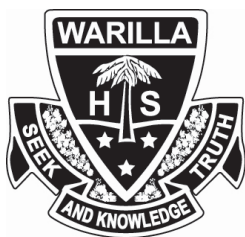

PARENT NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL: Mr J Hambly

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr R Ashby

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr A McInnes

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JUNE 2008

Education Week was celebrated across the region between Monday 26th May and Friday 30th May.

The high point of these celebrations was the Illawarra and South East Region Awards for Excellence, presented at Smiths Hill High School by the Director General of Education, Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter and the Regional Director, Mr Graeham Kennedy.

Warilla High School was well prepresented and received the following awards for excellence.

- **Bob Pastor- outstanding contribution in Student Welfare.**
- **John Berry – highly commended for the provision of Student Leadership Initiatives.**
- **Support Unit – highly commended for Excellence in Special Education**
- **Warilla High School – Excellence in Innovation**

These awards are significant and are judged by an independent regional panel. It is another acknowledgement of the tireless efforts of staff and the wider community for the betterment of our kids – well done to all!

It would appear that the 30th May was something of a red letter day for Warilla High School, with several of our students figuring prominently in the Wests' Illawarra Youth Achievement Awards.

Award winners included Krystle Marsh for her relentless efforts in the area of volunteer work, while Tasmin Parsons, Joshua Bray and Andy Oh received runners up awards. Each of the category winners and runners up received substantial monetary incentives while the Principals' special category nominees were given a range of prizes to help

them overcome the hardships they have faced up to this point in their education. Ranui Rice was our nominee in this section.

Other nominees who presented the judges with some tough decisions included:

- Laura Worthy – Secondary Academic and Senior Sports Award
- Zoe Elkerton – Junior Sports Award
- Damien Evans – Citizenship Award

'Warilla High School - Student Centred, Outcomes Driven'

The actual award ceremony was a glittering black tie affair and it was great to see so many staff and parents present to support our kids.

Another highlight of the night was Krystle's report about the progress to date of our values education agenda which is being underwritten by a grant from Wests Illawarra. It was inspirational to share with the audience the fantastic impact our kids are having in the wider community. It was certainly no coincidence that our kids were asked to launch Volunteers Week in State Parliament a few weeks ago.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the night was the public acknowledgement of Bob Pastor for his mighty efforts over the years in the area of Student Welfare. Bob is an inspiration and we are truly lucky to have him as a teacher, colleague and friend.

The big fella is off on extended leave at this point and is addressing a few health concerns. We wish him a speedy recovery.

In Bob's absence, John Berry and Jane Cobbin will assume responsibilities for the daunting Student Services portfolio.

Our first encounter with the national assessment and testing program (NAPLAN) was without issue and I eagerly

anticipate our results. I would also like to congratulate Ms Gaynor for her coordination of this task, the logistics of which are quite staggering.

We are now in the reporting phase of the term with staff busily preparing commentaries around the outcomes students have been working towards in each of their subjects.

Hopefully, this will make for a solid basis for informed discussions at the Parent Teacher meetings scheduled for early next term.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful job done by our sports staff in the organisation of the Athletics Carnival. Although the 'weather gods' didn't shine on us, the events' organisation - as always - was terrific.

I thought I might finish with this little gem from Vince Lombardi, the legendary American Gridiron coach and mentor to the late Jack Gibson.

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I believe you can achieve anything if you are willing to pay the price."

Yours in Education
John Hambly

WANTED
Any size ice cream containers for the Science Faculty
Please send them to the E Block prep room

