Weeroona College Bendigo

NEWSLETTER

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Email: Weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.weeroona.vic.edu.au

School Times:                          Office Hours:
Start: 9.00am                       Monday—Friday
Lunch: 11.46am—12.34pm              8.15am—4.00pm
Recess: 1.47pm—2.07pm
Finish: 3.20pm

Newsletter No. 14 Friday 9th September, 2011

What’s Happening Semester 2....

Calendar

September
23rd:: Last day of Term 3, 2.30pm Dismissal

October
10th:: First day of Term 4
26th:: Bendigo Cup Day Holiday (no school)

November
7th:: College Council—7.00pm
23rd:: Year 7 Boys & Girls Immunisations
23rd & 24th:: Year 10 Exams
25th—30th:: Year 10 BSSC Transition Day

December
1st & 2nd:: Year 10 BSSC Transition Day
5th:: College Council—6.30pm
6th:: 2012 Year 7 Transition Day
22nd:: Last day of Term 4

Absence Line: 4433 4911
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Sad News
On Monday 29 August, we were saddened to learn that one of our year 10 students, Tyson van Emmerik had died. Tyson was a student who always strove to achieve personal excellence, putting one hundred percent into everything he did; he had a great sense of humour and was well liked amongst his peers.

We offer Tyson’s family the heartfelt sympathy of our whole school community.

Last Monday I came to school feeling incredibly sad having learnt of Tyson’s passing and wondering how I was going to possibly provide support for everyone at our school as we mourned his loss. It did not take me very long to realise what it is about Weeroona College Bendigo that I really like and the reason that I am so proud to be the principal of our school. So many people; students and staff, behaving respectfully towards each other, supporting each other and sharing our grief over the loss of a terrific young person.

It has made me reflect upon why communities are so important to us all. We come to school and are part of a whole school community and we are part of the broader community in which we live. We are also part of a large global community that takes us well beyond what we could ever imagine with no geographical limitations. Our communities give us a sense of connectedness, they give us people and places to go to and a sense of safety and wellbeing and so I urge each and every one of you to think about the people that you share communities with and make sure that you are looking out for each other in times of joy as well as sadness.

A reminder to all parents and students that we have a terrific College Support Team and other staff members who can be contacted via the school phone number should you have any concerns that you would like support with.

More information on the work of David Hopkins can be found at this link http://www.davidhopkins.co.uk/articles.htm

Congratulations Laura W
A huge congratulations to Laura who not only took out the Junior and Senior State Championship titles for Clay Target Shooting this week as well as coming third in the overall field of male and female contestants. A fabulous achievement Laura and we are all really proud of you.

Weeroona College Bendigo casual vacancy on school council
Due to the resignation of a parent representative on our school council I would like to announce that we have a casual vacancy until February 2011. Any interested parent is asked to contact me at school for more information.

Vehicle access school grounds
Parents visiting our school are most welcome to use the visitor’s car parks that are available for you in front of our new gym. These can be accessed from our Napier Street entrance. Parents are reminded that the bottom car park, which is accessed from Knight Street, is only available to parents of our primary aged children as a drop off and pick up area and all other cars should not enter this area for safety reasons. I thank you in anticipation of your support.

Congratulations Grace C
Congratulations also to Grace C who won the league Best and Fairest title in the girls football league. Grace pays for the Huntly Junior Football Club.

Leanne Preece
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Every minute matters...

Attendance at School
Students are reminded that as a college we have a commitment re: students with unapproved absences. Centrelink have informed us that if a student has 5 or more unapproved absences a term then we are able to notify them and they will then terminate the student’s Youth Allowance. We now have a definite Centrelink contact number – Tip off Line- 13 15 24.

It is an expectation that all students attend school each day unless unwell and parents are able to contact the college through the absence phone line to notify us of this – 4433 4947.

