

Contacts 2011

Personal Difficulties
College Support Team:
Sue Bull
Chaplain: Katie Sargent
College Nurse: Sarah Warburton

Absences: (03) 4433 4911

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

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

Kappen
Learning Community
Sue Pollard / Trent Bysouth

Wannop
Learning Community
Monica White / Paul Ellis

Merin
Advisory Teachers:
MCE Christine Edgar
MCH Christine Henty
MCT Christine Toose
MHP Helen Peppink
MJS Jean Stephens
MKD Karen Dale
MLS Leigh Schroeter
MRJ Ron James/Leanne
Miller (Fridays)
MSM Shawn McCormick
MTJ Therese Johnston

Katyl
LBM Bettina Morrison/Kirsty
Seipolt (Wednesdays)
LCJ Carolyn Jones
LCN Chris Novak
LDA Dianne Andrea
LGD Geoff Dempster
LJG Jaime Gray
LJM Jill McKenzie
LMA Mark Adams
LMR Matthew Reeves
LSB Sue Bull
LTL Tim Lawrance/Bree
Franks (Mondays)

Wannop
WBL Ben Lee
WDC David Crowley
WMG Michelle Griffin
WKP Kristen Purden
WMH Meryl Hayes
WRL Ron Llewelyn
WRJ Raelene Jeffrey
WSS Sarah Smith
WTC Tarli Capicchiano
WTL Tracey Lee
WQU Linda Quarrier/Monica
White (Fridays)
WCN Chloe Neath

Kappen
KAA Alan Aylward
KAS Amanda Southcombe/
Sue Pollard (Mondays)
KBE Brian Edebohls
KDS Debbie Shipp
KEP Erin Pilkington
KGS Gary Schroeder
KJG James Ginnivan
KJM John McIntosh
KMM Madeleine Munger/
Trent Bysouth (Fridays)
KMS Marion Stewart
KPO Paul O'Shea
KRC Ryan Currie
KSH Stephen Hocking

School wide issues, emergencies etc

Principal:
Leanne Preece

Assistant Principal:
Helen Tuohy

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
Website: www.weeroona.vic.edu.au

School Times:

Start: 9.00am
Lunch: 11.46am—12.34pm
Recess: 1.47pm—2.07pm
Finish: 3.20pm

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday
8.15am—4.00pm

Newsletter No. 5 Friday 8th April, 2011

What's Happening Term 2....

Calendar

April

8th:: Last Day Term 1—2.30pm Finish
25th:: Easter Monday Holiday
26th:: ANZAC Day Holiday in Lieu
27th:: Term 2 Begins

May

2nd:: School Council
5th:: Student Achievement Conferences—after school from 4.30pm—7.30pm
6th:: Student Achievement Conferences—9am—1pm
(No classes on this day)

Absence Line: 4433 4911

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Staff Farewells

It is with regret that we farewell two members of staff this week.

Heather Turpie

Heather has worked mostly in the administration and first aid areas of our school since 1999 when we merged with Bendigo East Primary School (where she had been working since 1993) and officially became Weeroona College Bendigo. When Heather first came to Weeroona she managed the administration area in the primary section, prior to it being demolished and she then moved to the main building. In more recent years Heather has provided administrative support to all staff, in particular the careers coordinator and she has also supported our programs by driving the college bus when required.

Overall Heather has contributed 17 years of service to the Department of Education and seen many changes to people and facilities at our school and her services will be missed. Heather we wish you well in your retirement.

Katie Sargent

Katie has been our school chaplain for the last five years and she has been an important member of the College Support Team providing assistance for individual students, staff and families as well as implementing programs across our curriculum to assist in developing the resilience of our young people. Katie's passion for the wellbeing of all our students and her happy and approachable personality has meant that she has developed strong and supportive relationships with many within our learning community at Weeroona College Bendigo and she will also be greatly missed.

Katie, wishing you all the best as you take up the next challenge in your life.

Student Achievement Conferences

As the end of term one draws to a close I would like to thank everyone for your hard work and support of our school and encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect on achievements of term 1 and begin to plan for the next level of learning. As parents it is important that you do this with your child/children. Take the time to sit and have a conversation with them once you receive their interim report and then be prepared to **come in with them and meet with their teachers at the Student Achievement Conferences during week 2 of next term.**

Here are tips for getting the most out of the Student Achievement Conferences:

Before the interview:

- revisit the interim report and determine what information you need before the interview to support your child.
- ask your child if there are any areas they would like followed up (for example, where they feel they need extra help or have concerns) and share this during the interview.
- write a list of specific questions you wish to ask.

