**Weeroona College Bendigo Vision Statement**

Students at Weeroona College Bendigo are actively engaged in their learning which is personalized according to their needs and interests. Our students are independent; know what they need to learn and our teachers challenge and support them to achieve personal excellence.
FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to Term 2 at Weeroona College Bendigo. At the end of last term we farewelled two retiring staff members; Ms Jillian McKenzie and Ms Madeleine Munger. Both of these teachers contributed a great deal to our college through their passion for teaching and we wish them all the best in their retirement. I would also like to welcome some new members of staff; Ms Carmel Higgins and Ms Cecile Shanahan, both of whom will be teaching French and Mr Matthew Greenwood, our new English and Humanities teacher. Also back with us for Term 2 and 3 is Ms Sue Pollard who will be working in the English as a Second Language area.

During the last week of Term One, I attended a symposium on “What Next for Victorian School Funding”. It brought together over 170 of Victoria’s educators, parents, the not for profit sector, public servants and politicians. The event examined the state of equity in Victorian schools and the capability of our school funding model to provide an excellent education for all students.

Deputy Premier and Education Minister the Hon. James Merlino MP addressed the forum to outline his ambitions for the ‘education state’, announcing:

- In 2016 School budgets will include a line item which specifies how much funding has been allocated as a result of the Gonski deal between the state and federal governments.
- A full account of how Gonski deal funding has been spent to date.
- Funding to Victorian schools will be raised to bring them closer to the national average.

I welcome these commitments and look forward to seeing the detail in the coming state budget. I also want to see the Minister increase needs based funding and update the funding model to increase the equity component. At the symposium there was robust questioning concerning the recent legislation linking the non-government school funding envelope to government school funding. Many believe this undermines the core Gonski principle of sector blind needs based funding.

A report was presented comparing two groups of schools, one serving students from less advantaged families and the other more advantaged families. The report found that school-level education inequality rose in Victoria between 2010 and 2013, a change driven by shifting enrolment patterns. The report also highlighted the societal cost when students exit early from the school system. The report demonstrated that public schools have a significantly higher proportion (29%) of students in the lowest SES quartile, while this is 15% in Catholic schools and 8% in Independent schools. The report indicates that over the period since the Gonski Report was delivered in 2011, government funding (Victorian plus Federal) to government schools increased by 7.5% per annum, almost three times higher and well above inflation. Whatever the rationale for the disparity may have been, any substantive link to need or disadvantage seems to be missing.

Student Achievement

Congratulations to Tess Carter who has been awarded an INDIGENOUS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP for 2015. The selection committee were pleased to receive a number of applications from students who are committed and passionate about continuing their schooling.

Successful applicants were assessed and ranked according to:
- Motivation for applying
- The ability to be a good role model
- The applicant’s potential to achieve, including academic performance.

Well done Tess, a very worthy recipient.

Leanne Preece
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008. This year NAPLAN testing will take place on the 12th, 13th and 14th of May.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:
- Reading
- Writing
- Language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum.
Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
The focus of Weeroona College Bendigo is on supporting and challenging every student to achieve their very best and to continually improve their learning outcomes.

An important part of this focus is the partnership between school and home, between teacher, student and parent/carer. Student achievement conferences play a key role in this partnership and it is for this reason classroom teachers would like to meet with you and your child/children to discuss student achievement, progress and strategies for improvement by suspending classes and utilising in school and out of school hours in order to optimise the time available to you as parents and our teachers.

We have Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences scheduled to take place on 14th & 15th May 2015. You can book your preferred conference times with your child/s classroom teachers and learning advisor from the following time slots:
Thursday 14 May between 4.00pm- 8.00pm
Or Friday 15 May between 9.00am and 1.00pm

Please Note: there will be NO CLASSES at all on Friday 15 May as all teachers will be involved in the conferences. The office will also be closed after 1.00pm on this day.

Student achievement conferences at Weeroona College Bendigo are booked using an internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO). Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. Please note: Bookings will open on Monday 4 May and if you do not have access to the internet please contact the general office on 5443 2133 and we will arrange your conference times for you.

Jason Bysouth
Assistant Principal

FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE

Curriculum Resources Levy
A regular question we receive in the office is ‘What is the Curriculum Resource Levy and what does it cover?’

The Curriculum Resource Levy includes the following inclusions:
- Student ID Card
- Student Injury Insurance (whilst at school).
- College Magazine
- A contribution towards subject materials for core subjects (English, Maths, Science, PE, Humanities & Language).
- A contribution to new Library Books.
- A contribution towards first aid.

In 2015, students who haven’t paid the Curriculum Resource Levy will not be covered or receive:
- Student Injury Insurance (whilst at school).
- Student ID Card
- College Magazine

There has been no increase in this levy amount from 2014. While DEECD policy states this fee must be voluntary, it is essential to our school budget.

Levies can be paid in instalments if this makes it easier for families. We trust parents understand how important it is for us to receive this payment from families and how it is essential in resourcing our College.

QKR App
Did you know that the QKR App can be used to pay any school charges and order your child’s lunch?

The App now includes a permission note that you can sign and this gets sent directly to us.

