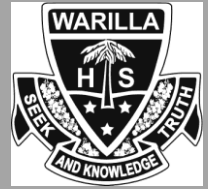


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Issue 1 - Term 1 - Week 3

Monday 8 February 2010

Principal's Message

Welcome one and all back to the 2010 school year at Warilla High School. After our strong successes in 2009 we look forward to this year.

Our HSC results in 2009 were very strong, with Warilla High School receiving more Band 6 grades than any other High School in the Shellharbour District. However, what was most impressive about both the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results was the decrease in lower Band awards and more higher Bands (4, 5 and 6) being achieved. Well done to our dedicated staff, motivated students and supportive parents.

Once again, our enrolments remain strong, showing a continual growth trend for the past 5 years. It was great to welcome Year 7 to our school community and welcome back students from all the other year groups. They looked fit, well, positive and fantastic in their uniforms.

Over the holiday break most of the covered walkways between buildings were completed, fascia boards were replaced in some blocks and the new senior toilet block is getting its finishing touches. It is a credit to Mark Owen, our General Assistant, and the cleaning staff that the school looks so good.

This week has seen the launch of the "Myschool" website amid considerable concern and controversy. In coming weeks I will be discussing at P & C meetings and in newsletters the usefulness of the site and its drawbacks. As an initial comment I would remind you of this. Schools are about people and relationships – staff, students, parents and the community. Our school, or any school, should not be judged or ranked on the basis of one series of tests, yet this is precisely what the media has done with information from the website. We, the school community, stand by our claims that Warilla High School is a world class school helping to create positive, skilled and responsible citizens of the future. We do not judge a new car solely on its body shape or paint job. We should not do the same with our schools.

This week has also seen some considerable staff changes. In Term 4 last year Mr Michael Groves took over reins as Head Teacher Industrial Arts and is enjoying being at Warilla High School. We also have

numerous staff on leave from the beginning of this year. We would like to welcome the following casual teachers to our staff. Anita Chmurycz will replace Peter Purkiss for Term 1 while Peter is recovering from his accident. Also for the whole of Term 1 Renee Holt will be working in our HSIE Faculty, Paul Lovegrove in our Science Faculty and Troy Pilon in our Maths Faculty. For the whole year we will have Julie McNamara and Cass Napier in our English Faculty and Ken Boxsell will be in our Industrial Art Faculty. We will also have Grant Neill and Libby Monro here for the whole year in additional positions. We would also like to welcome Michael Lothian back in a relief position and congratulate Denise Clune on her permanent appointment to the PE staff.

I would encourage parents to come along to our P & C meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month in the school Library at 7.30 pm. We have a positive and active P & C who are always looking for ways to support the education of our students. Attending these meetings is a great way of finding out about the many things happening at school and we often have a Head Teacher attend to talk about what is happening in their key learning areas.

I would also encourage you to support our school canteen. If you can help out at all on any day through the week your assistance would be very welcome. Please contact our Canteen Supervisors Karen, Sue and Libby on 42962770 if you can help.

So read on and enjoy the newsletter. I have a feeling that this year will be a "dazzler". Cheers and best wishes.

Glenn Isemonger
Principal

**P & C Meeting Tuesday 9 February
in the School Library at 7.30pm
All Welcome**

Coming Events

Week 3A

Monday 8 February	Yr 7 Brainstorm Productions and Bullying Workshop
Tuesday 9 February	P & C Meeting in the Library 7.30pm Yr 12 Drama & Yr 11 Drama to Onstage at the Seymour Centre Sydney Swimming Trials at Warilla Pool 1.45pm
Wednesday 10 February	Yr 11 & Yr 12 Brainstorm Productions and Motivation and Stress Management Workshops

Week 4B

Monday 15 February	Yr 11 Camp at Wombaroo Adventure Centre in the Southern Highlands Yr 12 Standard English Excursion to Steven Herrick Lectures at Wollongong High School
Tuesday 16 February	Yr 11 Camp Southern Highlands
Wednesday 17 February	Yr 11 Camp Southern Highlands
Thursday 18 February	Yr 11 Camp Southern Highlands
Friday 19 February	Yr 11 Camp Southern Highlands Zone Swimming Carnival

From the Deputies

Welcome back to 2010. We hope students had an enjoyable and relaxing break. At this time of the year we would like to remind parents and students about the following important issues.

