

WEEROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO

WCB VISION

WE CARE ABOUT OUR STUDENTS AT
WEEROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO AND
WE HELP THEM TO THRIVE



Phone | 5443 2133
Absence Line | 4433 4911

www.weeroona.vic.edu.au
weeroona.co@edumail.vic.gov.au

PO Box 566 | BENDIGO | Victoria 3552
383 Napier Street | BENDIGO | Victoria 3550

UPCOMING EVENTS

Issue No 2

OPEN HOURS

SCHOOL

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

OFFICE

Monday – Thursday
8.15am – 4.15pm
Friday
8.15am - 4.00pm

UNIFORMS - NOONE

Monday to Friday **9:00am - 5:00pm**
Saturday **10:00am - 1:00pm**

21 Queen Street Bendigo.
(03) 5440 5600

MARCH	2020
27th	Last Day Term 1 2.30pm dismissal
APRIL	2020
14th	1st day Term 2
25th	Anzac Day—No classes

All student activities / excursions have been cancelled until further notice.

CONTACTS

PRINCIPAL

Jason Bysouth (Acting)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Sarah Trew (Acting)
Anton Van Maanen (BFO)

WELLBEING TEAM

Welfare | Julie Nicol
Welfare | Bridget Chambers
Chaplain | Carl Rusbridge
Nurse | Tammy Nancarrow

KATYIL

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Jack McIntosh
Marion Stewart

LEARNING ADVISORS

L7A Kate Flanders
L7B Meryl Hayes
L8A Scott Nicholls
L8B Matt Reeves
L9A Nadine Harper
L9B Luke Freeman
L1A Sarah Davis

WANNOP

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Karl Winzar
James Ginnivan

LEARNING ADVISORS

W7A Ryan Currie
W7B Chloe Neath
Kellie Roberts
W8A Alex Madden
W8B Gabby Sidhu
W9A Paul Oshea
W9B Neetu Mago
W1A amddy Morrow

MERIN

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Laura Mow
Trent Bysouth

LEARNING ADVISORS

M7A Kierny McKemmish
M7B Brooke Nowell
M8A Carolyn Jones
Christine Edgar
M8B Simone Godfrey
M9A Carly Whitlock
M9B Chris Emond
Kain White
M1A Sue Pollard
M1B Jian Luo

KAPPEN

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Liam Ireland
Ryan Pollard

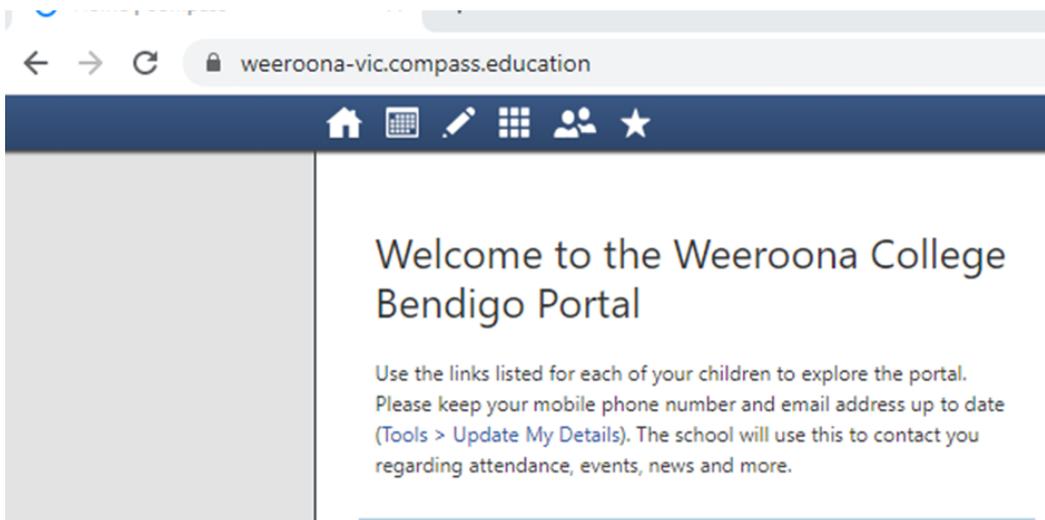
LEARNING ADVISORS

K7A Tara Pocklington
K7B Sophie Alford
K8A Yinmu Liu
Jemima Albrecht
K8B Sarah Baldwin
K9A Liam Ireland
K1A Kane Goldsworthy
K1B Leigh Schroeter

FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

CONTINUATION OF LEARNING

Weeroona College Bendigo has developed a plan to support continuation of learning in the event of any closure. This includes work being provided online via Compass for remote learning. Teachers will be able to set learning tasks, provide resources and give students feedback to support continued learning. Work is also currently being carried out to ensure students have set up their emails, checking whether students have a working device and their ability to access internet at home. We are ensuring teachers can communicate with each other, students and importantly parents. To ensure we are able to communicate with you about your students learning, we are asking that you log into Compass and ensure that your email contact details are accurate. Below is a screen grab of where to update your details. Click on the blue link, ensure your email is correct. If you have any difficulties with this please contact the College.



Jason Bysouth

Acting Principal

ROAD SAFETY

UNSAFE DRIVING AROUND SCHOOL CROSSINGS.

The City of Greater Bendigo has received a number of complaints from School Crossing Supervisors this year about unsafe and unlawful driving at their school crossings. We have received complaints that drivers have driven through the crossings while the supervisor has been standing in the middle of the road with the stop sign raised. There has also been reports logged of drivers driving through red lights at pedestrian crossings.

ROAD RULES AROUND CROSSINGS

Children's crossings are only in operation when flags are displayed. When flags are displayed, drivers must not proceed through the crossing if children or adults are still on the crossing or about to start crossing. This is the law regardless of the presence of a crossing supervisor.

When children's crossings flags are not displayed, pedestrians should give way to passing road traffic. Drivers should always use caution when approaching children's crossings when children are present. Not every child will know or remember the different rules.

If anyone sees a vehicle driving through a crossing unlawfully, they should attempt to get the vehicles details, including registration, colour and make of the vehicle and report this to the Police. The number to contact the Police is 131444.



FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

COLLEGE VALUES

RESPECT is one of the values we uphold here at Weeroona College Bendigo and we aim to have all community members display this. One way that we can demonstrate this is to show respect for the learning environments that we are in, this includes pushing in chairs at the end of each lesson and cleaning up the areas that we are working in. It also involves making sure that we put all rubbish that we have in a bin. I encourage everyone to be vigilant in ensuring that they use the bins provided around the school and ask families to send students to school with as little packing of foods as possible.

SCHOOL BEANIES

School Beanies have been a popular choice towards the end of this term and with the cooler weather just around the corner these will be a welcome addition to the uniform. A reminder that these beanies are not to be worn in class.

Scooters, Skateboards and Bikes

A reminder that the riding of Scooters, Skateboards and Bikes in the College grounds is prohibited. This is a safety issue and students found on these will be asked to hop off them. If a student continues to ride a scooter the item will be confiscated for a week and will need to be collected by a parent/guardian.

CHANGES TO CANTEEN

In response to the recommendations from DET the following will be occurring in relation to the College Canteen, effective from Monday 23rd March.

- Only students who have pre-ordered lunch will have access to the Canteen at lunchtime. Pre orders can occur in one of 2 ways
 1. QKR app (contact administration office if you require further information in regards to this)
 2. Placing a preorder at the beginning of the day at the Canteen from 8.30am -9.00am
- Students will collect their ordered food from the Canteen at the beginning of lunch from 2 open windows and will be directed to leave the recommend 1.5m distance from each other.
- The canteen will be closed at recess.
- No walk up orders will be accepted.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Sarah Trew

Acting Assisting Principal



2020 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Weeroona College Bendigo is proud to introduce our 2020 School Captains

Muhammad Khan

During May 2019, I came to Australia with no sense of Australian culture or curriculum and was warmly welcomed to Weeroona College Bendigo by my lovely teachers and friends. While being at WCB I have learned to demonstrate the school values, which are: respect, integrity, personal excellence, innovation and resilience. I nominated for the position of School Captain to raise awareness about school issues and help bring solutions that will continually improve WCB. I aim to be transparent in this role and build on my skills and character. I am thrilled to be a WCB School Captain in 2020.