Professional Learning for staff
We are again fortunate to have had David Hopkins, from England, working with us this week. David is Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Education, University of London; where until recently, he held the inaugural HSBC iNet Chair in International Leadership. Between 2002 and 2005 he served three Secretary of States as the Chief Adviser on School Standards at the Department for Education and Skills. David is also an International Mountain Guide who still climbs regularly in the Alps and Himalayas.

On Thursday night staff attended a two hour professional learning session with staff at Crusoe College and Eaglehawk Secondary College which David led and on Friday, he worked at our school with members of our leadership team as we continue to work on improving the teaching and learning in our school.
Weeroona College Bendigo
Mobile Phones & Similar Electronic Devices - Policy

The use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices (e.g. iPods) in class can be disruptive to the learning environment of students and therefore is discouraged.

Items that are dangerous or likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the whole college and the education of other students can be banned.

The college acknowledges that there are times when it is genuinely appropriate and beneficial for students to have access to a mobile phone and/or other similar electronic device.

Guidelines

- The college expects that all students should have their mobile phones and other similar electronic devices switched off and out of sight during classes. This also applies to school excursions, camps and extracurricular activities.

- Students should only use their mobile phones and similar electronic devices before or after school, or during recess and lunch breaks.

- There is an expectation that students will display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone.

- In-phone cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms or toilets.

- In-phone recorders/cameras are not to be used anywhere a normal recorder/camera would be considered inappropriate. Students may be asked to place mobile phones that they have in their possession on the table in front of them when being interviewed by staff.

- Students should ensure that their mobile phones and similar electronic devices are always stored in a safe and secure place. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to personal property bought to school. (Refer DEECD Circular 038/2005)

Staff to use their professional discretion in regards to the use of mobile phones in classrooms.

Actions

- A student who does not comply with the Policy Guidelines will initially have their mobile phone or other similar electronic device confiscated and taken to the Principal. It will be recorded in a 'Register' and remain there until collected by a parent/guardian. A second confiscation will result in the mobile phone or other similar electronic device being posted with reverse charges paid to the student's home address.

- Appropriate action will be taken against any student who photographs, records or films other individuals without their consent or sends harassing or threatening messages. This includes the posting of mobile phone photos on the internet (cyber bullying). This action may include Police notification.

- Disciplinary action will be taken against any student/s who is/are caught using a mobile phone to cheat in exams or assessments.

- Mobile phones are used at their owners’ risk and school resources will not be used to try to find a lost/stolen mobile phone or similar electronic device.

Last updated 22nd August 2011

Helen Tuohey
Assistant Principal

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE...

College Newsletter
Our College newsletter is available on the college website www.weeroona.vic.edu.au on Friday’s fortnightly. We will send a reminder SMS out to families who have given a mobile number each fortnight. Printed copies are available at the office for any families that do not have access to the internet.

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. It is now a DEECD requirement that when picking up a student from school that identification be shown i.e. Drivers licence. This will be completed at the General Office. Please understand that this is now a directive of the Department of Education for schools, for the protection of your children.

Late Arrivals
If students come late to school, they MUST sign in at the GENERAL OFFICE. 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 you will receive a text message from the college.
PARENTS’ CLUB

Cadbury Chocolate Raffle
The Parents Club will be selling raffle tickets for $1 each for one lucky winner to receive a huge 10kg block of Cadbury’s Chocolate. Small books of 10 tickets will be distributed from advisory sessions in the next few weeks with the raffle to be drawn on Friday the 23rd of September. All money raised will go towards the purchase of a new TV for each of the learning communities. Sold tickets with money can be returned to any Learning Community or the General Office.

Next Meeting
Our next Parents Club meeting will be held in the Merrin Community on Wednesday the 14th of September at 9.15am. Leanne Miller one of the community leaders will be our guest speaker at this meeting. All college parents and guardians welcome. Tea and coffee provided.

Brick BBQ/Selkirk Named Pavers
The construction of a new brick BBQ in the college grounds will be commencing soon with the surrounding area to be landscaped with the Selkirk named pavers. The first order of named paver bricks have already been delivered and the next order to be placed shortly. Any past or present students and staff wishing to purchase their named paver for $30 are encouraged to do so promptly. The order form can be downloaded from the college website. When on Home page scroll down to the news item named Personalised Pavers posted on the 24th of March 2011. Please print off the order form and complete your details to be returned to School with payment.