We’ve had lots of positive feedback around this App and it is really easy to use!

For more info and how to download and start using the App please see our college website www.weeroona.vic.edu.au

SPORT

Weeroona College Bendigo Athletics Day
Weeroona College Bendigo held their Athletics Carnival on Friday 6th March at the Bendigo Regional Athletics Complex, Flora Hill.

It was fantastic to see many students engaged and wearing their community based house colours, which added to the atmosphere of the day. It was great to witness many of the student body making a defined effort in both Track and Field events. Well done to all competitors and congratulations to all those who won events.
Event winners will now represent the college at the Sandhurst Divisions Athletics carnival, to be held at the Bendigo Regional Athletics Complex, Flora Hill on Friday 1st May.

These are the results -

Junior Aggregate Results -
1st Wannop (384 points)
2nd Merin (358 points)
3rd Kappen (299 points)
4th Katyil (184 points)

Senior Aggregate Results -
1st Merin (402 points)
2nd Kappen (363 points)
3rd Katyil (258 points)
4th Wannop (141 points)

Overall Results -
1st Merin (760 points)
2nd Kappen (662 points)
3rd Wannop (525 points)
4th Katyil (442 points)

Individual Age Group Championships –

Boys
16(OPEN) Adam Dwyer (Kappen)
15 Boys Jordan Wanefalea (Katyil)
14 Boys Caleb Dingey (Wannop)
12-13 Boys Julian Langtree (Merin)

Girls
16 (OPEN) Meg Rothenberger (Merin)
15 Girls Gabby Rusbridge (Katyil)
14 Girls Georgia Mania (Wannop)
12 - 13 Girls Abbey Hromenko (Wannop)

Year 7 & 8 Boys Cricket
On Tuesday 10th March the Year 7 and 8 Boys Sandhurst Division Boys Cricket Carnival took place at Club Court, Strathfieldsaye. Weeroona’s first game was against Bendigo South East Secondary College. WCB bowled first. Generally the team bowled a good tight line and length restricting BSE early in their innings.

Jackson Goodwin and Letesha Bawden bowled well for WCB. Dropped catches didn’t help the WCB cause in the last 7 overs with BSE ultimately compiling a score of 3 for 120 with Mitch McConnell making 24, Jordan Bonanno making 17 and Jackson Goodwin scoring 15.

Weeroona batted well but were 25 runs short of the necessary total making a score of 5 for 95 with Mitch McConnell making 24, Jordan Bonanno making 17 and Jackson Goodwin scoring 15.

Weeroona’s second game saw them play Girton Grammar. Girton won the toss and elected to bat. Weeroona bowled and fielded in an excellent manner, holding Girton to a score of 9 for 54, with Caleb Dingey taking 3 for 9. Other wicket takers included Letesha Bawden, Brayden Murley and Hakeem Johnston.
Weeroona College Bendigo

Weeroona batted strongly throughout the innings compiling a strong score of 110 and winning the game fairly easily. Ben Daley and Dylan A’Vard opened the batting and forged a declared partnership of 61 with Ben making 25 not out and Dylan scoring 29 not out. Well done to all boys and Letesha Bawden on their effort throughout the day. Special thanks to local cricket identity Barry Findlay who coached the team at the carnival.

Bendigo Harriers Bendigo Bank Dragon Mile
On Easter Sunday a group of WCB students took part in the Bendigo Harriers Bendigo Bank Dragon Mile. All involved competed well in the event.

A highlight of the day was the victory in the Boys Year 9 and 10 boys teams event. The team incorporated Jake Hilson, Tom McKerrow and Jordan Wanefalea.

Maddison Hooke also ran extremely well finishing 2nd in the Year 9 & 10 Girls event. Jake Hilson also ran extremely well finishing 2nd overall in the Year 9 & 10 event. Again, well done to all involved.

GRAND PRIX STEM EXCURSION

On Friday 13th March we went to the Albert Park Grand Prix. When we got there we went to the gate and Mr Adams got our tickets. After going through the gate we got our bags checked for any drugs and alcohol. The sound of the screaming racing cars was awesome. We went with Mr Adams to the food area, and then he told us to meet back there in an hour and 30 minutes.

It was fun to leave the teachers; we went off and watched the race for a bit, then walked around again. We stopped at the band ‘The Rising Sun’ they were fantastic, so we watched them for an hour. We went back to Mr Adams and he took us to Legend Lane which had a lot of old race cars and ‘Need for Speed’ cars. As part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Technology STEM program in Term 3 we are going to be building ‘Need for Speed’ cars, which are small cars that can go up to 82 km per hour.

We had 3 hours to wander around until we had to meet at the gate where we went in. I wondered off by myself and went behind the pits where unfortunately I couldn’t go unless I had an F1 VIP pass, instead I went to Cosintino to watch his magic act. Then I roamed around to all the Ferrari’s which were expensive and fantastic. Time ran out, it was time to go back to the gate and get on the bus and go to McDonalds near Calder Park. Best day ever!

