

## Contacts 2010

Personal Difficulties  
College Support Team:  
Sue Bull  
Chaplain: Katie Sargent  
College Nurse: Barb Semler  
Primary Welfare Officer:  
Jamie Roberts

Absences: Sue Jones

Katyl (A Wing)  
Learning Community  
Jason Bysouth / Bree Franks

Merin (C Wing)  
Learning Community  
Leanne Miller / Tim McInnes

Kappen (Library)  
Learning Community  
Sue Pollard / Trent Bysouth

Wannop (Hall)  
Learning Community  
Ron Llewelyn / Paul Ellis

### Advisory Teachers:

Merin  
MBW Ben Waters  
MCE Christine Edgar  
MCH Christine Henty  
MHP Helen Peppink  
MJS Christine Henty  
MJT Jean Stephens  
MKD Karen Dale  
MLS Leigh Schroeter  
MNC Naomi Ciezki  
MRJ Ron James  
MSM Shawn McCormick  
MTJ Therese Johnston  
MTV Tilby Hayward

Katyl  
LBM Bettina Morrison  
LBP Barbara Pelly  
LCJ Carolyn Jones  
LCN Chloe Neath  
LDA Dianne Andrea  
LGD Geoff Dempster  
LJM Jill McKenzie  
LMA Mark Adams  
LMR Matthew Reeves  
LSB Sue Bull  
LTD Terrie Dempster  
LTL Tim Lawrance

Wannop  
WBL Ben Lee  
WDC David Crowley  
WDM David Morrison-Blunck  
WKP Kristen Purden  
WMH Meryl Hayes  
WMW Monica White  
WRJ Raelen Jeffrey  
WSS Sarah Smith  
WTC Tarli Capicchiano  
WTL Tracey Lee

Kappen  
KAA Alan Aylward  
KAS Amanda Southcombe  
KBE Brian Edebohls  
KDS Debbie Shipp  
KEP Erin Pilkington  
KGS Gary Schroeder  
KJG James Ginnivan  
KJM John McIntosh  
KMG Michelle Griffin  
KMM Madeleine Munger  
KMS Marion Stewart  
KPO Paul O'Shea  
KRC Ryan Currie  
KSH Stephen Hocking

School wide issues, emergencies etc

Principal:  
Leanne Preece

Assistant Principal:  
Helen Tuohey

# Weeroona College Bendigo

## NEWSLETTER

383 Napier Street, White Hills 3550  
PO Box 566, Bendigo 3552

Phone: (03) 5443 2133 Fax: (03) 5442 7641  
Email: [Weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
Website: [www.weeroona.vic.edu.au](http://www.weeroona.vic.edu.au)

### School Times:

**Start: 9.00 am**

**Lunch: 11.46 am—12.34 pm**

**Recess: 1.47 pm—2.07 pm**

**Finish: 3.20 pm**

### Office Hours:

**Monday—Thursday**

**8.15 am—4.15 pm**

**Friday**

**8.15 am—4.00 pm**

Newsletter No. 2 Friday 19th February, 2010

## What's Happening Term 1....

### Calendar

#### February

8th:: College Council—7.00 pm

9th:: School Photos Catch up day

12th:: Weeroona College Bendigo Swimming Sports

26th:: EMA Applications / Conveyance Allowance forms due

#### March

1st:: College Council—7.00 pm

8th:: Labour Day Public Holiday

26th:: Last Day Term 1

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Reading is 'blasting off' at Weeroona College Bendigo

It is nine o'clock in the morning at Weeroona College Bendigo and everywhere you look there are students reading. This is part of our strategy to help everyone improve their literacy at our school. Students have a huge range of reading material to select from and they are supported to choose 'just right' books which they read for 15 minutes at the beginning of every day. Students continue their Independent Reading in English with a further 30 minutes during the week and a reading conference with their English teacher who checks what students are reading, their comprehension and strategies to continue to achieve their personal best. We hope that you will support your children by encouraging them to read for a further 15 minutes a day, 5 times a week. Our aim – to be a community that loves to read.

### Premiers Reading Challenge

While we are on the topic of reading. I am pleased to declare the sixth Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge open, and I encourage you to get your child to participate in what has proved to be an increasingly popular event.

The Challenge promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and encourages parents and families to support their children's reading in and beyond school. It is not a competitive event but rather one that emphasises individual challenge and participation. Last year student participation reached an all-time high with over 212,000 students reading over 3.8 million books. This year I hope that many of our 2009 Challengers will again be inspired to join the event and, in turn, inspire others in their family, class or school to participate.

