

## Principals Report

### Welcome to the 2009 School Year

Welcome back to all returning students and staff. A special welcome to all of those who join us for the first time. This includes all Year 7 students, and all new students at other levels.

We hope you enjoy the transition into the Middle Years (MY) College. Remember, if you have any questions or are unsure of anything, please don't hesitate to ask. That goes for parents as well! Each student has been provided with a College Binder insert which is the organisation tool to help students be better prepared for every lesson.

Welcome to staff members who are joining the College for the first time. They are:

#### Felltimber

Teachers: Graeme Biggs, Hollie Radomski, Kate Crellin, Mark Evans, Donna Carter

Support staff: Joe Cashman (Chaplain), Suzanne van de Ven (Accounts)

Huon: Julie Taylor, Ellen Sheridan, Katie Smith

Welcome back also to returning staff who have been on leave for all of 2008: Mal Steer, Mel McClure and Michelle Heintze.

We hope to meet as many parents of Year 7 students as possible at our first Parent Teacher interview night and BBQ tea on Wednesday, February 18 at both Huon and Felltimber campuses. Parents of Year 8 and 9 students are invited to a Parent Teacher night on February 25. A Team teachers will make times available for parents to discuss how we can ensure your child's success and provide anything we should know about your child. Your child will receive separate information about these events from their A Team Teachers. Parents are invited to contact their child's **A Team Teacher or Year Level Team Leader** in the first instance if any questions or issues arise.

The College management and leadership structure is as follows:

**Vern Hilditch - College Principal:** overall college leadership and management which involves Staffing, resources, facilities, curriculum, School Council, strategic planning etc. Vern will be located at each campus on at least two days a week.

**Geoff Burke at Huon and Russell Polson at Felltimber are Campus Principals.**

**Maree Cribbes at Huon and Alyson Miller at Felltimber are Assistant Principals.** They are in charge of Student Management and Wellbeing. Please raise any matters regarding specific campus issues with them.

### 2009 will be exciting year for MY College students

We look forward to students actively taking up the challenges and the many leadership opportunities that will be presented throughout the year. It is a year for you to express pride in yourself and this College due to the success you experience. You need to make it happen! Be **passionate** about what you do at school - don't just drift and fill in time - Life is too short.

### Special Welcome to Parents and Families

Perhaps one of the most important roles we have as parents is the guidance and nurturing of our children's educational journey.

While these middle school years are often some of the most challenging, they are without question some of the most exciting. The emotional highs and lows experienced by many students are unparalleled within their lifetime.

Where else can we witness such profound growth in our young people as they build knowledge and shape their character through planned and unplanned interactions with day-to-day life?

What a privileged position MY College has to be able to actively participate in their development!

At the MY College we recognize that the paramount duty of our work includes embracing the home and family as a partner in this educational enterprise. We welcome the challenge and look forward to the journey together.

I wish everyone a very successful, hardworking and happy 2009!

### Newsletter

The **MY College Newsletter** comes out every **Monday**, so please look out for it - it is a very important means of communication with our families.

Newsletters are also available by email or can be viewed online at [www.wmyc.vic.edu.au](http://www.wmyc.vic.edu.au)

### Year Level Team Leaders for 2009

|        | <b>Felltimber</b>              | <b>Huon</b>                    |
|--------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Year 7 | Travis Osborne<br>Reggie Glass | Anna Avery<br>Adam Cusworth    |
| Year 8 | Anna Paton<br>Tim Kennedy      | Richelle Moyle<br>Tim Randell  |
| Year 9 | Will Pleydon<br>Jess Kellahan  | Garry Hodge<br>Jocelyn Kennett |

### Student Wellbeing Team

Mandy Knight is the College student wellbeing officer and coordinator of the team.

Joe Cashman and Adam Nicholson are our Chaplains.

Helen Allen is College Nurse.

Nathan Patterson is the Koorie Support Officer

**If there are specific issues you would like to discuss regarding your child's wellbeing please don't hesitate to contact any member of the team.**

### Parents Association Meeting

The first meeting of the Parents Association will be held in the Conference Room at the Huon Campus of the College at 1.30pm on Tuesday, February 17. Parents provide valuable feedback to staff through these meetings where issues of common concern are discussed. All parents are welcome to attend.

**Vern Hilditch**  
Principal

## College Council Elections

### Information for Parents - 2009

*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:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education (DoE) employees can be Parent members at their child's school.
- A mandated elected DoE 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. DoE 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.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the College council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

*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?*

In next weeks Newsletter a notice calling for nominations will be issued.

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the Parent category or DoE employee category. Once the nomination form 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.

### Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
  - Consider standing for election to council this year.
  - Be sure to vote in the elections.
- Contact the Principal for further information.

