WECROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO

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WCB CONTACTS

Principal | Leanne Preece
Assistant Principal | Jason Bysouth
Student Wellbeing Team
Student Wellbeing Team Leader | Julie Nicol
Chaplain | Carl Rusbridge
College Nurse | Sarah Warburton

Wannop Leaders
Justin Hird
Vern Hardie

Learning Advisors
L7A Brian Edebohls
L7B Mark Adams
L8A Carolyn Jones
L8B Dianne Andrea
L9A Gary Schroeder
L1A Helen Peppinck

Kappen Leaders
Trent Bysouth
Sarah Trew

Learning Advisors
K7A Erin Pilkington
K8A Marion Stewart
K9A Paul O’Shea
K9B Eva de San Miguel
K1A David Crowley
K1B Alan Aylward

Learning Advisors
M7A Michelle Griffin
M8A Christine Henty
M8B Jean Stephens
Lai Khum Law

Learning Advisors
M9A Leigh Schroeter
Ryan Currie
M9B Meryl Hayes
M1A Tim Lawrance
Shawn McCormick

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.

SCHOOL TIMES
Start 9.00am
Lunch 11.45am - 12.35pm
Recess 1.45pm - 2.05pm
Finish 3.15pm

OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
8.15am – 4.00pm

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
Tuesday 2.00pm – 5.00pm
Thursday 8.30am – 12.00pm

WCB UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE
27th Last Day Term 2 – 2:30pm dismissal

JULY
14th First Day of Term 3
16th Parent/Friendship Group Gardening commences
24th BSSC Information Night for Year 10’s

AUGUST
15th Curriculum Day (Pupil Free Day)
20th Year 9 Arts Connect Excursion

SEPTEMBER
2nd Variety Night - Performing Arts Building
19th Last Day Term 3 – 2:30pm dismissal
FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Weeroona College Bendigo Assistant Principal

Appointment

On behalf of our school community, I would like to congratulate Jason Bysouth who has been appointed to the Assistant Principal position that we recently advertised. Jason has been in the acting role for some time and his substantive appointment is well deserved.

Assessment and Reporting

Our teachers have been busy preparing end of semester one 2014 reports and these reports will be posted out at the end of the term. A reminder to all parents and students about the expectations in our Student Promotion Policy.

A Weeroona College Bendigo student is expected to achieve the following Star Levels;

- AusVELS (Victorian Essential Learning Standards) 0.5 Progression in all subjects.
- English - Improvement in On Demand Reading (aim is for all students to achieve 0.6 improvement for the year).
- Mathematics - Improvement in On Demand Mathematics (aim is for all students to achieve 0.6 improvement for the year).
- Submission of all required learning tasks and school assessed tasks (SATs) in all subjects within required time frames.
- Completion of school testing (eg. NAPLAN, On Demand, Exams and Topic Tests).
- School Attendance rate of 90% or above (unless approved extenuating circumstances).

Teachers and Learning Advisors will be checking on progress from first semester and establishing learning goals for semester two and you are asked to support them to ensure that your child is on track for promotion.

Retirement - Farewell

Today Mr Chas Odgers retires after working for more than 40 years in Education. Chas has previously been a Mathematics teacher and more recently our Daily Organiser and Timetabler.

We would like to thank Chas for the contribution he has made at Weeroona College Bendigo over many years. We wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Leanne Preece
Principal

FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Student collection during school hours

Weeroona College Bendigo will only allow students to be collected by their parents (subject to any specific court orders) or by a person who has been authorised by the parents to pick up their child by written note or phone call.

If the authorised person collecting the child is not known to the school, verification of identity using suitable photo identification (such as a drivers licence) must be sighted by school personnel. Schools are required to record the details of when a student has been collected early from school including the:

- Date and time.
- Reason for the collection.
- Person who collected the child (including this person’s signature).

In order to meet this requirement it is essential that all WCB students are signed out through the General Office.

Jason Bysouth
Assistant Principal
FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Instalment Two

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. Parents and guardians may be eligible for the EMA if they have a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The second instalment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is due to be paid from mid-August onwards.

Parents and guardians who lodged an EMA application at the beginning of the year do not need to lodge another EMA application to receive the second instalment EMA payment.

Parents/guardians whose children have transferred to this school since 28th February 2013 will need to submit a new EMA application form. Applications close on 1st August 2014.

Eligibility information can be obtained from: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/finance/Pages/emaeligibility.aspx

Please see the flyer attached for regarding EMA for 2015 and beyond.