2011 Committee - President Kym Blume, Secretary Joanne Kingdon, Treasurer Gay Huggard - Ph 5441 2715.

LITERACY WEEK
Monday 29th August to Friday 2nd September

The theme for this year’s Literacy Week was “The Fundamentals Are Fun”. Every lunch time we ran a quiz with questions about nouns, verbs, adjectives and other grammar as the basis for a bit of fun. The students who played have asked for the quiz to continue. Hopefully it might grow into a number of students who will improve their knowledge of grammar whilst enjoying some competitive fun.

Last Friday, 2nd September, Jacinta Allan visited the Merin community. As well as telling the students about her pathway to Parliament, she also read from her favourite book when she went to school: “So Much To Tell You” by John Marsden. Students really enjoyed her speech. Kelsey O thanked Ms Allan and presented her with some flowers from the College garden (thanks Matilda!).

Pictured with Ms Jacinta Allan is (L to R): Sam B, Caitlin O’L, Laura W and Abbie H.

ART NEWS
The Art department would like to invite the College Community to view our students’ stunning art work at this year’s annual Bendigo State Secondary Colleges Combined Student Art Show.

MUSIC NEWS
BENDIGO STATE SECONDARY COLLEGES
COMBINED STUDENT ART SHOW
OFFICIAL OPENING
TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2011
7.30PM
MAC GILLIVRAY HALL
BRIT-McCrae Street Entrance
PUBLIC VIEWING: 10AM – 4PM DAILY
TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER TO THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

Kelsey O, Sarah L, Hayley B, Jacinta Allan, Allyson S.

Christine Toose
Literacy Coordinator
Music Count Us In - Thursday 1st Sept. 11.30am

This is Australia’s biggest school music initiative. It is all about celebrating the value of Music education. Students from schools all over Australia signed up to learn, rehearse and perform the same song on the same day, at the same time.

Congratulations to all our singers and musicians who took part in the “Music Count Us In Event” in the Mall and represented our College so beautifully. There were about 600 students from Primary and Secondary Colleges participating in this event and half a million nationwide. The students had a fantastic time.

Above photo: Bridie L, Natalie J, Monique H, Bridget G, Hayley M-K

Students performing in the Mall.

SCIENCE NEWS

Tuesday 13th September – Year 10 Forensic Science Presentation

Session 2 K10A, K10B
Session 3 M10A, M10B
Session 4 L10A, L10B and W10A

Come explore the exciting world of Forensic Science & CSI in your own school where you’ll get to be a Forensic Scientist and solve a murder!

A Forensic Science team will be at our school on 13/09/2011 (Term 3 Week 1) to present a crime scene to you. You’ll hear about the suspects and you’ll be able to examine the evidence found at the scene. You’ll see the tests that were carried out in the Forensic Laboratories and will be able to solve this crime just like a real Forensic Scientist. You’ll learn how real Forensic Scientists process crime scenes to find the vital clues they need to assist a Police investigation. Come and see how fingerprinting, DNA profiling, ballistics, microscopy, trace evidence transfer, gas chromatography (and much more) are used to identify the murderer.

"A Case of Conspiracy?" is visiting the school for one day only and the cost per student is $ 2.00. This will be collected on entrance to Wannop Da Vinci Studio at the allocated Session. All Year 10 students are expected to attend.

CAREERS NEWS

Peppergreen Farm Students

Could students involved in Peppergreen Farm please note:
1. The last day for Peppergreen Farm Certificate II in Building and Construction is Monday 7th November. Students will need to attend all Monday sessions to complete the competencies to gain this valuable Pre Apprenticeship Certification.

