

Principal's Report

Welcome Back to Term 4

We hope and trust all students and staff have had a chance to rest in preparation for this term. There is a lot of hard work to be done to complete the year. It is important that students participate fully in their programs all the way through to the end of the year. Welcome to new staff and students and hope that you will enjoy your time at the college.

Planning for 2010

A great deal of work has been already completed in planning the 2010 program. We will continue with our current structure of having staff organised into three year level teams (Year 7, 8 & 9) and a Arts & Technology team. Our experience would indicate that better teacher –student relationship developed and encouraged a better learning environment and outcomes for students.

Course selection information will be distributed this week with a parent meeting on Thursday 8 October 7.00pm in the Huon Library.

Parent -Teacher -Student Meetings

With Interim reports and where appropriate, NAPLAN information being distributed on the last Friday of Term 3 an opportunity for parents to meet with subject teachers has been arranged for Wednesday 7 October. Meeting times are from 4.00 to 6.00pm and from 6.30 to 7.30pm

Melbourne Cup Day

In our community a significant number of families have traditionally had the Melbourne Cup Day and the preceding Monday as a holiday.

To minimise disruption to families and students the Monday prior to Melbourne Cup public holiday we will be running an alternative program for those students who will be attending school on that day. More details will be included in future Newsletters.

WMYC Student Management and Wellbeing Forum

A reminder that on Monday, October 19, (week 3 of term 4) Wodonga Middle Years College School Council Curriculum Committee with community members will run a forum on student management and wellbeing. This forum will take place in the Felltimber Campus Library, beginning at 5:30 pm and will give parents the opportunity to hear in more detail about the College's management and wellbeing practices and the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns.

If you would like to attend this meeting could you please fill out the response proforma that was distributed with the interim reports to your campus office by Thursday, October 15th (week 2 of term 4).

Vern Hilditch, Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

Cyber Bullying

The following is the second extract from an article on cyber bullying from the magazine, Australian Teacher. The first extract was published in the previous parent newsletter.

Professor Donna Cross, director of Edith Cowan University's (ECU) Child Health Promotion Research Centre says there are several features of cyber bullying that create a "toxic cocktail" - one that sometimes pushes vulnerable students to the edge. The pervasiveness of technology means targets can be cyber bullied 24 hours a day, seven days a week, usually after school and at home, when they have freer access to technology, she says. The potential for humiliation is much greater in cyberspace, where bullying messages, via sites such as MySpace, can be viewed by potentially thousands of other people. The written word is particularly powerful, as students can read it time and time again, etching it into their memory. Cross says adults respond quickly to overt bullying, but that's untrue of covert forms like cyber-bullying. "Adults don't think of it as harmful to young people, so they tend to be dismissive of it. Sadly, young people are telling us adults are not taking it anywhere as seriously."

It's not just researchers who have flagged the problem. School psychologists and counsellors are reporting higher rates of cyber bullying, too, as well as a rise in other mental health issues. Lesley Fraser, president of the Australian Guidance and Counselling Association, agrees most cyber bullying is still 'underground'.

"One of the biggest issues is students aren't reporting it, they're just putting up with it. We are seeing increased incidents of it in schools, some of it on school email, also on personal emails and text messaging," she says.

"Fortunately, we have haven't heard of suicide, but certainly [there are] increased levels of anxiety and depression, which may be due to cyber bullying, There's also an increase in self harm among young people."

Fraser, who works as a school psychologist at three schools in Tasmania, says incidents range from school emails saying, "I wish you were dead" to making fun of others to having bystanders film fights, with the intention of posting them on video-sharing website YouTube. She says the anonymity of cyber bullying, which is usually carried out by someone known to the target, makes it particularly cruel.

"The bully doesn't see the actual effect it's having, they can be relentless and go much further than they like because they don't realise how devastating it is."

Wodonga Middle Years College students are certainly not immune from cyber bullying. Early in term four we will run a cyber bullying self defence workshop with students in their A-Teams. There are a few things however that students and their parents can do right now to avoid or deal with cyber bullies.

Tell someone, your parents or a teacher, about any cyber bullying.

Record dates and times, save print outs and messages.

Block messages and calls from people who are cyber bullies.

Don't respond to cyber bullies.

Report cyber bullying to the police.

If you have concerns about cyber bullying please ring and discuss these with a coordinator or the assistant principal at your campus.

- Alyson Miller and Richelle Moyle, Assistant Principals

School Nurse News

Rethinking Drinking Alcohol Information Evening 14th September, 2009

The alcohol information evening was a great success. The team work displayed by the year 8 and 9 students who participated in the evening was outstanding.