During the interview:

- if you want to know about a specific area of your child's progress please ask.
- ask your child's teacher for more detail on what the expectations are in their subject area with regard, for example, to homework and assignments. How much time should they be spending on their homework? Are there

any other suggestions or more details about how you can help your child at home?

- find out more about how your child is participating in classroom activities and whether, for example, there are any general issues with behaviour or discipline that need discussing.

- ask your child's teacher to clarify the extra support or extension activities mentioned in the report.

After the interview:

- keep in regular contact with the teachers and teacher advisor to follow up on a mutually-agreed plan.
- talk with your child about what you have discussed and how you can work together to improve their learning.

Remember: you can also request interviews at other times. If you are concerned about your child's progress, discuss these concerns with their teacher. You can contact the school for an appointment and make a mutually convenient time to meet with your child's teacher or Learning Community Leader.



We really want to see all of you.

Weeroona College Bendigo – Students learning in a 1-to-1 Learning Environment

It has been fantastic to see students and staff at our school embracing the introduction to the 1-to-1 Learning Environment with our students having access to their own Netbook at home and at school. Have you asked your child/children to show you the large number of programs that are available on their new Netbook in the eduSTAR suite and what they are using their Netbook for?

What is eduSTAR?

Software on eduSTAR is available to schools through the Department's School Technology Architecture and Resources (eduSTAR) standard platform. The eduSTAR program provides schools with standardised models, patterns, management practice and tools in order to deliver an effective mix of educational software and tools to enable teachers and students to access and embrace the Ultranet.

There are currently over 80 software applications available on the eduSTAR software list. The broad range of applications cover:

- animation
- concept and Mind Mapping
- digital video and image creation
- drawing and painting
- interactive curricular resources
- logic and problem-solving
- 3D modelling and game-making
- presentation and multimedia tools
- sound and music making
- thinking skills
- typing tutors
- web authoring tools
- writing tools.



NAPLAN

All Year 7 & 9 students across Australia will participate in the NAPLAN Testing Program in May. Improving student literacy and numeracy skills is a college priority and we want to see our students perform well in these tests and try their very best. Competence in English and Maths is very important and teachers are working hard to help students develop key skills in these areas. The dates of the tests are set out below:

Tuesday 10th May – Language Conversations, Writing
 Wednesday 11th May – Reading
 Thursday 12th May – Numeracy

Leanne Preece
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**EVERY MINUTE MATTERS**

Do I have to come to school?

YES! Up until the age of 17 it is law that children must attend school. Students must 'earn' or 'learn.' Any students who are over the age of 16 and receiving Youth Allowance must attend school each day or their allowance can be terminated.

Immunisations

The first round of immunisations took place on Thursday, 7th April. Subsequent Immunisation dates are-
 Tuesday 21st June - Yr 7 girls only
 Wednesday 23rd November – Yr 7 girls & boys.
 Any queries re immunisations e.g. students who were away etc need to be directed to Angela Evans, Immunisation Coordinator - c/o Greater City of Bendigo – Phone - 54346312

2011 Cervical Cancer Vaccine Website

Main Points:

- Under the Commonwealth Government's National Immunisation Program, girls aged 12-13 can have the cervical cancer vaccine free in school. The vaccine can prevent up to 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts.
- Currently only three in four girls aged 12-13 who are eligible to have the free vaccine are doing so, and many more that have the first dose are not completing the full three-dose course. Research indicates this is broadly due to low student and parent understanding of cervical cancer and the vaccine.
- The Cancer Council has set up a website that provides information for students and their parents as well as information and resources for schools on how to support the vaccination program in the school setting.
- To access the website, see:
www.cervicalcancervaccine.org.au

Helen Tuohey
Assistant Principal

STAFF PROFILES

As a way of the College Community getting to know staff, each newsletter will feature profiles of two of our staff members.