**Vern Hilditch**  
Principal

### Information on the Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of \$443 is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

be either a parent or guardian of a primary or **secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and**  
be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

**You must have a current Health Care Card or Pension Card which is current as of the first day of Term 1 (January 28, 2009 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (July 13, 2009).**

The EMA application must be **submitted to the school by February 27, 2009** for the first instalment and **August 7, 2009** for the second instalment.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after February 27, 2009 and prior to or on August 7, 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Application forms are available from the school office. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

## Bookpacks

Any unclaimed bookpacks will be returned to Landmark this Friday, February 6. Delivery can be arranged by contacting landmark directly on 03 5831 6300. Please note that there will be a delivery charge.

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## Assistant Principals' Report

Welcome back to parents and students. We also warmly welcome a large group of new students who are joining us for the first time this year. A big proportion of our new students are from Army families and we hope their stay in Wodonga is a happy one. We assure you that we should experience some cooler weather in the coming months!

### School Photographs

These will be held in week 2. **Felltimber** on Thursday, February 12 and at **Huon** on Friday, February 13. Envelopes for the photos will be issued later this week. All students will have their photograph taken for school records even if they are not purchasing them.

Cheques and money are paid directly to the photographer on the day of photographs. Students need to have the correct money, as change will not be given on the day of the photographs. **The front office cannot give change to students on this day.**

The basic cost for photographs is \$25 for a value package (including 1 group photograph, 3 portraits (18x 13cm), 8 smaller portraits, 4 ID sized portraits, 1 calendar and 3 book marks) or \$19 for 1 portrait (18x 13cm) or \$20 for a group photo.

### School Shoes

Parents and students are reminded that all students must wear black, fully enclosed shoes. This decision was made in 2008 after advice from podiatrists and also to ensure that we adhere to Occupational Health and Safety Requirements. Students who do not comply with this part of the uniform policy may be sent home to change their footwear.

*Recommendations On Footwear For School Children  
From Australian Podiatry Association SA*

#### Support

Shoes need to have firm support at the heel and many shoes available do not have adequate reinforcement in this area. If it is possible to fold the back of the shoe down to the sole when it is new, the shoe is not adequate to provide the required amount of support. This can lead to early destruction of the shoe, or may cause problems to a foot that functions poorly.

#### Growth

Children's shoes need to be carefully fitted to ensure that there is enough room to allow for growth without putting their feet in shoes that are too large to allow proper function of the foot. A properly fitted shoe will hold the heel at the back of the shoe with either lacing or a strap while allowing adequate room for the toes to move.

#### Recommended Shoes

A podiatrist can treat problems of the feet as well as offering professional advice in footwear and foot support.

- leather lace up with firm heel support and flexible soles;
- sports shoes with leather and nylon upper or no non plasticised leather upper; and
- desert boots with a firm heel support to prevent side movement.

As you can understand, these policy changes have been made to ensure that your child's feet are well looked after. Thank you for your support with this matter.

### Year 7 Laptops

Laptops will be rolled out to students class by class from the commencement of week 2. Information will be forwarded to parents regarding the specific option they have chosen. Please contact Damien Healy or Huw Derwentsmith at the College for more information.

### Personal Property on School Premises

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. **Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development nor does the College hold any insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay or accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to such property.**

### Flag Pole

At the end of last year a new flagpole was installed at Felltimber Campus. It is located beside the bus stop at the front of the school. We thank the Federal Government for the flagpole, which was funded by their Flagpole Funding Initiative.



### Family Details

Parents are asked to update their records if they have changed address, phone numbers or emergency contacts. It is very important that the College has up to date information particularly if students are ill and contact needs to be made with home.

*Alyson Miller, Maree Cribbes  
Assistant Principals*

## Sport

### Swimming Carnival

The combined MY swimming carnival will be held next Wednesday, February 11 at the outdoor pool in Stanley Street. It is a TWILIGHT meeting, beginning at 3.00pm and concluding at approximately 8.30pm.

As it is a school event, all students are expected to attend. Students should make their own way to the pool on the day.

Entry to the pool is \$1.70

The canteen at the pool will operate on the day.

Students will receive an information form in their A Teams. Please read it carefully and return the slip if it applies to your child.

Normal classes will not run on the day, if your child needs to attend school on the day an alternative program will operate.

*Tracey Aspinall, Tim Williamson  
Sports Coordinators*

## School Magazine 2008

The 2008 school magazine will be distributed later this term. Anyone who has not ordered one, but would like to purchase a copy for \$10 should contact the College on 6057 9000.

We apologise for the delay and will let you know through the newsletter when the magazine is available.

