

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@education.vic.gov.au

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

Issue #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

CONTACTS

PRINCIPAL

Jason Byszouth

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Sarah Trew
Britt Holmberg(BFLO)

WELLBEING TEAM

Wellbeing | Julie Nicol
Wellbeing | Bridget Chambers
Wellbeing | Kimberly Priest
Nurse | Tammy Nancarrow
Mental Health Practitioner |
Megan King

KATYL

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Jack McIntosh
Brooke Nowell

LEARNING ADVISORS

L7A Carly Whitlock
L7B Trent Byszouth
L8A Michelle Griffin
L8B Marion Stewart/Julie
Purdon
L9A Kate Flanders
L9B Meryl Hayes/Jayden
Jones
L1A Scott Nicolls
L1B Matt Reeves

WANNOP

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Kellie O'Brien
James Ginnivan

LEARNING ADVISORS

W7A Elize Billings
W7B Tanner Ranner
W8A Maddison Morrow
W8B Lucas Cruz-Rocha
W9A Ryan Currie
W9B Casey Williams
W1A Alex Madden
W1B Tilley Rose

MERIN

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Nadine Harper
Keryn McKemish

LEARNING ADVISORS

M7A Jackie Handley
M7B Elizabeth Nicholson
M8A Kellie Simson/Mark
Adams
M8B Lucy James
M9A Brian Edebohn
M9B Chris Emond
M1A Christine Edgar
M1B Robyn Turner

KAPPEN

COMMUNITY LEADERS
Liam Ireland
Karl Winzar

LEARNING ADVISORS

K7A Xiena Barber
K7B Leigh Park
K8A Kane Goldsworthy
K8B Paul Cresswell
K9A Tara Pocklington
K9B Sophie Alford
K1A Sarah Davis
K1B Sarah Baldwin

UPCOMING EVENTS

March	
14th	<i>Labour Day – Public Holiday</i>
17th	<i>School Athletics</i>
21st-23rd	<i>Year 7 and 8 Camp (See information inside)</i>
23rd	<i>Maths Olympiad Year 7 and 8 (See information inside)</i>
April	
7th	<i>Parent/Carers/Student interviews – 4pm till 8pm Last Day of Term 1</i>
8th	<i>Parent/Cares/Student interviews – 9am-1pm</i>
26th	<i>First Day of Term 2</i>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM

We would like to thank everyone for the start they have made to this term. It has been great to see that students are able to participate in social activities such as the college swimming sports and our welcome to country cultural assembly.

As always the weeks fly by when students and staff are at school and we are looking forward to some more opportunities to be out and about within the community. Our Year 7 and 8 students will be off to camps in the coming weeks with other year levels camps occurring later in the year. The college athletic sports will also be occurring this term and there is already a lot of talk about which community will come out on top.

College Council

Weeroona College Bendigo is still seeking nominations for some vacancies that we have on College Council. We have parent representative vacancies and community representative vacancies. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the College Office on 5443 2133.

RATs

During session 4 on Thursday afternoon the third round of RATs were distributed to students. The department has extended the distribution of RATs and will now distribute rapid antigen test kits directly to schools for use throughout Term 1 2022. Tests are provided in packs of 5 individual tests.

Our COVID safe measures are taking place throughout the college and we ask that students test regularly and report any positive cases to the administration office.

COVIDSafe measures for schools

VICTORIA State Government | Education and Training

(Changes in yellow)

What's new:

- Free rapid antigen testing**
 - more than 39 million rapid antigen tests to be delivered to schools and early childhood education and care settings
 - twice-weekly voluntary testing at home
 - primary school students and staff
 - secondary school students and staff
 - five-times-weekly voluntary testing at home
 - specialist school students and staff
- Enhanced support to keep schools open and safe**
 - extra staff ready to step in where essential school staff are unable to work
 - updated procedures and notifications to families when there are COVID-19 cases
 - extra planning and support for school leadership

Continued COVIDSafe measures: the 3Vs

- Vaccination**
 - staff required to be vaccinated or medically exempt
 - more than 90% of children age 12 and over are now vaccinated
 - roll-out of vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 through state vaccination hubs, pop-up school vaccination sites and in-reach grants
- Ventilation**
 - up to an additional 60,000 air purifiers will be distributed to schools ahead of winter
- Vital COVIDSafe steps**
 - physical distancing
 - face masks
 - regular hand hygiene
 - testing

Keeping schools open and as safe as possible

- remote learning only considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option

Updated: 15 February 2022

FROM THE PRINCIPAL TEAM



College Captains

The college captains meet with us this week and have presented some great ideas on how they would like to make the school a better place for students.

