From the College Principal

Welcome back

We hope the break has been a good one for all of our students and their families. We would like to extend a special welcome to those students and families who are joining us for the first time in 2016.

In 2016 we expect a small increase in student numbers to around 1270 students. We have around 300 new students which includes 230 at Year 7. Our enrolment at the Dudley Campus is up to 680. Student accommodation issues at Dudley have been resolved with the provision of three shiny new portables (4 rooms). Although the term “portables” doesn’t conjure images of luxury, they are actually excellent and modern teaching spaces. At the McBride Campus we remain at capacity. We are entitled to new portable buildings but don’t really have the space to house them. Fortunately we have a relatively small Year 11 cohort at present. When the Year 11 cohort completes Year 12 at the end of 2017 our McBride accommodation problems will begin in earnest. A new senior campus remains our priority.

New Staff

In 2016 we welcome a number of new teachers.

James Lees
James comes to us from Berwick Secondary College. He will be teaching PE and Maths at McBride.

Kate Hill
Kate has been based at Mornington Secondary College. She has joined us to teach English and Indonesian at Dudley.

Harley Spies
Harley has joined us as a Graduate Teacher. She will be teaching English at Dudley.

Steven Boon
Steven is a Graduate teacher of English and Drama. He will be based at Dudley.

Kelly O’Neill
Kelly joins us from Kaniva College. She is a past student of Wonthaggi SC and will be teaching PE at Dudley.

We have four new trainees who will be with us for all of 2016. All are recent Year 12 graduates of Wonthaggi SC.

Continued next page....
From the College Principal Cont...

Cade Waters
PE Trainee at Dudley

Holly Forsyth
PE Trainee at McBride

Darcy Barker
Science Trainee

Scott Baker
IT Trainee

In addition to the above new staff we also welcome back Charlene Harris and Daniel Isgro from extended leave. Andrew Hamilton and Celeste Magnifico were both at Dudley in 2015 and will be based full time at McBride in 2016. Remi D'Agostin will also be based full time at McBride in 2016. Michelle Cleary also returns to Dudley after an earlier stint with us in 2015.

All families are encouraged to contact the school if they require assistance for their child at any stage during the year. You will receive regular newsletters via e-mail (please contact the school if your details change). If you do not have access to e-mail please ensure that your child collects a newsletter from the office.

In 2015 we completed our transition to the “Compass” program for attendance and student reporting. Reports, Progress Reports, Newsletters and other correspondence are all now sent via Compass. This program has been very well accepted by parents and teachers. The program provides the capacity for ready communication between parents and teachers. We expect that in 2016 much greater use will be made of this facility. Please remember to let us know if any of your contact details (including e-mail address) change. Alternatively you can make changes yourself if you log on to Compass (the office can provide your log on details if you have forgotten them. Compass also provides the capacity for you to approve your child’s absences. For parents who are interested in learning more about how to best use the Compass system there will be information sessions at the following venues in March (dates to be finalised):

- Cowes (Cultural centre)
- Grantville (Transaction Centre)
- Wonthaggi (Library)

While most parents have found the transition to on-line communication to be effective and convenient some parents may not have e-mail access or may prefer to receive hard copies of reports. We can accommodate this by making hard copies available for collection. Please remember that if you ask us to mail reports you will receive them some days later than those who receive them on-line (or who come in to the school to collect them).

School Council
We are seeking three parents to nominate for our School Council. Please see relevant information and paperwork on last two pages of newsletter.
New Vision and Values for our school (this was also presented in our final Newsletter of 2015)

For some years now we have operated under the school motto "A complete education in a caring environment" and the school values of – "Respect"; "Life-long learning"; and "Doing our best". You will notice that all of these still appear on school documents and in student diaries. There will however be changes this year.

In 2016 there are increased expectations of what constitutes a “complete education” and it has become more important that as an organisation we can clearly articulate what it is that we value and stand for.