Asia Balkhi

I really enjoy attending Weeroona College Bendigo every day. It is such a great honour to have been voted School Captain for this year. I began studying at WCB in 2018 which was my first year in Australia. I have learned a lot of things from WCB. I feel the role of School Captain will open up many new opportunities and help me to improve my overall leadership skills, people skills and public speaking abilities. I am looking forward to embodying the school values of: respect, integrity, personal excellence, innovation and resilience.

Destiney Seymour

I have been a member of the WCB Community for the past four years. During this time I have learnt the importance of respect, integrity, personal excellence, innovation and resilience. I ran for School Captain as I wanted to be a representative of the student's voice and help to implement their ideas. My personal goal is to help make Weeroona College Bendigo a better place for students, teachers and the rest of the school community.

Jasmine Winiata

I am extremely grateful to have been elected as a WCB School Captain in 2020. This will provide a wonderful opportunity to improve my public speaking and gain confidence. Studying at WCB, I have enjoyed reading novels and completing science subjects. I have gained an excellent rapport with teachers and students, giving me the opportunity to become a reliable and trustworthy voice. I am looking forward to a positive, fun and productive year as a WCB School Captain.



WEEROONA
COLLEGE
BENDIGO

PARENT SURVEY

2020 WEEROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO SCHOOL REVIEW

As part of the improvement cycle, each Victorian government school undertakes a review every four years. The school community completes a comprehensive self-evaluation against the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) continua of practice, which should involve students, teachers and community members.

An independent analysis is also completed of a school's performance against their goals and targets in their school strategic plan. The review evaluates the school's strengths, areas for improvement and the impact of its improvement efforts.

At the end of the review, a new four-year school strategic plan is created and endorsed by the school community.

Therefore, **your input into this self-evaluation is critical**. Below is a link to a five minute online survey – multiple choice questions only. Please take the time to complete and provide important feedback for WCB's ongoing process of continual improvement.

<http://tiny.cc/6r3elz>



The banner features the Weeroona College logo on the left, which includes a shield with a book and a torch, and the text 'COLLEGE WEEROONA' and '1954'. To the right of the logo is the slogan 'WE CREATE BRILLIANCE'. Below the logo and slogan, the text '2020 School Review Survey' is displayed in a bold, black font. Underneath this text is a red button with the white text 'Click to open the survey'. At the bottom of the banner, there is a white box with the text 'Survey Address:' followed by a small instruction: 'If you require a link rather than clicking the button, please copy and paste <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WCB2020> into your browser.'



YR 9 CAREER EDUCATION

My Career Insights is a new program for all Year 9 students in Victorian government schools. Using the Morrisby Profile platform, students will undertake a range of quizzes and questions to help identify potential career pathways. These quizzes will be undertaken in the student's Career Education classes with their teacher.

Students also have the opportunity to have a 30 minute meeting with an accredited career advisor.

There is no cost for this program.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support our students in their career development.

Parents need to consent for their child to complete the quizzes and meet with the career advisor.

Consent forms will be handed out to students. Parents can also consent on compass using the new course confirmation and payments section.

These tests and quizzes will begin in early Term 2. Please consent on line by the end of term.

For further information please contact Luke Freeman on 5443 2133 or freeman.luke.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

ADMINISTRATION

Student's photo have arrived they will distributed during advisory Monday morning 23rd March. Anyone wishing to order photo's are to do so through the leading image website www.leadingimage.com.au

2020 CSEF (Camps Sports & Excursion Fund) close 26 June 2020 – no late applications can be accepted.

2020 Conveyance Claims – Term 1 applications have now closed- Term 2 Applications close 19 June 2020.

Family Statements have been issued – any queries please see the Administration Office.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Weeroona College Bendigo takes attendance very seriously. This is because we want to give your child the best possible education. If your child is genuinely sick, please keep them at home. If they don't want to come, send them to school.