Students voice have already been heard with the placement of bins and the captains will soon be contacting students to look at the music choices.

We look forward to working with these students and the SRC to make this year a great year.

And all the best to our receptionist and former student Abbey Hromenko on her National Athletics Competition in Sydney in the coming month.



Jason and Sarah

WCB Principal Team

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Late Arrivals

If your child is running late to school we ask that you notify the school as to the reason for the late arrival. You can do this via Compass, writing a note or calling the absence line on 44334911 (be sure to state the child's name, date and reason for late arrival).

Absence Notification

If your child is absent or late for one or more classes and you have not notified the school, you will receive a notification via Compass. We ask that you act on this message by either clicking on the link provided or calling the Administration Office on 5443 2133 to explain the absence.

Unexplained Absence Letters

If you have not notified the school of your child's late arrival/absence from school, you will receive an unexplained absence letter in the mail. These 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.

Early Departures

We understand that sometimes appointments can only be made during school hours. If you need to pick your child up early from school, we ask that you please write a note and give it to your child to hand into the Administration Office to get a leave pass. Alternatively, you can put a note on Compass or call the absence line.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate in calling the Administration Office and ask for Martine or Wendy in attendance.

COMPASS LEARNING TASK CATEGORY TAGS

In order to identify the purpose for each Learning Task on Compass, the following Category Tags are used:

Assessment

The red "Assessment" tag identifies Learning Tasks that relate to work that is graded. This includes Learning Tasks that students are required to submit work to, such as a SAT (School Assessed Task).

This tag also applies to the Progressive Report that includes an overall grade on a particular unit of work and judgement against the College values.

General

The green "General" tag identifies Learning Tasks where students submit class work and receive feedback to monitor their progression of skills.

Homework

The blue "Homework" tag identifies Learning Tasks where students submit work that is completed at home to practise the skills learnt in class.



Bus Travel and Conveyance Allowance

How to purchase a bus pass

- Fill out the Student Travel Concession Card Form.
- Complete the form and attach two passport sized photos.
- Come to the college administration office to have form signed and stamped.
- Go to either the Bendigo Railway Station or the PTV Hub in the Marketplace to purchase the bus pass.

How to claim Conveyance Allowance

- Fill out public bass travel form.
- Attach your receipt of the purchase of the bus pass from PTV to travel form.
- Return the form and attached receipt to the college administration office. Please remember to include your bank details and sign the conveyance application form for reimbursement. Forms must be returned in hardcopy.

Conveyance Allowance Claims & Eligibility

You may be eligible for conveyance allowance if:

- Your child attends their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level and which admission is permissible
- Reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended
- Be of school age (5-18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria

This allowance is only available to families who purchase a yearly or half yearly bus pass.

Public transport and private travel forms are available from the administration office.

For more information regarding Conveyance Allowance please visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/transport/Pages/conveyance.aspx>

Claim submission closing dates for 2022

Term 1	14 th March
Term 2	30 th May
Term 3	22 nd August

NAPLAN Online – Practice Tests

In Week 3 of Term 2 (May 10th – 12th), all students in Years 7 and 9 will participate in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). In 2022, Weeroona College Bendigo students will be completing these tests online.

One of the main benefits of NAPLAN Online is that the tests are adaptive. This means that the test questions will automatically adapt, based on student performance, to present questions of higher or lower complexity. Adaptive testing is designed to assess a wider range of student abilities and to measure student achievement more precisely, by ensuring students are responding to questions that are suited to their level of ability.

In order to prepare students for the NAPLAN tests in May, we will be holding two separate NAPLAN practice test events on March 15th and March 24th. These opportunities will provide students with access to simulation tests and allow them to become familiar with the test format. These tests are not assessed.