For the 2010 Challenge, students will set their own reading targets (to be achieved over three school terms) by reference to the targets set for their year level. (The targets for each year level can be found on the Challenge website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/).) The Challenge website also provides comprehensive information about key dates, as well as answers to frequently asked questions by parents and students, guidelines for schools and, of course, the 2010 Challenge book list.

### Tips for students (and their parents) for success at school

1. Keep in touch with the school. If you have a question or don't understand something speak first to the **Teacher Advisor**. They will either assist or put you in touch with someone that can.
2. Keep up to date with what's going on at school. The parent newsletter always contains information about forthcoming events and often there will be notes home about different activities.
3. Students should come to school every day on time unless medically unable. Some students miss too much school which makes things more difficult for them than it should be. On average students should only miss approximately two days per term. More than that is thought to disadvantage their learning. Ring our office and speak to our attendance officer (Sue Jones) on the day of any absence. The College can provide attendance information at any time.
4. Talk to your son or daughter about the work they are doing. Students need to get into the habit of doing regular work at home on most nights during the week. All students should be doing at least 15 minutes of reading a night. Having a quiet place for them to do their work helps a lot.

5. Sleep is vitally important for adolescents. Teenagers need more sleep than most other age groups. Starting the day tired will make things difficult for any student.

6. A good breakfast is vital. Starting the day with coke or an energy drink just doesn't work and often leads to other issues. The College offers a breakfast program that runs every Wednesday morning. ALL students are welcome.

7. Reading is a great habit. Support students at home with reading and in general any material that they are happy to read is okay. The more they read the more likely they are to have success at school.

8. Technology is a great thing! It has a time and a place. Computers should be in places in the house where you (parents) can monitor their use. Your son or daughter will often be naïve about some of the dangers that the internet and –social networking sites provide.

9. Successful students (and happy teenagers) are those that are often involved in lots of activities both in and out of school. Sporting clubs, service and social groups and other organisations teach community values and enhance their ability to relate to others. Some (reasonably intensive) physical activity every day is great for kids (and adults).

10. Be interested in what your child has been doing. Sometimes they might not show it but they always appreciate the fact that you care about them and what is going on in their lives. Knowing their friends also assists with this.

*Leanne Preece*  
Principal

## PARENTS' CLUB

<p><b>The Advance Life Photography Fundraiser</b> - this is a great opportunity to get a present for Mother's day or to up-date the album. Please encourage friends and family to participate. Cost \$15 for a framed photo and key tag. Further forms are available at the office or contact me directly (0423711322).</p>	<p><b>Major Fundraising Raffle</b> - which has a great assortment and lots of opportunities to win a prize, as does those that participate in the selling of the tickets. Tickets are \$1 and further sheets of tickets can be collected at the office. Prizes drawn the last day of term. Winners to be notified by phone.</p>
<p><b>Pavers</b> Make your mark in history with the purchase of an engraved paver. These are going to be incorporated into the schools landscaping. \$25 each with forms available at the office.</p>	<p><b>Luncheon</b> Parents' Club is also getting together at Wild Mint (below the Bendigo Bank Headquarters) for lunch on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, at 11.30 am. All welcome to attend for a social time out.</p>

Next Parent Club Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at 9.15 am in the Conference Room. This is a great chance to catch up with the progress on what is happening at the college, discuss any concerns and assist with fundraising so our children can benefit. Weeroona College Parents' Club wish to invite any parents, who want to participate, to our next meeting. Everybody is welcome.

Jackie Perryman  
Parents' Club President

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- Be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- Be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (27<sup>th</sup> January, 2010) and Term 3 (12<sup>th</sup> July). The EMA application must be submitted to the college by **FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2010** for the first payment and **FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2010** for the second payment. The EMA provides an annual amount of \$225.00 for primary students and \$450.00 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments.

**Please note if you completed an EMA application on Booklist Day, you do not need to apply again.**

## CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Applications for Conveyance Allowance should be lodged at the college no later than **FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2010**. Students who reside more than 4.8 km **RADIALLY** from Weeroona College Bendigo or their nearest bus stop **may** be eligible. For more information go to:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/traveltoschool.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/lifeatschool/traveltoschool.htm)

Parents who have applied in previous years and have not changed their address **do not** need to reapply. We would like to pay parents by direct deposit starting from this year. If you have previously applied for Conveyance Allowance, please notify the office or email [weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au) of your bsb and bank account numbers.

