

## 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 Raelene 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  
Absence Line: 4433 4911  
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**

## What's Happening Term 2....

### Calendar

#### April

20th:: 1st round of Immunisations—Yr 7 & Yr 10

26th:: ANZAC Day Public Holiday

#### May

3rd:: School Council Meeting 7.00-7.30pm  
Presentation of 2009 Annual Report (Members of  
School Community welcome)  
7.30pm School Council Meeting

#### June

7th:: School Council Meeting 7pm  
14th:: Queens Birthday Public Holiday  
25th:: Last day of Term 2 - 2.20pm finish

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to term 2, when we get into the full swing of the year. This is the term where we all lay the foundations for the success of the rest of the year. It was terrific to see so many parents and students take advantage of the 3 Way Conferences, held on Tuesday, to meet with teachers and gain a sound understanding of improvements made in term one and establish opportunities for improvement for 2010. I would like to report 100% attendance but unfortunately this was not the case. If you were unable to meet with your child's teachers, please take the opportunity to contact them.

The official opening of stage one of our new school was a big success with our invited guests commenting most favourably on our students who performed so capably, those who were serving morning tea, the student guides and of course all those students in class. Many of you will have noticed that temporary fencing has again been erected around parts of our old school. The second stage of the building project is about to begin. This is in two parts with the first being the demolition of the sheds, hall and current gymnasium to make way for Merin Learning Community and a new gymnasium and the refurbishing of the old library into a new, state of the art Technology area. The temporary buildings at the front of the school are a canteen, a library, the uniform shop, the Foods technology classroom and other learning areas. Lots happening!!!



Leanne Preece  
Principal

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Immunisations

The first round of immunisations are to take place on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> in the morning. It will involve year 7 and Year 10 students.

**If parents nominate for their child NOT to be immunized, the cards need to be completed, indicating this and returned.**

### Students with Medications

Parents are reminded of college requirements in regards to students and medications/medicines.

The college does not have Panadol, Asprin etc and other such products for general student use and legally is not able to keep such medications.

Students who do need to have medicines/medications at school for specific reasons eg pain relief for fractured arm, ADD medication etc are required to bring them in a suitable container labelled with the students name, form and dosage. They are to be kept in Ms Jones' Student Management Office to be dispensed as required.

Parents are asked to support the college in this matter.

## RISKY BUSINESS

### RACV Transmission Program

Our Year 10 Risky Business class is entering a competition run by RACV which aims students to improve road safety attitudes and behaviours among young students. It also encourages students and young people to develop an interest and commitment to safer road user behaviours.

The areas we are focusing on are 'Avoiding Driver Distraction', 'Don't Drive Tired', 'Speak Up and Look After Your Mates'.

We are working in groups of four or five and we have to make a survey on our topic, design an advertisement about road safety and research about it. With the survey we have to think up our own questions that relate to our topic and go around and ask people for their response. Then we have to think of a reason why we chose this topic and who we are directing it all at. Then once we did that we had to write up a small cartoon strip on what it will look like. When that is done we will send it to the RACV competition.

If we are chosen as winners then we will be invited to Melbourne to watch the creation of a television advertisement using our own story line.

*By Maddie, Shari, Stephen and Taylah*

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

As parents may be aware, the College has had a new phone system installed this week. This means we now have phone contact with all staff in the new learning communities!

When you now call, you will notice that we no longer have the message at the beginning of the phone call where you use to can opt for the absence line or the office.

The main number for the General Office remains unchanged at 5443 2133.

We now have a new direct number for the absence line which is 4433 4911.

The new system also allows you to leave a voicemail message for staff members (when transferred from the office).

## UNIFORM SHOP

Please note the uniform shop has moved to the portable at the front of the school (far right)

## SPORTS NEWS

### Northern Zone Swimming Carnival

The Northern Zone Swimming Carnival took place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Swan Hill Swimming Complex.

Weeroona had three competitors involved in this event. Ryan K and Billie R were involved in the diving event and Gabriella S in the swimming events.

All competitors competed in a fine manner. Special mention to Ryan K, who was narrowly defeated and was deemed runner up on the day. This was a great effort by Ryan as he is very inexperienced in the art of diving.

