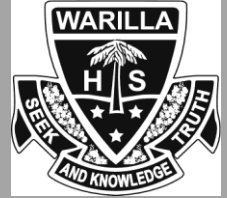


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Issue 4 - Term 4 - Week 8

Monday 7 December 2009

Principal's Message

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2009. With Skills Week commencing in Week 8 and with the last two days of term designated School Development Days, this is the last opportunity to ensure the newsletter reaches the whole school community.

We are currently in the process of formalising all student reports which will be available on Wednesday 16 December for collection. They will not be available before this time regardless of parent requests. With a shortened term we will be working right up to this deadline to ensure that reports are fully completed.

The school received some distressing news recently when we were informed that one of our staff members, Mr Purkiss, was involved in a motor vehicle accident. He has sustained some extremely serious leg injuries requiring extensive surgery and rehabilitation. At this stage we do not envisage him returning to school to at least mid next term. The thoughts and good wishes of our whole school community go with him for a speedy and full recovery.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work done by the many people at Warilla High School that make it such a successful school. Our popular and positive reputation in the broader community is due to the efforts of many. To our fantastic teachers and SAS staff I thank you for your dedication and hard work to make a real and significant difference to our students. You have been marvellous and have made a huge impact on the learning and lives of our learning community.

To the businesses and groups in the community that assist our school I thank you for your continued support. I am reminded of the old folk saying that states "it takes a whole village to educate one child". You are integral in this process and make a difference to the lives of our students.

To the parents, thank you for your support and for placing your child in our care. It is our pleasure to give every child at Warilla High School opportunities to grow and learn. We have appreciated your enthusiasm, positive support and trust.

Finally to the students, thank you for making Warilla High School one of the best schools ANYWHERE! After twelve months at Warilla High School I can honestly say that our students are some of the finest students in the country. Their positive outlook, friendship and pride in the school are acknowledged often by the visitors to the school. It is our pleasure to teach you.

It has been a very positive, successful and fun year at Warilla High School, and I look forward to building on this in 2010.

To all members of our school community I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas shared with family and friends. May

the new year be good to you and bring success and happiness your way. Cheers and best wishes.

Glenn Isemonger
Principal

Coming Events

Week 8B

Monday 7 December	Yr 10 Sign Out Day
Tuesday 8 December	Annual Presentation Night 7.00pm
Wednesday 9 December	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Skills Week Yr 9 Tasmania Excursion
Thursday 10 December	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Skills Week Yr 9 Tasmania Excursion
Friday 11 December	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Skills Week Yr 10 Graduation Yr 9 Tasmania Excursion

Week 9A

Monday 14 December	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Skills Week
Tuesday 15 December	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Skills Week
Wednesday 16 December	HSC Results Available Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Reports and Semester Awards issued Last Day of Term for Students
Thursday 18 December	School Development Day (Staff Only)
Friday 19 December	School Development Day (Staff Only)

Wednesday 27 January 2010	Staff Return
Thursday 28 January 2010	Years 7, 11 and 12 Return
Friday 29 January 2010	Years 8, 9 and 10 Return

Our School's Core Values:

Care for your environment
Embrace honesty
Respect others and value yourself
Seek knowledge



From the Deputies

There are several issues of concern with regard to student behaviour and safety;

Bike Helmets

It is a condition of riding a bike to school, that students wear a helmet. It is against the law to ride a bike on any road in NSW without a helmet. Please ensure that if your child rides to school they wear their helmet every day.

Mobile Phones and Other Personal Equipment

The school accepts no responsibility for students who choose to bring mobile phones, iPods or other personal equipment to school. The safest place for this equipment is at home. If students choose to bring mobile phones or other personal equipment to school they do so entirely at their own risk.

Students Out of Bounds

A number of students have been leaving the school grounds during school time to buy food at the local service station. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds without permission at any time during the day.

Energy Drinks

A reminder that energy drinks such as *Mother* etc are banned from school.

Alan McInnes and Bob Ashby
Deputy Principals

Aspire

Famous actress and dancer Ginger Rogers once said "the only way to enjoy anything in life is to earn it first". Our aspire column is dedicated to all those students who are working hard to earn their success. What a pleasure it was to acknowledge the many students at last weeks' merit assemblies for helping out as readers and writers for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate exams, for volunteering to be Peer Mediators and Peer Support Leaders in 2010, for helping in the canteen and for community service to help the St Vincent de Paul Society. These students are a wonderful asset to our strong and thriving school community and I thank them for their efforts.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of Sarah Verhoeven, Lauren Moulton, Tyson Arapali, Melissa Galiatsatos, Emily Olive, Nicole Luck and Trent Opie of Year 11 and Rufus Picken of Year 10. These students put together a wonderful collection of information, stories and articles that were featured in the Illawarra Mercury's IQ magazine. Your work was very impressive. Also a big rap to Mr Hawkins and Mrs Nelson for their wonderful support and organisation.

