

Principals Report

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

Next week, on May 12, 13 and 14, students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will sit their NAPLAN tests.

As I explained in a previous newsletter article, the purpose of the NAPLAN tests is to provide an indication of literacy and numeracy achievement levels of students across Australia.

NAPLAN results are also used to provide an accurate measurement of the literacy and numeracy skills of individual students in our school and, ultimately, the progress of those students across the years. They are also used to pinpoint particular strengths and weaknesses in individual's literacy and numeracy abilities and in areas of the school's curriculum.

For this information to be useful to us, and to the students, it is important that when taking the tests, students give a fair and accurate account of themselves, that is they do the tests conscientiously and to the best of their ability.

In recent weeks students have completed on-demand tests in literacy and numeracy, in English and Maths classes. These tests are substantially the same structure as the NAPLANs and are used to familiarise students with the test format, as well as give teachers valuable information about students' literacy and numeracy that can be compared to other test results, to teacher assessments of class work, and to the NAPLAN results when they are reported back later in the year. Teachers have also spent time in English and Maths classes familiarising students with the test format and the types of questions they will encounter in the NAPLAN.

A copy of an information leaflet explaining the NAPLAN in detail is included with this newsletter.

If you have any queries about the NAPLAN tests, or require further information, please contact me at the College on 60579000

Russell Polson
Campus Principal: Curriculum

Assistant Principals' Report

Uniform

Please note that baggy fleecy track pants are not acceptable as winter uniform. We have available at Brunella, a fleece lined trouser/pant that has been approved by school council. These pants will be in Brunella in two weeks and will cost approximately \$35. They will be made available to the other uniform retailers as soon as possible.

Please name your students clothing as it is very difficult to return clothing to the rightful owner when it has been lost.

Should your student borrows uniform from the office please wash it and return it to the office as soon as possible.

Education Week: May 17 - 23

Please ask your students about Education week, many exciting activities will take place at the College over this period of time. Come in and visit, join in classes, participate in activities with your son or daughter. We look forward to seeing you over this period of time.

ANZAC Day

Thankyou to the year 9 leadership students who conducted a most informative and respectful Anzac Day ceremony last week. Wreath's were placed at the flagpole's in remembrance of those who have died in combat in past conflicts and those who are currently representing Australia in peace keeping and conflict abroad.

Transition

All year 6 students have been invited to attend the annual Transition Information Evening on Tuesday, May 12 commencing at 6.30pm. This information evening will be held at the Wodonga Senior College, Performing Arts Centre. Both the Felltimber and Huon Campuses will be open for families to tour on Wednesday, May 13 from 4 to 6pm.

Maree Cribbes, Alyson Miller
Assistant Principals

Transition

OPEN EVENING

PARENTS and GUARDIANS OF YEAR 6 STUDENTS

Next year your child will begin their secondary school education. The Wodonga Middle Years College invites you to attend our information evening where valuable information about our College will be presented. We look forward to meeting you at this session.

Date: Tuesday 12th May 2009 at Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Performing Arts Centre, Woodland Street, Wodonga

Time: 6.30pm-7.30pm

Tours will be held on Wednesday 13th May from 4-6pm at both Felltimber and Huon Campuses



For more information contact:
Wodonga Middle Years College
02 60579000

Year 8

Thank you to Year 8 students for your enthusiasm and participation in various school activities and excursions during first term and thank you to all parent / guardians for your support. Some of the highlights of Term 1 were the Camp and Swimming Activity Day. In term 2, students can look forward to participating in the girl's and boy's day (Huon Monday, June 15/ Felltimber Tuesday, June 16) and an engaging elective program (Friday afternoon's week 4, 6 and 8).

The Year 8 team believe that it is important for students to establish good learning habits and organisational skills in order to improve educational outcomes. Over the past term we have been reinforcing these student responsibilities and expectations. We ask for parents continued support to ensure that their child works to their full potential.

The areas that the Year 8 Team have been focussing on and will continue with this term are:

Correct use of Student Binders

- Take your student binder to all classes.
- List upcoming school events.
- Record your homework.
- Get your binder signed by your teacher whenever leaving the classroom.
- Use your binder for regular contact between teachers and parents.

Building positive relationships

- Get involved in A - Team and Year Level activities.
- Develop your Student Portfolio with personal goals and achievements.
- Place all certificates in your Student Portfolio.
- Communicate student views and opinions through your A Team Leaders.
- Showing respect to all members of the school community.

Attending class on time with the correct materials

- Memorise the class times (refer to binder).
- Have your student timetable in your binder.
- Take the correct learning materials to class.
- Do not take your school bag to class.
- Mobile phones and i Pod's must be switched off during class. In case of an emergency parents and students may make phone contact via the front office.

Arriving to school with the correct materials

- Bring adequate money and/or food and drinks for recess and lunch breaks.
- Bring your PE uniform on the days you have Physical Education classes.
- Arrive at school early enough to ensure you are on time for your A Team meeting.
- Wearing the College uniform in the correct manner.

