

Principals Report

Parent Year 7 A-TEAM Teacher Meeting

The opportunities for parents to meet with their child's A-Team teacher was taken up by a large number of Year 7 families at both campuses last Wednesday. The sharing of knowledge and hopes for the students is a great benefit to the teachers and better understanding of individuals strengths and interests of the young people.

As highlighted at the evenings, A-Team teachers are the main contact for families.

Parents of students in Year 8 and 9 will have an opportunity to meet with their A Team teachers on Wednesday of this week. Due to the Year 8 camp, notices will be sent home to Year 8 students today. Suitable times should be included and returned tomorrow. We do apologise for the short timeline associated with organising these interviews.

End of Term

Term 1 is only nine weeks long this year as the holidays begin on 3 April. Interim reports will be distributed on the last Friday of term and Parent Subject teacher interviews will be held on the first Wednesday of term 2 (22 April) commencing at 4.00pm

Koorie Educator Appointed

Congratulations to Diane Tattersal who has been appointed to the Koorie educator position for the Wodonga Network. Diane will be known to many families as she held the "Working Together" Coordinator position last year. Diane will be working in all primary and secondary schools in Wodonga at various times during the year. She will be at the Wodonga Middle Years every Friday.

Bushfire Appeal

Over \$2000 as well as clothing and other goods have been donated to the Red Cross and Salvation Army Bushfire appeals from students and staff at the college. Thank you to everyone who has contributed or has been involved in organising activities to raise these funds over the last two weeks.

Vern Hilditch
Principal

Years 8 and 9

GET TO KNOW YOU BARBECUE

Wednesday February 25, 2009

Assistant Principals' Report

Parent Teacher Interviews

It is a great opportunity for you to get to know your child's A Team teacher and share with them any important information at the Parent Teacher interviews last week and this week. Below are some strategies for helping your child at school.

10 Ways for Parents to Help Teachers Help Their Children Learn

(Adopted from: Principal's Digest NZ and Mimi Doe.)

- **Create a smooth start to each day.** Get organised the night before. Give your children a hug before they leave the house and you head to work. Tell them how proud you are of them. Your children's self-confidence and sense of security will help them do well both in school and in life. A positive, happy start is the best foundation for the day at school.
- **Prepare for a happy reunion at the end of the day.** Create predictable rituals such as 20-30 minutes listening to your children talk about their day over an after school snack – before you check phone messages, read the mail or begin dinner. This is truly quality time when your children know your attention is focused on them and they can count on you every day after school.
- **Fill your child's lunch box with healthy snacks and lunches.** Have dinner as a family, preferably around the table, at a reasonable hour. In the morning provide a healthy breakfast with whole grains, protein and fruit. A well-balanced diet maximises your child's learning potential and helps them stay alert throughout the school day.
- **Include peaceful time in your children's afternoons and evenings.** Maintain a schedule of regular bedtimes that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a plan in place so they are able to stay home. It is essential that adolescents get a sufficient amount of sleep and need to go to bed at a reasonable hour. Sufficient sleep ensures healthy physical and mental development and success at school.
- **Remember, it's your child's homework, not yours.** Create a homework space that is clutter free and quiet. Encourage editing and double checking work, but allow your children to make mistakes, as it's the way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.

- **Fill your children's lives with a love for learning** by showing them your own curiosity, respecting their questions, and encouraging their efforts.
- **Fill your home with books to read, books simply to look at, and books that provide answers to life's many questions.** Public libraries are an excellent resource and can become a habit from a very early age.
- **Be a partner with your child's teacher.** When you need to speak to the teacher in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Keep adult disagreements among adults concerned.

Set up a system where routine items are easily located – such as school bags, shoes, uniforms and signed notes.

Create a central calendar for:

- upcoming events to make sure everyone is prepared. Boys in particular can benefit from learning how to organise themselves.
- **Become involved in school activities.** This could be helping with reading, being on a committee, helping with school events, helping in the canteen. Teachers appreciate the practical support of parents – and research shows, children whose parents are involved do better at school.

Bushfire Appeal

Congratulations and a big **thank you** to all the students and their families who contributed to the bushfire appeal. Approximately \$2000 was raised and donated to the Red Cross. This shows the care and compassion our students show to other within our community.

Camps – It's not OK to be away

It is important for all students to have the opportunity to attend camps and excursions outside our local area. These opportunities widen student's experiences and provide students with an opportunity to extend their social relationships in another environment. If your child is unable to attend camps or excursions, attendance at school is expected. An educational program and curriculum will be provided on a daily basis at these times.

School Shoes

A letter will be sent out this week clearly explaining footwear requirements for the Middle Years College. This will include photographs of shoes that are acceptable and not acceptable.

Student Absences

If your child is absent from school, they must bring a signed note from you the next day they attend school. This note should be given to your child's A team teacher.

Year 7 Camp - Felltimber

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

Alyson Miller, Maree Cribbes
Assistant Principals

**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 as soon as possible if you are interested or wish to obtain further information.

Laurie Frost
Local VSL Supervisor

wodonga glass

all glass replacements
WINDOWS · DOORS · MIRRORS · SHOWER
SCREENS

8b Trafalgar Street
Wodonga 3690

Phone (02) 6024 2193
24 Hour Service 0405 466 366

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.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE THIS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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

Chess Club - Felltimber

Students who would like to join the Chess Club are invited to the library Wednesday, February 25 at 1.10pm. No experience is necessary - just come along and have a go. Competition will commence the following week.



