

Principals Report

Cross Country Success

Congratulations to all students who completed in the Zone Final of this years Cross Country. Our school won the team trophy as we had successful students from all three campuses, Felltimber, Huon and the Fruit Fly Circus. Special mention to Kelsey Pitts who won her age division. Thank you to staff members Marion Patterson and Anna Avery who accompanied the students on what was an overcast and wet day in Benalla.

Reports

Comprehensive Reports will be distributed on the last day of Term 2 - Friday June 26. To facilitate the completion of these reports, as mentioned last week, **Friday June 12 is a student free day.**

End of Term

As usual, students will be dismissed at 2.30pm on the last day of term - Friday June 26. Term 3 commences on Monday, July 13.

Student Information Details

Families are asked to ensure they check the accuracy of the Student Information Details that have been sent home. Please make any corrections and return it to the campus office. It is vital we have up to date information to allow the College to contact appropriate people when necessary.

H1N1 Influenza

As you would be aware, Victoria is now in a modified 'sustain' phase of its plan to manage the impact of H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu) in our community.

This means that only children confirmed by a doctor as having the virus will be quarantined. Those sharing a house with a confirmed case will not be required to enter quarantine, unless they too are confirmed as having the virus.

Classes who may have been in contact with a confirmed case will no longer be quarantined, and schools will no longer be partially or fully closed.

Students who are feeling unwell should remain at home and not attend school. Students and families with flu-like symptoms are advised to seek medical attention and limit their contact with others.

If your child becomes ill at school, we will contact you immediately and ask you to arrange to collect your child. Please make sure that we have your up-to-date contact details.

It should be remembered, however, that the virus has so far been mild and can be compared to our normal winter flu.

Good general hygiene remains the best defence against the flu and families should continue to ensure children regularly wash their hands and cover their nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing. This practice is being reinforced with your children while they are at school.

If you have any specific concerns:

► Visit www.health.vic.gov.au

► Call the Swine Influenza Hotline on 180 2007

► Call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 606 024 – for expert health information (freecall 24 hours, 7 days)

► Visit your doctor (GP) – if you have an influenza-like illness (fever, cough and fatigue).

The Department of Human Services is also continuing to ask parents of children returning from USA, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Panama to voluntarily keep their children home for seven (7) days from arrival back in Australia. This is a further precautionary measure to assist in managing the further spread of the virus.

Vern Hilditch
Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

Attendance

Students who struggle most with their studies are also those who experience a large number of absences. Parents have the responsibility to make sure that their children aged up to 16 years receive full-time education and that these children regularly attend and stay at school. It is the law!

It is the parent's responsibility to let the school know the reason for a child's absence as soon as possible, preferably on the first day of the absence but no later than the day of return to school if the absence was only a brief one.

Authorised Absences

Only keep your child home if he or she is genuinely too ill to attend or has an infectious disease that could be transferred to others.

Unauthorised Absences

You should not keep your child from school:

- To look after the house or other members of the family
- To go shopping
- To visit relatives
- Because it is raining
- Because you or your child get up late
- Because there is an activity on at school that the student may not like or want to attend - all such activities are compulsory
- Because it is their birthday
- Because they don't want to go or you don't feel like accompanying them

We do understand that at times special circumstances occur. Talk to your child's A-Team teacher or Team Leader about other reasons you may have.

Some things that students say helps ensure they get to school everyday on time (they may seem obvious!):

- Have a reasonable bed time
- Get up at the same time every school day
- Have your own alarm clock
- Keep a diary of your homework and things to remember
- Check what you need for the next day
- Put your clothes and equipment out ready for the next day
- Have a regular time and place to do homework
- Read together with parents

It helps if parents take an active interest in their children's schoolwork and praise them for their efforts.

Based on information from the Student Attendance Toolkit – Hume Region DEECD.

