



WEEROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO

weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

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www.weeroona.vic.edu.au

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Follow our Principal on Twitter https://twitter.com/#!/wcb_prin

WCB CONTACTS

Principal | Leanne Preece

Assistant Principal | Helen Tuohy

ZEST College Support Team
Student Welfare Coordinator | Karen Dale
Chaplain | Carl Rusbridge
College Nurse | Sarah Warburton

Katyl

Leaders

Jason Bysouth
Bree Franks

Learning Advisors

L7A Gary Schroeder
L8A Jaime Gray
L9A Helen Peppinck
L9B Mark Adams
L1A Carolyn Jones
L1B Dianne Andrea

Merin

Leaders

Leanne Miller
Tim McInnes

Learning Advisors

M7A Therese Johnston
M7B Meryl Hayes
M8A Leigh Schroeter
M9A Christine Toose
M9B Michelle Griffin
M1A Christine Henty
M1B Jean Stephens

Wannop

Leaders

Justin Hird
Monica White

Learning Advisors

W7A Tracey Lee
W8A Geoff Dempster
W8B Chloe Neath
W9A Sarah Smith
W9B Kristen Purden
W1A David Crowley
W1B Ronald Llewelyn
Primary Paul Ellis

Kappen

Leaders

Sue Pollard
Trent Bysouth

Learning Advisors

K7A Erin Pilkington
K7B Ryan Currie
K8A James Ginnivan
K8B Amanda Southcombe /
Brian Edebohls
K9A Marion Stewart
K9B Stephen Hocking
K1A Alan Aylward
K1B Jonathan McIntosh



WCB UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

17th | WCB Swimming Carnival- Bendigo Aquatic Centre
16th | School Photo Catch Up Day
20th | College Council 7pm
22nd | Music Expo 4.00pm - 8.00pm. A.T. Dingle
Performing Arts Centre
29th | EMA / Conveyance applications due

MARCH

6th | Year 7 & 8 Sports Day
7th | Yr 7 Welcome BBQ- evening 6.00pm-7.30pm
12th | Labour Day Holiday
19th-21st | Year 7 Camp
30th | Last Day Term 1 – 2.30pm finish

APRIL

16th | Term 2 Resumes



SCHOOL TIMES

Start 9am
Lunch 11.43am - 12.33pm
Recess 1.44pm - 2.04pm
Finish 3.15pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
8.15am - 4pm

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 8.30am – 12.00pm

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back to what promises to be an extraordinary year at Weeroona College Bendigo as we eagerly await the total completion of our whole new school later in the year. We hope it is a year for you that is rewarding and fulfilling as we continue the partnership in education with your children and you. I hope that you have all taken that well deserved break over the Christmas, New Year period. It is fantastic that so many of you committed to the Start Up Day sessions last week and I hope that you recognise the commitment from all WCB staff to personalise the learning for your child/children. Please ensure that you know who your child's Learning Advisor and Learning Community Leaders are and get to know them so that the partnership between home and school is real.

Learning Advisor

A Learning Advisor is a teacher who plays a significant role in overseeing your child's education during their time at Weeroona College Bendigo. After a review of this role we have reformed our Advisory groups to coincide with your child's core learning group. This means that each Advisor is responsible for the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of approximately 25 students whom they will remain with over the time that they are at our school.

This allows the learning advisors to:

Develop a strong relationship with their Advisees.

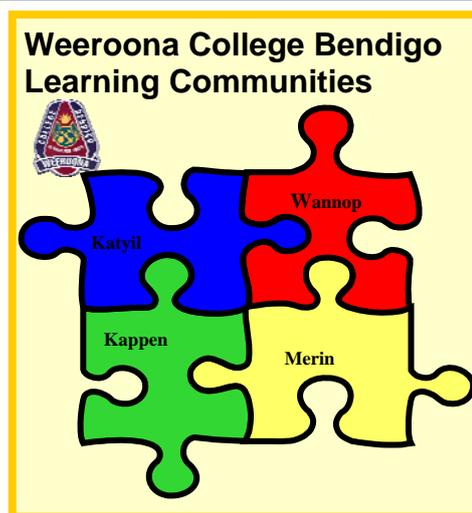
Develop a strong relationship with parents.