Jo Absalom

Position: [Laboratory Technician](#)

How long you have worked at WCB: [25 years](#)

What you like most about working at WCB:

[The flexibility of being able to perform different tasks each day and of course the holidays!](#)

Footy Team you barrack for: [Geelong Cats](#)

Favourite Leisure activities: [Watching AFL footy, golf and gardening](#)

Current book you are reading: [Tick Tock by James Patterson](#)

**Mark Adams**

Position: [Technology teacher](#)

How long you have worked at WCB: [9 years](#)

What you like most about working at WCB: [The comradeship with staff.](#)

Footy Team you barrack for: [Collingwood.](#)

Favourite Leisure activities: [Watching footy and spending time in the garage.](#)

Current book you are reading: [How to make gravy by Paul Kelly.](#)

**FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE...****Absence Line**

Please note the phone number to directly call the college absence line (to leave a message) is **4433 4911**.

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

Mothers Day Stall

Weeroona College Parents' Club will be holding the annual Mothers Day Stall for all college students on Wednesday 4th May. Primary students will have the opportunity to shop during session two and secondary students can visit the Mothers Day Stall during lunch time. The stall will be held near the covered basketball court. A range of gifts will be available priced between \$2 and \$5.

Next Meeting

Our next Parents Club meeting will be held on Wed the 18th of May at 9.15Am, venue to be advised. Parents attending will have the opportunity to participate in the Parents Victoria Online Conference. All college parents and guardians welcome. Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a morning tea plate of food to share. 2011 Committee - President Kym Blume, Secretary Joanne Kingdon, Treasurer Gay Huggard. Ph 54412715

Brick BBQ/Selkirk Named Pavers

The Parents Club main focus this year will be the construction of a brick BBQ in the college grounds with the area surrounding to be landscaped with the Selkirk named pavers that have been purchased by past and present students and staff. The opportunity still exists to purchase a named paver for \$30. The order form can be downloaded from the college website.

QUEENSLAND/SYDNEY TOUR 2011

It is getting towards that time of year again when the option for Year 10 students to attend the Queensland/Sydney tour is on again. The trip is scheduled for June 26th to July 4th (beginning the last week before the midyear break). The cost will be \$1050 – (cost may reduce if the capped number of 40 students is reached).

Students who wish to apply for the camp will need to ensure that they are up to date with their class work, have exhibited appropriate behaviour and attitude towards their school life including having their work experience organised (even if it is not until much later in the year). Could parents discuss with your child the possibility of attending this and be organised for future notes/meeting are arranged as places are limited.

Trent Bysouth
Camps Coordinator

YEAR 7 TUTANKHAMUN EXCURSION – FRIDAY 13TH MAY 2011

All Yr 7 students have the opportunity to attend the *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* exhibition in Melbourne as part of their History studies. Students will be travelling by bus and leaving the College at 9am and returning at 4:30pm, the **cost of the excursion is \$35 - to be paid to the General Office by the 6th May**. If parents wish to use their EMA money or go on a payment plan please contact the General Office ASAP. Your child's permission slip needs to be returned to their classroom teacher.

MUSIC NEWS

Junior Band

Junior Band has started with a good turn-up. It is fabulous seeing all the new, keen and interested students making the most of their music opportunities. Thank you to those students who came to explain their absence last week. We hope to have 100% attendance next term. It is compulsory for all students learning an instrument (guitars are exempt at this time).

Senior Band

Some of our senior band members belong to the Bendigo Colleges Symphonic Orchestra. They are taking part in a series of workshops in Castlemaine from April 6th – 8th. A few other band members also belong to the Bendigo Colleges Symphonic Band. They will be going on tour to Adelaide over the holidays to take part in the National Championships. We hope they have a great time and wish them luck.

Production News

Students will have a get-together Thursday 7th April, at the start of lunchtime. The roles for "Sheerluck Holmes" will be announced and they will have a reading of the script. This will generally be a time for everyone to get to know each other. Students will be given a rehearsal schedule and a script. We are excited and looking forward to working with over 50 talented students in our College. Rehearsals start AFTER SCHOOL on Wednesday 27th April.

Ms Henty & Mrs Johnston
Production / Music

WORK EXPERIENCE UPDATE

All students have now been issued with their Work Experience information packages and all paperwork is due back to the Pathways Office on Friday May 6th. If your child has been absent or misplaced their forms please have them collect another one from the Pathways Office. Over the holidays students need to consider what pathways and careers they are interested in and once identified, a possible workplace in Bendigo which might give them a better understanding into what this career or pathway might involve. All students have been issued with a job guide book to assist them with this investigation. Students will require the support and advice from parents into gaining an appropriate Work Experience placement.