Scooters

Currently several students ride their scooters to the College on a daily basis. **If this practice is to continue then students must ride their scooter in a responsible manner.** Several families have raised concerns about students **jumping out in front of cars** while riding their scooter, simply to frighten the drivers. This is an incredibly dangerous act that places the life of the student and others at great risk. All students who ride their scooters to the College need to concentrate and follow simple safety rules. This includes being aware of road traffic, using the safe walkways and

street crossings that are supervised for students and walking the scooter across the roadways checking for traffic. **It is important for students and families to understand that unsafe behaviours that place a student's life at risk cannot be accepted and should such irresponsible behaviour continue the only safe outcome that can happen is that scooters will not be permitted to be ridden to school.** Students who continue to ride their scooter in the school yard once they have arrived at school will find that the scooter will be taken and placed in a safe place for the rest of the week. All year levels have organised safe storage for scooters, consequently all scooters must be placed in the area as soon as the student arrives at school.

Maree Cribbes, Alyson Miller
Assistant Principals

Year 9

Year 9 Wrap

There has been a lot of things happening this Semester such as football trips to Melbourne, Arts Connect trip to Melbourne, combined swim day, sports trips, fun run activities, class excursions and ghost tours, just to name a few. As the semester draws to an end and mid year reports will soon be on us, this should be a time for reflection and new goal setting, evaluating success and thinking of ways to improve. This is a very valuable process for all students to participate in and needs to be encouraged.

Things Parents Can Do to Help

Parents can keep looking at their son or daughter's binder on a regular basis, checking the assignment log, checking homework, making sure they have appropriate equipment and pens and paper. Also parents need to make sure that their son or daughter have the necessary text books. Please check in with the school if you are unsure about the schools text book hire policy.

The next term will be a busy one with a lot of emphasis on transition and re-establishing the goals that have just been set. Congratulations to the students who have taken advantage of the opportunities presented at the school and have undertaken leadership positions.

Best of luck to all our Year 9 students for the next semester and thank you to all the staff for their diligence in providing educational outcomes for our students.

Gary Hodge and Will Pleydon
Year 9 Team Leaders

Barista Course

On Thursday, May 28, a group of 12 students travelled to Melbourne leaving at 5:45am for a Barista Level 1 Training Course. We travelled by bus to Seymour followed by a train to Melbourne. The course duration was about three hours and consisted of coffee machine operation and cleaning, i.e. use of a coffee grinder, milk foaming and warming, packing coffee and learning how to make numerous types of coffee including: short black, long black, macchiato, latte, piccolo latte,



mocha, cappuccino, flat white, vienna and hot chocolate. After the three hours we spent in a small, crowded and over heated room being taught by "Eli" (an American "lady") watching her use milk then pour it back in the bottle for us to reuse/drink, Jake and Nancye ran through the streets of Melbourne to get to D.F.O. in time to shop meeting up with Rachel and Amber half way. That left Bree and Teagan by themselves in the middle of the city and having to catch an overcrowded tram. Before leaving D.F.O. Nancye had yet another coffee at Starbucks!?!?!?! It was a long day but we managed to survive thanks to coffee!!!

Nancye Prince, Bree Townsend

Year 9 Movie Excursion- Defiance

On the 22nd of May as part of the Year 9 studies into leadership, courage and issues related to the Second World War we took all the students to see the movie "Defiance". What a movie! It certainly left the students and staff full of emotion and thought. Students were then given some time to have lunch and free time within the Dean Street area following the movie.

Feedback from students and staff suggested this excursion was very worthwhile and of value to the students education.

Student's behaviour was exceptional during this excursion and they were a credit to take out of the College. In fact several members of the public who were also in with our group watching the movie attested to this.

Gary Hodge
Year 9 Team Leader
Huon Campus

Year 9 Movie Day

On Friday the 22nd of May, the Huon Year 9 students headed over to Albury's Cinema Centre to see "Defiance". The movie focused mainly on events that happened during World War 2 and the killing of the Jewish people. While these events were occurring three Jewish brothers created a community in the forest, in which the Jewish people could hide from the Germans and survive. While living in the forest the three brothers taught the men and women to fight and created an army to try and fight back, in which they succeeded.

The students then had two hours of free time to shop and have lunch.

We would like to thank the Year 9 team for organising a fun and interesting day.