Year 8 Team

Bhutanese Festival

The Bhutanese community of Albury/Wodonga held a festival at the Mirambeena Community Centre in Albury on Thursday April 24. Members of the community have been in the Albury/Wodonga area since October 2008 after living in refugee camps for up to 17 years. They are a warm and friendly people with a rich culture which was evident on the day.

Saraswati Gautam, a Year 8 student performed a traditional dance with her close friend Uma. Both were dressed in beautiful costumes.

Om and Soma Guragai also attended, assisting as translators for the many locals in attendance.

On a more serious note the Bhutanese community in this area was able to raise in excess of \$600 for the victims of the recent fires. This was a great effort from a small group of 75 people.

On behalf of Wodonga Middle Years College I welcome this most charming example of humanity to our area and I look forward to many more rewarding associations with them.



Ross Davidson

Sport

Huon Campus Thanks You!!

Over the past three years the Huon Campus has been running a fundraiser that coincides with the Cross Country. Combining your fundraising with the existing budget from the School we have been able to update a large number of

uniforms for the Sports program. As you could imagine these uniforms don't come cheap. Therefore

we, in particular the Interschool Sport Program, would like to thank you for your support in fundraising and enabling us to continue to improve our resources. Hopefully during this years' cross country we will raise enough money to replace our High Jump mats which are in a very bad way!



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ANZAC Day

Anzac Day Ceremony Felltimber

Last Thursday, April 23, the Campus leaders conducted a very informative and respectful service in the Campus courtyard.

It was pleasing to have all students from the Middle Years and the Flying Fruit Fly Circus students pay their respect to those who have served their country on missions both in Australia and abroad.

Brett Larner, Meg Bodsworth, Emma Pedder, Ben Russell, Elise Cox and Dean Sweet presented items on the meaning of Anzac, the spirit of Anzac, why the poppies, the poem *Flanders Field*, the ode and Mr Davidson played the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

The following students represented their year levels and placed flowers at the flagpole during the ceremony: Hayley Reeves and Jacki Warr Year 7; Maya Ferguson and Jackson Hunter Year 8; Dean Sweet Year 9 and Louise Ashman and Marni Harris FFFCS

Georgia Patterson and Courtney Collins completed the ceremony with our national anthem Advance Australia Fair.

Congratulations and thankyou to all those involved in this Anzac ceremony.

Huon Ceremony

On Friday, April 24, the Campus Leaders from Huon led an the ANZAC Memorial Service in the Campus Gymnasium.

Students at Huon paid their respects to the servicemen and women who have served and are serving their country.

The student leaders, Jeff Burr and Rochell Flack told of the sacrifice many men and women for our country and the freedom we have today, while campus captains Carlos Colonia and Jessica Hynes placed a wreath at the flagpole during the ceremony. Mr Davidson also played the 'Last Post' and 'Reveille', which reverberated throughout the gymnasium, as Dane Sharp and Kris Ross raised the flag. Jessica Ffrost and Kayla Deetz completed the ceremony with our national anthem Advance Australia Fair.

Congratulations and thankyou to all those involved in this Anzac ceremony

April 25

On a cold and wet Saturday our College captains Meg Bodsworth and Brett Larner and Carlos Colonia and Jessica Hynes placed a wreath on behalf of the Middle Years College at the cenotaph during the Anzac commemorations.

What's Happening In My Class...

Outdoor Ed - Caving

The outdoor Ed class went to Wee Jasper from March 31st to April 2. We left after the Athletics carnival and got there around 8pm. That night we went trough a cave for a couple of hours. We also played hide and seek, and sardines in the cave.

The next day we were split up into two groups. My group went into the harder caves first while the other group abseiled down into a cave. After lunch we swapped over. That night we played 44 home and spotlight in a paddock filled with rocks.

The next morning we packed our stuff and drove home. The camp was one of the best I've ever been on and it was a lot of fun.

Steph Beer



School Nurse

Swine Flu

A new strain of influenza A (swine flu) has been identified in an outbreak in Mexico and USA.

In Mexico there has been an outbreak of severe respiratory illness in 1150 people with up to 71 deaths. In the US almost all patients have experienced a relatively mild illness.

No cases of this strain of influenza have yet been identified in Australia. Treatment is available through your GP or a hospital.

What should I do?

◆ Please call your GP if you have an Influenza-like illness (fever and cough and fatigue) and have travelled to Mexico or California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas in the past seven days.

◆ Please call your local hospital if you have pneumonia and have travelled to Mexico or California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas in the past seven days.

About the new strain of influenza

◆ The virus appears to be derived from a strain of swine influenza.

◆ The majority of cases in Mexico have occurred in healthy young adults.

◆ The degree of infectivity of the virus is not known but close family contacts and health care workers may be at risk.

Treatment

◆ Current information suggests antiviral drugs (Tamiflu and Relenza) are useful against these swine influenza viruses. These drugs are available through pharmacists and can be prescribed by GPs.