Students not going on camp will complete a week of Work Experience from the 27th June to the 1st July. Students going on camp must have a placement organised for the second week of the holidays, 11th July to the 15th July before their final camp attendance is approved. Individual camp students who are unable to complete this placement in the second week of the holidays, for valid reasons, may complete Work Experience in week nine of term 2 (20th June to 24th June) or week 1 of term 3 (18th July to 22nd July).

If you have any questions about Work Experience or any other Pathways or Career matters please do not hesitate to contact the Pathways Office.

Bree Hodge
Work Experience Coordinator

LITERACY

After School Literacy Support

From the start of Term 2, the English Faculty at Weeroona College Bendigo will be offering students an opportunity to aid their understanding of English by holding a voluntary class after school every Wednesday night from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. It is hoped that students will take advantage of this and the class will run for the rest of the year. The first class will be held on Wednesday 27th April 2011, then each Wednesday onwards.

The support class will be held in the Merin learning community in C8 and as it is voluntary, students can choose to attend for the full hour or any amount of time within the hour.

The aim is to give students and teachers a chance to work closely together on developing individual student understanding of the subject and to improve student competence and confidence in literacy. Competence in literacy impacts on all facets of our lives. Students will be expected to bring along class work that they want assistance with, as well as any other English concepts or topics that they want help with. The class will be open to all students from each year level but it is strongly recommended that year 10 students participate, as English is one subject that they need to achieve a 'C' result or better in to receive a Year 10 Certificate at the end of the year.

In order to be able to prepare for this please fill out the permission form available at the General Office and have your son or daughter return the completed form to their English teacher.

Partners-In-Print

Teachers are very aware that students who have assistance at home have more chance of success with their schooling. We like to invite parents in at any time but particularly at our Partners-In-Print evenings where staff and parents work together with students to improve their literacy. I would like to invite two parents and two students to help plan our first Partners-In-Print evening for 2011. Any new parent of a Year 7 student would be most welcome to help organise the P-I-P evening.

Please volunteer by contacting Ms Toose at Weeroona College: 54432133.

Christine Toose
Literacy Coordinator

YEAR 8 KRYAL CASTLE EXCURSION

Year 8 students are undertaking an excursion to Kryal Castle, near Ballarat, on **Wednesday 11th May, 2011**. The visit is part of the Medieval History unit undertaken in Term 1 and seeks to use interactive demonstrations to enhance student learning of the period. The visit involves lively, fun, and authentic historical re-enactments, activities, and presentations that will provide valuable, hands-on learning experiences for students.

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE...

Friendship

"Happiness is time spent with a friend and looking forward to sharing time with them again." - *Lee Wilkinson*

Research shows that having good, healthy friendships increases your likelihood of being happy. Friendships can be hard work, so you have to put in effort. Friendships don't always go smoothly and it can be a really stressful time. But there are many different ways you can be a good friend.

- Support your friends: listen to them, don't be judgemental or disapproving.
- Keep a secret: a good friend will keep secrets between them & someone else. No-one else should tell another person their friend's secrets.
- Offer a simple gesture, like a smile. Acknowledging someone can be a huge boost for self esteem.
- Be friendly – it doesn't hurt.
- Start conversations.
- Give compliments & MEAN IT!!
- Be OK with yourself.
- Have fun & laugh.
- Be there for your friend, no matter what the situation is.

A good friend is someone who is loyal and trustworthy. Try to understand that changes occur in everyone's life at sometime. Whether it is, moving house, family situations, being in different learning communities, peer groups, hobbies/sport, it doesn't mean that your old friendships have to disappear. Talk to your friends if you have concerns but most importantly remember how you deal with a situation is your choice and there are always consequences. A big part of life, some say the most important part, is having people to share things with, people to hang out with, people to talk to, and people to support you when you are going through hard times. Friends can be hard to make, can be a pain at times, but most of all they are a big part of being healthy and happy.

If you need any further information or would like to talk to someone about friendship issues, you can contact your school nurse or the Kids Helpline **1800 55 1800** or www.kidshelp.com.au.

Sarah Warburton
School Nurse

SPORTS NEWS

Weeroona College Bendigo Athletics Carnival

WCB Athletics Carnival was held on Thursday 24th March at the Latrobe University Athletics Complex.