NAPLAN can be an incredibly daunting and stressful experience for students, and the entire college community. Our hope is that by providing students with access to the new online testing format ahead of the May testing period, we can help to alleviate some of that stress and anxiety.

To support your child with NAPLAN, you can ensure they have a working device with a physical keyboard and charger, and encourage them to charge their device every night. If your child does not have their own device, please contact your child's advisor to discuss available options.

If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN testing, please feel free to contact me, Christine Edgar-Patching (Christine.Edgar@education.vic.gov.au), or your child's advisory teacher.

PARENT/CARER/STUDENT INTERVIEW

At Weeroona College Bendigo, we understand that parent engagement in learning leads to improved outcomes for students. In order to build and maintain a strong partnership between the home and school, we provide parents and carers with the opportunity to meet one-on-one with their children's teachers in Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Conference (PCST Conferences) twice a year. Term 1 PCST Conferences will be held on the last two days of term (**Thursday, April 7th from 4 pm to 8 pm, and Friday, April 8th from 9 am to 1 pm**).

The main focus of conferences is student achievement, progress of skills and strategies for future improvement. It is also an opportunity for parents, carers and students to ask questions and discuss other important matters with teachers to maximise educational outcomes and student participation in College life.

PCST Conference sessions will be open for booking through Compass from Monday, March 21st.

Maths Olympiad – Year 7 & 8

The Maths Olympiads are problem solving competitions for high achieving students in Years 7 and 8 and have been offered in high schools since 2003. They have gained popularity over the years and have developed a reputation for excellence in mathematical education, resulting in thousands of schools from across Australia and New Zealand entering teams into the competition every year.

- See the following link for more details: <https://apsmo.edu.au/competitions-programs/maths-olympiad-years-7-8/>

What is the format of the competitions for the Maths Olympiads?

- Each competition comprises 5 questions and must be completed in a specified time-frame of around 20-30 minutes.
- Times are given for each individual question as a guide and do not have to be adhered to.

How do students prepare for the Maths Olympiads?

- Schools that enter students in the Maths Olympiads are provided with the previous year's Olympiad papers which can be used in preparation sessions.
- It is recommended that students have the opportunity to practice and improve their problem-solving skills in the lead up to each Olympiad paper.
- The first competition is on March the 23rd, so if you are in Years 7 or 8 and are interested in participating in the Maths Olympiad please tell your Maths teacher.

The question below is a sample question which 34% of participants are expected to get correct in 4 minutes.

1B 4 Minutes 34%	Find the difference when the sum of the first ten even positive integers is subtracted from the sum of the first ten positive integer multiples of 3.
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After School Maths Help

Students can access Maths help every **Wednesday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm in Kappen**. This is a great chance for students to access a qualified Maths teacher after school every week.

Some examples of what students can do during Maths help:

- Complete Maths homework
- Reinforce Maths concepts taught in class
- Complete summary book for tests
- Receive valuable one on one Maths help

This is a great opportunity for students of all levels to access some extra help in Mathematics.

Vocabulary Instruction

WCB staff continued building their literacy teaching repertoire by undertaking further professional development around vocabulary instruction. Last year, as a college, we celebrated all staff and students learning the Tier Classification system of words. This year we turn our focus to students incorporating more sophisticated Tier 2 words into their written and spoken language.

All WCB teachers are part of a Learning Area based Professional Learning Community (PLC). Throughout the year, these teams will continue to undertake professional learning based on explicit vocabulary instruction. This follows on from the success of the 2021 PLC work.

PAT-R testing: Reading Assessment

All WCB students have undertaken an online reading assessment in their English class. The test allows teachers to differentiate work to suit the learning needs of students, as well as providing learning data for teachers to track progress. Students who are yet to receive their results can ask their English Teacher.

MacqLit: Reading Support

In 2022, WCB are continuing to provide literacy support for students in Years 7 to 9 through the delivery of MacqLit. This is an explicit and systematic reading intervention program for small groups of older low-progress readers. It provides a comprehensive sequence of lessons that includes all the key components necessary for effective reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

For students who have been participating in MacqLit, their progress updates and learning goals for Term 1 are posted on Compass under their Student Chronicle. If your child is in the program make sure to ask them how they are going and have a look at their report.