Mobile Phones, iPods and Other Personal Property

The school does not encourage students to bring these items to school. If students choose to bring them to school, they do so **entirely at their own risk**. We cannot guarantee the safety of these items and if they are stolen we do not have the resources to follow up. The school will **not** replace stolen items. A reminder also, that if these items are brought to school they need to be turned off and out of sight during class time.

Bike Safety

If students are riding bikes to school they must have a helmet. This is not only a school rule but also a traffic rule. Bikes should be walked down the service road at the western side of the school. Bikes, scooters and skateboards need to be securely locked in the bike compound. Students should provide their own lock.

Zero Tolerance

The school has a zero tolerance policy for violence (whether provoked or not). If students choose to settle altercations in a physical manner, then severe sanctions will be applied. A zero tolerance policy applies also to bullying and harassment. We endeavour to ensure that our school is free of bullying and harassment and serious consequences are applied to repeat offenders. We also need to ensure that school is a safe working environment for staff. Verbal abuse of staff members is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Media Access Permission

At times the school may wish to reproduce samples of students work or a photo of a student in the school newsletter, promotional material or in the media (local newspapers, TV). If you **DO NOT** wish images of your child or their work to appear in school publications or other local media could you please contact the Administration Office at school to place your child's name on a register. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Year 7 Scripture Lessons

As you may be aware, the Education Act (1990) requires Government Schools to make provision for religious education. This has usually taken the form of a "Scripture lesson" conducted by local clergy/lay people. Such a lesson is to be provided again for Year 7 students this year.

In 2010 this will be a timetabled lesson one period per fortnightly cycle. This lesson will come out of the students' normal timetable and be taken from a different subject each term.

If parents do not wish their child to attend the timetabled Scripture lesson, they must complete and return the exemption note that was issued to all Year 7 students.

Students not attending Scripture will go to their normal timetabled classroom. However, to prevent those students attending Scripture being disadvantaged, no new work will be undertaken during these periods.

We hope that students have an enjoyable and successful year at Warilla High.

Bob Ashby and Al McInnes
Deputy Principals

Support Services

Special Provisions for School Certificate and Higher School Certificate

Under certain circumstances the Board of Studies may provide special conditions for candidates sitting these examinations. The special provisions are diverse, covering medical, psychological, physical and learning difficulties. There are many conditions with which special provisions can assist. For example if your child has learning difficulties with reading or writing; medical problems such as diabetes; medical problems that require medication at special times of the day; psychological problems such as anxiety or; physical disabilities such as colour blindness, deafness or muscular problems, he or she can apply.

If you feel that your child may require the use of special provisions, or you wish to find out more, please contact Ros Gaynor, Support Teacher Learning Assistance, during school hours on 42963055 to discuss the matter further. (Applications for special provisions must be lodged by the end of this term.)

Ros Gaynor
Support Teacher Learning Assistance

Literacy and Numeracy

You may have recently seen news items regarding the publication of league tables of schools based on student performance in NAPLAN tests. This is a highly contentious process which is strongly opposed by teachers for many reasons.

For several years now, Warilla High has reacted to student performance in literacy tests by developing a very strong program to support the improvement of literacy outcomes across the school. I have frequently reported in this newsletter on various initiatives we have organised to address areas of need. Past programs have included spelling quizzes, writer of the month programs, guest readers, book review competitions, 'word for the week' strategies, short story competitions and many other initiatives. We have also worked in close co-operation with our feeder primary schools to share information and develop common approaches to teaching aspects of literacy. We were partners in the Middle Years Literacy Program that aimed to improve the skills of both teachers and students in the major areas of literacy.

