



WODONGA
MIDDLE YEARS COLLEGE

Middle Years *my* news



Newsletter No 38

Term 4

December 2, 2019

Principal's Report

Mobile Phone Ban 2020

On 26 June 2019, the Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino MP, announced a new mobile phone policy for every government school in Victoria.

The new mobile phone policy comes into effect from Term 1, 2020, and requires that students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The role of technology

We live in an exciting and technology-rich world and mobile phones are an important modern day communication tool. The school acknowledges that access to a mobile phone by children is important to many of our families in providing a sense of safety for their child while travelling to and from school, and for confirming or changing after school arrangements.

Managing the impact of mobile phones

Mobile phones often create disruptions and distractions in classrooms. Establishing a 'mobile phone free zone' helps teachers to establish and maintain a focused and productive teaching and learning environment.

Research has found that mobile phones can be disruptive in classrooms and open to misuse at school (e.g. accessing inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and unauthorised photography). Additionally, research shows that the unregulated presence of mobile phones in classrooms can undermine students' capacity to think, learn, remember, pay attention and regulate emotion. A summary of recent, relevant research is available on the Department of Education and Training's website.

At recess and lunchtime our school also values the opportunity for students to communicate with each other face-to-face or be involved in activities rather than being focused on a device, particularly when using the device to engage with social media.

The new policy does acknowledge that technology is increasingly impacting the way in which students learn and communicate. Therefore, when a student has been given explicit permission to access and use such devices to enhance learning by the classroom teacher, mobile phones will be permitted for that specific purpose.

For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact the school if you would like to discuss this.

I encourage each member of our school community to read the new policy which will be available on our website. This policy outlines the school's expectations of staff, parents/carers, and students regarding the safe and appropriate use of mobile phones by students at school.

Emergency situations

In the event of an emergency or if you need to contact your child, I ask that families contact the staff in the school office who will pass on a message as needed. The school acknowledges that this new policy may require some adjustments. As such, I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in its implementation.

Key Elements of the mobile phone policy:

- A new mobile phone policy comes into effect from Term 1, 2020
- Students will be required to switch off and store phones securely from the first bell until the last bell each day
- Families should contact the College office should you need to pass an urgent message to your children

Maree Cribbes
Campus Principal

HEADSTART Welcome Breakfast

WMYC would like to invite all 2020 Year 7 families and Grade 6 teachers to join our staff for a welcome breakfast. This is an opportunity for students to connect with other students and teachers in a relaxed environment prior to our HEADSTART Assembly. We encourage all family members to come along and enjoy breakfast with your child before they embark on their exciting WMYC educational journey.

Monday, December 9, 2019
8.00am to 8.45am
Felltimber and Huon Campuses

Please contact the College for further information



WODONGA
MIDDLE YEARS COLLEGE

www.wmyc.vic.edu.au

02 6057 9000

Sport

Fun Run

Everyone is looking forward to the Fun Run to be held this Friday December 6 at Willow Park.

Students are advised NOT to wear their school uniform but should wear something white, and, any student who has light or blonde hair is advised to use a hat as the dye may temporarily dye their hair.

The weather is expected to be hot, so don't forget to bring your drink bottles. Zooper Doopers will be on sale for 50c each and water for \$2 a bottle.

The event finishes at 2:30pm with students being dismissed from the venue. Bus travellers will return to school to catch buses.

FELLTIMBER CAMPUS
Hedgerow Court, Wodonga, Victoria 3690
Ph: 02 6057 9000, Fax: 02 6059 2900

Absence Hotline
02 6057 9051

HUON CAMPUS
22-24 Mitchell Street, Wodonga, Victoria 3690
Ph: 02 6057 9000, Fax: 026024 3633

Email: wodonga.middle.years.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.wmyc.vic.edu.au



Careers

Work Experience 2019

In the later part of 2019, we had a number of Year 9 students undertake work experience.

The purpose of work experience allows the students to develop their skills in communication, teamwork, problem solving, motivation and time management.

Work experience placements also assists the students in their transition from school to work and aim to: provide students with an opportunity to relate school studies with a workplace; helping the students make informed career decisions by assessing their aptitudes and interests and exploring potential careers.

Our Felltimber students have done their work experience in various trades including education, veterinary, hairdressing and retail.

Guest Speaker

Today the Year 8 students were lucky to have Kat Bennett the Health Promotions Coordinator from Gateway Health come and share her career journey. Kat talked about her pathway and varied positions along the way which have included being a yoga teacher, former Deputy Mayor of Wodonga and current Wodonga Councillor.



Sloane Hubner
Careers

HOLP

Fruit Fly Circus Big Top

HOLP students from both Huon and Felltimber volunteered to assist putting the Big Top up to celebrate Flying Fruit Fly Circus 40 years at Hovell Tree Park. The Huon group helped put in the pegs and the Felltimber group painted the floor and laid it. Students worked with other volunteers and acquitted themselves very well.



Everyone enjoyed the experience of working on a unique structure with experienced tent builders and it's something they can look back upon in the future.

The students recommend everyone go to the shows starting on 4th December, check Fruities website for tickets.

Dan Kadaoui
HOLP Teacher

Bus Travellers

Please be advised that families accessing the Country School buses are required to have their children's bus application completed and submitted to the Bus Coordinator prior to the end of Term 4, 2019.

At this stage, only students travelling to and from school outside of the Wodonga township are eligible to utilise the Country School Bus Program.

Students living within Wodonga can apply to use the town route bus services directly through their school or Dyson Wodonga.

If you would like to discuss country school Bus travel further, please do not hesitate to contact me at Wodonga Senior Secondary College on 02 6043 7500.

Any town route service enquiries should be directed to Dyson Wodonga on 02 6056 3100.

Jodi Morgan
Bus Coordinator

WMYC presents
The Christmassy Christmas Show
of
Christmassy Christmasness

A festive treat for all the family

Tues 3rd December
6.30pm
Felltimber PAC

Christmas Raffle

Tickets: **Gold coin donation**
Collect from Felltimber or Huon Front Offices
Seats are limited so get your ticket now!



FEATURING COSTUME JEWELLERY & LEATHER REPAIRS:
SAT 7TH DECEMBER 2019

What do you do with broken household items?
You can fix them at the Repair Café!

Our experienced repairers will help repair them – free!

FURNITURE/WOODWORK BICYCLES
CLOTHING/TEXTILES BATTERY-OPERATED APPLIANCES

First Saturday of the month, 10.00am to 1.00pm
Sustainable Activity Centre, Gateway Island, Wodonga

For more information visit our Facebook page or ecoportal.net.au

Proudly supported by

HalveWaste
reduce • reuse • recycle
www.halvewaste.com.au

Dates to Remember

Dates for 2019	Activity
Dec 4	▶ Year 9 Celebration
Dec 4	▶ Small Schools Transition
Dec 6	▶ Fun Run
Dec 9 - Dec 13	▶ Headstart Week
Dec 16	▶ Awards Ceremony
Dec 17 - 18	▶ Activities
Dec 19	▶ Parent Teacher Interviews
Dec 20	▶ Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Development Day