Independent Reading: Home Reading

By now classes, or individuals, have had the opportunity to visit the Global Learning Centre to borrow independent reading books. Weeroona College Bendigo have an expectation that all students complete 20 minutes or more of reading at home each night, on top of the reading completed at school.

Regular and sustained reading has such a positive effect on students learning in many areas. Please encourage your child to keep a record of this in their Student Learning Diary. We ask that parents sign the diary once per week, in conjunction with your child's Advisor and English teacher.

Legacy Debating and Public Speaking Opportunity

Legacy, which cares for the families of those who have served their country, has been running the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award since 1988, and this year marks the 33rd year of this award in Victoria.

Each student is required to present a five-minute speech about a topic related to the ideals of Legacy which includes voluntary service, social justice, caring, personal sacrifice and mateship. Students also present a two-minute impromptu speech on a topic that is provided at the event on the day, which the student has five minutes to prepare their presentation. Any Year 7 and 8 students wishing to participate in the event on the 14th of June are to see Mrs Alford in Kappen.

February 14th, the GLC celebrated Library Lover's Day with our first Book Club Meeting for the year and book/love themed Makerspace activities.



Why Do You Love Your Library?

"I love my library because it's a great place to come and relax or meet new people and pick up a great book." – Hannah L1A

"I love my library because there are such amazing book choices and the librarians are absolutely amazing." – Seraya M1A

"I love this library because I always feel welcome and like I fit in. I am also extremely grateful for our wonderful librarians who have never once given me a weird look for requesting my 5th murder book of the week. Thank you!" – Abby W1A

"I love that there is a large variety of books in the library." – Cleo K9B

"I love the library because...of the amazing and fun activities in the Makerspace." – Sophie K9A

"I love my library as it has so many new books and is a great space." – Georgia L1A

"I love my library because there is a book to fit my every need and the librarians are amazing." – Charli W1A

"My favourite part of the library is the staff. It's always a delight to talk and see them." – Morgan K1B



Shrove Tuesday/Dr. Seuss's Birthday

On Tuesday, 1st of March, Book Club meet again to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and Dr. Seuss's Birthday. All 49 members participated in a scavenger hunt, awards ceremony, browsing and borrowing of new books as well as some light refreshments. If you consider 250 pancakes light-refreshments!



Makerspace

The Makerspace this term, has focussed on wellbeing themed STEAM activities, as well as speciality events such as Library Lover's Day and Dr. Seuss's Birthday.



BLUE EDGE PROGRAM

This year, Weeroona College Bendigo has been lucky enough to begin the Blue EDGE program, in conjunction with the Blue Light Victoria and Victoria Police. This program aims to Educate, Develop, Grow and Empower each of the students involved in the program, and work on qualities such as leadership, teamwork and self-discipline.

Twice a week, students complete a session before school, which involves a fitness workout with a personal trainer, a group breakfast and then a development session ran by a facilitator from Blue EDGE. The program runs for a term (16 sessions), and includes a full-day excursion with the group. Students who complete the program successfully receive a brand-new Garmin watch as reward for the work they have put in to be involved with the program.

Our first group is currently halfway through the program, with 19 students working hard in the mornings with Sophie (personal trainer), and being involved in team-building and self-development activities with Marie (facilitator). Active police members have been involved in our workouts, as well as visiting to answer questions, talk about the role of the police, and helping out with the program. A highlight was Sergeant Mick McCrann from Highway Patrol visiting with one of the new BMW vehicles, talking about his role and allowing students to look around.

More students will have the opportunity to get involved in the program in both Terms 2 and 3, with a Year 7 group to run next term, and a combined Year 8/9 in Term 3.

Callum Draper

Blue EDGE Program



WCB SWIMMING SPORTS

Weeroona College Bendigo held their swimming sports on Friday 11^h February at the Bendigo East Swimming Pool.

A mild and humid day saw 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. Winners of events represented the college at Sandhurst Division Swimming carnival held at Bendigo Aquatic Centre on Friday 25th February.