**Language Centre at  
Wodonga Middle Years College  
Felltimber Campus**

**Study a Language Other Than English in 2009**

The Victorian School of Languages (VSL) is a government school committed to the provision of language programs for students in Years 1-12. Most classes are also open to adults. If you are going on exchange, wanting to learn the language of your grandparents or travelling overseas then these may be the courses for you.

The Language Centre in Wodonga has been going for five years and has increased the number of language choices available to students. Languages for 2009 at this stage are Japanese, German, Italian, French, Chinese (Mandarin) and Spanish. There is some demand for Dutch – it will run if there are sufficient numbers. Other new languages will also be introduced if there is sufficient demand.

The classes run outside school hours, one afternoon after school, at the Felltimber Campus of Wodonga Middle Years College.

**Enrolments are being taken now.**

- The classes are available to all primary and secondary students from government, catholic and independent schools
- Classes are available to students in Wodonga, Albury and surrounding areas
- Adults are also welcome to apply – we have increasing numbers enrolling
- The languages and levels which actually run depend on student demand
- The annual charge is \$55 for students and \$180 for adults
- The starting date for classes will be February 9th -10th

Please contact Laurie Frost on 0427 564480 or Wodonga Middle Years College on 6057 9000 or email [frostcrom@bigpond.com](mailto:frostcrom@bigpond.com) as soon as possible if you are interested or wish to obtain further information.

*Laurie Frost*  
Local VSL Supervisor



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## Community Notices

### Victorian Legal Aid

**Victorian Legal Aid's Child Support Legal Service is visiting Wodonga. It provides free advice about child support and paternity testing.**

**Date: Monday February 16, 2009**

**Time: Free half hour sessions between 9am-5pm**

**Venue: Upper Murray Family Care  
29 Stanley Street, Wodonga**

**Appointments are necessary. Contact Child Support Legal Service on 03 9269 0120 or 1800 677 402 (country callers) during business hours.**

## Dates to Remember

| Dates for 2009                            | Activity  |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, February 11                    | ► Twilight Swimming Carnival  |
| Thursday, February 12                     | ► Felltimber - Photos   |
| Friday, February 13                       | ► Huon - Photos   |
| Tuesday, February 17                      | ► Parents Association Meeting at Huon 1.30pm                              |
| Wednesday, February 18                    | ► Year 7 Parent/Teacher BBQ evening                                       |
| Monday, February 16 - Friday, February 20 | ► Year 8 Camps  |
| Wednesday, February 25                    | ► Year 8/9 Parent/Teacher evening   |
| Thursday, February 26                     | ► NEDSSSA Swimming  |
| Monday, March 2 - Friday, March 6         | ► Felltimber - Year 7 Camp (March 2-4: 7A,7B,7C,7D) (March 4-6: 7E,7F,7G) |
| Monday, March 9                           | ► Labour Day Holiday  |

## Canteen Roster - Felltimber

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Monday, February 2     | Dot Wallace    |
| Tuesday, February 3    | Help wanted    |
| Wednesday, February 4  | Help wanted    |
| Thursday, February 5   | Help wanted    |
| Friday, February 6     | Help wanted    |
| Monday, February 9     | Help wanted    |
| Tuesday, February 10   | Anne Whitehead |
| Wednesday, February 11 | Help wanted    |
| Thursday, February 12  | Help wanted    |
| Friday, February 13    | Help wanted    |

## Student Binders

Dear parents of students at Wodonga Middle Years College.

This year students at Wodonga Middle Years College will have a student binder in which they will complete class work and store notes, handouts and other class materials.

The purpose of this binder is to assist students to develop organisational and academic skills that will help them succeed in their studies here at the Middle Years College, later at the Senior College and in their life after school.

Students have been asked to provide a 50mm blue 4 ring binder with a clear plastic insert cover. The school will supply the binder insert materials, which include organisational tools as well as Cornell note paper for class notes. Students were also asked to provide A4 reinforced refill paper to be used in the binder.

If students did not order the binder with their booklists, they will be available for sale at the school office for \$7, or may be obtained from local stationary outlets.