IMPORTANT DATES			
June		June cont...	
2-6	Year 7 and Year 8 Half Yearly Exams Week Year 11 Business Studies Research Work Placement Day	18	Combined Schools Beacon 'Pledge Day' - some Year 10 student
9	Queen's Birthday Holiday	20	Year 11 Advanced English - Conspirators Workshop, Albion Park High
10	P&C Meeting, 7.30 pm in School Library	24-25	Year 8 Gifted and Talented - Illawarra Area Excursion
10-13	Year 10 English Assessment Task - Speaking (all week)	24	Zone Athletics Carnival
10	Year 11 Music Practical Exam	25	Blake McMahon Fundraising BBQ
12	HSC Economic Lectures Open and Under 15's Country Cup Rugby League Regional Cross Country	27	30 Year 9 students plus Year 6 Local Feeder Schools - 'LEAD' Drug Forum
13	Year 12 Advanced English - King Lear Excursion Year 11 Business Studies Research Work Placement Day	30	All Schools Rugby League Carnival - Under 13's, 15's and 16's
16	Year 11 Senior School Success Day Years 10, 11 and 12 'Choices' Workshop in the School Hall		Year 8 Gifted and Talented - Illawarra and Southern Highlands Excursion
17	Year 12 Advanced English - King Lear Excursion Year 11 Business Studies Research Work Placement Day		Start of NAIDOC WEEK
18	Immunisations - Year 7 Varicella (Chicken Pox), Year 7-10 HPV	July	
	'Just Imagine' Creative Writing -Wollongong Art Gallery	1-4	NAIDOC WEEK continues
	Buckley Shield and University Shield Rugby League Vs Kiama - 11.00 am	1	Arrive Alive Driver Education
	HSC Business Studies Lectures	4	Years 7-12 Semester 1 Reports Issued
	Part Year 10 - BlueScope Steel Excursion	21	LAST DAY OF TERM 2
		22	School Development Day
		24	ALL STUDENTS RETURN
		25	National Chemistry Quiz
		29	CHS Cross Country
			Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection Information - Student Meetings
			Parent Teacher Afternoon 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

From the Deputy's Desk.....

LITERACY

At the start of the year Warilla High and our feeder primary schools were invited to participate in a Middle Years Literacy Project, which is funded by the Commonwealth Government.

The strategy was introduced because research shows that in the middle years, many students become disengaged with their schooling and do not achieve their academic potential. The middle years literacy project aims to improve student literacy by building the skills of both students and teachers. It allows schools to experiment with innovative approaches to improving literacy.

A series of meetings have been held between teachers from our community of schools to determine our strategy. Two directions have been identified. The first is a literacy component. Teachers in Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) and Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8) will be working on developing student writing skills. In particular, the use of complex sentences and paragraphing will be the focus across our schools. These targets were chosen by analysing the results of our ELLA and BST tests. The second Middle Years strategy will be focussed on developing design briefs in the area of technology. Ms Fallo-Cranney and staff from the Home Science and Industrial Arts faculties will be working alongside primary school staff. They will concentrate on methods of teaching students the skills to prepare design briefs for portfolios. A major part of the Year 7 Design and Technology course work is comprised of these portfolios.

This term has been a busy term for our literacy support team and our reading strategy. Our 'reading period' strategy seems to be working well, with many teachers taking the opportunity to read articles and stories to their students during period 3 on Thursdays. Mr Sprouster and the Industrial Arts Faculty have chosen some innovative and fun stories to read to students. Our guest reader program worked effectively for a number of weeks and guest readers included Mr Anderson, Mr Regan, Mr McInnes, and Ms Potts. The book hunt competition continued for several weeks and recent winners included Mitch Eades (Year 7) and Lewis Taylor (Year 9). By popular demand we have revived the Spelling Scavenger Hunt, and winners have included Robert Davis (Year 8), Emma Snowdon (Year 7) and Lewis Taylor (Year 9). In addition, the MS Readathon is up and running and being co-ordinated by Ms Bryant in the library. It is not too late for students to participate.

The national literacy and numeracy tests were held in mid May for students in Years 7 and 9. Students sat literacy and numeracy tests over three days. The tests were co-ordinated by Ms Gaynor and a dedicated team of helpers. We are eagerly awaiting the results of these tests. Parents will receive a written report of their child's performance in these tests.

Mr A McInnes

NOTICE TO PARENTS REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

- If your child will be absent for a period of time could you please contact the school.
- All absences need to be explained by a signed note from a parent. The child gives the note to their roll teacher on return to school. Unexplained absences will be noted on reports.
- Absentee books are available from the front office and the student's Year Adviser.

YEAR 11 EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FIELD TRIP



It was a bright sunny day and the weather was favourable for the trip to the Killalea Lagoon and surrounding area known more commonly as 'The Farm'. Starting in the morning, students were keen - David Hopkins being the first to arrive at the scene.

Beginning at the site of the old farm, students observed many remnant structures from the dairy farm that was once positioned on top of the hill.

Students then continued down on to the beach where they were able to get their hands dirty; Forrest Perrin de Graaff spared no time, or rock, when eagerly mining the cliff face for samples, busting and breaking any rock in his ultimate quest for super-scientific knowledge.