Over the past two years we have gone through a gradual but thorough process of reflection and review of our Vision and Values (and pretty well everything else). We have developed a Wonthaggi Secondary College Master Plan which includes:

- Vision
- Values
- Our Way (expectations of how we conduct ourselves as a school and as individual staff of the school)
- Education Philosophies and Plans
- Business Plan (which includes our “model” for future education provision in the Bass Coast Shire)

Our Master Plan in draft form can be viewed on our school, website at -

http://www.wonthaggisc.vic.edu.au/wsc_site/vision

Probably the most important aspect of our Master Plan is that pertaining to our Vision and Values, and related principles of our school purpose and operation. I have included these below for your consideration. The development of these core principles and indeed our Master Plan as a whole is still in the consultation phase (until the end of Term 1 this year). Your feedback is invited and welcome.

Wonthaggi Secondary College

Vision

"Achieving success in a caring and creative environment”.

Philosophy

- We believe all students can learn and that all students can be successful
- We believe that individual well-being stems from a sense of accomplishment and belonging.
- We believe there are different forms of success.

Mission

Wonthaggi Secondary College seeks to create a challenging learning environment that encourages high expectations for success through instruction that caters for individual differences and learning styles. Creativity and care are pillars of our learning environment. We seek to ensure that all students have the opportunity to reach their personal best. We promote a safe, orderly, caring and supportive environment.
From the College Principal Cont...

Core Purpose
WSC delivers programs as described in the VCE, VET and VCAL study designs for Year 11 and 12 students. For levels 7-10 we adhere to AusVELS and the Victorian Curriculum guidelines recognizing that the General Capabilities are essential for personal and professional success in the 21st century:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Ethical understanding
- Personal and social capability
- Intercultural understanding

In addition to developing skills and knowledge we also aim to develop:

- A sense of adventure (creativity, curiosity, willingness to “have a go”)
- Emotional Intelligence (interpersonal skills; to be self-aware, reflective, empathetic)
- An appreciation of the context of knowledge/learning (valuing learning, confidence to access and interpret information)
- Respect for self/others (civic awareness, global consciousness, understanding place in the world)
- Team skills (cooperation, ability to work collaboratively)
- Problem solving skills (life goals, independence, thinking skills, flexibility in learning)
- Aspiration (initiative, motivation to do best, work ethic, ability to action ideas)
- Responsibility (for self and actions, able to understand potential outcomes of actions)
- Organisational skills (work, written and IT skills, time management)
- Resilience (learn from failure as well as success)

Our Way

We -

- Act with integrity at all times
- Build respectful relationships by supporting, assisting and mentoring each other
- Use effective management practices that encourage open communication, collaboration and consistency
- Promote the College and celebrate our successes at all levels
- Are mindful and accountable to ourselves and the community
- Develop and maintain community links
- Strive to be enthusiastic and always do better
- Maintain a safe and professional workplace where staff work collaboratively and are valued

As educators we -

- Work collaboratively to provide a learning environment that is supportive and challenging
- Share ideas and resources to develop meaningful curriculum
- Focus on the learning needs of students
- Monitor and facilitate learning growth
- Develop confidence in learners
- Be positive and develop positive and supportive relationships with students
- Value each individual and develop the whole person
Genuine empathy for our students is central to our practice. An understanding of students and their personal circumstances is essential in a holistic approach to their learning.

Remember – your feedback is invited and welcome. Any comments or ideas can be e-mailed to me at the school. I can also be contacted at the school should you wish to discuss any ideas.

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.

BUS PASSES

As in recent years we are required by regulation to not permit casual travel on school bus services. In addition to this 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, Alan McMahon, who is based at the McBride Campus. Regular bus travellers will continue to utilise the service as normal.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & TRAINING

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Department 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 organized 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.

Continued next page....
From the College Principal Cont...

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL
Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.
The Department of Education and Training 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.