Helen Boulton

Scrapbooking - Felltimber

Anyone who enjoys taking photos would find this club lots of fun. We are a group of people who get together once a week and "scrap" our photos. No experience is needed as we learn as we go!

Those who are interested should come to the Integration room next to the Year 7 staff room this Thursday, February 26 at 3.15pm until 4.15pm. Bring along a few photos and any scrapbooking gear you have.

Helen Boulton

Year 7

A Great Start to 2009

Year 7 has had a great start to 2009 with heaps of exciting things on the calendar for first term.

The laptop program is well underway with most students having received their machines this week, the remainder will be rolled out Monday and Tuesday next week. Students need to ensure that they have a secure lock on their locker and should store their laptop there when not in use.



On Wednesday February 18, the Year 7 parent BBQ was held. Parents and students are encouraged to meet with their A-team teachers to discuss their goals for semester one.

On Wednesday, February 25 there is the year 7 swimming day at the Wodonga pool. The day will include races, novelty activities and of course the world famous WMYC iron man event

Parents should be aware that deposits are due for both camp and the laptop program. These can be paid at the campus office.

Year 7 A-Teams

Felltimber:

- 7A – Kristy Shaddock
- 7B – Lara Jennings
- 7C - Davis Jones / Reggie Glass
- 7D – Sonia Simon
- 7E – John Demeo
- 7F – Tim Williamson
- 7G – Marion Patterson

Huon:

- 7A - Joe Ziegelbauer
- 7B - Ian Miekle
- 7C - Jen O'Donnell
- 7D - Ellen Sheridan
- 7E - Jodie Norman
- 7F - Katie Smith
- 7G - Ursula Reeb
- 7H - Michelle Heintze

Here are a couple of snapshots from students and staff after the first three weeks:



"High school has been relatively good, with new classes and new friends. It didn't take long to adjust to the environment. In a way it feels like just yesterday that we were in Year 6 because it's been so eventful and extreme!" Steven Mcleod

"Well it's been very epic! Sometimes I would struggle to find things, then sometimes it's been quite fun to figure things out for myself. I have made a whole range of new friends from other schools and I have made new friends from my old one. All in all its been a fun and exciting two weeks". Amy Salisbury

"Overall, it has been an excellent start to 2009. Students have settled in extremely well and are showing great organisational skills with their new binders. The Literacy and Accelerated Learning programs are off to a flying start as are our regular classes. Well done to ALL students on a great start and we look forward to a huge year." Travis Osborne

Travis Osborne
Year 7 Team Leader - Felltimber

Community Notices



Mick & Janine Young
 17 McMillan Place,
 Wodonga 3690
 Email: mick@jamtennis.com
 Web: www.jamtennis.com
 02 60393164 0417 517959

now @ Parklands Tennis Club. Before and after school sessions available. All coaching personally by Mick Young.



Wodonga Hockey Club

Come and play hockey in 2009

We offer
 Minkey and Under 10 programs
 Junior Teams for Boys and Girls in U12, U14 and U16
 Senior Teams for Men and Women in all divisions
 And a Womens Veterans Team

Training has commenced.
 Check the website: www.wodonga.hockey.com.au for details.
 Contact Marg Brown 6020 8442
 Email: wodongahockey@gmail.com

Come and try the new Olympic Sport of

BMX Racing

Free come and try day at your local BMX track

Where: Border BMX Club
 Silva Drive, Wodonga
 When: February 28, 2009
 Time: 3.00pm



Further information contact: 0427 393 379

MEGAS MUSIC STORE

Raw Talent: Friday, March 6 at the Wodonga Water Tower
 Wodonga Show: Buskers Competition, Saturday, March 21
 Man from Snowy River Bush Festival: Bush Idol Competition,
 2-5 April, 2009. See www.bushfestival.com.au for details.

Phone Megas on 6056 1044 for details or call at 130 High Street, Wodonga



DARO TWIN CITY
 ALBURY – 490 MACAULEY ST

B/W & COLOUR COPIERS
 PRINTERS - SCANNERS
 FAXES - PROJECTORS
 COPYING SERVICE
 LAMINATING SERVICE

DARO
 OFFICE MACHINE SPECIALIST

Canon
 advanced simplicity®

AUTHORISED
 DISTRIBUTOR
 BUSINESS IMAGING



Free Ladies DIY Night

Enjoy hands-on demos, DIY workshops and craft classes, games, prizes and giveaways. Kids entertainment including kids DIY workshops and face painting will also be provided. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Please register online at : www.bunnings.com.au, by phone on 6042 3400 or in person at the service desk. Bookings are preferred. Gents and kids welcome.

Where: Bunnings Warehouse, Albury
 When: Thursday, March 5, 2009
 Time: 6.00pm - 9.00pm

Dates to Remember

Dates for 2009	Activity
Wednesday, February 25	► Year 8/9 Parent/Teacher evening ► Year 7 Swimming and Activity Day
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 31	► 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, March 2	Katrina
Tuesday, March 3	Dot
Wednesday, March 4	Helen
Thursday, March 5	Dot
Friday, March 6	Marg