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 Aggregate Shield Kimbolton 318
 Senior Aggregate Shield Coliban 266
 Overall Champions Coliban 575

AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

12-13yrs Girls Champion – Karly M

14yrs Girls Champion – Ruby C

15yrs Girls Champion – Jenna W

16yrs Girls Champion – Tori B

12-13yrs Boys Champion – Connor A

14yrs Boys Champion – Steve R

15yrs Boys Champion – Matthew C

16yrs Boys Champion – Ashley T

Winners of events will go onto the BDSCSC Athletics Carnival held on Tuesday 17th May.

Year 7 & 8 Boys Cricket

Friday 25th March saw the Sandhurst Division year 7/8 Cricket Carnival take place at Catholic College Junortoun.

WCB won the toss and elected to bat in their first game against Crusoe College 2.

WCB began well with a 40 run opening stand between Brayden S and Ryan Hartley. The year 7/8 side batted with rigour and intelligence and finally posted a score of 6/125 run scorers included a quick fire 25 from Brayden S, a polished 26 from Tom P and a well-constructed 53 not out (retired) Ryan H. Crusoe had to chase a score of 126 to win.

WCB took a disciplined approach bowling Crusoe all out for 53. Bowling figures including Mitch D 2 for 2, Tom L 2 for 6 and Harry Waldron 2 for 4.

WCB played Crusoe 1 in the second game. Crusoe won the toss and elected to ball. Crusoe bowled a tight line and fielded in a fine manner. Chief run makers for the Weeroona team included Steve R 33, 13 for Brayden S. WCB made a score of 90 all out from their allocated overs.

WCB bowled extremely well in a tight contest. Fielding was also excellent sadly WCB could not hold the strong Crusoe team in a thriller Crusoe passed the WCB total with 5balls to spare.

Thanks to Barry Findlay for his efforts on coaching the team.

AFL Umpires Road show

Thursday 17th March saw the AFL Umpiring Roadshow visit Weeroona College Bendigo. The session incorporated 45 students. Umpires from the AFL, and representatives from the Bendigo Umpires Association took the students through a variety of issues including leadership and goal setting. The umpiring representatives also spoke of the challenges relating to umpiring at the elite level, the fitness requirements necessary and the benefits of taking up umpiring. We appreciate the fact that Weeroona College Bendigo was selected by the umpire's fraternity to choose W.C.B to facilitate this activity.

Loddon Mallee Diving

On Monday 21 March Billie R (14 Girls) and Ryan K (16 Boys) were involved in the Loddon Mallee Swimming and Diving championships that were held in Swan Hill. Both individuals represented WCB in affine manner with both being successful.

Congratulations to Matt C

A hearty congratulations goes to Matt C who produced an exceptional effort at the recent All School Championships that were held in Sydney. Matthew produced a great result in the 800 metres where he delivered a first place. This is an outstanding result for Matthew. On behalf of the college community, Well done. Matthew displays a disciplined approach and a fine work ethic combined with an abundance of natural ability. This result is testament to the effort that he has put in over the course of the past 4 years.

Girls Football

Friday April the 1st saw the year 7, 8 & 9 Girls Football Competition staged at Strathfieldsaye football Ground.

Although the girls didn't make it over the mark they had an enjoyable day and were competitive throughout the course of the Carnival. Best players over the day included Say M, Joanna H and Codi MI.

We now look forward to the year 10 Girls Football taking place during second term.

Thank you to the boys in relation to their efforts umpiring they were really good.

Year 7 & 8 Volleyball

On the 25th March the year 7 and 8 boys and girls volleyball teams competed at the interschool volleyball tournament at the Bendigo stadium. The girls and boys both tasted some success winning one game each for the day, with the boys also drawing a game.

The boy's team started off the day in great form taking down Crusoe in straight sets, with some close games following the boys finished off the day with a closely contested draw against Eaglehawk.

The girls began the day with like the boys with some close games against Girton, Crusoe and Eaglehawk. The girls managed a hard fought win against Loddon Valley which was a very close game.

Both teams represented the school at the highest level, both on the court and off the court with great sportsmanship throughout each and every game played. Over all it was a great day even though Weeroona College did not make the final, all students involved played to the best of their ability and demonstrated some great game play. All involved enjoyed themselves and I am very proud of all those students competing on the day.