These are the results -

Junior Aggregate Results -

1st – Wannop (157)

2nd–Katyil (141)

3rd – Merrin (120)

4th – Kappen (47)

Senior Aggregate Results -

1st – Katyil (147)

2nd – Wannop (115)

3rd – Merrin (79)

4th – Kappen (71)

Overall Results

1st – Katyil (288)

2nd – Wannop (272)

3rd – Merrin (199)

4th – Kappen (118)



WCB Swimming Carnival Age Group Champions .

Individual Age Group Championships – Boys

16 Boys – Jesse Gill (Merin))

15 Boys – Arden Thacker (Katyil)

14 Boys – Cooper Lacey (Wannop)

12-13 Boys – Kai Norton (Katyil)

Individual Age Group Champions Girls-

16 Girls – Jemma Norton (Katyil)

15 Girls – Alyssa Beaton (Wannop)

14 Girls – Madison Gill (Merin)

12 - 13 Girls – Alliera Nelson (Katyil)





Best dressed House representatives

Sandhurst Division Swimming Carnival

The Sandhurst Secondary Schools Swimming carnival was held on Friday 25th February under blue skies at the Bendigo Aquatic Centre. It was pleasing to witness Weeroona competitors making a genuine effort in a range of events.

WCB Warriors performed very well over the course of the day, finishing overall 5th out of 10 participating school and winning the Girls Division B shield. A tremendous effort by all. Well done.

The college also provided 10 students who had an official role in helping the event run smoothly. These students were made up of VET Sport and Recreation students and students involved in the Sportsforce Advance program. Well done to all involved.



Sportsforce Advance Program

The Sportsforce Advance Program is a program where Weeroona College Bendigo students provide valuable assistance at school based primary and secondary school and community based events and sporting competitions and carnivals. The program is supported by the state government Advance. Program. The program incorporates VET Sport and Recreation students and a range of other student's incorporating a range of year levels.

Students involved are fantastic ambassadors for the college, provide valuable assistance and develop leadership and organisational skills in a variety of settings.



Sportsforce Advance students provided valuable assistance at the Sandhurst Division Swimming Carnival



WCB SPORT

Congratulations to Kai Norton on becoming State Champion for Shotput and Javelin at the State Athletics Championship. All the best for the National Championship in Sydney.



SMOKING CEREMONY

We were very fortunate enough to have a welcome to country and smoking ceremony for our first official assembly back for 2022. This was conducted by two Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional owners; Aunty Marilyn Nicholls and Troy Firebrace. A grounding opportunity for both staff and students to commence 2022 with positivity while pathing wellness for the new year.



UPCOMING SPORT DATES

Term 2 Begins Monday 26th April 2022-

APRIL

Thursday 28th April- WCB Cross Country (optional)

MAY

Wednesday 4th May- Year 7/8 Girls Football

Friday 6th May- Sandhurst Division Cross Country – Sebastian Harness Racing Club

Monday 9th May- Year 7 Boys Football

Monday 16th May- Netball (Year 9&10 Girls, A&B Teams)

Soccer (Year 9&10 Boys, Year 9&10 Girls)

Badminton (Year 9&10 Boys, Year 9&10 Girls)

Wednesday 25th May- Year 7 Boys/Girls Soccer

Thursday 26th May- Netball (8 Girls, A&B Teams)

Soccer (Year 7&8 Boys, Year 7&8 Girls)

Badminton (Year 7&8 Boys, Year 7&8 Girls)

Tuesday 31st May- Loddon Mallee Region Cross Country

JUNE

Thursday 2nd June- Year 7 Girls Netball and Year 8 Boys football.

Tuesday 14th June- Year 9/10 Boys Football

Wednesday 15th June- Year 9/10 Girls Football

Tuesday 21 June- Year 7/8 & Year 9/10 Boys Netball

Thursday 24th June- Year 8 Boys Football

UPCOMING SPORT DATES

Term 3 Begins Monday 11th July 2022-

JULY – Term 3

Thursday 14th July- SSV Cross Country – Melbourne

AUGUST

Thursday 25th August- Basketball (Year 9&10 Boys, Year 9&10 Girls)

Hockey (Year 9&10 Boys, Year 9&10 Girls)

Table Tennis (Year 9&10 Boys, Year 9&10 Girls)