Congratulations also to Aaron Spears of Year 11. Aaron is one of our talented Lawn Bowlers and has impressed at a school, regional and State level in competition. As an acknowledgement of this success he has been awarded a "CHS Blue". These are only allocated to students who have achieved at an elite level and it is a great honour for him and the school.

I would also like to give a rap to Benjamin Kolar of Year 7 and Meg Keeling of Year 8 for their honesty in handing in lost property. You are both a real asset to this school.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Jarrad Borg, Brad Beauchamp and Benjamin Robinson from Year 9 and Lewis Taylor from Year 11. They volunteered to referee Rugby League games at numerous times throughout the year and have done an exceptional job and have brought great praise to the school for their skills and sportsmanship. Well done!

So, well done to all of our hard working students who are aspiring for success. I look forward to acknowledging many more student achievements throughout 2010. Congratulations! Cheers and best wishes.

Glenn Isemonger
Principal

Opportunities for Year 6 Students to Enrol in Year 7 2010

Saturday School of Community Languages

The Saturday School of Community Languages provides opportunities for high school students to study their background language to School Certificate and Higher School Certificate levels when that language is not available at their day school.

There are 14 Saturday School centres in the Sydney metropolitan area and one each in Wollongong and Newcastle.

Information about the Saturday School of Community Languages and courses offered is available at:

www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/languages/sscl

Student Administration

Year 12 Assessment Week Information

As Year 12 have begun their preparation for the HSC, during Skills Week all Year 12 will be attending assessment tasks for all their subjects from Wednesday 9 December to Monday 14 December (inclusive).

Tuesday 15 December will be for any student who cannot attend any session due to illness.

If your child is ill, please ring the school on the day to inform us. The student will need a Doctor's Certificate to present on their return to school.

Attendance is imperative as failure to do so will result in an 'N' warning and a zero which will impact on the final HSC result.

There will be 2 sessions each day for these assessment tasks:
Session 1 begins at 10.30am.
Session 2 begins at 1.00pm.

Each assessment task will take about 1 hour. Students will need to bring pens, paper and any required equipment for each assessment task.

Stephen Kershaw and Sue Connell
Head Teacher Administration and Head Teacher English

English

An excursion has been arranged for Year 12 Standard English to listen to STEVEN HERRICK, the composer of 'The Simple Gift' which is the core text studied for the Area of Study: Belonging for the HSC, discuss this text. Students will have studied this text by the time they go on the excursion.

The lecture will take place on 15 March 2010 at Wollongong High School.

The cost of entry to the lecture and bus will be approximately \$10 per student depending on the number of students who take up this offer to assist them in their preparation for the HSC.

A deposit of \$5 needs to be paid to the front office by Friday 11 December, 2009 to secure your child's spot in this excursion.

Permission notes will be issued next year to those students going.

I highly recommend that your child attend this lecture to assist them in the HSC.

Sue Connell
Head Teacher English

Creative Arts

Applaud 2009

The weather was kind and the rain stayed away for our Applaud afternoon for showcasing the achievements of Creative Arts students from Years 7-11. The performances of various musical items and displays of Visual Arts works were held before an appreciative audience of Year 7 and Year 10 students. This was then followed by a final presentation to parents and staff.

The students are to be congratulated for their fine efforts throughout the year.

C Jervis
Head Teacher Creative Arts



Trent Opie Year 11 Playing Guitar



**Year 9 Drama Students
Jack Jones, Rachel Andersen and Eryn-Maree Taylor**

PD/H/PE

Year 8 PASS Outdoor Education Day at Killalea

On Friday 30 October both Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS) classes attended their first outdoor education day. The day was aimed at teaching some team work skills, basic navigation and an introduction to environmental service.

After a wet and cold week the students were greeted by a stunning Friday morning at Killalea. Local surfers enjoying the waves entertained the students whilst packing their morning tea and applying sunscreen.

The hiking group started their trek but were soon halted when a whale was sighted breaching several times around South Shellharbour Beach.

During the day students had an opportunity to learn about the invasive weed Bitou Bush. Warilla High School has been involved in a long running project to help eliminate this weed from the sensitive dune area. Students enjoyed hacking at the weeds and improving the appearance of the dunes. Those students who go onto study PASS in Year 10 will take part in a tree replanting program in the same area to restore the original flora.

