inspection blitz.

Come along to the employer lunch on Wednesday 4 March to find out more about the blitz, and to learn about WorkCover insurance, health and safety and return to work. WorkSafe Inspectors will be on hand to provide you with the information and materials you need to meet your legislative requirements.

Date: 4 March 2015
Time: 12pm – 1pm
Venue: Wonthaggi Workmen's Club - The Kirrak Room, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
RSVP: dandenong_admin@vwa.vic.gov.au OR Ph: 8792 9000 by 27 February.

Lunch will be provided on the day to attendees. For more information visit www.vwa.vic.gov.au/towns

FREE SOCCER COME AND TRY DAY

Sunday 22nd February @ Thompson Reserve Inverloch 9.30am - 11am

Boys and girls can come along to enjoy some fun games and activities at our brand new home ground and find out more about playing soccer in 2015! Check out our website for more information: www.inverlochstars.com.au

The club offers: small sided football, under 7, under 9, under 11, under 13, under 16 (new this year) and senior sides (mens and womens)

Contact us at soccer@inverlochstars.com.au or call President - Pat Gilbert on 0408 079 439

JUNIOR BADMINTON

Thursday nights 6:15pm - 7.15pm
Wonthaggi Leisure Centre

WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION 2015
FREE SKILLS TRAINING / NET-SET-GO & REGISTRATIONS

For the month of March our association will be holding a fun-filled skills hour from:

4pm – 5.30pm ALL AGE GROUPS & NEW PLAYERS WELCOME!
To be held every Thursday commencing MARCH 5th – March 26th 2015

Above enquiries – Vicky Donohue – 0430 150 551

REGISTRATIONS FEB 26th & MARCH 5th at courts 4-5.30pm
REGISTRATION Enquiries - Fiona Wilson - 0434 612 492
NET-SET-GO - Enquiries - Kylie Strickland - 0407 482 958
WEBSITE: www.wonthaggidna.vic.netball.com.au
FACEBOOK: Wonthaggi & District Netball Association Inc

CONTACT US

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