The role of the student is to:

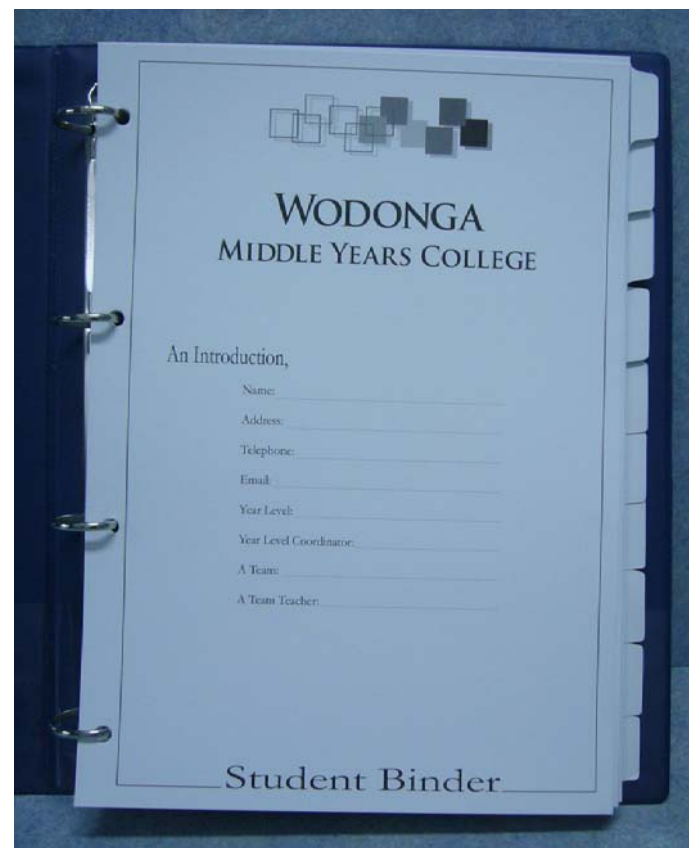
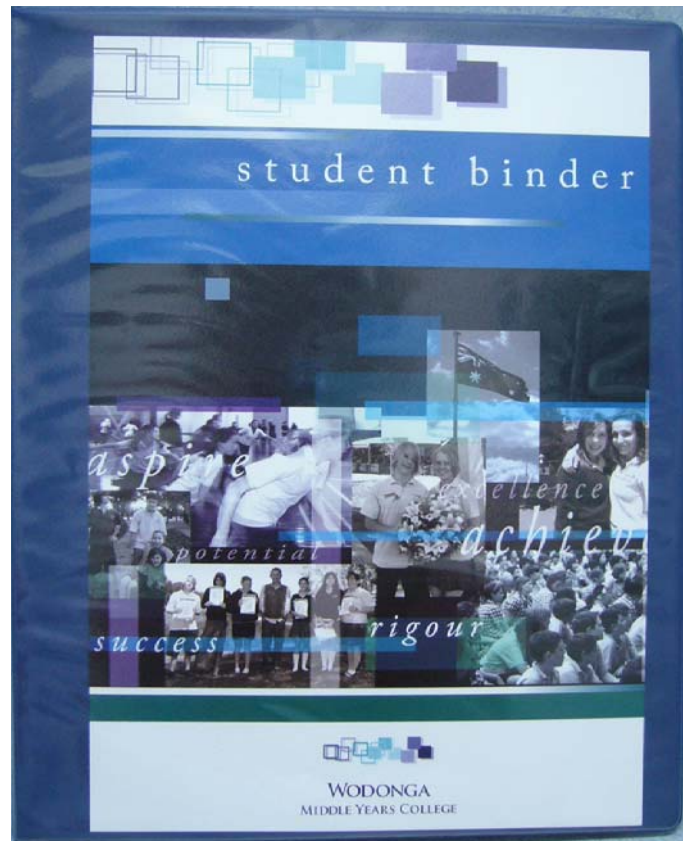
- Keep their binder neat, well organised and up to date with all their relevant notes, handouts and other work. (They should be able to hold their binder by the spine and nothing should fall out!)
- Bring their binder and other required equipment to class.
- Ensure all reflections and evaluations are completed and the binder has been signed off by teachers and parents, as required.
- Students may personalise their binder appropriately, except for the front cover. The student's first name, surname and A Team should be clearly visible on the outside of the binder. (They should also remember to clearly identify all work that they hand in with these details.)

We ask parents to encourage students to use their binders effectively and support them by...

- Keeping track of your children's school work and signing off the binder after each monthly checklist is completed.
- Monitoring your child's understanding and achievement and liaising with the A Team and subject teachers as appropriate. (eg. Bringing the binder to parent interviews)
- Ensuring your child comes to school equipped with their binder and other required equipment: eg. pens, pencils, highlighter.

If you have any questions regarding the binder and its use, please ring your child's A Team teacher or year level team leader at the College.

**Russell Polson, Geoff Burke**  
Campus Principals





# **WMYC COMBINED CAMPUS TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

**Wednesday, February 11, 2009**

**Wodonga Outdoor Pool  
Stanley Street**

Get in the spirit of our swimming carnival and come in your house colours.

**INDIGO  
BOGONG  
PATTERSON  
FRASER**

**BLUE  
GREEN  
RED  
YELLOW**

**REMEMBER: SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, WRAP**

**ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME!!**

**Pool canteen will operate**