Skim boarding on the beach was a great way to enjoy the fine spring weather. Students had to work as a team by towing their mates along the beach. Some teams travelled over 200m with their riders on board. John Brown took the students to explore both ends of the beach and a few rock pools.

A BBQ lunch and a few games completed the day. Well done in particular to the students who protected themselves from the sun by wearing sun smart clothing. A reminder to all students that 'tank tops' and 'singlets' are not suitable attire for any school run activity.

A big thank you from Mr Morris, to those students who handed their notes in early and completed their payments to the front office before the event. In future, please remember to see your teacher prior to the event if you need additional time to make payments. Thank you.

Andrew Christie-Murray
Teacher PD/H/PE

Counsellor's Report

NAPCAN Tackles Cyber Bullies with Teens Online

An innovative digital campaign was launched to help young people reduce the growing incidence of cyber bullying. The campaign, called *Cyber Bullying Affects Real Lives*, educates young internet users about the destructive nature of cyber bullying and empowers them with tools to help prevent it.

The campaign is part of the Smart Online, Safe Offline (SOSO) social initiative, which is collaboration between the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN), digital marketing experts Profero, the Telstra Foundation®, Google Australia and the digital media industry.

The campaign includes a two-minute video clip, using YouTube as an educational platform to connect with young people. Once students watch the YouTube video, they can click on a link to an interactive game called *Web Warriors* where they can create a personal avatar character and join other Australian kids to take a stand against cyber bullying.

Research from Edith Cowan University reveals between seven and ten per cent of young people in years four-to-eight are victims of cyber bullying each school term, with secondary students even more likely to be bullied online.

The YouTube clip – '*Kid at school gets a pants down – LOL FWD this!!!*' – can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watchvCBjiaybt5Xwk, the Web Warriors game at www.webwarriors.com.au, and the SOSO interactive website at www.soso.org.au/pr.

Tim Cartwright
School Counsellor

SRC

National Young Leaders Day

"Unless you are willing to have a go, fail miserably, and have another go, success won't happen." – Phillip Adams

The 23 November was filled with quotes like the one above for us Year 12 SRC Leaders. We travelled up to Sydney to attend the 'National Young Leaders Day' in order to become the best leaders for Warilla High School. It was an interesting, informative excursion.

There were six speakers but one really stood out, Julian Morrow, a former lawyer who is currently working for 'The Chaser'. Julian is an inspiring man who joked throughout his speech but didn't allow humour to cover the seriousness of his message, "take risks, but be smart about it, get into trouble but be smart about it." He then produced a mind map that stated what a leader needed to do in order to become a greater leader.

Our day taught us that in order to lead you have to listen. In order to lead you need to teach skills then move on, don't linger. In order to be a great leader always stick to your standards and values. Never drop your expectations or the respect people hold for you will disappear.

Melissa Galiatsatos
Year 12 SRC Leader

Brain Teasers

Answers to previous brain teasers:

Puzzle No 1: Rainforest, tropical, leaching, gliders, species, sassafras, Shellharbour, rosella.

Puzzle No 2: Indigenous, rainforest, canopy, whipbird, habitat, eco-friendly, parrots, wombat, honeyeater, parasites.

Information for Year 11 2010

There will be the introduction of a senior text book deposit of \$50 to cover the many text books that are required for the HSC. On completion of the HSC and all books are returned the deposit will be fully refunded. A letter will be sent to every Year 11 (2010) family at the beginning of 2010 further explaining payment procedures.

Glenn Isemonger
Principal

ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH EAST REGIONAL (ISER) COUNCIL OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS

Advance Notice

Regional Parent Conference

Saturday 8 May 2010

Smith's Hill High School, Wollongong

A conference that explores the special characteristics of young people aged 12 -18 years and the skills and attributes they may need to become confident, productive and ethical citizens in a world of constant change.

Keynote Speaker: Michael McQueen: Understanding & Engaging Generation Y

**All inquiries to Christine May 44751618 or
042 726 2376 (daytime) 02 44786240 (evenings)**

For My Teacher at Christmas

Christmas vacation is great;
My time is mine to spend;
I can be with friends or watch TV;
I wish it would never end.
I don't miss school or homework;
I really like to be free;
But I'll miss you when I'm gone from school;
You're just what a teacher should be.
So have a perfect Christmas;
Be sure to have lots of fun;
I look forward to seeing you again,
When Christmas vacation is done.