Here are some very surprising statistics.

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing	That equal...	Which is...	And over 13 years of
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year
20 mins per day	1 hr 40 min per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

Compass Kiosk is now being fully utilised at the Student Services window when students are signing in and out.

If your student is arriving or departing outside of normal school hours, an explanation is required from the student's parent/carer. This can be done in the following ways:

- Log onto Compass and record the absence.
- Phone the Administration Office on 5443 2133 (press 1) to leave a message or (press 2) to speak with an attendance officer.
- Write a note with an explanation to be handed in by your student to the Administration Office.

Our IT staff are always available and happy to guide you through any Compass assistance needed to be able to explain absences quickly and efficiently. They can also help with setting up the App on your phone or electronic device. It is worth seeking assistance with Compass as this is the program that is also used by Bendigo Senior Secondary College.

Unexplained absence letters are sent home every month with a reply paid envelope for your convenience. Absence explanations must come from a student's parent/carer. It is important to return these letters as soon as possible to avoid receiving them every month for the same absences.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate in calling the Administration Office and speaking to either myself, or Wendy in attendance.

Martine Elms

Attendance Officer

IMMUNISATIONS



Every day, immunisation saves lives by reducing the spread of disease.

Immunisation protects people who have been immunised. It also protects those in the community who may be unable to receive immunisation themselves.

Many vaccines are provided free of charge to Australian secondary school students under the **National Immunisation Program**. Immunisation is most commonly given to students through council visits to secondary schools. Parents must return a card to the school providing or refusing their consent.

The protection provided by some childhood immunisations fades over time and needs to be boosted in adolescence. Secondary school students are at an age when a vaccine will be most effective and provide protection before possible exposure to a disease.

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 and Year 10 students. Students will have the opportunity to receive the following:

Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine in Year 7

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Year 7

Meningococcal A,C,W,Y vaccine in Year 10

Facts:

- HPV can affect both males and females
- Vaccines prevent serious illness, disability and death and are important for individuals and community
- For the best protection, vaccinations should be given on time, every time
- All vaccines have been thoroughly tested for safety and effectiveness and are continually monitored and evaluated

It is highly important that all students return their consent cards.

If you have any questions, please feel free to either contact the Bendigo Council or myself.

Scheduled upcoming immunisation dates are:

Year 7

Tuesday 21st April 2020 (first round)

Tuesday 10th November 2020 (second round)

Year 10

Tuesday 14th July 2020

Tammy Nancarrow

School Nurse

WELLBEING

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WELLBEING

It's been a busy term 1 in our wellbeing team. We have been busy getting to know many of our students and families. These are some of the events that we have celebrated and are coming up.

RIDE TO SCHOOL DAY

The wellbeing team celebrated ride to school day with a breakfast for all our students which included pancakes, cheese toasties, fruit and refreshing drinks. Well done to all those who rode to school and enjoyed the breakfast.

PARENTING WORKSHOP

This term Weeroona College hosted a Parenting Workshop facilitated by Catholic Care Sandhurst. As many of our parents would agree, parenting teenagers is not easy, it requires creativity, determination and patience! It's a tough phase for everybody, but you're not alone.

Parents who attended the workshop were provided with information about teenage development, improved their understanding and explored strategies that focus on the strengths and challenges of this stage of adolescent development. We look forward to hosting more parenting workshops in the future.