◆ It is not expected the Australian seasonal influenza vaccine will provide protection against this new strain of influenza virus. However, people over 65 and those who are vulnerable are encouraged to be vaccinated as this will at least provide protection against seasonal influenza.

Level of alert in Australia

◆ The World Health Organisation has declared this to be a public health emergency of international concern. It has not however, changed the pandemic phase to a higher level of alert.

◆ Australia has very good communicable disease surveillance and controls systems in place to detect and respond to outbreaks of illness.

◆ The Australian Government stands ready to escalate the level of response when required.

How to protect yourself

◆ Good health hygiene practices can greatly reduce the chance you will get the flu or pass it on to others.

◆ You should always cough and sneeze into a disposable tissue and wash your hands afterwards.

◆ If you have the flu, you should avoid public places and close contact with others, especially children.

In Summary

1. Seek medical attention if you are unwell
2. Follow good hygiene practices
3. Know that Australia is well prepared

Helen Allen

“Safe At Heart” Program

RMIT has approached the WMYC to run the “Safe at Heart” pilot research program during 2009 with 30 female students in Years 8 and 9 covering both campuses. Group facilitator and PHD candidate Kylie Murphy will be visiting Wodonga June 4 and 5 to run the program with students in conjunction with Mandy Knight, Student Wellbeing Coordinator.

What is the project about? What are the questions being addressed?

The ‘Safe at Heart’ program aims to reduce young women’s exposure to emotionally, socially and physically harmful partner behaviours. The program is not a sex education or sexual assault prevention program. The ‘Safe at Heart’ trial is important because it is not known whether campaigns that raise girls’ awareness about “warning signs” of relationship abuse are effective at increasing their likeliness to assert their rights, expectations and boundaries with their friends and partners. It is also not known whether skill-based training is any more effective than awareness-raising campaigns. The ‘Safe at Heart’ trial aims to uncover how effective each type of educational approach is at helping teenage girls to positively resist abusive treatment by their friends and partners.

Over the coming weeks plain language statements and consent forms will be sent home with students that have been asked to participate, students could also nominate themselves by approaching Mandy Knight and collecting required paperwork.

Mandy Knight
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Community Notices

Mother’s Day Classic at Sumsion Gardens from 10.00am Sunday, May 10

The Mother’s Day Classic raises funds for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. Walking or running the 5km course is a great way to support or pay tribute to loved ones who have been through the breast cancer journey. Walkers and runners are encouraged to wear something pink.

Register online at www.mothersdayclassic.org or donate on the day.

Enquiries: Merryn Deslandes 6022 9285



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- Parenting Young Adolescents -

Come along and talk about the changes that adolescents are going through and how to build positive relationships with your child at this time. Suitable for parents/carers of children aged 8-15 years.

Where: Upper Hume Community Health Service
Group Room (at rear of 155 High St, Wodonga)

When: Thursday, May 21 - June 11, 2009 (4 sessions)

Time: 6.30 -8.30 pm.

Cost: \$20.00

Bookings essential: Please contact Maria Hutchings (02 60228888) or Mandy Knight (02 6057 9029)

Wodonga Panthers Soccer Club

Under 14 Girls (10-14years) urgently needed.

Training at Willow Park Wednesday nights from 5-6pm

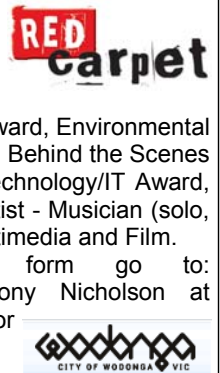
For more information phone Leonie (President) 0409 595 065, Rosie (coach) 0438 241 405 or Lachlan (Assistant Coach) 0409 871 310

Red Carpet Youth Awards

Nominations are being sought for young people aged 16-24 years who live, study, work or play in Wodonga.

Categories include: Community Service Award, Environmental Award, Apprenticeship/Traineeship Award, Behind the Scenes Award, Endurance/Persistence Award, Technology/IT Award, Group Helping Hand Award, Emerging Artist - Musician (solo, duo or band); Performing Arts, Visual, Multimedia and Film.

For an information pack and form go to: www.wodonga.vic.gov.au or call Anthony Nicholson at Wodonga Youth Services on 6022 9793 or 0448 538 563.



Found: Middle Years College jumper at Baranduda, please phone 6020 8567 for details.

Dates to Remember

Dates for 2009	Activity
Wednesday, May 6	▶ Year 8 NEDSSSA Soccer
Tuesday, May 12 - Wednesday, May 14	▶ NAPLAN Testing
Tuesday, May 12	▶ Information Evening for Year 6 students in PAC at WSSC - Woodland Street at 6.30pm
Wednesday, May 13	▶ WMYC Open Afternoon at Huon and Felltimber for Year 6 students 4 - 6pm

Canteen Roster - Felltimber

Monday, May 11	Katrina Dawes
Tuesday, May 12	Dot Wallace
Wednesday, May 13	Helen Deegan
Thursday, May 14	Help wanted
Friday, May 15	Marg Quine