This strong program of carefully analysing our NAPLAN results and responding to identified needs has been an important part of our school culture. This year our needs have been identified as; improving student performance in the use of grammar, spelling, punctuation and the foundations of effective writing. We also need to improve outcomes for girls and extend and challenge our more able students. Strategies to address these needs have already been planned and include; short

story competitions with prizes for students, providing teachers with structured reading exercises for students which mirror the NAPLAN test items, surveying and mentoring underperforming girls, 'Girls only/Boys only' library days, mentoring, teacher professional development in teaching grammar across KLAs, spelling competitions, 'word for the week' competition and other strategies. In addition, we will continue to work with our feeder primary schools on common literacy improvement strategies. As you can see the list of planned activities is comprehensive and exciting. I look forward to reporting the success of these strategies in improving student literacy in future newsletters.

Al McInnes
Literacy Team Coordinator

Welcome Year 7 2010!!!!

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to the year and seem to have settled well into life at Warilla High School. I am sure there are many relieved parents and Year 7 students who have realised "it's not as bad or as scary as I thought"! On the whole Year 7 have displayed a sensible attitude and maturity beyond their years. Many teachers have approached me with positive comments about their Year 7 classes and I hope they will continue to do so.

I am looking forward to my job as Year 7 Year Adviser and I hope you will feel free to contact me on 42963055 if you have any concerns or questions about your child.

Just a reminder that the push for 'merits' is on with students needing 5 merit certificates before Easter in order to be invited to go to the Royal Easter Show. I am hoping all Year 7 will attend so please encourage your children to strive for merits.

Thanks also for your great response to our two Year 7 initiatives taking place in the next couple of weeks by getting notes and money back to the school so quickly. The 'Bonding Day' at the Seaspray and the 'Verbal Combat' Workshop will help equip your children with strategies and skills to deal with high school life, as well as being a great opportunity for them to get to know their fellow students, teachers and Peer Support leaders.

I hope to see you all at the "Welcome to High School AfternoonTea" on the 16 March at 2.00pm. Here you will have an opportunity to talk to your child's teachers and discuss their progress. Please return the yellow note by the 5 March so we have numbers for catering.

Maria Bryant
Year 7 Year Adviser

Industrial Arts

Subject Contribution and Safety

To reach a satisfactory level in Technology and Senior courses students must fulfil the Safety and Materials Contribution Requirements.

Students participating in practical work must be correctly attired with the following approved safety clothing and footwear:

- Shoes with a stout sole and firm leather upper.
- An apron.
- A hair net, if the student's hair is long enough to create a hazard.

Students not properly attired for a practical lesson will be excluded from that lesson and report to the Head Teacher Industrial Arts with their theory book and writing equipment, prepared for a theory lesson.

Students are required to purchase all materials required for practical work. To assist students, the materials required for Technology courses will be purchased by the Industrial Arts department of this school. Students will receive access to these materials by paying a yearly contribution calculated for each subject listed below:

Design & Technology 1	Year 7	\$40*
Design & Technology 2	Year 8	\$45*
IT General Wood	Year 8	\$30
IT General Metal	Year 8	\$30
Electronics	Year 8	\$30
IT Timber 1&2	Year 9	\$50
IT Timber 3&4	Year 10	\$50
IT Metal 1&2	Year 9	\$50
IT Metal 3&4	Year 10	\$50
Graphics Tech 1-4	Year 8-10	\$10
Construction (VET)	Year 11	\$30
Metals & Engineering (VET)	Year 11	\$30
Design & Technology	Year 11	\$30
Design & Technology	Year 12	\$15
Industrial Technology	Year 11	\$50
Industrial Technology	Year 12	\$20
Support D&T		\$15
Support Technology		\$15

*The Design & Technology contribution for Years 7 & 8 covers both Industrial Arts and Home Economics Departments. Practical components are included in this contribution.

Students must pay for materials before Week 4, Term 1, 2010 to ensure their practical work is not interrupted. Part payment on a term basis is acceptable.

Payments should be made at the school office and a receipt shown to the class teacher as soon as possible. Any student who cannot meet these financial

arrangements are asked to see Mr Groves privately as soon as possible.

Michael Groves
Head Teacher Industrial Arts