2. Students need to inform Ron at Peppergreen Farm if they are absent on any day.

La Trobe University Talk and Tour

La Trobe University Talk and Tour’s will be happening in the next school holidays which is only a couple of weeks (already!) away on Tuesday 27th September at the Bendigo campus or Wednesday 28th September at the Melbourne Campus. This is an event for Years 10 – 12 and their parents, and those that might have missed Open Days. The day will start at 9.30am for registration and course expo, then a student panel talk at 10am and then followed by a tour of the facilities and campus.
We will have current students conducting a panel and will have staff present who can answer any questions your kids might have. An expo style set up will be present where students can get one on one information from faculty staff.


Linda Quarrier
Pathways

SPORTS NEWS

Clay Target Competition
Congratulations are in order for Garth D and Laura W who both shot in an exceptional manner at the Regional Clay Target Championships held at the Echuca Gun Club in August. Consequently both Garth and Laura represented the college at the State titles which were held at the Bendigo Gun Club (Woodvale) on September 5th.

Both individuals shot in an excellent manner on this day. Laura again showed her definitive class and concentration as her efforts saw her crowned the Girl Champion (12-15 year old). This is a fantastic effort by Laura as it is the second year in succession where Laura was crowned State Champion. On behalf of the Weeroona College community we would like to congratulate Laura for this fantastic achievement. Well done Laura.

Laura W & Garth D

Upcoming Events

Thursday 15th September
Yr 9/10 Sports Day- Hockey (Hockey Complex- Ironbark), Table Tennis (Eaglehawk Table Tennis Complex)

Tuesday 20th September
WCB Primary Athletics Carnival (Latrobe University Athletics Complex, Flora Hill)

Thursday 13th October
Loddon Mallee Region (formerly Northern Zone) Athletics Carnival - (Latrobe University Athletics Complex, Flora Hill)

Laura W

NETBALL
I would like to congratulate our Under 14 netball team, Weeroona White on an outstanding season. The girls finished fourth and played Jets Topaz in the Second Semi Final, which we won by one goal. It was a nail biting game and the girls should be commended on a wonderful team effort.

On Saturday September 3, the girls played off for a place in the Grand Final. Unfortunately we lost by five goals on this occasion but were very competitive. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the girls for a great season and say how proud I am of what you have achieved. Thank you also to the parents, without your support we would not have had such a wonderful season.

Bree Hodge
14 & Under Coach
Weeroona College Bendigo
College Production of
“SHEERLUCK HOLMES”
“A Musical”

7:30pm at A T Dingle Performing Arts Centre, Weeroona College Bendigo.

Performance Dates:
Opening night: Tuesday, 1st November, 2011
Wednesday, 2nd November, 2011
Thursday, 3rd November, 2011
Friday, 4th November, 2011

Tickets: Adults $10.00, Students & Pensioners $5.00.

Approximately 70 students are involved in the production and have been rehearsing for a period of 20 weeks. These actors, singers and dancers wish to cordially invite you to attend a performance on one of the evenings above and enjoy the energy and excitement of their performance.

This musical is from Maverick Musicals and is set within the framework of Late Victorian England. It is a send up of the great detective and the bumbling Watson, his assistant. It takes you on a journey through the foggy, dark humour of this murder mystery. Virginia Huntington Smythe invites Sheerluck Holmes to solve the murder of her father, Cecil Huntington Smythe. Sheerluck visits the spooky Greystone Manor in Dartmoor for the reading of the will and he meets the other members of the family. All is not what it appears. Who killed her father and why? It is an exciting “Who Done It” mystery.

We look forward to seeing you all at “Sheerluck Holmes”. Tickets can be purchased from the General Office.

Over the next 3 newsletters we will profile the main characters of “Sheerluck Holmes”. Our first profiles being:

Student name: Rachel P
Year Level: 10
Character: Virginia Huntington Smythe, daughter of Lord Huntington Smythe.

Why did you want to be in this production?
I love acting and want to pursue it for further studies.

Describe your character?
Virginia is the beloved daughter of the Lord of the Manor.

What do you enjoy most about the production?
Making friends.

What is your favourite song from the production?
“We’ve been swindled”.