Wellbeing Team

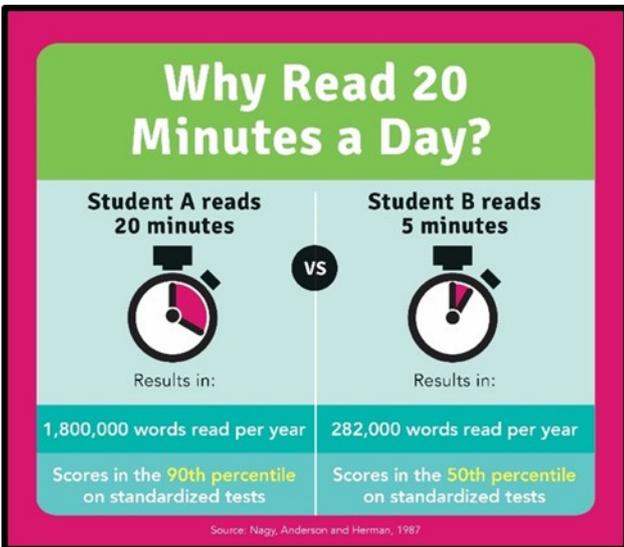
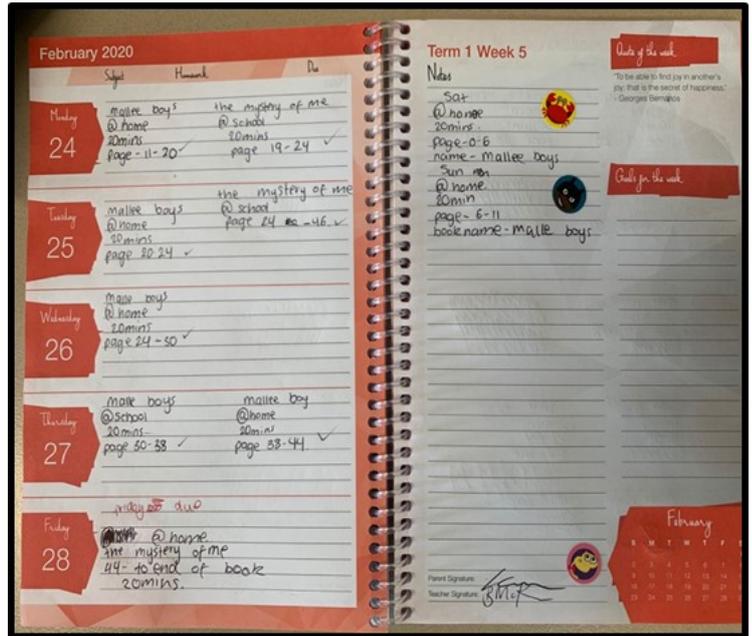


LITERACY NEWS

HOME READING

Congratulations to the students who have been using the student diary to keep a record of their home reading. A fabulous example of this is pictured.

WCB has an expectation that students complete a minimum of **20 minutes of reading each night**, which is to be **recorded** in the **WCB Student Diary**. We ask parents to support this by listening to your children read when you can, talk about the novel they are reading and to **sign** the diary each week. Advisors and English Teachers will be checking this on a regular basis.



TIER 1 TIER 2 AND TIER 3 VOCABULARY

At the beginning of the year teachers undertook professional learning on categorising words as tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 types of vocabulary.

The **Year 8 English Professional Learning Community (PLC)** team of teachers have worked together to create exemplary lessons to teach this to all Year 8 students. This will be rolled out to all WCB students.

Once students are able to categorise words as tier 1, 2 or 3, teachers in all subjects will turn their attention to encouraging students to replace tier 1 words with more sophisticated tier 2 words, lifting the quality of their writing.

For further information follow this link to the Victorian Department of Education: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/speakinglistening/Pages/litfocusvocab.aspx>

WCB is fortunate to have 3 staff from the **Differentiated Support for School Improvement (DSSI)** program. We welcome Executive Principal Steven Brain, and Leading Teachers Bree Scott and Jacob Delany. The team is working closely with the WCB School Improvement Team to strengthen the work we are undertaking to improve literacy outcomes for our students.

Currently, Bree and Jacob are working in classrooms with a number of our Year 8 English Teachers, as well as supporting all English teachers in the roll out of the **ACER PAT Reading** assessment program. All Year 8 and 9 students have undergone the online PAT R testing with Year 7 and 10 students to be complete by the end of Term. It would be worthwhile to have a conversation with your child about their experience with this new testing. So far students have provided their overwhelming support.

