

Principals Report

Bushfire Tragedy

Our community expresses its sympathy to all those affected by the events of last week regarding the loss of life and property destruction that has happened in Victoria. Our students and staff are responding through fundraising efforts and supplying much needed materials to the victims of this disaster. I have included information from the Department with advice on helping students deal with the emotional trauma of bushfires.

Swimming Sports

Thank you to everyone who attended this whole school event last Wednesday evening at the Stanley Street pool. It was great to see so many parents and students in attendance. Congratulations to everyone who participated. Special thanks to Tim Williamson and Tracey Aspinall our School Sport Coordinators for their efforts in organising this extremely successful event.

Parent Representation - College Council

The College Council is the body that determines and approves all College policies and monitors our progress and achievements. Representation from all groups within our education community; parent input is vital if the council is to fully represent community opinion. All parents are urged to consider nominating as Parent Representatives. Please contact either campus office to arrange for a nomination form. Nominations close February 23, 2009.

Parent/Teacher Nights

We will hold our first Parent/Teacher interviews on Wednesday, February 18 for Year 7 at both campuses where families will meet with A-Team teachers to share information and expectation. Year 8 and 9 A Team teachers will meet with parents on Wednesday, February 25.

Parent Contact

Parents are reminded to contact their child's A-Team teacher with any concerns they may have regarding their child's school life. We all aim to ensure that every student has a challenging yet enjoyable and interesting experience while at school.

If you are concerned about the possibility of bullying or other issues that may affect participation or progress in class work early discussions can initiate early resolution. A-Team teachers will refer issues to Team Leaders, the Wellbeing Team or Assistant Principals if necessary.

College Photographs

On Thursday and Friday students and staff had photos taken by Arthur Reed Photographers. We hope to have the photos returned by the end of this term. A reminder that families need to deal directly with the Arthur Reed with any questions or concerns.

Homestudy

The College Homework Policy recommends the following time commitment to home study:-

- Year 7 and 8 30 minutes per night, five nights a week
- Year 9 One hour per night, five nights a week

What is home study?

Home study is the environment, culture and range of activities in the home that encourages student learning. For example:

- The provision of an appropriate area for the student to undertake homework comfortably
- Open and productive communication between parents/guardians and student about learning both at home and school
- The encouraging of independent learning skills
- Role modelling by parents/guardians in the areas of reading and engagement with current issues
- Daily reading of magazines, newspapers or novels
- Effective use of the internet for reading and research
- Revision of work previously completed to reaffirm understanding
- Revision and preparation for the next days work, tests and exams
- Set **homework** tasks from school

While teachers will assign tasks and assignments to be completed out of class time, teacher set work is not the only component of home study.

Establishing a balance is also important. Physical activity is important as is physical development and organised / team activities provide experience, co-operation and responsibility. Independent activities such as internet use are also valuable if managed effectively.

It is important that families encourage a balance of types of activities throughout the week. The College provides each student with a Diary/Planner to assist students in managing their home study commitments and as a communication tool between home and school.

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.

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

Assistant Principals' Report

The Big Leap

With the school year now having begun, our Year 7 students are finding their way through what can be one of the most challenging transitions of their lives - the move from primary to secondary schooling.

The Middle Years College has developed a comprehensive transition program that goes a long way to ensure that this experience is as stress free and enjoyable as possible for our students.

The transition process begins in Grade 6 when the Orientation Day is spent on a range of activities that allow students to get to know each other and staff really well before they begin in the new year. Parents also have a big role in ensuring the move to secondary school is as smooth as possible.

How Parents can Help

- Encourage systems for your child to be organised while ensuring independence.
- Be aware of things that might be worrying them.
- Reassure them that apprehension is normal during transition.
- Bombard them with positives.

Bullying Policy

The College has a Bullying Policy within the College. All students in year 7 will participate in a discussion with Helen Allen, College Nurse based on strategies to manage bullying and harassment.

Bullying is when someone deliberately and repeatedly hurts or frightens someone else. Bullying can be verbal, physical, cyber, racial, or sexual conduct, which is unwelcome, uninvited, unreciprocated, offensive, intentional and/or repeated.