Garry Dennis - College Principal

New Uniform Update
Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the implementation of our new uniform policy this year (the two-year transition period concluded in 2015). The students look impressive and we have had significant positive feedback.

All students (Years 7 to 12) are required to follow our uniform requirements. There have been some students who have ordered new items and are waiting for the stock to arrive at WSC; in those circumstances we are happy to supply a uniform pass until the ordered items arrive (and students can wear the old style items until this is sorted).

We do require families to supply correct uniform as per the policy. Please ensure that you organise this for your child if you have not yet done so. We are sure that you understand that we cannot make exceptions to our approach with uniform as that would compromise our College-wide approach to fully implementing the new policy this year.

In particular, and as first announced in 2014:

- students can no longer wear the grey shorts or trousers that were previously part of the uniform (they have been replaced by WSC charcoal coloured items that are available to purchase at school);
- the burgundy polo tops previously worn are now replaced by WSC blue or white polo shirts (also available at school);
- the older style round-neck windcheater is replaced by the V-neck style windcheater; and
- plain black shoes are required at all year levels.

In short, we are looking for a consistent, quality uniform selection that remains reasonably priced and accessible for our students and their families. As has long been the case, if a family has extreme circumstances with regards to this issue, we remain committed to meeting with them to confidentially discuss arrangements.

Important Dates

**FEBRUARY**

Tuesday 16 - House Swimming Sports @ Korumburra Outdoor Pool
Wed 17 - Fri 19 - Year 9 Spirit of ANZAC excursion
Tuesday 23 - Interschool Swimming Championships
Thursday 25 - Year 7 Immunisations
Mon 29 - Wed 2 - Year 7 Camp @ Phillip Island

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Intelligence is not to make no mistakes, but quickly to see how to make them good.

*Bertolt Brecht*
Music News

The music staff would like to welcome students and their families to the start of another musical year. Hopefully the students have now met their instrumental teacher and have started their weekly lessons. Rehearsals for most of the bands and ensembles begin next week, as the following timetable indicates. Note that Junior Band rehearsals do not begin until after the Labour Day long weekend holiday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAND</th>
<th>DIRECTOR</th>
<th>DAY/TIME</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>COMMENCEMENT DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Big Band</td>
<td>Paul Berger</td>
<td>Monday 7.30 - 8.30am</td>
<td>McBride</td>
<td>Monday 15th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Concert Band</td>
<td>Sara Beale</td>
<td>Tuesday 7.30 – 8.30am</td>
<td>McBride</td>
<td>Tuesday 16th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Concert Band</td>
<td>Justin Abicare</td>
<td>Wednesday 7.30 – 8.30am</td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>Wednesday 17th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Concert Band</td>
<td>Laren Hooke</td>
<td>Monday 7.30 – 8.30am</td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guitar Ensemble</td>
<td>Jamie Brandsma</td>
<td>Wednesday 3.45 – 5.00pm</td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>Wednesday 17th February</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laren Hooke - Music Coordinator

Year 8 Science

Year 8 Science students are studying Energy. Pictured here is Mr Wingfield’s class investigating energy transformations. They are varying the quantity of water used in water rockets, to determine the optimum quantity to get the longest flight.

Public Transport Concession Card Information

All students aged 17 years and over are required to obtain a 2016 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. It is important to note that school issued student identification cards are not accepted as entitlement to concession travel on public transport.

The 2016 VPT Application form can be obtained from:
- Metropolitan premium train stations
- V/Line staffed stations
- PTV call centre 1800 800 007
- online at ptv.vic.gov.au

Bass Coast Young Leaders

Tessa Sydenham and Nic Lawson have been announced as the Bass Coast Young Leaders and will attend an Award ceremony at Silverwater Resort on 23rd Feb. The students were interviewed about their own leadership styles and what they would do if they were Mayor for a day, as part of Bass Coast Shire Council’s Youth Voice series. Watch the series on Bass Coast Youth Facebook page.
School for Student Leadership – Snowy River Campus 2016

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to attend the School for Student Leadership (Snowy River – Marlo) in term 2 this year:
Milli Russell, Svenja Murray, Erinn Harnden, Alex McEntee, Micah Condron and Harley Orpin.