Ryley Ferguson & Conner Murphy
K8A students
ART EXCURSION

“Imagining Ned” Exhibition
Later this term, all Year 9 students will be attending the Imagining Ned exhibition at the Bendigo Art Gallery. This will give students an insight into the life and legend of the Kelly gang, with original artworks, artefacts, letters and weaponry on show. Students will view the exhibition and participate in a history workshop.

Due to funding we have received from the La Trobe University School Partnerships Program, there will be no cost associated with this excursion. A notice with permission form will be sent home closer to the date. See attached flyer for more details.

Marion Stewart & Erin Pilkington
Arts and Humanities Leaders

UNI BRIDGES NEWS

The UniBridges program is a joint project between La Trobe University and Weeroona College Bendigo which encourages students to take up Science related pathways at University. As part of this program, the UniBridges elective class recently attended Quantum Victoria in Melbourne, a centre of excellence and innovation in Science and Mathematics.

Students participated in a hands-on program called “A viral Enigma”, and learnt about the history of cryptography, encryption techniques, code-breaking algorithms and the application of these to understanding our genetic code.

The highlight of the day was dressing in protective gear to participate in a race to find a vaccine for a mysterious virus that was threatening humanity. All of the students really enjoyed this interactive learning opportunity!

MUSIC

The opening of Ulumbarra Theatre this weekend will be celebrated in many ways. Our Singing group will join 250 voices to form a massed choir. They will present 3 items…one of which is called “Jailhouse Rock”.

It has been arranged by our instrumental music teacher, Mr John Matthews, and will feature James Morrison. This is an exciting time and we hope the students can take with them fond memories of this momentous occasion. Students have worked very hard and have given up many lunch times to learn the songs. Ms Henty and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all these students.

Our Senior Band has also been rehearsing several music pieces for the Sunday celebration called ‘A Place for the People’. Our students will be performing near the cafeteria between 11:00am and 11:30am. A huge thank you to Mr Cohen and the Senior Band for all their hard work.

All students involved in these performances are to be commended for their hard work, extra practice, commitment, organisation and willingness to represent our College.

Therese Johnston
School Music Coordinator

SRC NEWS

Vic SRC Conference
The Victorian Regional SRC Conference was held last term at Bendigo Senior Secondary College and attended by a large number of schools in the Bendigo Region including the Weeroona College Student Representative Council. Twelve of the SRC members spent the day meeting and working with students from different schools, learning how to create change, action planning and how to effectively represent their student population.
Harmony Day
Harmony Day held on the last session of the last day of term was a fun and exciting way to finish Term 1. The SRC along with the House Captains and Koorie Group had a range of activities and food for students to enjoy for the afternoon.

Everyone was given the freedom to choose what they would like to do which included trying Koorie dot painting and Indigenous games, a range of sports, food, music and face painting.
Imagining Ned: History meets Art

Imagining Ned is an exhibition at the Bendigo Art Gallery and will explore the history and legend surrounding the Kelly Gang through original artefacts, such as Kelly’s famous armour, letters, weaponry and key art works from many renowned artists.

La Trobe University’s, School of Humanities and Social Science is developing a workshop to compliment this exhibition which will cover the historical aspect of the Ned Kelly story. This opportunity is available to our partnership schools.

Transport, workshop costs and entry into the exhibition will be covered by La Trobe University School Partnerships Program.

Places are limited... Each workshop is limited to 25 - 30 students

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<th>Workshops</th>
<th>Overview</th>
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<tr>
<td>History Workshop</td>
<td>Ned Kelly remains a highly mythologised character in Australian history. Some say he was a murderous villain and outlaw, while others proclaim him a misunderstood folk hero – an Australian Robin Hood. Explore who Ned was and make up your own mind!</td>
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| Exhibition – floor talk and tour | *Imagining Ned: The story of Ned Kelly and the art he inspires*  
The Story of Ned Kelly and the Kelly Gang has captured the imaginations of Australian artists and writers over the last century, inspiring masterpieces such as Sidney Nolan’s Kelly Series. Original artefacts, such as Kelly’s famous armour, letters, weaponry, associated ephemera, film and other historic items.  
The exhibition comprises more than 70 objects. A guided tour of the exhibition will be provided by the Gallery’s education officer. |

Available Dates

Friday May 15, Thursday May 28, Friday May 29, Thursday June 4, Friday June 5

Contact Hayley Cail: School Partnerships Program to find out History workshop and Exhibition tour times and to secure your place.

Email: h.cail@latrobe.edu.au  
T: 5444 7303
Delivering expert advice

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When to go, where to go, how to do it!

TERM 2 INFORMATION SESSION
BENDIGO

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 7-9 PM
Bendigo Library
259 Hargreaves Street

1800 500 501  scceaust@scce.com.au  www.scce.com.au
When:     Friday 17 April, 2015
Time:     6:45pm
Movie:    Paul Blart Mall Cop 2
Venue:    Bendigo Cinemas
Tickets:  $5.00

To book your ticket, please contact Bendigo Community Health Services on 5448 1600 or call in to 171 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo

To celebrate Youth Week, Bendigo Community Health Services would like to invite youth, 12 years to 25 years, to attend this newly released movie.

So get your friends together and book your ticket now!