Principal’s Report

C.A.R.E.
At Wodonga Middle Years College, we care for each student. This year we have started sending text messages to parents when students are absent from class and the school has not been notified by a parent. This is a way of ensuring that each student is accounted for and parents are aware when students are absent from class. We thank families for their patience while we fine tune this process and welcome any feedback.

We expect positive behaviours from our students at Wodonga Middle Years College and we explicitly teach these values through our CARE program. C stands for Care for relationships; A stands for Achievement through Aspiration; R stands for Respect and Resilience; and E stands for Engagement. The CARE program assists us to teach students expected social behaviours. Research has found this is the most effective response for preventing school-based behaviour problems including school violence and bullying. Teaching and supporting social behavioural skills to students creates student behavioural health and also contributes to academic support systems.

Ask your child if they have received a C.A.R.E. reward this week!

WMYC is an e Smart school
Students can report inappropriate messages or content they see online. We found the simplest way to do this is to go to eSafety Commissioner’s website at the link below.

https://www.esafety.gov.au

Here is some information from the website.

We know that it can be difficult to monitor what your kids are viewing, as the devices they use provide online access at any time of the day. Your kids may not deliberately seek out inappropriate content, rather they may accidentally access it while undertaking online searches or opening content referred from others. They may also be able to use their personal devices to discover content blocked by home and school filters.

Talking to your kids about the sites they visit is important in helping protect them against the impact of viewing unsuitable content. Be aware of how they use the internet and discuss the sites and apps that are okay to explore and those that are not. You can teach your child strategies about how to deal with offensive material but be vigilant, especially if your child is prone to taking risks or is emotionally or psychologically vulnerable.

You can support your child by:
• reassuring them that access to the internet will not be denied if they report seeing inappropriate content
• reminding them not to open spam email or click on pop ups, prize offers or unfamiliar hyperlinks in websites
• telling them not to respond if they are sent something inappropriate
• keeping them connected to trusted friends and family online and offline.

You can also:
• install filters and use parental controls to help reduce their risk of exposure to unsuitable or illegal sites
• report content you think may be prohibited to the cyberReport online complaint form
• report offensive content to the site administrator (for example use ‘flag’ or ‘report’ links near content).

There is a wide range of filtering software products available on the market. Some of the filtering products available on the Australian market include:

- Qustodio
- Norton Family
- NetNanny
- PureSight Surfie
- CYBERsitter
- McAfee

Insurance
WMYC wishes to advise parents that the Department does not provide accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. The cost of any medical attention or ambulance for a student will be borne by the parent/guardian – this includes transport costs such as ambulance or air ambulance costs. We recommend that where possible, parents ensure they have ambulance cover included with their health insurance or take out separate cover with Ambulance Victoria.

There are several insurance companies that offer student accident insurance cover. (Neither WMYC nor the Department necessarily endorses these companies.)

Private property brought to school by students or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

Maree Cribbes
College Principal
Sport

Shooting Team
The WMYC Shooting team will be participating in 2 competitions in 2017, starting in Term 2. All students wishing to participate in the shooting team need to hold a Junior Firearm Licence. In order to get a licence, students need to enrol in a safety course at their local police station. They then need to attend the course and complete a test. These courses are held fortnightly, (at the Cube in Wodonga) and are often booked out a few months ahead. If your child is interested in this activity, it is advisable to book them in for the course ASAP in order to avoid disappointment, as only licensed students are able to participate in the competitions. For further information about the WMYC shooting team, the competitions, or the process of licensing, please contact either Ursula Reeb at the Felltimber campus, or Carlea Finck at the Huon campus on 02 6057 9000.

Defence Families

Calling all Defence Families!
As the new Defence Transition Mentor (DTM) at WMYC I would like to introduce myself. As the DTM I am here to provide an extra avenue of support for Defence force students and their families within our school community. As well as coordinating activities to welcome and farewell students I can help monitor the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of Defence students and provide additional support as required and will also be providing regular activities and excursions to help foster a sense of community among our Defence students. As a defence spouse and a parent myself I am well aware of the unique challenges the Defence lifestyle can present. If I have not yet touched base with your family, please make contact so I can be sure you are invited to future events. My email is hrodway@wmyc.vic.edu.au or a message can be left for me at the office of either campus (I work across both Felltimber and Huon schools).

Holly Rodway
Defence Transition Mentor

Community Notices

Albury Wodonga Discover Sailing Centre

Learn To Sail at Lake Hume

Australian Sailing Dinghy Program: for anyone aged 13 and up wanting to learn to sail
Start Sailing 1: 12 hours over 3 weeks. $160 starts 11/02/2017
Start Sailing 2: 12 hours over 3 weeks $130 starts 18/03/2017
Accredited instructors, training boats and life jackets supplied
Prior registration essential (limited places)
Register and pay online at: www.awyc.yachting.org.au
For more information email: training@awyc.org.au or phone Donald or Leanne Thomson 0467 355 258
For ages 7-12 years ask about the Tackers programs

Dates to Remember

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Rotary Youth Exchange 2018
The Adventure Starts Here!

Are you in year 9 or 10 and want to live and study overseas in 2018?
Short (6 week) and long term (12 month) positions available
Further information contact:
Kellie Kadaoui 0422 165 271
www.ryea.org.au
Closing date: April 30, 2017 (applicants must turn 15 or 16 by January 1,2018 to be eligible)

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