Mr Novak

Shawn McCormick
Sports Coordinator

SCIENCE NEWS

Department of Primary Industry (DPI) Young Scientists

Seven of our students recently participated in the Department of Primary Industries Young Scientists Program. Its' aim was to provide an experience for small groups of students to engage in 'real science' and learn about career opportunities in science and agriculture. The project also aimed to increase student awareness and interest in science as well as developing skills relating to communication and teamwork.

Students worked as a team to help solve two issues relating to the Department of Primary Industries project. At the completion of the project students presented their findings to DPI staff and parents. They will also have the opportunity to present their findings to their peers at school next term. A summary of their findings is outlined below.

A comparison of soil health between an organic orchard and a conventional orchard

On the 23rd of March we went to Harcourt to compare 2 different orchards, both growing apples and other types of fruit. We took soil samples from both farms to see the how each orchard cared for their soil and how healthy the soil was.

The first orchard we went to was managed conventionally with chemicals which they use to keep their apple trees growing. They spray weedicide to kill the grass and weeds that grow around the trees. They use calcium nitrate to give the apples calcium, fumigate when needed and prevent diseases by using chemicals. Using chemicals kills all the microorganisms that live in the soil that keep the soil healthy.

The second we went to was an organic farm. The organic farm uses all natural substances to grow their trees and keep their soil healthy. The organic farm believe that using chemicals to kill the weeds and grass around the trees kills microorganisms and the myccorhizal fungi that keeps the soil together and prevents it from washing away. They compost once a year and sometimes give the plants kelp.

We took 20 samples from each orchard. We put the soils through multiple tests to see which was healthier. We tested the Colour, Texture, pH Level, Strength, Water holding capacity, Soil carbon and soil life. The Colour of the organic soil was a 10 Y R 2/2 a Very Dark Brown, and the conventional was 10 Y R 3/4 a Dark Yellowish Brown. The pHs in both soils were the same, around the 8 mark. The conventional soil was a loam soil (healthy mixture of minerals) and the organic soil was a sandy loam (healthy but grainy).

The water holding capacity for the conventional farm with 59grams of soil was 13grams of water, and the organic water holding capacity with 44grams of soil was 24grams of water.

To test the strength of the soil we put a clump from each orchard into two different beakers with water, and kept an eye on them for over 2hours. After this time we found that the soil from the conventional orchard had crumbled and spread across the beaker while the soil from the organic farm was still intact.

In the soil carbon test we tested the soils and compared them to sand. We put potassium permanganate solution into the beakers with the soils and left them for 10-15 minutes, the results showed that the soils from the orchards both had carbon in them but the

organic soil had more, and that is a positive result (The more carbon the healthier it is)

We assessed the soil life in a few ways while were sampling the soil, and again in the lab. We found multiple signs of life in the organic soil and no signs of life in the conventional managed soil.

The Results we have found indicate that organic soil is healthier and more sustainable compared to conventional agriculture. **By Chelsea S, Erin C, Sherene P**

Investigating issues of Bio-security for farmers and the Bendigo sale yards.

From Monday to Thursday, Klaus, Kyle, Tyson and Jordan spent four days at the DPI, it was a great experience, where we learned about all the career possibilities and all the things that they actually do there. On the first day we got to go around interviewing the people that work here. We saw some people who created maps from satellite images. There were also the people who create and update the website, the media crew, and all sorts of animal specialists. But our main goal there was to learn about biosecurity. Biosecurity is the protection of Australia's animals and plants, by stopping pests from entering our state so that plants and animals can thrive and not catch disease. We learnt about various ways of preventing the pests and diseases from spreading right around the country, and how they actually could spread. Throughout all the interviews, we heard the saying 'in a nutshell' from almost every single person, and there were about 25 people.

On the second day we got to go out into the field. We all went down to the saleyards in Huntly to look at cows and people buying and selling them. After that we went for a brief trip down to the chicken farm, and found out what goes on there for quarantine and how they keep the place safe. Later on that day we went down to the Bendigo creek, to look at an RPW (regionally prohibited weed), which came from a house up the creek a bit and it grew and grew and now it is spreading to the whole creek. After that, we went back to the DPI and started on planning our major project, which is to write about what actually happens here, and career options, and to help everyone back at school understand the importance of biosecurity.