Bree McKern

Literacy Learning Specialist

THE GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE

THE GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE

COLLECTIVE NOUN DESIGN COMPETITION

Congratulations to all the students who entered the GLC's Collective Noun Design Competition. All entries were aesthetically pleasing and very creative. Well done to Jesse Willie who took out first place with her manga inspired design and a special mention to Nikita Purdy and Ryan Lwin who received runner-up prizes.

Continuing with the GLC's collective noun theme we are now running a Collective Noun Quiz. Entry forms can be printed off from Compass or a hardcopy can be collected from the library. All completed entries need to be submitted by Wednesday 25th of March to be in the running to win some great prizes.



THE MAKERSPACE

Students, during lunch and recess times, have been busily constructing a menagerie of critters as part of the GLC's collective noun theme.



WCB'S BOOK CLUB 2020



"The reason, I personally, want to join Book Club this year is to help spur on my love of reading. At our old school we did not have the opportunity to join a book club." – *Katie*

"I would love to be a part of Book Club 2020 not only because I love to read, but also because it's a really good opportunity to meet new people as well as read some really good books." – *Mikayla*

"I was part of Book Club last year and I really enjoyed meeting new people and finding out about the new books." – *Jemma*



"I would love to be part of Book Club because reading is one of the things I enjoy the most. Graphic novels and manga are my favourite genre of books because they don't just tell a story, but you can watch it like a movie." – *Jesse*

"I am a very creative person. I love to write songs and stories and I find inspiration talking about books and stories. I think being a part of Book Club would be an excellent chance to fulfil my goal of reading more." – *Melena*



"I want to be a part of Book Club this year because books have to be one of the biggest parts of my life. I have wanted to be a part of Book Club since my sister came home from school and told us all about her first Book Club meeting." – *Charli*

"I love Book Club. It's great to be able to access new books early, talk to like-minded people and of course eat some great food. Reading is a big part of my life. I love books about zombies and murder, which is actually rather concerning, now that I think about it." – *Daisy*



"I believe that I would be a great fit for Book Club, mostly due to the fact that I have a great love for books and the way that they can take you to a different place and engage the reader." – *Aimee*

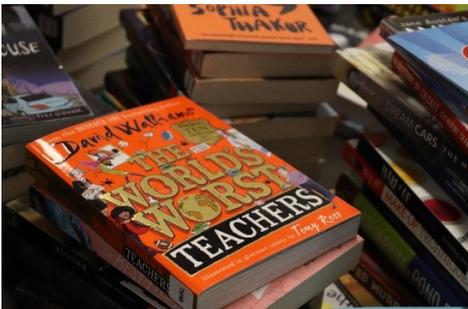
"Reading has always been a major part of my life, since my dad would read Banjo Paterson to me when I was a kid. In the pages of a book I can explore unrealistically optimistic worlds and meet amazing people." – *Jessica*

"Books have always been my friends, an escape from reality. Book Club is the best as there are other people here for me to talk to about these stupid characters made of ink, people who understand me." – *Alisha*



"I love Book Club because of all the fun opportunities it brings; being able to get first pick of new books, being able to borrow more than three books and many more things." – *Blodan*

"I want to continue being a member of Book Club because it gives me a reason to read, it helps me with my English and my other learning." – *Kristy*



"I would love to be in Book Club because Ms. Waycott helped me find a book that I really really liked, so I would love to see what other books there are that I may be interested in." – *Rowena*

"Everyone in Book Club is so kind. Joining Book Club means that I get to find more of the adventure books I like." – *Sarah*

ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH

What a busy start we've had to 2020, we've already had one race, our first event for the season at the inaugural Lang Lang Grand Prix. This was the first race of the Victorian series. Our senior team Banshee finished fourth and our junior teams Slingshot and Intimidator finished second and tenth. A great hit out for our new riders and our senior team members realised that they have some work to do before our next race.

We have also welcomed some new sponsors this year and had some return from last year these are highlighted in our new banner below, thank you to all for their support. Our apparel sponsor Bendigo Embroidery Service has also looked after us again this year and our gear is scheduled to arrive in the next week or two.

