Principal's Report

NAPLAN
This week on May 10, 11 and 12, students in Years 7 and 9 will sit their NAPLAN tests in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. NAPLAN is designed to measure the educational growth of students over time, ensuring teaching and learning for students is progressing. The NAPLAN also provides the school with information about how our educational programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement. The best way you can help your child’s preparation is to reassure your child that NAPLAN is just one part of the school program and urge them to do the best that they can. If you have any questions about the NAPLAN tests please call Maree Cribbes, (Felltimber) and Will Pleydon (Huon).

Grade Point Average (GPA) Reports
GPA reports will be issued to students this Friday. If you have any questions about your child’s report, please contact your child’s A Team teacher. Student Led Conferences will be held in the last week of this term.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
Any parent or carer who has a Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Card or who is a foster carer and who has not yet applied for CSEF should do so by June 3, 2016. Eligible secondary students receive $225 each and Year 7 students receive an additional uniform voucher to the value of $225. Forms are available from the office.

School Nurse

Young People and Gaming 2 – advice from Generation Next
Strategies to use to communicate with your child and ways to monitor and compromise.

The behaviour is compulsive. It draws our children in. It hangs onto them. But it’s rarely an addiction.

Repetitive use of Internet-based games, often with other players, that leads to significant issues with functioning. Five of the following criteria must be met within one year:

- Preoccupation or obsession with Internet games.
- Withdrawal symptoms when not playing Internet games.
- A build-up of tolerance—more time needs to be spent playing the games.
- The person has tried to stop or curb playing Internet games, but has failed to do so.
- The person has lost or put at risk an opportunity or relationship because of Internet games.

First, talk it through. Be calm – and don’t have the conversation while they’re halfway through a level or a mission. It will end badly.

Second, work out why it means so much to them.

Third, problem-solve together.

Fourth, minimise control.

You will find that this is harder than it seems. But getting the conversation right will aid you enormously. Even so, your child (or student) will still struggle to regulate their behaviour. The following ideas may be helpful:

- Agree ahead of time how long is suitable on games
- Agree ahead of time what time games will go off at night
- Agree ahead of time on a strategy for getting them to switch off when asked
- Agree ahead of time to keep games out of bedrooms and in public areas
- Agree ahead of time that text messages, a tap on the door, or the oven timer will be used for a 15 minute warning
- Agree ahead of time that they must respond to those warnings
- Agree ahead of time what the consequences of refusal to get off the game will be
- Agree ahead of time that schoolwork and other priorities will be completed ahead of gaming

You will note that this approach requires pro-activity, and active parenting.

The architecture of these games leads to “time slippage”. The games are designed to be as compelling as possible. They are literally designed to trap and compel our children to play and play and play.

Consistent, calm, kind conversations with our children (at the right time and in the right place – not in the heat of battle) are how we eventually beat the game – and take our parenting and our relationships with our children to the “next level”.

Linda Elkington
School Nurse
Our graduates will display confidence, be optimistic about their future and be committed to personal achievement and global citizenship.

Year 7

Humanities
Students in Year 7 have been looking at Ancient Rome. We researched what it would have been like being a soldier in the Roman Army. We also had a bit of fun creating armour, shields and weapons as we researched their uses and made comparisons to modern day technologies.

Kellie Beer
Year 7 Team, Felltimber

Year 8

La Trobe Day
Felltimber Year 8 students will attend La Trobe University on Monday May 16. They will spend the day participating in a number of activities that promote student aspirations, inform them about University degrees and show them what life is like as a uni student. Permission forms have been given out and should be returned to the office. All students are expected to attend. There is no cost for the day unless students want to purchase their lunch.

Prue Younie
Year 8 Team Leader, Felltimber

Wellbeing

Mother’s Day
Last Friday, May 6, Huon, Felltimber and Fruit Fly students pampered and entertained their mums and grandmothers (VIPs) who they had invited to the Mother’s Day Brunch. Every VIP received a gift, cuppa and brunch of pancakes with fruit and maple syrup. Student leaders assisted in setting up and compering. Music students played and sang and other students helped prepare and cook the pancakes and gifts. Names were drawn and hampers were presented to lucky winners. Thanks to everyone who helped out and made it such a great day!

Wellbeing Team

Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund
Eligible families of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to apply for the Camps Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) that is available to cover the cost of school trips, camps, sports and excursions. Eligible secondary students receive $225. If you hold a Health Care card, Veterans Affairs card or are a foster carer, you may be eligible. Forms are available from the office. Eligible Year 7 students in 2016 are also entitled to school uniform items to the value of $225 through the scheme.

Applications close June 3, 2016

Community

“My name is Christopher John Francis Boone. I know all the countries of the world and their capital cities and every prime number up to 7,507.”

Fifteen-year-old Christopher likes maths, outer space, looking after his pet rat Toby, and is out to solve a most curious mystery. The dog next door has been killed with a garden fork and he is determined to find the culprit. He begins an investigation and starts asking questions that lead him to the end of his street and beyond. As one question leads to another, unforeseen answers emerge, taking Christopher on a frightening journey that will change his once familiar world.

Come along to WSSC’s theatrical adaptation of the best-selling novel by Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and see your world differently.

Where: WSSC Performing Arts Centre
When: Thursday 19th and Friday 20th May
Time: 7PM start
Cost: $10 – Adults, $5 – Students/Pensioners

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE WSSC FRONT OFFICE

*NOTE: Contains strong language, not suitable for young children

Dates to Remember

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WODONGA

94 High Street, Wodonga
Phone: 02 6056 9402
MON to FRI 9am — 5pm
SAT & SUN CLOSED