Those who enrolled an additional sibling at the college will need to lodge an application for that student. Application forms are available at the General Office. Application forms need to have a map attached and marked also.

## LATE ARRIVALS / LEAVING THE COLLEGE

Students who need to leave the College during the day **MUST** bring a note signed by a Parent / Guardian to their child's Learning Community Leader or Parents can phone the College to give permission for their child to leave.

If students come late to school, they **MUST** also sign in with their **Learning Community Leader**. They should have a note signed by a Parent / Guardian or a Parent can phone the college letting us know their child is late; otherwise they will be marked 'late unexplained' and receive a text message from the college.

## ENGLISH NEWS

Dear Parents and Year 10 Students,

The English Department at Weeroona College Bendigo is interested in purchasing used copies of the 2009 Year 9 English text, *Wheels*. Payment will be determined by the condition of the text, but can be up to \$10. Students interested in selling their copy of *Wheels* should see Ms. Edgar in Merin Learning Community.



## FRENCH NEWS

**Welcome to our new French assistant, Loïc Francou.**

We are delighted to have Loïc working with our students on a Wednesday in Semester 1. He will undoubtedly bring vitality and enthusiasm to the language classes. Loïc has written a few words to introduce himself to the school community. Bonjour tout le monde!

*"My name is Loïc Francou. I come from the French Alps, in the south east of France, where you will find 60cm of snow in every garden at the moment. The temperature is really cold now (-12 degrees Celsius), the mountains are full of snow and thus you can ski down every peak. I started skiing when I was two years old and switched to snowboarding ten years later. I'm 24 years old now, and it's the first time ever that I've spent the month of January in shorts!*

*I really enjoy Australia and Bendigo as I like travelling and discovering different places. I've travelled across Europe, and it's the second time I've been to Australia. I'm really looking forward to meeting the pupils at Weeroona College Bendigo and helping them discover more about French customs and France".*

## BARBARA'S SPACE

Hi everyone, I have had a few conversations this week with a similar theme, about the difficulties that parents sometimes have in feeling that they are communicating well with their teenagers. So I thought it might be useful to let you know; What Young People say is the best way for parents to talk to them: -

Most adolescents are afraid that, they will be humiliated by their parents, in front of their friends. So,

- If you have to have a D&M (deep and meaningful) conversation with them, do it in private. Even if you feel, you might get away with a point because it's in front of their friends, don't succumb to temptation. All you will end up with is a resentful adolescent.
- The golden rule of communicating with adolescents is simple: speak to them as you would speak to your friends.
- For many young people the intensity and eye contact of a D&M is too much. It's often better to try and have a discussion when you are both engaged in another activity such as driving to and from school.

Food for thought, have a great week.

This advice was taken from the book, "Raising Real People" a guide for parents of teenagers by Andrew Fuller (Australian) published by ACER Press. It's full of insight, humour and good advice.

*Barbara Semler - College Nurse*

## SPORTS NEWS

### WCB Swimming Carnival

The WCB Swimming Carnival was held at the Bendigo Aquatic Centre on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. It was excellent to see so much colour, and enthusiasm displayed throughout the course of the day. The winners of individual events and the first four place getters of the 50 meters freestyle (for relays) will represent Weeroona College Bendigo at the B.D.S.C.S.C Carnival to be held at the Bendigo Aquatic Centre on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. A selection of students will also represent WCB in diving events and a Water Polo exhibition which will be held on this day.

Below is the aggregate and overall score breakdown for the house based competition.

<u>Junior Aggregate</u>	<u>Senior Aggregate</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1st - Derrinal-112	Derrinal- 145	Derrinal- 257
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Coliban-87	Coliban-111	Coliban- 198
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Kimbolton- 83	Metcalfe-62	Kimbolton- 145
4 <sup>th</sup> - Metcalfe-69	Kimbolton-57	Metcalfe- 126

Congratulations to the Derrinal house for being deemed the champions of the 2010 WCB Swimming Carnival.

### INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

#### Girls

##### 12-13 years

Brooke (K)

#### Boys

Trent

##### 14 years

Jo (D)

Max (D)

##### 15 years

Kaitlyn(K)

Lachie (D)

##### 16 years

Georgia (M)

Sean (D)

#### Open

Bec (D)

(no open male competitors)

A high light of the day were the efforts of 13yr old competitor Billy in relation to the diving. Billy is a state representative who displayed excellent skill and prowess in the diving competition.