Training days have changed due to some changes in after school schedules, our EEV and Junior Development team Intimidator will be training on Wednesday nights, our Junior team Slingshot and Senior team will be training Friday nights. These sessions run from 3:30-4:30.

Sessions will run as normal for the foreseeable future, if there are any changes, I will email parents via compass to keep you informed. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jack McIntosh

Energy Breakthrough Leader



ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH TEAM PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS



WCB SPORT



WCB SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Weeroona College Bendigo held their swimming sports on Friday 14th February at the Bendigo East Swimming Pool.

It was fantastic to see many students wearing their house community colours which added to the atmosphere of the day. Well done to all competitors and congratulations to all those who won events and those who enthusiastically cheered on their house.



RESULTS

Overall Results-

1st Katyil	289
2nd Wannop	257
3rd Merin	164
4th Kappen	156

Junior Aggregate Results-

1st Katyil	125
2nd Wannop	118
3rd Merin	100
4th Merin	99



Senior Aggregate Results -

1st Katyil	164
2nd Wannop	139
3rd merin	65
4th Kappen	56



WCB Swimming Carnival Age Group Champions—

Individual Age Group Championships – Boys

Individual Age Group Champions—Girls

16 Boys	Daniel Fitton - Wannop
15 Boys	Will Beaton—Wannop
14 Boys	Jesse Gill—Merin
12-13 Boys	Arden Thacker—Katyil

16 Girls	Chloe Triplett—Merin
15 Girls	Claudia Mountjoy - Katyil
14 Girls	Charli Seymore - Wannop
12-13 Girls	Alyssa Beaton - Wannop



SANDHURST DIVISION SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Sandhurst Secondary Schools Sports Association Swimming carnival was held at the Faith Leech Aquatic Centre on Friday 28th February. Weeroona College Bendigo were one of the 11 schools involved on the day. Weeroona College finished 5th overall. Well done to all team members.

A variety of Sportsforce Advance and VET Sport and Recreation students also did a sterling job assisting throughout the course of the day. Well done to all involved.

WCB ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On the 3rd March Weeroona College Bendigo held part of their Athletics carnival on the college oval. This was run by VCAL students and VET Sport AND Recreation students. Events completed on this day were the 1500 metres, Javelin and Discus.

Carson Tamblyn

VCAL Student



TERM 1 SPORTS

Term 1 has been a very busy one in relation to college based sport. Wednesday 11th March saw Weeroona field Year 9/10 teams in Girls and Boys Volleyball, Boys Cricket and Girls Tennis. Well done to all involved.



Year 9/10 girls Volleyball



Year 9/10 Volleyball



Year 9/10 girls Tennis

SHOOTING COMPETITION

Students from WCB took place in the North West School Shoot based shooting competition based at Barham- Koondrook. Well done, especially to Ryan Clark and Rebecca Ruedin who produced fantastic results. Ryan Clark winning the Overall High Gun category with Rebecca winning the Junior girls. Well done to both. A great effort.



Shawn McCormick



Cyber safety

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Do you feel ready to help your child navigate the online world?

Tuesday, April 21, 2020. From 6.15pm to 8pm at **La Trobe Visual Arts Centre**, 121 View Street, Bendigo.

Register today at [Eventbrite](#)



We asked 2387 young people in Bendigo about online safety and this is what we found:

- Young people said "I would like to talk about how to keep safe on the internet" with their parents/carer.
- 45% of young people would seek help from a parent/carer if threatened online.
- Young people want more parent education and awareness about online safety and cyberbullying.

Cyber Safety Project expert **Sam Macauley** will run this free 90-minute information session to help parents and carers:

- Discover the ins and outs of online and social media platforms such as Instagram, Youtube, Snapchat & TikTok.
- Uncover mobile apps and games that can be potentially harmful.
- Explore ways to foster positive digital experiences for children.
- Discuss ways to manage digital wellbeing for children at home.

Want to know more?