SPORT

Upcoming Sport Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 17th July</td>
<td>SSV Cross Country- Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 23rd July</td>
<td>Year 9 &amp; 10 Boys Football</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 6th August</td>
<td>Loddon Mallee Region Football – Swan Hill</td>
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Year 7 & 8 Soccer

On Tuesday 17th June the Sandhurst Division Soccer Carnival took place at the Epsom Soccer Complex. The Year 7 & 8 girls improved throughout the course of the competition and was defeated in their last game against Eaglehawk Secondary College. Strong players throughout the games were Tahlia D, Sarah B and Tah E. Thanks to Ms Purden for coaching the girls on this day.

The Year 8 boys put in strong performances. They were narrowly defeated in their pool games, but this was genuinely not reflected in their performances. All involved teamed well and put in maximum effort. Connor B played fantastic Soccer kicking 2 great goals. Alex

S, Jordan W, James R and Blair S also made significant contributions.

Well done to all participants involved in the day including the VET Sport and Recreation students who arrived early to set up nets and corner flags and were involved in umpiring duties throughout the course of the carnival.

ART

Advanced notice of Year 9 day trip to Melbourne: Wednesday 20th August

As part of the government funded program ArtsConnect9, a day trip has been organised for Year 9 students on Wednesday August 20th. This will involve travelling to Melbourne to participate in two activities. The first activity is a Melbourne Street Art and Laneway tour, while the second is a live performance of Macbeth by the Bell Shakespeare company.

Year 9 students study Shakespeare as part of their English curriculum, this performance will help to support
their understanding of Shakespeare in a fun, contemporary way.

The total cost for the day is $25.00. More information will be available early next term.

Marion Stewart
Arts Leader

MUSIC NEWS

Music Week
Over 30 students had the best time at Music Week this year. They made lots of friends with students from other local Government Colleges and they were all impressed with their own improved music making skills. Of course the muffins were a big highlight every day.

They had four days of intense tutorials and large ensemble rehearsals working with well-known clinicians/conductors in the music field.

Tara G and Tiffany F both agreed that these four days were the equivalent of two terms of lessons. They both felt they learned so much and that the standards required of them were challenging and much higher this year.

The Grainger Band (Year 7) had the privilege of working with Ms Sue Arney. The Holst Band (Year 8) was under the direction of Mr Andrew Van Gemert. The Symphonic Band (Year 9 and 10) was guided by Mr Simon Brown.

He taught at Weeroona College in the 90’s and achieved Gold at the Melbourne School Bands Festival). The String Ensemble had the honour of working with Mr John Quaine.

The four days of practice resulted in an outstanding concert at the Baptist Church on Thursday evening. Well done to all our Instrumental Music Teachers for making this event possible.

Therese Johnston
School Music Coordinator

SCIENCE

Several Year 10 Science students recently attended La Trobe University’s “Get into Genetics” day as part of the Uni Bridges Program. Uni Bridges is a joint project between La Trobe University and selected Bendigo schools which is aimed at encouraging students to take up Science related pathways at university.

The students spent the day rotating through the following activities:

- Gel Electrophoresis – students used this process to identify which sample was from an individual with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
- DNA structure – students modelled DNA using lollies to represent the sugar-phosphate backbone and bases GTAC.
- Extracting DNA – students extracted samples of DNA from onion cells.
- Human Anatomy – students were given a tour of the anatomy lab and its exhibits.

There was also a presentation from a Genetics Counsellor, Jane Wallace, who explained what her job entails and her career path from a scientist to her present position.
The students all enjoyed the experience and are keen to participate further in the Uni Bridges program next term. For information about the Uni Bridges program please contact Jean Stephens.

YEAR 10 QUEENSLAND CAMP

The Year 10 students have been having a fantastic time on their annual Year 10 Queensland Camp. After an early start and a short flight, students have enjoyed warm, sunny weather, which has allowed them to take full advantage of the theme parks and associated activities on offer. They have been kept busy with a full itinerary and no doubt have some funny stories and great memories to bring home.

Those who have not had the opportunity to visit Queensland before are quickly learning to navigate and orient themselves in unfamiliar surroundings, whilst those who have been before are busy comparing their earlier memories with current experiences.

Additional stories and photos will be included in subsequent newsletters.

DEBATING COMPETITION

Weeroona College Bendigo

During May and June a group of Year 8 and Year 9 students participated in the Debating Association of Victoria regional schools’ competition. The team travelled to Bendigo Senior Secondary School to debate against teams from Bendigo, Shepparton, Rochester and Swan Hill. The following students worked extremely well in teams to research and plan their debating topics: Imogen F, Taylor F, Georgia M, Kate S, Jaimee B, Isobel K, Tiarne F and Maraia M.

All of these students were new to debating and they argued their way through a selection of intellectually challenging topics.