Later on in the day after a relaxing bite to eat on the beach, students walked over to the lagoon edge and carefully tiptoed through some acacia scrub and into a field of pennywort. Whilst observing and recording some of the flora in the lagoon, it was observed that the pennywort field was home to a large number of small green frogs.



There would have been at least 20 frogs within the immediate area of the team. As part of some students' assessments, they have chosen to investigate the lagoonal frogs in more detail. It was not clear as to the exact species of the frogs but speculations have pointed toward a green tree frog or possibly the endangered green and gold bell frog.

All in all a great day was had by both staff and students.

S Hawkins

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Warilla High school is entering into a scheme where we promote the local business community as well as other businesses involved with, or supportive of, our school. The business then sits back and can measure every new customer and sale.

YES!! We promote your business....and help you be more successful!!

Businesses receive assistance to develop a coupon, which can be updated at any time, where the business is promoted online. As well, each business will be recognised for supporting local youth and education. The coupon offers will be promoted through our regular newsletters and on our website. We will promote the businesses and monitor (real time) statistics which show us if your business requires extra promotion.

Information will be given to the students to take home seeking interest from parents, friends and neighbours. If you are interested please ensure you contact the school with your contact details and we will make an appointment to come and discuss this opportunity with you. We hope to have any interested businesses gaining customers within the next few weeks. Don't miss out on this opportunity!!

For more information please contact Mrs Potts at Warilla High.

CHANGED ROAD CONDITIONS

The pedestrian crossing, drop off zones and changed signage upgrades at the front of the school are now complete.

On the adjoining page is an explanation of the RTA signage in and around schools.

Drivers should note the significant penalties, including loss of points, associated with any infringements.

SCHOOL SAFETY NOTICE TO DRIVERS

In the interest of CHILD SAFETY there is NO EXCUSE for disobeying traffic control signs and road rules in the vicinity of a school. Please read and understand the following traffic controls around your school.

NO STOPPING

Under no circumstances are you permitted to stop on a length of road to which a NO STOPPING sign applies.
(Penalty: \$238 + two demerit points each time you stop)

NO PARKING



You are permitted to stop in a NO PARKING zone while you are engaged in dropping off or picking up passengers. You must not stop for more than two minutes. You must stay within three metres of your vehicle.
(Penalty: \$132 + two demerit points)



BUS ZONE

You are not permitted to stop in a BUS ZONE unless you are driving as public bus.
(Penalty: \$238 + two demerit points)

CHILDREN'S CROSSING

You are not permitted to stop within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing.
(Penalty: \$318 + two demerit points)

DOUBLE PARKING



A driver must not stop on a road between the centre of the road and another vehicle that is parked at the side of the road. (Penalty: \$238 + two demerit points)

THE COST OF TAKING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DEPENDS ENTIRLEY ON YOU

Careers Expo 2008

One hundred and forty eight students from Years 10 and 12 attended the Careers Expo on Wednesday 7 May. This was a great response from students who have taken the opportunity to 'ask the experts' about their career choices. This unique event was attended by 125 different organisations and continued over two days for Illawarra secondary schools. Exhibitors were on hand to provide information about employment and tertiary courses. Some exhibitors, such as TAFE NSW and Defence Force Recruitment personnel, also provided hands on and interactive experiences for our students.

Industry and career areas on exhibition included apprenticeships, animal care, automotive, aviation, business, creative arts, education, electrical, finance, health, hospitality, journalism, law, manufacturing, mining, policing and defence, retail, science, sport, social work, universities and many more.

Mrs Brookes
Careers Adviser



Careers Events for June 2008

Year 10	Polish Program	3 – 6 June
Year 10	Pledge Day	18 June
Year 10	BlueScope Steel Excursion	18 June
Years 10, 11 & 12	Careers Options Day	27 June

GIRLS OPEN HOCKEY KNOCKOUT WARILLA VS MULWAREE HIGH SCHOOL

On Monday 19th May I took 13 girls to Croome Road hockey fields to play the second round of the State Hockey Knockout. It was a very close game, Mulwaree scored first, then the Warilla girls came back with a beautiful goal from Laura Nealon to even the score, We then went 2-1 up with another goal from Laura Nealon and unfortunately Mulwaree scored with only 4 minutes left to even the scores at full time. We then went into drop off - so it was 9 players Vs 9 players. After playing for another 6 minutes, scores were still even, we then dropped off 2 more players from each team and played for another 6 minutes and still no change to the score, the 7 players continued to play for another 12 minutes before Mulwaree got a lucky goal to win 3-2. Warilla girls had a strong attacking side and although they had shot after shot, the Mulwaree goalie just kept saving everything the girls hit at her. Kate Nealon, Kate McKinley, Demi Hoppo and Lauren McWatters were stand out players on the day and congratulations to all the girls for an extreme effort and great sportsmanship.