Amber and Danni



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Mentor Program

During Term 2 and continuing for the remainder of the year, a selected number of students at Huon Campus will be working through a Mentor Program. This is the second year the program has operated at the College and is organised by Jill Allen at North East Local and Employment Network (NELLEN) and is designed to build up self esteem, work on life skills, and have someone to help with the transition from Year 9 into a future pathway.

Each student is paired with a mentor and initially will work through a 'Mentor Program' and then move into a more one on one approach with their mentor. So far the program runs weekly for just over an hour and will evolve into a more random one on one meeting through the year and into the future.

The mentors involved are volunteers from the community and are doing a terrific job with our young people. We thank them for their time and support of our students. Students seem to be very engaged and working on life skills and confidence.

Gary Hodge
Year 9 Team Leader
Huon Campus

Mentoring Program

I am involved in the mentoring program and attend the Huon campus. We see the mentors each week and it gives us a chance to sit down and talk to our mentors about what we have been doing through the week and in our lives. There are seven people in our group and every one of us have our own mentor. It is fantastic to be in the program because it helps me get everything out in the open.

Tyson

Outdoor Education

On Wednesday the 20th and Thursday the 21st of May, the Outdoor Education class went for a bushwalk in the Bogong High Plains area. We walked for about 10km, lead by none other than Nerae Anstee to our campsite where we made ourselves at home. After the only two male students gathered enough firewood, with the help of some of the girls, we made a campfire. As we huddled around the campfire, dinner was cooked, songs were sung (by one or two brave souls), jokes and stories were shared and strange noises also broke the silence. As morning came, we had breakfast by the fire and packed our tents up for the long day ahead. After another adrenaline fuelled 8km we finally made it to the end, where we relaxed and waited for the bus to arrive. On the drive back not much was said by anyone due to the exhausting walk. Overall everyone enjoyed themselves and were glad they went. A special thanks to Joe, Hollie, Nerae and Brock for accompanying us on the walk and congratulations to everyone who came and completed the walk, good job.



Brett Larner

Somebody's Daughter / Highwater Theatre Production

Teenage parenting, drugs, abuse and bullying were just some of the topics we learned about at the Highwater experience.

On Tuesday June 2, Year 9 students from Felltimber travelled by bus to the Hot House Theatre where we saw a performance by the students and staff at Highwater. The play was called "Who's Holding My Dream" and it was based on true stories of the students who went there.

After the play we had a recess break and ate fruit. After that we watched a video on a girl named Felicia who had joined Highwater when she was 12 years old. Highwater has turned her life around. She now has a son and is slowly progressing towards a better life.

Next we split into groups (A-Teams) and each group did a different workshop. At this time we also had lunch and discussed the play and video we had just seen.

At the workshop, our group did a few activities. We wrote word poems, did a drawing game and then did a painting activity. We did this to express our feelings towards the issues we had just witnessed.

Soon after our workshops we all got together and shared what we had learned in our groups. Some groups did plays, others showed their artwork. The teachers had also performed a small play about their feelings towards school.

Next term students from Huon will attend the program.

Sahej and Jasmine

Sport

Year 9 Girls Soccer

On Thursday, May 28, Felltimber students made the journey to Myrtleford to compete in a round robin tournament for girls NEDSSA Soccer.

Goals were scored by Nida Mollison, Ashlee Davis and Carly Sibbald.

Keely McLaren was a standout for the entire day as our keep, ducking and weaving saving many goals.

Wodonga Senior Secondary College took out the final.

Well done to all who competed on the day.



Netball

On Tuesday, May 26, a bunch of Year 7's, 8's and 9's travelled to Wangaratta for NEDSSA Netball. The competition was hard especially against the girls from Galen - they towered over us like the Leaning Tower of Pisa! I would say we lost in style to them, sometimes out-manoeuvring them!

Overall, the girls had a fantastic day playing teams from all over the North East. A big congratulations goes to Ashlee Davis who played in every game, your stamina is unreal!