Student name: Bridget G
Year Level: 9
Character: Madam Weepoo

Why did you want to be in this production?
It is really fun to sing and act.

Describe your character?
She is a very evil person who is very “interesting”.

What do you enjoy most about the production?
That I get to be silly and not hold back.

What is your favourite song from the production?
“We’ve been swindled”.

Student name: Timothy P
Year Level: 10
Character: “Greasy Pierre” the French Butler.

Why did you want to be in this production?
I enjoy acting.

Describe your character?
Seedy, tall, dark, “Lurch” like as in Adam’s family. A strong – silent type.

What do you enjoy most about the production?
Socialising in character.

What is your favourite song from the production?
“Just for Once” and “Kung Fu Peril”

Student name: Francois S
Year Level: 9
Character: Dr John Watson

Why did you want to be in this production?
It’s fun.

Describe your character?
An idiotic, slow fumbling and bumbling person.

What do you enjoy most about the production?
Making new friends.

What is your favourite song from the production?
“Kung Fu Peril” and “Blow out the Candle”.

Student name: 
Year Level: 
Character: 

Why did you want to be in this production?

Describe your character?

What do you enjoy most about the production?

What is your favourite song from the production?
MUSIC NEWS
Fretworks is fast approaching - 19th – 22nd October, 2011. It is for all guitar students. There will be a number of workshops to be held throughout the week, along with rehearsals for ensemble pieces in a number of small groups. All forms of guitar (acoustic, electric and bass) will be catered for.

Students need to hand in their permission forms as soon as possible.

WCB UNIFORM SHOP HOURS – DOBSONS
Please Note: The Uniform Shop is now in the portable opposite the school canteen.
Phone: 4433 4947

Term 1 SHOP HOURS:
Mon - 2.00pm – 5.00pm    Thurs - 8.30am – 12.00pm

Lay-by and Credit Card facilities available. Some items of second-hand uniforms available.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MAD Camp 2011
Monday 26th September until Friday 30th September – Camp Coolamatong, Banksia Peninsula, Gippsland.

$100 per person
(which covers accommodation, food, activities). Transport may be extra and will be negotiated in regions.

Make new friends from around the state. Get into the action with watersports, melt some marshmallows around the campfire, hang out at 90 mile beach, run a community action project and explore how YOU can make a difference in the world!

Grab a form from your ELEVATE or Youth Leader or contact Charlene on 0431 123 652 or email charlened@suvic.org.au www.suvic.org.au/suschools

Bendigo Tennis Association
Interested in Tennis? The Bendigo Tennis Association are taking individual and team entries for all competition formats for 2011/12 summer seasons, which kicks off in the second week of October, 2011. We offer playing opportunities for midweek ladies, juniors, Saturday afternoon seniors, veterans and the popular night series of competitions.

Anyone wishing to participate are encouraged to visit our website: www.bendigotennis.com.au, their nearest tennis club or contact the Bendigo Bank Tennis Complex on 5442 5744 or email: info@bendigotennis.com.au

Team entries close 22nd September, 2011.

Youth Online
We need you!

Pursue your interests in areas that you are passionate about, develop projects based on your ideas and interests.

If you are interested please contact the Youth Development Team on 5434 6092 or email: youth@bendigo.vic.gov.au www.yobendigo.com.au

Weeroona White 2011 Winter Competition
On behalf of Natasha, Rebecca, Chelsea, Emily, Taylah, Teagan, Tia and Amber and their parents I would like to publically thank coach Bree Hodge. Bree has led the girls through a very successful season of Winter Netball, the team finished 3rd overall and was unlucky not to win their last final. Bree is to be commended for her coaching skills, commitment and leadership with the year 7/8 team.

Thank you also to the parents for supporting the girls by ensuring they attended training on Wednesdays and for their support on Saturdays with scoring duty and cheering. Congratulations to the team for their success and thank you to those girls who umpired games.

Kind regards,
Janeen Barker (Emily’s mum) Team Manager 2011