The original drama piece created entitled "You can choose" explored the issue through a non-naturalistic movement piece, tableau and realistic scenes, including insight. The students, who developed and performed the piece, had a deeper insight into the complexities of the issue.

The second half of the evening consisted of a presentation and activities run by the students. It was both fun and informative and highlighted the complex issues surrounding alcohol.

Parents, family members, students and staff enjoyed the evening and the evaluations substantiate this. Thank-you to the year 8 and 9 students who participated and contributed to a very successful evening. Many went above and beyond the call of duty. We are so proud of you all.

Helen Allen
School Nurse.

Parent comments

Great night. Loved the kid's plays.

Great drama performance. Full of emotion.

Well run. Fun as well as informative.

Beer goggles were interesting

Very interesting night. It was good to talk about this topic.

It was fantastic.

Didn't know what to expect and was very impressed.

Students presented themselves very well

Year 9 News

"River of Stories"

A number of students have submitted entries to the "River of Stories" competition conducted by the Albury City Library Museum in conjunction with Rotary International and Dymocks Booksellers.

There were two sections – Short Story and Poetry – with the winners (and their schools) receiving great prizes. Winners will be announced at the River of Stories Family Fun Day on October 17 at the Library Museum in Albury. The following been submitted by Year 9 students in the poetry section.

Everlasting Hell

Blood was spilled upon this night,
Heads fell and bodies dwell,
Bones were broken and joints were shattered,
And their lives to be long forgotten.

Shields and swords hit the turf,
Arrows hit their mark,
Metal clashed against metal,
And life was carelessly thrown away.

This is the truth of battle,
Not men in shining silk,
But blades and blood and wasted lives,
Thrown into everlasting hell.

by Isabelle Pattison

Left Behind

I stumble at the thought of moving on.
Maybe I'm too far gone to turn back.
You're continually on my mind,
Shadowing my thoughts and dreams.

Though I don't want you to stop,
I panic at the thought of forgetting.
Already I can't picture your face.
It's buried in my subconscious, hidden, lost.

I need you, but I don't.
I've cried too many tears to take them back.
Would I trust you with my heart?
Well I tried, and you flung it back in my face.

How could I have been so blind?
I wish you would return,
And stay with me always,
Just like you promised.

The day you walked away,
You forced me over the edge.
I still haven't stopped falling,
Because you haven't been there to catch me.

Your smell, your touch, your taste.
They all washed away.
Each day you floated further from me.
I told myself it happened for a reason.

Now I'm afraid I'll always be alone,
Because compared to you, no one measures up.
Then after all we had been through,
You quit when I truly needed you.

by Emma Knowles



**1 day workshop FEATURING
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Where: DMB Dance Centre Albury
When: Saturday 17th October (10am- 4pm)
Cost: \$80.00 per person

You will need to bring bottle of water and packed lunch.

Ages 12 and over are invited to participate and please note places are limited!

Bookings essential and must be made by 18th September.

DMB Dance & Performing Arts Centre
Shop 9-12, 659 Young Street Albury 2640
Ph (02)60 414436 fax (02)60 414295
Email info@dmbdancecentre.com.au
Website www.dmbdancecentre.com.au

Baseball

Congratulations to Jordan Wood, Seamus Quinn and Tristan Edwards, members of the Wodonga Warriors Baseball Under 15 team which won the NE Baseball Association Grand Final against the North Albury Bears. The Bears finished on top of the ladder and were expected to win, but the Warriors started with a flourish and despite a late charge from the Bears won by 9 runs to 6. Jordan was awarded Player of the Match and also won the Association Best and Fairest award for the season.

Jordan and Seamus teamed up again in the Under 18 team which also won their Grand Final against the Bears 11 runs to 3.

A great effort, well done!

Movie Day - Huon

Students and staff went to see Charlie & Boots for the end of term celebration. The Movie contained important themes which will be studied in term 4 Humanities, Health and English. Students were given their interim reports and dismissed at 2:30pm for term break. We hope all students had a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Year 9 Graduation - Huon

On Friday 18th December, the Year 9 Graduation will be held. The graduation evening will celebrate students completing Year 9. The graduation will be held at the Three Monkey's Tavern on the Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga. The evening starts at 7pm and goes until 10:30pm. There are no pass outs and students must be collect by parents (unless prior arrangement with Team Leaders). The dress code for the evening is formal. If students intend on joining the Year 9 teachers for the evening, they need to pay \$25 to the front office by 27th November. Normal school rules apply for this evening, to ensure both students and staff enjoy the celebration.