Wednesday 31st August- Year 8 Basketball

Year 7/8 Hockey

Year 8 Table Tennis

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 7th September- Year 7 Basketball

Year 7 Table Tennis

Friday 9th September- Sandhurst Division Athletics Carnival

Term 4 Begins Monday 3rd October 2022-

OCTOBER

Thursday 6th October Sportsforce Advance - Secondary Loddon Mallee Region Athletics Carnival (Bendigo) SMC

Friday 7th October- Year 7 Boys Cricket

[Tuesday 11th October- Super 8's Cricket Year 9/10](#)

Friday 14th October- Super 8's Cricket Year 7/8 Girls

Monday 17th October- SSV Athletics State Finals - Albert Park.

ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH

Teams have been finalised for this year below are the squads for the season. Congratulations to all of the students that made the effort and to those not selected this year we hope to see you at tryouts for 2023.

Junior Team	Senior 1 Team	Senior 2 Team	Pit Crew
Riders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larni Giudice Madi Gill Zoe Ross Ella Ferguson Mitch Lawrence Rory Bonnici Max Laity Byron Gill Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sam Howie Emma Yandell Mitch Climas Jordan Giudice Ashlee Russell 	Riders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Clay Ned Howie Arden Thacker Xavier Cain Hannah Coates Eliza Nichols Maggie FitzGerald Madi Thomas Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makaila Pettersen Mitch Heenan 	Riders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lachie Ross Deacon Wheelhouse Lachie Arscott Jesse Gill Aymee Robinson Aleksia Franklin Nikita LeFevre Kristy Russell Reserves <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jack Cook Tyler Ball Brad Fuller 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baylee Murley Harry Bonanno Nikita Purdy Axel Boyd Dustin Murley Emanuella Ricciuti Evan Olsen Bridget Kay Charlie Thomas Ebony LeFevre Lachlan Mitchell Lachlan Griffin Daniel Jackson

In addition to the two races announced last month we finally have a date for this years Energy breakthrough challenge held in Maryborough in November. Fingers crossed for we get two complete in all three events this year with the possibility of more events being announced.

We will be hosting our parent information night in the next couple of weeks a note will be sent home at a team meeting to be held next week. There will also be a notification posted to compass with the details, this is a great opportunity to meet the staff involved as well as ask questions about the program in general.

We held our first fundraiser for the year at Epsom Bunnings on Sunday the 20th of February, this was a great success big thanks to all who volunteered on the day. We're hoping to hold several fundraisers throughout the year.

We're also looking for sponsors for this year anyone who is interested please contact me at the school for more information.

Jack McIntosh

Energy Breakthrough Leader

Music lovers welcome to 2022!!

Personally, I've come into 2022 feeling very optimistic and have not been disappointed one bit! Almost every instrumental student continuing into 2022 has come back full of energy, ready to learn and very excited to get involved.

What really has us revved up in the Performing Arts Department is our new Year 7 Instrumental recruits and Yr7 Instrumental classes. We've had one of the largest Year 7 Instrumental student intakes in a very very long time, and from what I hear from the classroom, Year 7 Classroom Music sounds like a blast!

Ensembles have started for 2022, this includes our Rock Band rehearsals, String Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble and John Williams Band. Year 7 Band, Count Basie Band, will be starting just before the end of Term One. I run this band and it is one of the highlights of my week.

Regardless of the ensemble students are involved in, rehearsals will be on your Compass timetable and attendance is included in your instrumental report. Ensemble involvement is almost as important to your development as your instrumental lesson are. True story.....

What does 2022 hold for Weeroona Colleges Performing Arts Department? Lots, is the short answer. But more specifically –

- ** We have two Performing Arts showcase concerts on the calendar this year.
- ** We are going to embark on another College Production but it won't be the same format as the last two productions we've done. But it's going to be great. Stay tuned for this one.
- **I'm in closing stages of booking Melbourne excursions for the Music Elective class.
- **In school performances for our Rock Bands.
- **Music Week, Fretworks and Presentation Band will be running this year. It's been two long years since we've been able to run these events.

This is a quick snap shot. There will be lots of other performance opportunities and other ways to get involved with Performing Arts at Weeroona College Bendigo.