At Weeroona College Bendigo we believe that your child's education is a partnership between school and home and the learning advisor is the bridge between teachers, students and parents. Your child's learning advisors is the person you should contact first if you have any concerns regarding your child's learning and wellbeing.



Learning Communities

Our school consists of four learning communities and your child/children belongs to one of the learning communities where they will remain for their time at WCB.



1-to-1 Learning @ Weeroona College Bendigo

This is the second year of our 1-to-1 Netbook program. We believe that this is an important element for learning and teaching and will complement the Ultraset by providing two way communication, collaboration and learning opportunities between teachers, students and parents. A reminder that the school is making a significant contribution to the cost and maintenance of the school netbook program and you have been asked to support this project by making a financial contribution (eLearning Levy) of \$100, per year to support the running costs. We believe this contribution is offset by the minimal number of text books which our students are required to have/hire and many of you will be able to claim the cost against the Education Tax Refund. <http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/00174278.htm&pc=001/002/067/001/001&mnu=&mf=&st=&cy=1>

We recognise that some families may have computers at home and may already have purchased netbooks or other portable devices therefore it is necessary to emphasise the importance of your child being a part of the school netbook program for the following reasons: The netbooks will be owned by the school and as such will be under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education and Early Childhood. (DEECD).

This offers a number of important advantages:

- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) netbooks are provided with a full suite of licensed educational software (DEECD eduStar image) equivalent to approximately \$600 in value. Privately owned computers cannot be loaded with the DEECD image. Classroom programs and curriculum are designed around the availability of this range of software.
- DEECD netbooks will be maintained and managed by the school through the department's technical support. This ensures that the netbooks are up to date with the latest virus protection, software updates, safety and security. Privately owned devices cannot be managed in the same way and the department recommends that such devices are not connected to the school VicOne network.
- The cost of the DEECD netbooks are supplemented by the school. The personal use of the netbooks is offered to each student at a substantial reduction in cost to parents.

A further reminder to you that:

- Students and parents are required to sign an Acceptable User agreement outlining the use of the netbook as a learning and educational tool. Schools will be required to make occasional checks on appropriate and safe use of the netbook. This is substantially more difficult with privately owned machines.
- Students will be supplied with a device that will be no more than 2 years old with up to date hardware and software.
- Warranty and insurance processes will be managed by the school and are aimed to ensure that any damage or faults are dealt with in a timely manner according to school policy.

Our vision for the learning needs of your child includes access to their netbook anywhere, anytime. At home, as well as at school. We look forward to having all of our year 5 to 10 students being part of the 1:1 initiative and thankyou in advance of your support.

Interested in being a member of the Weeroona College Bendigo School Council?

As the new school year begins, we are looking for four parent representatives for our school council.

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No! What you need is an interest in our school and the ability to work cooperatively with others to help shape its future.

Why is parent membership so important? Parents on councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

If I am interested, what do I do? Download a nomination form from our school website or collect a copy from our general office, complete and return to the school by Friday 17 February 2012.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Weeroona College Bendigo. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school/ school website and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on 17/ 02/ 2012. The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on 06/ 03/ 2012.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014	4
DEECD employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at school.

Year 7 Showbags

If you missed out on receiving a showbag on Start Up Day please contact the General Office. We hope parents enjoy the "Teen Talk" book that was enclosed. The author, Sharon Witt, is a well known parenting expert and is regularly seen on 'The Circle'. We trust you find the book helpful and informative

Leanne Preece
Principal

School Council Election Process Timetable for Weeroona College Bendigo

EVENT	DATE
a) Notice of election and call for nominations via the school newsletter	Friday 10 February 2012
b) Closing date for nominations	Friday 17 February 2012
c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Wednesday 22 February 2012
d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday 27 February 2012
e) Close of ballot	Tuesday 6 March 2012
f) Vote count	Wednesday 7 March 2012
g) Declaration of ballot	Wednesday 7 March 2012
h) Special council meeting to coopt Community members (the principal will preside)	Monday 19 March 2012
i) First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	Monday 19 March 2012

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Sunsmart – Term 1

Term 1 is the time of year when students are strongly encouraged to wear hats outside during recess, lunch, PE and sports electives. The college policy re: the wearing of hats applies during Term 4 and Term 1. The only hat to be worn is the college approved hat available through the Dobson's uniform shop. Peaked hats are not sunsmart, not approved by the Cancer Council of Victoria, not part of the College uniform, and therefore are not to be worn.