Congratulations to Billie R who was victorious in the 14 year old girls diving division. Billie now represents Weeroona College Bendigo in the VSSSA State Finals to be held at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) Yesterday. Results will be included in our next Newsletter.

### Athletics Carnival 2010

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March saw the WCB Athletics Carnival held at the Latrobe University Athletics Complex, Flora Hill.

It was excellent to witness many of the Weeroona student body actively involved in the day. Many participants displayed strong athletic prowess, it was just as pleasing to witness many competitors simply "having a go".

Below are the final scores for the Athletics Carnival 2010, and the subsequent age group champions.

### Junior Shield

**Derrinal – 433**

Coliban- 340

Kimbolton- 225

Metcalfe- 160

Overall Aggregate - **Derrinal**

### Senior Shield

**Coliban- 358**

Derrinal- 331

Kimbolton- 298

Metcalfe- 271

### Age Group Champions

#### BOY

##### 12-13yrs-

Brayden S

##### 14yrs-

Matt C

##### 15yrs-

Ashley T

##### 16yrs-

Declan S

#### GIRL

Keely H

Jenna W

Grace C

Shelley T

Winners of each event will now represent Weeroona College Bendigo at the District Secondary Colleges Sports Association (BDSCSC) on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at Latrobe University Athletics Complex, Flora Hill.

## BENDIGO BANK YMCA DRAGON MILE – EASTER MONDAY

Easter Monday saw the Dragon Mile held at the picturesque Pall Mall in Bendigo. It was terrific to see so many students from WCB participate in this event (35 students from the college). It was pleasing to witness so many students from the Primary section of the college represented.

In relation to the teams events WCB were successful in the boys year 7 & 8 teams and we were a close second in the year 9 and 10 boys team also. Individual highlights were the efforts of Matt C and Rhys I who were both place getters in the individual section of the event.

Again thank you to all the students who represented Weeroona on this day and supported the event which is co-ordinated by one of our Building Stronger Links partners in the Bendigo YMCA Athletics club.

## YEAR 7 & 8 BOYS CRICKET

The last day of term 1 saw the Weeroona College boys year 7 & 8 team play off for the BDSCSC title held at Ewing Park. Weeroona bowled first and held Crusoe College to a reasonable score of 139. The boys did an excellent job of bowling Crusoe all out. Steve R was the stand out bowler picking up a very tidy 4 for 19 with his left arm bowling. The fielding and particular the catching was a highlight of the effort. Unfortunately extras were far too high (29). This would ultimately prove very costly.

Chasing 130 for victory Weeroona ultimately scored 8 for 109 with Ryan H making a well crafted 29 as top score. All in all it was a pleasing result as the vast amount of players being only in year 7. The boys will now be entered in a year 7 competition which will be played in late October. A special thank you to Barry Findlay who coached and trained the team throughout the competition.

## Upcoming Sports Dates

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April- BDSCSC Athletics Carnival (Latrobe Athletics Complex), Flora Hill

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Year 7 & 8 Boys Northern Zone Volleyball Competition (Schweppes Centre, Bendigo)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Bill Turner Cup Boys Soccer competing against Bendigo South East College (Epsom Soccer Complex)

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Girls Football Year 7 & 8 (Strathfieldsaye Recreation Reserve)

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April – WCB Cross Country - Lake Weeroona

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Year 7 & 8 Sports Day- Netball, Soccer and Badminton.

*Shawn McCormick*  
**Sports Coordinator**

## **BARBARA'S SPACE**

I have been thinking about how important my friends are to me. I think most people would agree that friendship skills are some of the most important skills that we can learn in our lives, Young people rate getting along with their peers as an essential factor in their own well-being.

I thought it could be useful to write a bit about how parents can help develop children develop friendship skills.

Children who don't seem to be able to make friends often rely on their parents to provide social contact and as a result they may develop adult interests that may not help them make friends with their peers. It is quite a dilemma for the parents of these young people, because spending more time comforting a child may make them even more reliant upon a parent but if they are not taken out, they mope around the house looking miserable.

Ideally, involving children and teenagers in some form of club or sport is helpful, as is ensuring that they have a broad range of social contacts. This is especially useful if children are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of social groups while they are still at primary school. This will help to protect them against bullying and loneliness if they lose some friends during their early teen years.