- That the national curriculum should seek to promote Australian values.
- That we should ban music that glorifies crime, violence and sexism.
- That we should not grant developing countries the right to host major sporting events.
- That all citizens should be required to do compulsory environmental service.
- That we should abolish the minimum wage.

Trolling - this is when someone misuses social websites to cause harm to other individuals or groups. One example is from 2008, when a UK man was ordered to pay about $35,000
Our teams battled through the first four debates narrowly losing to some highly skilled debaters. In true Warrior form the teams persevered and managed a win for the final debate. Considering we were debating in a Year 10 division the victory was well earned and an exciting one.

FROM THE WELLBEING TEAM

Safe Social Media
The use of online technologies and social networking has exploded in recent years creating a big change in the way we connect with others. As with any change to how we do things, there are both pros and cons. Along with the benefits of being able to connect with friends at any time, any place, there are some risks and dangers that are useful to know about.

What is Social Networking?
Wikipedia defines a social networking service as “an online service, platform or site that focuses on building and reflecting of social networks or social relations among people, who for example share interests or activities”.
The number of social networking sites seems to be growing all the time. Some popular ones at the moment include:
- Facebook
- MySpace
- YouTube
- Bebo
- Foursquare
- Twitter
Social networking also includes online game sites such as World of Warcraft and Runescape.
With so many social networking sites around, keeping up to date with friend’s tweets, status changes, birthdays, check in’s, event invites and latest photos can seem like a full time job!

Risks
Social networking has opened up lots of opportunities to interact with people but it also comes with risks. Below are some of the risks to be mindful of:
- **Your personal information can potentially be seen by anyone, anywhere** - this means your information can be viewed by friends, family, strangers and even potential employers. Take a minute to think about how that employer might judge your Facebook page. Is there anything there that you know you would not want them to see?
- **Once content is posted, it can be available for a very long time** - even when comments or photos are deleted from your social networking pages, it is still possible for other people to access them through internet search engines
- **Sexual predators** - these are people who knowingly choose children or young adults to make contact with to try to engage in sexual contact
- **Identity fraud** - these people search various sites and gather enough information about a person to

(Australian) for libel and breach of privacy for creating a fake page on Facebook, suggesting an old school friend was homosexual and dishonest.

**Protect your personal information**
To reduce online risks it is important to consider what personal information you share with others and what information should remain private to you. It is important never to share your:
- home address.
- phone number.
- school name or address.
- information about workplace.
- sporting clubs or groups that can be easily identified.

This personal information can make you easily found in the real world and can also lead to identity fraud.

**Privacy Settings**
Choose what information you want people to see. Get to know what the different privacy settings mean and update them regularly. Also, be mindful that social networking sites can change their privacy settings and you won't always know this has happened.

**Photos**
Once a photo is posted online, it is out there forever and you can never be too sure what others might do with it. Your photos can be saved by friends, and often friends of friends, and they could turn up anywhere, any time in the future. Each time you consider posting a photo, ask yourself, "Would I be happy to print this image and hand it out at school, work or a family BBQ?"

It is also important not to post photos of yourself in your school, sporting or work uniform. Any clothing that has badging or names on it can make you easily identifiable. When you post photos, it is also helpful to think about the impact they will have on friends and/or family, before you post.

**Sexting**
Keep sexting laws in mind when taking photos, sending or receiving images. Did you know that in 2007, 32 Victorian teenagers were charged with child pornography offences?
Taking, sending or receiving sexual images of a minor (under 18) is illegal. If you’re found to have a naked or semi-naked photo of someone under 18 on your phone or your computer, you can be charged with a criminal offence.
If you forward the photo to someone else you can be charged with a criminal offence even if you delete it from your own phone. You can still be charged if it is a photo of yourself and you agreed for the photo to be sent.
Not all teens are aware of these laws and may inadvertently find themselves being charged.

Julie Nicol  
Student Wellbeing Coordinator

FRIENDSHIP GARDENING GROUP

From the commencement of Term 3, we have a parent gardening group/friendship group starting at the college. The group would meet 1.00 – 3.00pm on Wednesday afternoons. Bring your gardening gloves and meet some other parents at the College. Afternoon tea is supplied. If you are unavailable at this time but would still like to get involved, please let me know as time is flexible. For any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Sonya on 5443 2133.

BENDIGO NEWCOMERS

Have you moved to Bendigo in the last couple of years? Would you like to get to know Bendigo and some Bendigo-ians?

Bendigo Newcomers hosts regular social events where new comers to our local area can meet with new people and long established residents, to share knowledge and information on Bendigo in a friendly social environment.

You may have lived in the City of Greater Bendigo for six weeks or six years, join us. Please go to the Bendigo Newcomers website: http://bendigonewcomers.com/ for a membership form or the newsletter with upcoming events.
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.

It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.

From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.

The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.