Year 9 to 10 Course Selection

Year 10 course selections have been handed over to the WSSC and entered. WSSC enrolment forms were distributed in week 8 to all Year 9 students and are now over due. Please let the Year 9 Team Leaders know if your son or daughter is not attending the WSSC next year.

Resume Writing Workshops

Many Year 9 students have signed up and completed the resume workshops. We wish all students the very best when applying for part time jobs.

Year 9 Student Leaders

The Year 9 SRC students ran another casual day on Friday 11th September at the Huon Campus. Students came dressed as their favourite sporting hero or in their sporting teams colours. A total of \$175 was raised (very impressive sum considering the entire Year 8 level not at the College attending the year 8 sport day). The SRC plan to put the money towards the Huon Backyard Blitz in Term 4. Thanks to students and staff for their kind donations.

J.Kennett

What's Happening in My Class

Year 8 Mechatronics



The Year 8 Mechatronics class have spent the last weeks of term 3 constructing their "Flashers". These are electronic circuit boards with red lights which flash when a current is switched on—similar to flashing lights at railway crossings.

The students had instructions on how to construct their models, but each student could design the length of their circuits. They had to colour

in the base which was then glued to a board, circuits were then attached and finally a battery. If things were wired correctly, the lights would flash.

The students are completing this task and those who have already done so are working on extension exercises.

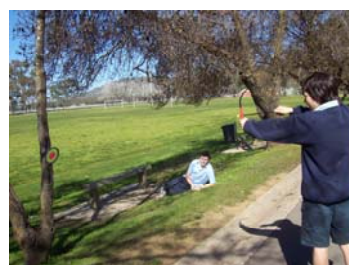


Yr 8 Humanities Elective – Ms Cox

In Humanities this term we have been studying Medieval Knights and Samurais. The class has been learning all about what it takes to be a Knight and the Code of Chivalry they follow and the years of training that is required to be considered a Samurai and their Honour Code.



we held our own Medieval Tournament where the students participated in jousting, sword fighting, archery and target practice. The boys had a fun session participating in all the events while learning that some of



They have studied the different fighting styles and weapons used by both Knights and Samurais and battles where their skills have been challenged and where they have triumphed. As a way to finish our unit of work



the activities take more skill and being harder than they had anticipated.

Teaching Placement

Teaching Placement at Wodonga Middle Years College

During the last five weeks of term, I have had the privilege of working with the teachers and students at both the Huon and Felltimber campuses. I have been completing my teaching placement as part of my university degree, the Bachelor of Sport and Outdoor Recreation/ Bachelor of Education at Monash University, Melbourne.

I have taught Year 9 Health and Physical Education at the Huon campus, and Year 7 Science and Physical Education at Felltimber, as well as teaching and assisting on the Huon Outdoor Education cross-country skiing and mountain bike trips. This has allowed me to build working relationships with many teachers and students and given me the opportunity to see the learning and confidence build in students throughout each unit of work.

I have felt very welcomed by the students and teachers of both campuses and experienced a lot of support and encouragement while developing my teaching skills. I have been excited by the programs offered at the school and the passionate teachers who make learning relevant to their students. Working at WMYC has been a fantastic opportunity for me to put the theory learnt at university into practice.

I am looking forward to finishing my degree and beginning my teaching career!
Thank you to all the teachers and students at Huon and Felltimber who have made my experience valuable and enjoyable. I hope to see you all in the near future!

Kind regards, Merryn Weekes

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Sports News

Girls Soccer – State Titles

On Wednesday, September 16, two teams of girls travelled to the Darebin International Sports Centre in Thornbury for the state titles.

The year 7 team played three games for a draw, a win and a loss.

The year 8 team lost their three games in close results. Well done to all the girls who competed, the coaches and to Ms Jennings and Ms Darby. It was a really long day – we left Wodonga at 5.00am and didn't return until 7.30pm!

40 Hour Famine

40 Hour Famine

Over 20 students recently took part in the 40 Hour Famine raising over \$1400. Maddy Kaindl and Jaime Burton raised over \$400 between them. Things given up for the duration included furniture (no beds, chairs, tables, etc), technology (no TV, phone, etc) and food. A party was held to celebrate the end of the famine.

Dates to Remember



Dates for 2009	Activity
Wednesday 7 October	Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7.30pm
Thursday 8 October	2010 course selection Info night, 7pm Huon Library
Monday 19 October	5.30pm Student Management & Wellbeing Forum
Thursday 22 October	Uniform Committee Meeting 5.30pm Huon Campus

Canteen Roster - Felltimber

Monday, October 12	Katrina Dawes
Tuesday, October 13	Anne Whitehead
Wednesday, October 14	Helen Deegan
Thursday, October 15	Dot Wallace
Friday, October 16	Marg Quine



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