With lessons back in full swing after our summer break, instruments maybe slightly neglected or in need of some attention. We haven't seen any cases of this lately, but, Mums, Dads and Guardians, please don't be tempted to have a go at any instrument repairs unless you've spoken with your son or daughter's instrumental teacher. What may look like a simple fix, I'll bet will turn in to a very very expensive repair bill.

Any instrument damage or issues, contact either the instrumental teacher, or myself and we'll organize to get it sorted out ASAP.



MUSIC

In closing, keep an eye on Compass for lesson details, events and general communication. Compass is great way to stay in touch with what's happening at Weeroona College.

Thank you for supporting the Performing Arts and I hope to see you at as many events as possible this year, it's going to be great!

Parents, please feel free to contact me either via email christopher.blackshaw@education.vic.gov.au or through Weeroona College Bendigo on 5443 2133.
Stay safe everyone.

All the best, Chris.



SCHOOL CAMPS

The Year 7 and 8 Camps are fast approaching (March 21st – 23rd).

Information regarding camps, what to bring, final payment etc will go home over this coming week.

If you are yet to apply to attend it is still not too late for your child to attend the Year 7 and 8 camp to PGL Campaspe Downs <https://www.pgladventurecamps.com.au/campaspe/> Valley Homestead <https://www.valleyhomesteadschoolcamp.com.au/>

The ability to opt in on line (via compass) has been enabled or alternatively you can contact the Administration Office on 54432133 prior to Friday Sunday March 11 to obtain a place (as spaces are limited).

If you would like to attend and having difficulties with the current payment schedule or have access to CSEF please let the College know.

We do need to finalise numbers attending this camp as soon as possible due to the Camp's Covid-19 operating requirements.

We look forward to seeing your child attend.

Doctors in Secondary Schools Program

The Doctors in Secondary Schools Program, as part of Bendigo Community Health Services, operates at Weeroona College Bendigo with a Doctor and a Nurse on site between 9.00am and 1.00pm every Tuesday from the portable building at the back of the College,

Dr Gaurav Movalia and the nurse, either Clare or Michelle, are available for appointments during these times.

Students are welcome to make appointments either by booking through Administration Office, talking to someone in the Wellbeing Team or coming to us directly at the portable at the back of the school. Students are also welcome to pop in and just have a look at some of the many resources available. We are always keen to answer any questions you might have and are available for whatever people would consider seeing a regular doctor for. From general physical health concerns, mental health, sexual health or referral services, along with medical action plans or mental health plans. Parents are also able to meet onsite at the clinic with their student and attend appointments if they wish to do so.

All appointments are bulk billed.

We look forward to meeting students of Weeroona College Bendigo.

Dr Gaurav Movalia

General Practitioner

Clare Roberts

Community Health Nurse



8TH

MARCH

2022

YEAR 7

SPECTACULAR

WEEROONA COLLEGE BENDIGO

SESSIONS 3 & 4

LOADS OF
ENTERTAINMENT

WELLBEING STALLS
& LOTS MORE

WE
CREATE
BRILLIANCE
WCB

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SEE THE
WELLBEING TEAM



**EPSOM FOOTBALL CLUB
- YOUTH SQUAD**

Message Epsom Football Club on Facebook
OR Contact Craig: 0474911618





EVERY DAY COUNTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your teenager's education.

Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR TEENAGER IS THERE

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE & VCAL, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in years 11 and 12 and post-school pathways.

Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance. Even in the middle years, when school can seem the most challenging for students and when attendance rates can be at their lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. **Every day counts.**

Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 – 17 YEARS

Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your teenager have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.



Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission or skip out of school during the day. There can be many reasons for truancy; the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences can effect academic performance, DET's statistics show that unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

School refusal - School refusing children experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: [My child or teenager has anxiety](#)

BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR 1 DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If your teenager is away

If for any reason your teenager must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Inform the school via your teen's Form/Home Room teacher or Year Level Coordinator
- Find out what work your teenager needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teenager's teacher and ensure they complete the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your teenager must miss school, speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your teenager's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you're having attendance issues with your teenager, please let the year level coordinator, wellbeing coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your teen to school every day.

TOP ATTENDANCE TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term



EVERY DAY COUNTS

- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/improve-attendance.aspx>