*Shawn McCormick*  
Sports Coordinator

### Term 1 Sport Dates

#### FEBUARY

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – BDSCSC Swimming/Diving  
(Aquatic Centre- Convenor Girton)

#### MARCH

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Volleyball (Yrs 9&10 Boys Yrs 9&10 Girls)  
Cricket (Yrs 9&10 Boys)

Tennis (Yrs 9&10 Boys, Yrs 9&10 Girls)

Golf (Yrs 9&10 Boys, Yrs 9&10 Girls)

T-Ball (Yrs 9&10 Girls)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - Volleyball (Yrs 7&8 Boys, Yrs7&8 Girls)

T-ball (Yrs 7&8 Girls)

Cricket (Yrs 7&8 Boys, Yrs 7&8 Girls)

Tennis (Yrs 7&8 Boys, Yrs 7&8 Girls)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Northern Zone Swimming & Diving  
(Swan Hill)

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – WCB Athletics (Flora Hill Athletics  
Track)



### BIMP Ensembles

Students who play woodwind, brass, percussion or orchestral string instruments and are interested in joining an advanced ensemble are invited to attend open rehearsals for either the Bendigo Colleges Symphony Orchestra or Bendigo Colleges Symphonic Band. The ensembles are a combined group of students from Bendigo Schools which do lots of performing and tours. Come along meet new people and play great music!

Ensembles rehearse at Bendigo Senior Secondary College, Room B1 in music department.

Symphonic Band – Mondays 4 – 6.00pm.

Symphony Orchestra – Wednesdays 4 - 5.30 pm

Contact Jane Geddes for more information on 0408 058 088.

## MATHS ONLINE

Maths Online is a high quality, independent online maths tutoring program based on Australian state curricula for Years 7 - 12.

Maths Online was developed by experienced Australian teachers. The program features hundreds of fully animated and narrated maths lessons with over 15,000 exam-style questions to test a student's mastery of maths.

### Who can access Maths Online?

Maths Online is provided free of charge to every secondary school student in Australia. This has been made possible by McDonald's Australia and its hundreds of franchisees who have covered the costs of supplying the program.

<http://www.mathsonline.com.au/>

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### White Hills Junior Football Club

White Hills Junior Football Club is currently seeking players for all age groups. Please contact Ray Crittenden 5446 3815 or Sherrill Whitehead on 5448 4857.

### Guiding your child through early adolescence can be a challenging task!!

If you are a parent of an adolescent, then you may wish to join other parents in this workshop. Gain information and understanding of some of the developmental changes and learn some strategies to help with the challenges of this stage of development.

**Where:** CentaCare, 176 - 178 McCrae St

**When:** Wednesday 3rd March

**Time:** 7pm-9pm

**Facilitators:** Jeremy Weinstock & Prue Robertson

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

**To register your attendance or for further information please contact Jeremy or Narelle on 54381300.**

### Re-Partnering with Children Workshop

Stepfamilies and Blended Families are the fastest growing family types in Australia. These families confront a range of complex issues for adults and children.

This 2 hour workshop will focus on information and understanding the roles and responsibilities in a stepfamily and how to support children who are in a stepfamily. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn from others in stepfamilies about what has worked for them and their family. This workshop is suitable for:

*Newly partnered couples wanting information about stepfamilies*

*Couples living in a stepfamily*

*Extended family wishing to support a stepfamily*

*Anyone working in the role of supporting stepfamilies*

**Where** 176-178 McCrae Street Bendigo

**When** Tuesday 23rd March

**Time** 7pm – 9pm (light supper provided)

**Facilitators** Amanda Lomax & Prue Robertson

**Cost** No Cost (Please arrange your own childcare.)

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

**To register your attendance or for further information please contact:** Prue Robertson or Amanda Lomax on 54 381300

### University of Melbourne Visit

Information session for prospective students and their families  
Each year the University of Melbourne visits Metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victorian centres as part of its Meet Melbourne program. The program aims to foster interaction and dialogue between the University and the schools community and to give future students the opportunity to gather information about studying and life at Melbourne.

### **Find out about:**

- > Courses and career information including the Melbourne Model study options and pathways.
- > Unique opportunities to enrich your degree such as studying a concurrent diploma, going on exchange and participating in community involvement activities at Melbourne.
- > Scholarships and course costs.
- > Information for Indigenous students.
- > Entry requirements and how to apply.
- > Housing options.
- > Transition and Orientation programs.
- > Events and programs for future students.