Personal Goods Brought to School

Families are asked to note that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors.

This includes mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

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 such property.

Helen Tuohey

Assistant Principal

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE...

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.

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.

If students come late to school, they **MUST** sign in also with their 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.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)

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 (1st February, 2012) and Term 3 (16th July). The EMA application must be submitted to the college by **WEDNESDAY 29TH FEBRUARY, 2012** for the first payment and **FRIDAY 3RD AUGUST, 2012** for the second payment. The EMA provides an annual amount of \$235.00 for primary students and \$470.00 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments.

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

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

Applications for Conveyance Allowance should be lodged at the college no later than **WEDNESDAY 29TH FEBRUARY, 2012**. 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

Parents who have applied in previous years and have not changed their address **do not** need to reapply again. 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 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.**



SCHOOL PHOTOS CATCH UP DAY

Thursday 16th February we will be taking the remaining student photos that weren't taken on Start Up Day.

NEWSLETTER

As this is our first Newsletter for the year, we have posted it home to families. Our newsletter is published fortnightly and is available at www.weeroona.vic.gov.au and we will send parents an SMS when it is available online.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is located in the portables opposite the canteen.

Hours: Tuesdays – 2pm – 5pm
Thursdays – 8.30am – 12 noon

PATHWAYS UPDATE

This year the Pathways Department has undergone a major change with Mrs Linda Quarrier stepping down from her leadership role. On behalf of the college community I would like to acknowledge Linda's commitment and dedication to this role over many years. I have big shoes to fill and I am very excited by the opportunity. I will be working with the Year 10 Students across the year, assisting them with Work Experience, Transition from Year 10, Apprenticeships/ Traineeships, Careers Counselling etc.

I can be contacted via email- hodge.breannon.g@edumail.vic.gov.au or by phoning the college.

Breannon Hodge

Pathways/ Transitions Leader

PARENTS' CLUB

Next Meeting

The next Parents' Club Meeting will be on Wednesday 15th February, 2012 at 9.15am. The meeting will be held in the Merin Community. All welcome.

Brick BBQ/Selkirk Named Pavers

The construction of a new 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.

2012 Committee

President Kym Blume 54422541
Vice President Maxine Anderson
Secretary Joanne Kingdon
Treasurer Mary Mitchell

HELLO FROM ZEST - WEEROONA COLLEGE SUPPORT TEAM

Weeroona College Bendigo's Support Team, ZEST, consists of Karen Dale, Sarah Warburton (School Nurse) and Carl Rusbridge (College Chaplain). Students are better prepared for learning when they are healthy, safe and happy and the College Support Team is involved in assisting with health education, health promotion and one on one health consultation with individual students or small groups. We encourage students, staff and parents to access us as a health resource. We can provide information, guidance and support about a range of issues that includes:

- Relationships
- Self esteem
- Loss and grief

- Adolescent health concerns
- Bullying
- Safe sex
- Pregnancy
- Smoking, alcohol and drug use
- Managing stress and anxiety
- Healthy weight
- Problems at home.
- Uniform
- Faith and spirituality
- Social Justice
- Food bank

Being informed helps students make better health choices. If necessary, the College Support Team can also help students get in touch with other health providers, such as local doctors and pharmacists, community health services, psychologists, student support service officers, family planning services and more. Access to the College Support Team is free, friendly and confidential. We are available for students

and family when issues arise or simply for a friendly chat. We can be found in the Library of Weeroona College Bendigo or by phoning 54432133.

Health Dates:

19th Feb – 26th February, 2012

DonateLife Week.

18th Feb 2012

International Asperger Day.

YEAR 7 STUDENTS: IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT JOINING THE MUSIC PROGRAM!

On Wednesday 15/02/12 all year 7 students will have the opportunity to hear and try all of the musical instruments they can learn at school. This is always a fun session!