Kate Crellin

Netball

On Tuesday the 26th of May. The Year 9 girls headed off to Wangaratta to play netball.

When we got down there, the girls got into the dresses and played their first game against Felltimber. It was a close game, but we came away with a win 6-4.

That was unfortunately the only game the girls won all day, but all the girls participated and played well all day. We would like to thank Miss Kennett for organising the team and taking the time to take us and support us.



Danni

Year 7 Girls Badminton

On May 26, the badminton teams went to Wangaratta for a competition against other schools. The Year 7 girls from Felltimber competed against Huon, Wangaratta High School and Galen College. We won two games out of three and got better as the day went on. Our badminton team enjoyed the day. It was fun. The team was Eliza Russell, Kelsey Freeman Keyha Howlett, Aarzu Singh and Eloise Rogalski.



Aarzu Singh, Eloise Rogalski

Footy Report

On a slightly damp Tuesday morning the Year 9 boys football team travelled the long trip down the highway to Wangaratta to compete in the NEDSSSA football competition. After a quick change, warm-up and rev-up from Coaches Randell and Kennedy the boys were ready to play. First up the WMYC "Wombats" played Galen College who were disappointing in their early loss to Benalla. Galen started strong and lead by three goals at the main break. Coach Randell urged his players to use the ball with intent and not to waste opportunities. Numerous centre clearances helped the Wodonga boys on their way to a resilient comeback, eventually coming out victors by two points.

Next up the team faced a cocky Benalla side who had earlier demolished Galen. Benalla pulled out to an early lead, but brilliant goals from Luke Bird and Nathan Vogel put the boys in front, thanks to a well earned 50-metre penalty. The WMYC boys were extremely disciplined and showed character not to get sucked in by a frustrated Benalla outfit. A late goal from Ben Greer steadied the ship and at half-time Wodonga had their noses in front. But Benalla were not to be underestimated and their strong side showed why they should be the best team this year. In a three goal to one last half Benalla eventually won by six points.

In the post-match wrap coaches Randell and Kennedy praised the team for their efforts against strong Year 10 sides. After a tired change the boys slumped back onto the bus to return back to school. Congratulations to Tom Sharp who was voted best player of the day by his team members. Other good players were: Luke Bird, Dylon Simpson, Danyl Woods, Nathan Vogel and Ben Greer. Well done to all involved and better luck next year guys.

Jeff and Lewis

Year 9 Boys Football

Tuesday, May 26, saw the Wodonga Middle Years College Year 9 boys football team head to Wangaratta to compete in the NEDSSSA football carnival. The boys had to win two games to progress to the final against Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

The boys played their first game against Wangaratta and fought hard all through the game eventually just getting over the line for a win. Next up the boys played Benalla. The first half saw Benalla kick away to an early three goal lead but the boys came back and got their noses in front. The game got a little bit rough but congratulations must be given to the boys as they put their head over the ball and concentrated on the game only just missing out on a win by one goal.

Well done to all the boys who participated in the games. You did well.

Tim Williamson

Year 8

Boys and Girls Day

The Year 8 Girls and Boys Day has been rescheduled to early next term. The dates are yet to be finalized.

Year 8 Team




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Community Notices



WODONGA Swimming Club

Wodonga Swimming Club
Registration Day - Monday, June 15, at the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre from 4.30pm - 6.00pm.

For more information: Andrea Sinclair (Secretary) at nasinclair@bigpond.com or Sally Whitehouse (Treasurer/Registrar) on 6024 7894

Dates to Remember

Dates for 2009	Activity
Wednesday, June 10	► Year 8 Football
Friday, June 12	► Report Writing Day
Thursday, June 18	► Year 7 Football
Friday, June 26	► End of Term Two
Monday, July 13	► First Day Term Three
Thursday, July 16	► Presentations - Felltimber
Friday, July 17	► Presentations - Huon

Canteen Roster - Felltimber

Monday, June 15	Katrina Dawes
Tuesday, June 16	Dot Wallace
Wednesday, June 17	Helen Deegan
Thursday, June 18	Dot Wallace
Friday, June 19	Marg Quine