These students will be preparing for an incredible learning experience where they will be participating in a range of outdoor activities including canoeing in the Snowy River Estuary System, caving at Buchan Caves, surfing at Cape Conran, mountain biking in the Marlo Plains and hiking throughout the Cape Conran Coastal Park. There will be no formal classes and the focus will be on leadership, teamwork and human relationships arising from this lifestyle.

Watch this space in term 2 for future updates on their experience.

Penny Gordon - Leadership Camp Organiser

English / Library RIBIT Program for Year 7 Students

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. 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. We have a very wide range of books to choose from. We spend a lot of time selecting fiction and non-fiction books that are suitable to the widest array of readers.

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. We aim to get 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 truly looking forward to meeting your child and playing a part in their reading future.

Joyce Asa Leausa - Dudley Campus Librarian

Year 10 Work Experience

The Year 10 Work Experience Program will take place May 2nd to Friday May 6th. All Year 10 students will do Work Experience at this time.

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

Parents are asked to encourage their daughter/son to make their own contact with employers, as this will assist students in developing job search skills for when they leave school. I have a list of over 1000 employers that have been involved in the program and I can provide assistance in suggesting and organizing suitable positions.

NOTE: - IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS START MAKING ARRANGEMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE SOME POSITIONS ARE VERY POPULAR. ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE FINALISED AND ARRANGEMENT FORMS RETURNED TO JACK TAYLOR.

Jack Taylor - Careers Coordinator
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WONTHAGGI UNITED SOCCER CLUB - SEASON 2016

Players of all ages wanted!!

Join Now... Seniors, Reserves, Women and Children all welcome.

We are also seeking Expressions of Interest for Junior Coaching Positions.

Call us on 0432 567 927 or come along to Wonthaggi State School oval for training.

TRAINING
Seniors/Reserves/Women: Thursday 6.30pm—8pm
U16: Thursday 5pm—6:30pm
U14/U15 Girls: Thursday 4:30pm—6pm
U12: Thursday 4:30pm—6pm

Training will be at Billson Street School Wonthaggi until end of March.
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS Cont...

PRIZES, LIVE MUSIC
SPORTS & RECREATION

KEEPING KIDS ON TRACK
2016 BASS COAST RAIL TRAIL FUN RUN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH

Enter Now: www.kgot.org

CLIMATE CHANGE
Beyond Paris
1.5°C fact or fiction?

Speakers:
- PROFESSOR DAVID KAROLY
  Professor of Atmospheric Science, Melbourne University.
- PROFESSOR JOHN FREEBAIN
  Ritchie Chair in Economics, Melbourne University.
- CAROL RIDE
  Convenor of Psychology for a Safe Climate/Beyond Zero Emissions.

7.30 PM, FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY
WONTHAGGI TOWN HALL

Contact: Chris Heislers 0419 556 381
Pauline Taylor 0415 721 439

South Gippsland Junior Girls Summer Sevens

Regional sport program

4 week program beginning
Thursday 25 February

Kick off from 5:30pm

Gene Parini (GippSport) via
gene@gippsport.com.au or
0428 358 335

Mary MacKillop College,
Horn St, Leongatha

13 - 15 year old females
(born in 2001, 2002 or
2003)

$5 per week

All players will receive a free ball at the
end of program BBQ on Thursday 17
March!

EVERYONE WELCOME - NO PREVIOUS
FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

A complete education in a caring environment.
Parents interested in nominating for School Council are invited to do so by completing the attached nomination form and returning it to the school by Wednesday February 24. 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.

Contact the College Principal (Garry Dennis) for further information (ph 5671 3700).