No bullying is acceptable. No incident is too small to warrant a complaint. Remember you may not be the only person feeling uncomfortable.

Bullying should be reported to a trusted teacher or adult. A team leader, Assistant Principal or Student Wellbeing Coordinator will meet with the student who has been bullied and record how the student is feeling. A meeting is then convened with all the people involved. The problem is explained. Responsibility is shared by the whole group. The group is asked for their ideas. The group is asked to put their ideas into practice. The coordinator meets with the group in about a week to see how things are going.

College Photographs

If your child did not order school photographs, packages may be ordered after photo day by forwarding the money directly to Arthur Reed Photos. **An additional fee of \$9 per order applies to this service.**

If you have any queries regarding College photos, please contact Arthur Reed Photos directly on 1800 032 028.

Casual Wear Day - Bushfire Appeal

Friday, February 13 and Monday, February 16

On these days, students were encouraged to wear appropriate casual wear and provide a gold coin donation in recognition of the devastation caused by the bushfires. Many families and students have been deeply affected by this tragedy and this one way our College can contribute and support our Victorian communities.

Please note that any casual wear day requires students to adhere to the uniform policy – no thongs or open footwear is permitted and casual clothing needs to be respectful.

In response to the bushfire tragedy, the Victorian government has established the 2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund in partnership with the Australian Government and Red Cross. All funds raised will go to this appeal.

Correction

Last week it was published that Jeff Burr was the School Captain and Carlos Colonia the Vice Captain at Huon. This is incorrect. Carlos Colonia is the School Captain and Jeff Burr the Vice Captain.

Maree Cribbes, Alyson Miller
Assistant Principals

Binders

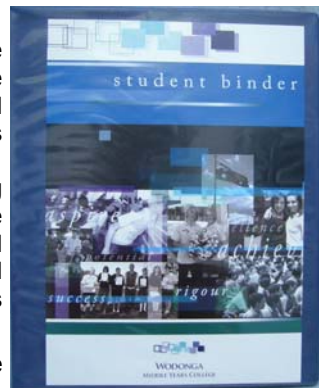
We have had a great start to the Binders this year. Students have been taking them to class and also utilizing the different areas within the Binder.

If you have not started using some of these areas to improve your organisation and preparation towards High School studies, here is a list of things that you should do to begin:

- Make sure your timetable has been written into your Binder and give your printed copy to your parent/guardian to stick on the fridge or notice board so that they are also aware of what is happening in your day.
- Fill in the Weekly Planner. This is for dates and commitments outside of school such as allocated reading time at home, study time and sporting commitments.
- Every week you should be checking and organising your Cornell notes for classes, making sure that your questions are complete and your summaries are up to date.
- Updating your assignment log and making sure that you stay on top of any assignments given., Use your time wisely instead of rushing at the last minute.

Your Binder should reflect a mature and serious approach to your education, make sure you look after it and take care of the contents - you will have it all year.

Will Pleydon



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Sport

WMYC Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival was held in fine conditions last Wednesday. There was plenty of colour and enthusiasm, congratulations to all Houses



for their efforts. We had some fantastic individual performances. Records set were:

Brooke Purslow - 13Yr 50m Breaststroke
 Kylie Whitehead - 15Yr 50m Breaststroke,
 50m Butterfly, 50m Freestyle
 Megan Howard - 15Yr 200m Freestyle

Age Champions from the Carnival were:

	Girls	Boys
13Yr	Kristen Wright (Indigo)	Ethan Thomas (Bogong)
14Yr	Morgan Thomas (Bogong)	Jarrold Takle (Indigo)
15Yr	Megan Howard (Fraser)	Ben Greer (Bogong)
16Yr	Tegan Sikorski (Indigo)	Shaun Tarran (Indigo)

The champion team this year was PATTERSON who had fantastic participation numbers which is often the key. Final placings were:

PATTERSON
 BOGONG
 FRASER
 INDIGO

Congratulations to all students who participated during the day. You earned points for your House. Well done to House



Captains and Vice-Captains if you were involved in organising and encouraging. Thank you also to staff for their assistance on the day.