Girls often become more upset over disputes with friends, while boys may be more likely to angrily accuse the person they are arguing with. However for both, the loss of friends can be quite devastating.

Checklist:

- Do your children get to see you doing social activities with your friends?
- Do your children get to see you make up with friends if there has been a difference of point of view?
- Do your children see you mix with other adults who you do not know well?
- 

(This information is from "Raising Real People: A Guide For Parents of Teenagers by Andrew Fuller)

Have a good week.

*Barbara Semler*  
**College Nurse**

## **WCB UNIFORM SHOP HOURS – DOBSONS**

- **Please note the uniform shop has moved to the portable at the front of the school ( far right )**

### Term 2 SHOP HOURS:

Mon - 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm      Thurs - 8.30 am – 12.00 pm  
Layby is available. Some items of second-hand uniforms available.

## **LITERACY**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Midway through Term 1 we launched our Independent Reading program across the College from Years 7 through to 10. Students have attended library workshops, where they learned tips on choosing "just right" reading material and were able to browse through the library and select a book from our vast collection.

Time has been allocated in Advisory Sessions everyday for students to read their books independently. Extra time will be given in English classes this term, when students will have the opportunity to discuss the books they are reading with their English teachers during reading conferences.

As parents and carers it is important for you to encourage your child to read at home. Sustained, uninterrupted reading is necessary for your child to engage in the text and develop the many skills associated with avid reading (broader vocabulary, effective communication skills, creativity, critical thinking skills, broader knowledge base, et cetera).

Reading should be regarded as a fun pastime, not an onerous one. In his book, *The Reading Bug...and how you can help your child to catch it* (Penguin Books Australia Ltd, 2003), Paul Jennings (a popular author of children's literature) discusses strategies to assist children in becoming avid readers. If you find your child is a reluctant reader there may be a few reasons why:

- Children are often reluctant to read if they have experienced failure with reading in the past. Books now represent the shame of that failure.
- The subject matter of a text is too challenging and has little to no meaning to the child.
- The words in the text take too long to decode and the struggle to read takes away the enjoyment of the story.

For those of you with children who have already caught the "reading bug", encouraging your child to read at home is unnecessary as it is likely to be occurring already without your insistence. Those of you with reluctant readers may find it difficult and frustrating to get your child to read. Finding the right reading material is essential. Many children (particularly boys) enjoy non-fiction. Some examples of appropriate non-fiction material are magazines, biographies and informative books on subjects of interest. Comic books may also be suitable, as the pictures make understanding the story easier. The news paper may be appropriate, but only if the concepts presented in the articles are not too challenging.

Context is important; it helps a child to understand the main ideas and it makes new words and terminology easier to understand. If a child is missing the meaning of the story, then the book is too hard. It is also important to remember that pronouncing words is not reading. Reading is getting meaning from the words.

Reading should be an enjoyable pastime where one can become lost in a story without necessarily being aware of the hard work the brain is doing to decode, interpret and create visual images from the words on the page.

As a community we can work together to turn the most reluctant children into avid readers, and continue to nurture those who have already discovered a love of literature. When the love of reading spills over the brim of College life into the home, we'll know we've achieved success.

Yours truly,  
Christine Edgar  
Literacy Leader

## PATHWAYS UPDATE

The last week of Term 1, 23 students commenced Peppergreen farm Certificate Programs - 14 students have enrolled in Building and Construction (Mondays) and 8 students have enrolled in Horticulture (Mondays). These programs conclude in mid November. We wish the students well and are confident they will be good representatives of our College. Any outstanding Course payments need to be made to the general office asap to secure this placement.

Work experience packs have being distributed to all year 10 students. The work experience dates are **Monday 21<sup>st</sup>**

**June 2010 to Friday 25th June 2010** - last week of Term 2. Forms with all details completed including Medicare number and emergency contacts are required back at school by the 23rd April 2010 in order to ensure your student has full workcover for the placement.

Students participating in the Queensland trip will need to have completed all paperwork to complete their work experience in the second week of the holidays, **Monday 5th July to Friday 9th July 2010 or at an agreed time** to secure a position on the school camp.

Please assist your student to make a valuable work experience placement in an area that they are genuinely interested in gaining a career working in. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the Certificate courses or the Work Experience program.