On the following Wednesday evening (22/02/12) they should come along to the Music Expo. Bring your parents, meet the music teachers, and have another try on the instruments. (Can Dad get a sound out of a trombone?) Grade 6 and year 8 students are also very welcome to come along.

Teachers will discuss how the Music program operates, which instruments suit each student, what time commitments are involved, how to make it easily affordable, etc.

The Expo will be open from 4.00pm til 8.00pm. You can spend as much time as you like. We expect that most people will need about 45 minutes.

We will have performances during the evening by the Bendigo Colleges String Orchestra and the Bendigo Colleges Symphonic Band – to show you how our students will sound in just a few years.

After you've seen and tried all the instruments, we'll give you an **application form**. You can sign up on the night, or take it away to think about it for a couple of days. The music teachers are looking forward to meeting lots of students and their parents!

Therese Johnston
Music Coordinator

TRIPLE G RESEARCH STUDY

In 2011 several of the Weeroona girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in a survey for the University of Ballarat. The survey was part of a research study into the activity levels of girls in this particular age bracket. The study is conducted over the course of two years and the same girls complete another survey in 2012.

Each participant in the survey has the chance to win spot prizes of sporting gear and also i-tunes vouchers. The survey will be conducted on Wednesday February 22nd during session 3.

Dianne Andrea
PE Teacher

YEAR 7 CAMP

The 2012 Year 7 Camp will be held on 19th – 21st March. Cost for the camp will be \$210.

As part of the Weeroona College Bendigo Year 7 program, a three day camp is going to be held at Campaspe Downs Country Resort, Trentham Rd, Kyneton in March. This camp occurs very early in the year with the view to encouraging and developing good relationships between students and their teachers at the beginning of an important year in their education.

Campaspe Downs Country Resort is a group accommodation facility located on the outskirts of the Macedon Ranges and set amidst 160 acres of natural bushland.

Camps are an integral part of our College Program. They provide active learning and social development beyond the classroom. Our experience shows that for most students, camps are a critical factor in building strong and trusting relationships with other students across the school. Students can also develop their ability to work as members of a team, resilience and responsibility for themselves and others. A number of indoor and outdoor activities will be organised by Campaspe Downs' staff and Weeroona College Teachers.

We are hoping that all students will be able to be a part of this camp. If the cost of the camp is a problem, please do not hesitate to the Coordinator for a confidential discussion as we are prepared to assist with various amounts where cost is a problem. Any queries should be directed to Mr. Trent Bysouth, College Camps Coordinator.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Winter Netball

Weeroona College Bendigo will not be entering any teams into Golden City's Winter Netball competition next year. If you are interested in playing netball this year, please contact one of the clubs listed below.

Remember to contact clubs early so that you don't miss out on a spot in a team.

Golden City Netball Association

Kangaroos
Debbie Browning – 54477844 / 041 4349737

Brumbies
Cath Gillies – 54424164 / 0447 524 164

Jets
Lynn Brain – 54353317 / 0429666359
Vicki Riley – 54470167

Boomerangs
Kerrie Beband - 54433441/ 0416966951

Southside
Marie West – 0412431373

KUTANYA NETBALL CLUB

Gordon – 54441594
Karen - 54488039

BLAZE NETBALL CLUB

Sean - 0410 754 942

Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association – Daryl
0421157931

Fusion News

Kid's Club

Every child is unique and has something to offer. Kid's Club support children to make friends, develop their potential, learn about healthy relationships, Christian values and that they are loved by God.

Sessions involve high energy games, stories, activities, crafts and problem solving activities all delivered in a really fun way that kids love!

Fusion Kid's Clubs are run all around the world and enrich the community and school lives of children through addressing issues not always responded to in the classroom.

Kid's Club is held at Fusion, 60 Raglan Street, White Hills between 4pm – 5.30pm on Thursdays. Cost is \$2 and \$1 for extra siblings. For children in Grades 3 – 6. For more information or to join Kid's Club contact Jayne Dixon on 5448 5255.

Fusion Lounge

A place for youth to relax. Pool Table, Table Tennis, Creative Stuff, Music. Open Fridays 3.30pm – 6pm. 60 Raglan Street, White Hills. Phone or text for more info or directions – 5448 5255 or 0439 370 877.