### **Program schedule**

**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2010

**Venue:** The Capital Theatre, 50 View Street, Bendigo

**Time:** 6.30pm - 8pm

Admission is free but places are limited. Please register as early as possible to secure a place. Register now online via:

[www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne)

## WCB UNIFORM SHOP HOURS – DOBSONS

**Telephone: 5442 1503**

### **Term 1 SHOP HOURS:**

Mon - 3.00 pm – 6.00 pm

Thurs - 8.30 am – 12.00 pm

Layby and EFTPOS facilities available. Some items of second-hand uniforms available.



## Premier of Victoria

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GPO Box 4912  
DX210753  
Melbourne Victoria 3002  
Telephone: +61 3 9651 5000  
Facsimile: +61 3 9651 5054  
Email: [premier@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:premier@dpc.vic.gov.au)  
Internet: [www.premier.vic.gov.au](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au)

February 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am pleased to declare the sixth Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge open, and I invite your child to participate in what has proved to be an increasingly popular event.

The Challenge promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and encourages parents and families to support their children's reading in and beyond school. It is not a competitive event but rather one that emphasises individual challenge and participation.

Last year student participation reached an all-time high with over 212,000 students reading over 3.8 million books. This year I hope that many of our 2009 Challengers will again be inspired to join the event and, in turn, inspire others in their family, class or school to participate.

For the 2010 Challenge, students will set their own reading targets (to be achieved over three school terms) by reference to the targets set for their year level. (The targets for each year level can be found on the Challenge website at [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/).) The Challenge website also provides comprehensive information about key dates, as well as answers to frequently asked questions by parents and students, guidelines for schools and, of course, the 2010 Challenge booklist.

Also returning in 2010 are the Challenge Ambassadors. These well-known authors and illustrators, many of whom have books on the Challenge booklist, will again be visiting schools around the State helping to promote the power of reading. I am delighted to announce that one of the Challenge Ambassadors will design the certificate issued to all students who reach their reading target. More details about the collector's edition certificate will be revealed in coming months.

This year I would like to encourage students to write reviews of their favourite books. *The Age* newspaper is giving students the opportunity to submit book reviews online. Selected reviews will be published online and in special lift-outs in *The Age* throughout the year.

The Challenge and its related activities help Victorian students improve their reading and develop a lifelong interest in reading. I look forward to continuing to work with you in supporting your child make the most of these opportunities.

Yours sincerely

**John Brumby**  
PREMIER OF VICTORIA

# Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge 2010 Consent Form

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development wishes to collect from schools the names and schools of students participating in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge 2010. This information is required for the purpose of conducting the Challenge and printing certificates of achievement for students who meet the Challenge. The information is to be provided to the Department via a secure website, and it will be kept confidential in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000.

Consent is sought from students and parents for the provision and collection of this information by schools and the Department respectively.

Consent is also sought for the publishing of successful students' names in the Premier's Reading Challenge Achievers Honour Roll in The Age following the conclusion of the 2010 Premier's Reading Challenge.

If you have any concerns about providing the information requested please email [readingchallenge@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:readingchallenge@edumail.vic.gov.au). All queries will remain confidential.

Details of the Challenge are available at [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc).

PLEASE NOTE:

**SECTION 1** of the consent form below must be signed for a student to participate in the Challenge and receive a Certificate of Achievement.

**SECTION 2** of the consent form below is optional. This section should be signed to give permission for a student's name to be published in the Premier's Reading Challenge Achievers Honour Roll in The Age following the conclusion of the 2010 Premier's Reading Challenge.

-----  
STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert full name)

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SECTION 1: Consent to enter the Challenge and print certificate**

I have read the statement above and give permission for my/my child's name to be entered in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge for 2010 and printed on a certificate.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
----- (print name)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Student) Age: \_\_\_\_\_ yrs Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SECTION 2: Consent to publish name**

I have read the statement above and consent to publication of my/my child's name in the 2010 Premier's Reading Challenge Achievers Honour Roll.

I understand that if I wish to withdraw this authorisation prior to publication it will be my responsibility to inform the Reading Challenge Coordinator at my child's school on or before 27 August 2010.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/guardian) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
----- (print name)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Student) Age: \_\_\_\_\_ yrs Date: \_\_\_\_\_