Linda Quarrier  
**Pathways Coordinator**

## ***Separation and Divorce Recovery Program*** **CentaCare – Family Education Services**

Want to take control of your life again?

Are your emotions running riot?

Want to understand why you are feeling like you are?

Want to meet people who understand the place you are in?

Want to move on but don't know how?

This is a non confrontational and supportive self-help workshop which will run for seven sessions. It is empowering, informative with no strings attached. It is a catalyst for moving forward.

Previous participants have said:

**'This workshop was amazing. I struggled to make myself attend the first time, but then couldn't wait for the night to come around' (female)**

**'A turning point to a better life' (grateful)**

**Where** CentaCare 176 McCrae St, Bendigo

**When** For seven consecutive Tuesdays' beginning 20th April until June 1st

**Time** 6.00 -8.00pm

**Contact** Prue Robertson, Ky Gregg and Colleen Speedy

**Cost** \$20 for all 7 weeks payable on attendance.

**For bookings and enquiries contact facilitators on 54381300**

## ST.LUKES

*Are you having  
trouble paying your...*

Electricity, gas and water bills.  
Rent.  
Credit card.  
Mobile phone/telephone bill.  
Car or other loan.

Call St Luke's free and confidential Financial Counselling service on **5448 1000 to make an appointment.**

## SAVERPLUS

**Earn \$500 to assist with education costs**

Do you have a child at school and would \$500 help cover your education expenses?

Saver Plus is a nationally-recognised program developed by Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ that is being delivered in Bendigo by Loddon Mallee Housing Services. Saver Plus pays people one dollar for every one dollar they save (up to \$500) to help pay for education. By joining you could receive up to \$500 from ANZ to help pay for items like computers, books and uniforms.

You must be over 18 and have a child in school or be studying yourself, earnings from a job, and a Health Care or Pension Card. Contact Sam Taylor at Loddon Mallee Housing Services on 03 5444 9082 or 0409 909 554, email [samt@lmhs.com.au](mailto:samt@lmhs.com.au)

## Parents With Courage

A 7-week course that aims to provide parents with greater self understanding as well as enhanced skills for parenting. The sessions are highly practical providing parents with a flexible approach to parenting, helping them to apply strategies that will best fit their family environment and the needs of their child.

**Evening Group: 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.** Thursday, May 6 – June 24

**Day Group: 12.30 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.** Friday, May 7 – June 25

**Cost:** \$25 per person (total)

**Venue:** 12 Mackenzie street, Bendigo

For bookings and more information contact  
**Valerie Barker 0409 004 857**

## RISKY BUSINESS – TRANSMISSION

For the past term, the year 10 Risky Business class at Weeroona College has been studying driver education. As part of this class, students have been taking part in a program run by the RACV called Transmission. In this program, teams of students work together to create a community service announcement, that once submitted, has an opportunity to be created as a TV advertisement and screened on WIN television.

The transmission program is designed to increase awareness amongst year 9-12 students of some of the issues that will face them as they take the steps towards becoming independent drivers. The three main road safety issues that are being explored by the Risky Business students are:

**AVOIDING DRIVER DISTRACTION** – This can include mobile phones, Ipods, food & drinks, GPS systems, cd players, and other passengers – one of the most common distractions. According to the RACV, the risk for probationary drivers carrying multiple passengers to be involved in a fatal accident is four times greater than when driving alone.

**DON'T DRIVE TIRED** – Research conducted by students has shown that while almost all staff members surveyed had driven whilst tired, and almost all knew about the benefits of a power nap, only a small proportion had actually taken one. According to Vicroads, going without sleep for 24 hours has the same effect as having a Blood Alcohol level of 0.1 – twice the legal limit.

**SPEAK UP AND LOOK AFTER YOUR MATES** – Peer pressure is common amongst probationary drivers, and can have a strong influence, both negatively and positively on people. This program is aiming to demonstrate how it can be a positive influence, by showing that the right thing to do is to have the strength to tell your friends when they are doing something stupid – such as drink driving – it may save their lives or somebody else's.

So next time you are in a car, and have the urge to answer your mobile phone, or drive that extra hour without a break, think again and take the sensible route. Also, keep an eye on WIN television, you never know, there may be a Weeroona College advertisement coming soon!