Principal’s Report

Wodonga Middle Years College is well on the way to becoming an e Smart school. We are currently running an e safety campaign on our school Facebook page. The winner is the student who has the most likes on their entry on the school Facebook page.

Recently the e Smart committee have been looking at ways that students can report inappropriate messages or content they see online. We found the simplest way to do this is to go to e Safety Commissioner’s website. I have included 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:

- teaching them to leave or close the page immediately or minimise the screen if they are worried about the material they have seen (hit Control-Alt-Delete if the site does not allow you to exit)
- encouraging them to talk to a trusted adult if they have seen something online that makes them upset, disturbed or distressed
- 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 Australian market. Some of the filtering products available on the market include:

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

Library

Book Week

Last week both Huon and Felltimber libraries had guest speaker Archie Fusillo attend as part of Book Week celebrations. Archie is an award winning author of young adult novels who spoke to all year levels about his life experiences in Melbourne, especially when he was growing up as a first generation Italian-Australian.

He talked about his extended family, what he got up to at school, both good and bad, and how he became a writer. All the students were entertained by his stories many of which he uses as narratives in his books.

Science Week

International Science Film Festival

To celebrate Science Week, 13-21 August, we were invited to the Cube to watch a selection of short films from the International Science Film Festival. Over the week, various Years 8 and 9 classes walked from Huon Campus to the Cube to discover the chain reaction that brings human organs to life, metamorphosis of plants, the discovery of a new species of spider, and much more.

It was a great way to learn more about science and what it means to be a scientist these days.

Cherie Heintze
Year 9 Team, Huon
Student Achievement

Sport
Congratulations to Joanna Garoni Year 7, Felltimber who has been selected in the Under 15 State Softball side after recent trials. This is the second year in a row Joanna has been chosen as a pitcher for the team. She goes to Melbourne every week for training and will head to Perth in January for Nationals. Well done Joanna.

PARKING CHANGES IN MITCHELL STREET
Wodonga Council in conjunction with Wodonga Primary School and WMYC Huon Campus, have changed some of the car parking bays in the front of the Primary School.

Four car parking bays have been changed to 2 minute parking between the hours of 8am and 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

The changes have been made to reduce the congestion in Mitchell Street which should allow parents to drop off their children in a safer and more efficient manner.

Wanted - Donation of School Uniform
WMYC is happy to receive donations of school uniforms. Our supplies of spare uniforms are quite low at the moment so if any families have uniforms that don’t fit or if their child is moving on to WSSC at the end of this year, we would greatly appreciate any donations to either the front office at Huon Campus or Felltimber Campus.

Wellbeing

RU OK? Day
Next week both Huon and Felltimber campuses will have activities based around the question “are you OK?” The RUOK? campaign began in Australia in 2009 and encourages everyone to realise that just by asking the question “are you OK?” can make a big difference to those who may be struggling.

Felltimber has a casual wear day Wednesday, September 7 where students are encouraged to wear yellow and/or black for a gold coin donation. Hot dog and shake orders are also being taken – order forms are available from A Team teachers.

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

Teacher Led Conferences
Conferences will be held with subject teachers on Wednesday September 14 from 3.30pm - 7pm. Limited appointments are also available with some teachers throughout the week.
Bookings at: https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code: q557j

Dairy Assistance Funding 2016
In 2016 the Victorian Government implemented a response package to assist dairy farming families. This included assistance for primary and secondary students attending schools (government and non-government schools) where one or both parents:
- own an operating dairy farm
- are share farmers on a property primarily operating as a dairy farm
- hold a lease for an operating dairy farm
- work as an employee on an operating dairy farm and this is their main source of employment.

Parents can apply for the dairy assistance funding by completing an application form and lodging it with their child’s schools by 18 November 2016. The school will allocate the payment directly to benefit the eligible student.

Application forms are available from the campus offices or on the college website.

Wellbeing Team