Contact our Health Promotion team member **Siobhan Sullivan** at SiobhanSullivan@bchs.com.au or call 5406 1200.

ACN: 136 467 715

Connect with us: www.bchs.com.au



March 16, 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

RE: COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Over the last couple of weeks we have been distributing information via Compass to support you in understanding the current Coronavirus issue and how to take steps to protect yourselves and others. While that information is still relevant we also know that the situation is changing rapidly in Australia.

This update contains information which will be important over the coming days and weeks. It's lengthy but please read it carefully. It's important that people don't panic, but it's also important to know what the College is planning and what advice we have. Firstly, some definitions we all need to be familiar with:

Self-isolate – remain at home and restrict contact with others for 14 days because you've either been confirmed with the virus or you have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Self-distancing – maintaining a distance between yourself and others to minimise the risk of contracting the virus, with a suggested distance of 1.5 metres. This includes limiting physical contact with others.

Close contact – having, within the last 14 days, at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact or the sharing of a closed space for more than two hours with someone who has been tested and confirmed as having COVID-19.

1. An important step all of us should be taking to help stop the spread of any disease is to practice good hygiene: cover your mouth or nose when coughing or sneezing, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water on a regular basis (particularly before eating and after using the toilet), avoid close contact with people who are sick and avoid touching your nose, eyes and mouth. Self-distancing is also good practice, particularly if there are confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the community.
2. The symptoms of the coronavirus include fever, breathing difficulties, cough, sore throat, fatigue or tiredness. Having a cough or snuffle doesn't mean that you've got the coronavirus. One of the distinguishing features of the virus in comparison with a common cold or flu is breathing difficulties. However, if you are unwell with the symptoms above you should stay at home and not attend school. We are a school, not a medical service, and we are not equipped to provide support to students who develop illness during the day. If you are not well enough to be in class you should not be at school. If students present with these symptoms we will do what we do with any illness: we will call parents or emergency contacts and we expect the student to be collected from school as soon as possible.

3. It is not appropriate for students to engage in unsafe behaviour, try to scare others or make a joke of the risks we all face. We have students and staff who have medical conditions which compromise their immunity, placing them at great risk if they contract the coronavirus. There seems to be some confusion and concern about the need for people to self-isolate if they perceive a risk through contact with someone who is being tested for the coronavirus. The government advice on this is clear: you only need to self-isolate if you have been in contact with someone who has been confirmed as having coronavirus.
4. All camps scheduled to commence from, and including, Tuesday 17 March must be postponed and rescheduled, or, if there is no other option, cancelled. No camps can commence from Tuesday 17 March.
5. All excursions outside the school for purposes such as visits to cultural institutions, art galleries, theatres and sporting events or facilities (other than those local facilities regularly used by the school) planned from, and including Tuesday 17 March must also be postponed or cancelled. This does not include student and staff travel between campuses of the same school (i.e. ADP students travelling to BSE).
6. No government school is currently closed or in the process of being closed. If a decision is made to close the college we are unlikely to have much notice of the closure. It could happen with just an hour's notice at the end of a school day or it could occur overnight. If this does occur we will advise students and parents via our usual means of communication – Compass, text message, email, website and Facebook. Please be monitoring these closely over the coming days and weeks.
7. Due to the current concerns we have assessed all of our upcoming college events and we can advise you that:
- a. Thursday's Athletics Carnival is cancelled.**
 - b. Tuesday's Interschool Sports Day is cancelled.**
 - c. Parent/Teacher Interviews scheduled for Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March have been cancelled. This means that normal classes will run on the last day of term with the regular end of term dismissal time of 2:30pm. I encourage you to monitor Compass for student achievements to date and please contact your student's teachers if you have any questions or would like to discuss learning progress.**
 - d. Year 7 Spectacular scheduled for Friday 20 March has been cancelled.**

There will no doubt be more information we need to share in the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to remain alert to the risks, to monitor advice through the media and from the college and to practice safe behaviours to prevent the spread of the virus.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Bysouth', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Bysouth
Acting Principal