On day three we spent most of the day actually making the project, Tyson and Jordan started on a model of a farm, with all biosecurity measures in place. Then we started on writing this article for all you to know what exactly went on here. Klaus and Kyle made pamphlets for our presentation, to hand out to everyone that was there, so that it wasn't a boring Powerpoint. After the pamphlets were complete they finished off the Powerpoint on careers available here. We also had to form a checklist of security measures on a farm site, stating for instance that all cattle had ear tags and there was a quarantine paddock for any diseased animals to prevent the illness from spreading. Later in the day, we went to see the bee man for a presentation on bees and biosecurity.

On the final day, we had to present what we had done over the past days to a small group. All went well, and we had an animation of the model showing a farmer with his checklist, and a magnifying glass on the cow with little lice in the magnifying glass. Afterwards we gave some feedback of what happened throughout the week, and the whole experience. It was a great time and we learnt many great and interesting things

By Jordan S, Tyson H, Klaus N and Kyle M.

Bettina Morrison
Science Coordinator

NETBALL

On Saturday April 2 our two Weeroona College netball teams played their first games for the year. Our 14 & Under team Weeroona White, coached by Bree H drew with Jets Amber 19 goals all. This was a great effort by the girls who were behind all day and nearly snatched a win. Vouchers were awarded to Tegan R and Amber M.

Our 17 & Under team, Weeroona Navy coached by Janine Dole, lost to Jets Pearl 66 goals to 4 goals. As we only had five players we will build on this and improve with the inclusion of some more players.

This week Weeroona White play Girton Blue at 1pm on Court 2 and Weeroona Navy have the bye.

There are no games on the 16th and 23rd of April. Thank you to Ms Dale for coordinating our teams and making it possible for us to play.

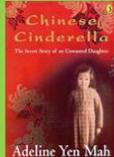
MULTI CULTURAL DAY – Tuesday 29th March

30 students from WCB were involved in a cultural harmony day held at Club Court Strathfieldsaye to recognise cultural harmony week. The day was organised by the Bendigo City Council. All students had a wonderful day with all being engaged in the activities. The WCB Sport and Recreation (Vet class) played a major role in the day helping to co-ordinate the vast majority of activities. Their efforts were integral in making the day a success.



LIBRARY NEWS

MOST POPULAR WEEROONA READS IN MARCH

1	 Chinese Cinderella	by Adeline Yen Mah
2	Once	by Morris Gleitzman
3	Shiver	by Maggie Stiefvater
4	Hatchet	by Gary Paulsen
5	Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief	by Rick Riordan

BSSC OPEN DAY

Sunday 15th May, 11.00am – 2.00pm

Bendigo Senior Secondary College invites prospective students, their families and members of the community to our first Open Day for 2011.

During the past year the college has undergone significant building works, resulting in the new Trade Training Centre, Language Centre, Confucius classroom and English wing. Tours of the college's facilities, led by members of our Student Council will operate regularly throughout the day commencing from the college library.

College Principal, Dale Pearce, will be presenting information sessions for prospective students and their families at 12.00 and 1.00pm. These will be held in the James King Hall.

The Open Day in May provides the community with an opportunity to discuss the extensive academic and vocational options available to our prospective students and families.

RISK OF ILLNESSES DUE TO MOSQUITO BORNE VIRUSES

- In light of the recent floods in Victoria, there has been an increase in the population of mosquitoes and there is a risk that illnesses due to mosquito borne viruses will start to occur.
- It is timely to revisit some general advice about protecting children and young people from mosquitoes, particularly in flood affected areas.

Actions Required

- **Prevention** - There are 2 broad guidelines for prevention:
 - Avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes by limiting outdoor activities at dawn and dusk where possible.
 - Mosquito control around the home, school or early childhood service:
 - Reduce available breeding areas for mosquitoes, particularly still, shallow water (e.g. in pot plants, car tyres, etc) where possible.
 - Check insect screens on windows and doors.
 - Eliminate mosquitoes found inside buildings.

Health advice – what to look out for and what to do

It is important that school and children's services staff are alert to the possibility of an illness as a result of a mosquito bite in students or children. A child may show signs of a high temperature, feeling unwell or lethargic and may also experience nausea, vomiting and dizziness. Advise the parent or guardian that they should take the child to a general practitioner for further advice and care.

WCB UNIFORM SHOP HOURS – DOBSONS

Term 1 SHOP HOURS:

Mon - 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Thurs - 8.30am – 12.00pm

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