Miss Beveridge

ymt Australia

Youth Mission Australia Wollongong Team is pleased to announce the commencement of Elevate Regional Youth Group on Friday June 20. The Youth Group is for students in Years 10-12 and will run from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm on Friday nights at St Columbkille's Parish Hall, 99 Princes Highway Corrimal.

Please contact Manager Chris Brennan 4284 1635 or 0433 636 359 for more information. Parents when dropping your child off please come in and meet the manager and Youth Mission Team Members.

BRING HOME A BROTHER OR SISTER

In June and July 2008, students aged 15-18 years, from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 2, 3, 5 or 10 months. Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

For more information call Student Exchange Australia on: **Toll Free 1300 135 331**

or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au

BRICKLAYING SKILLS GAINED BY INTERESTED STUDENTS



In the last week of May, eleven students were involved in an activity to gain skills and knowledge of all aspects of brick laying. This was organised through Workplace Learning Illawarra, the Step Out Programme, Wollongong TAFE and Mrs Brookes and Mrs Potts, who primarily look after students wishing to gain skills often not traditionally found in the school curriculum.

Positions were limited in the course with 29 students expressing a desire to be involved but only 12 places available. Hard decisions were made and the following students were offered places and showed their interest, by returning their permission notes.

Year 9 Liam Jurd-Walsh, Aaron Stannard, Josh Meier, Jesse Harris and Dylan Johnson

Year 10 Chris Hayes, Alex Hornung, Cameron Hughes, Ben Meinecke, Mathew McCracken and Matthew Strachan

The course involved the students 'getting dirty' and gaining skills. It was pleasing to see some of the students even working with Mick Matthesius from the TAFE on the school Athletics Carnival day - before it started raining they were busily constructing walls for a school planter. This activity was enjoyed by the students involved as they gained work related skills.

In the future we hope to offer similar courses in other areas. Students who wish to be involved, or who have particular needs for assistance with careers and courses, need to ensure that they take the opportunity to speak with Mrs Brookes or Mrs Potts.

Public Health Advice

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious illness that mainly affects babies and young children, teenagers and young adults. It could happen to you or one of your family.

Australia has no vaccine for the B strain of the disease, so it's important to be on the look out for symptoms of meningococcal disease, even if you have been immunised.

Symptoms **may** include:

- sudden onset of fever
- pin-prick rash changing to large red-purple blotches
- cold hands and feet
- sore joints and muscles
- nausea and vomiting
- headache
- neck stiffness
- dislike of bright lights
- tiredness
-

Babies and very young children may:

- be irritable
- have difficulty waking
- have a high-pitched cry
- refuse to eat

Remember a rash does not always appear and not all of the symptoms of meningococcal disease may be present at once.

Anyone displaying these symptoms should seek immediate medical care.

For more information on meningococcal disease go to www.health.nsw.gov.au

If you think you or your child may have meningococcal disease, seek medical care immediately. Public health units in NSW can provide general information about communicable diseases including meningococcal disease.

***South Eastern Sydney/Illawarra Area Health Service
Wollongong Office..... 02 4221 6700***

SKILLS WEEK 2008

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

**WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER -
WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER**

Richard Shaw Shield 2008

Warilla High School Girls' Open Rugby Union team were successful in making it through to the third round of the CHS knockout on the 21st May defeating Lake Illawarra High School convincingly, 27-0. Tries to Emma Henderson (2), Jaimee-Lee Cotter (1), Jess Myers (1), and 1 to Rachel Potter which she successfully converted. The Warilla High School team were able to make it to the grand final round last year and are looking to do the same this year and go one step further securing the championship shield. This year's team has a lot of new girls in their line up, but are very determined to show other teams their skills and dedication to the game of rugby union. The girls are very committed to training sessions, and this is paying off for the whole team. They enjoy playing and are grateful for the support that they receive from sponsorship – 'Warilla Bowling Club' and 'Accounting Professionals Warilla'. Many of the girls' families come to cheer the team on and it seems to help the girls rise to the occasion.