A combined school swimming team has been selected to represent the College Thursday, February 26 at the District Swimming Carnival (NEDSSSA) to be held at the Albury Swim Centre. Students need to check the sports notice board. Parents most welcome.



Tracey Aspinall, Tim Williamson
 Sport Coordinators

Slow Food

Year 8/9 Mentor and Slow Food Kids in the Kitchen Program

Once again this year we are very excited to be offering this Program in collaboration with Wodonga Primary School.

The program is based on the philosophy of the Slow Food Movement. Slow Food is a non-profit organisation that was founded in Italy



in 1989 to counteract fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, and how it tastes.

The Program involves the Grade 3 and Year 8/9 mentors in food preparation and appreciation. The unit of work will revolve around the preparing, cooking and eating of fresh, seasonal, regional, produce.

Each grade/class will be helped by six Year 8/9 mentors from Huon Campus. One mentor will work with a group of four Grade 3 students. The mentors will also visit their Grade 3 buddies each Tuesday and work with them in class.

Benefits for Year 9 Students of participating in the Program:

- Equip students with the skills necessary to prepare simple, healthy dishes independently
- Develop students knowledge to enable them to make sound food choices
- Develop team work, organizational and co-operation skills
- Boost self esteem
- Provide students with authentic learning experiences.
- Consolidate literacy and numeracy skills with practical experiences.
- Provide students with leadership opportunities
- Increase their engagement with school



The first lesson last week was very successful and began with very excited students from both schools. The Grade 3 students had an orientation around the kitchen with their mentors and then they began cooking. To widen their food experience the students are encouraged to try **all** foods presented. Our mentors were fantastic and greatly contributed to the session by displaying good leadership skills and setting the tone for the lesson.

Here are a few comments from week one from both Grade 3 students and mentors:



"The fruit and french toast was good! I gave it the thumbs up!" Jayson 3MB
 "Fabulous! I loved it!" Bree-Anna 3MB
 "It was yum, really yum." Isabella 3HW
 "It was good. It has gone smoothly for the first week with my buddies.

"They worked well." Jarrod YR 9.

"I had a great time. They were good." Elle YR9.

"They were all really good. They knew what to do. It was fun." Erin YR 9.

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to be part of the Program:

Tyi Johnstone, Matt Spooner, Brendan Hamilton, Brandon Zurek, Sammi O'Brien, Brianna Bice, Annie Francis, Jarrod Hills, Matthew Crampton, Ruby Barnard, Erin McCready, Ellen Clearson, Demmi Eckman and Amber Mildren.

Suzanne Rogers
 Program Co-Ordinator

**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 frostrom@bigpond.com as soon as possible if you are interested or wish to obtain further information.

Laurie Frost
Local VSL Supervisor

Year 7 - Felltimber

Harrietville Camp

Owing to the bushfires in our local area the Year 7 Felltimber camp due to leave to Harrietville on March 2 has been postponed. It will now take place from Monday April 27 which is Week 2, Term 2.

A formal letter will be sent home with students this week. This change in date will not affect any payments for students who are attending the camp. Any students who have not paid and would like to attend have the opportunity to do so.

Alyson Miller
Assistant Principal

Dates to Remember

Dates for 2009	Activity
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 9	► Labour Day Holiday
Monday, March 16	► NEDSSSA Super 8 Cricket
Wednesday, March 18	► EZ Swimming
Monday, March 23 - Wednesday, March 25	► Huon - Year 7 Camp (7A,7B,7C,7D)
Thursday, March 26	► Huon Athletics Carnival
Monday, March 30 - Wednesday, March	► Huon - Year 7 Camp (7E,7F,7G,7H)
Tuesday, March 31	► Felltimber Athletics Carnival
Friday, April 3	► Last Day Term 1
Monday, April 20	► First Day Term 2
Monday, April 27 - Friday, May 1	► Felltimber - Year 7 Camp (April 27 - 29: 7A,7B,7C,7D) (April 29 - May 1: 7E,7F,7G)

Canteen Roster - Felltimber

Monday, February 23	Katrina
Tuesday, February 24	Dot
Wednesday, February 25	Helen
Thursday, February 26	Help wanted
Friday, February 27	Marg



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