



PARENT NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 10 December** 2014 Year 7 Orientation Day (Year 7 & 8 students not required at school)
- 11 December** Final day of Breakfast Program for 2013
- 11 December** Second-Hand Book Sale (3.00 - 6.00pm) - Quamby Campus
- 18 December** Awards Evening - 7.00pm Costa Hall
- 29 January** Classes commence for 2014 Year 10, 11 & 12 students
- 30 January** First Day for 2014 Year 7 students
- 31 January** Classes commence for 2014 Year 8 & 9 students



To provide and sustain an inclusive, stimulating and supportive community of skilled and creative learners which enhances opportunities and pathways, personal growth and well-being of all its members.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL - TAMI O'HARE

The College community is currently deeply immersed in a planned series of information and transition sessions. On Wednesday evening the 2014 Year 7 Learning Community, led by their Learning Community Leader, Michelle Roth, welcomed new, returning and continuing families to the college along with their family member who will join the Year 7 community in 2014. We welcome and acknowledge the support of our 2014 students who attended with their family.

At the session, participants were introduced to the Year 7 team and were able to make contact with their mentor to set a time for their initial 2014 introductory meeting. Students received their personalised Curriculum Handbook and Parent Information Handbook to support the transition package they have received from College staff when they met with them at their primary school.

I trust that through the presentation students and families gained a greater understanding of the learning opportunities available within our curriculum and structures. I would also like to particularly acknowledge our recently elected College Captains for 2014, Magan Turner and Josh Trevethan who led the information session on the college uniform, assisted by our Year 7 volunteers.

On Friday of last week, Magan and Josh led their first official College assembly; Under the guidance of our College chaplain, Marcus Allport, the entire college and invited guests including 2014 Year 7 students from Hamlyn Banks Primary School. In a traditional ceremony, Year 11 student and 2014 Barton House Arts/Community Captain, Leah O'Brien who has recently returned from trekking the Kokoda Trail, reflected on her appreciation of the experience of our soldiers in relation to her experience.

Formal course confirmations, following the course counselling process have been completed. As a new process in the college, we thank all students and families who participated in this process. Students in Years 11 and 12 in 2014 received their confirmation by mail whereas all 2014 Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to attend a course confirmation session with their 2013 child's mentor.

This week we have commenced the formal 2014 transition program with the 2014 Year 12 commencing each of their studies. On completion of the transition program, Year 12s students will leave with tasks for completion in all studies prior to the formal commencement of the 2014 College year. As we move through the transition program, this process and expectation will be set for all students. I take this opportunity to remind families should you seek clarity during this busy communication period to refer to the Campus Calender that was provided at the end of last term or contact your child's mentor or the Campus Principal.

In preparation for 2014, I am putting it out there for students and families. Engaging students in learning and enabling improvement in outcomes for our students is our core business. While it is always a key focus in schools, we have an enhanced targeted focus on improving literacy for all students in 2014. This will be evident in our transition programs.

I share this now as I ask that between now and 2014, particularly as you receive your child's formal report during the coming weeks, that you reflect on where your child is at in relation to literacy; that is how is your child's learning reported against AusVels, what can your child tell you about their On Demand results, what does NAPLAN tell you, what is your child's achievement in

relation to identified tasks, what does the teacher comments on the reports indicate and how does your child report on their literacy goals?

Students continue to represent the college admirably, both internally and externally. Students are taking up and finding opportunities to develop the community connectedness which is a key factor behind our Vines Road Campus, in working with and providing assistance to various groups in the Vines Road Community Centre and the Vines Road Senior Citizens. This includes assisting regularly with lunches and maintenance and improvement of our extensive grounds. We have students who have also volunteered to assist and give their time for college processes including assisting in the library and attending building site meetings.

I congratulate all groups who have recently participated in excursions and camps, those who attend other venues as part of their study and sporting teams who have represented the college. While as a college we expect exceptional representation, it is important that we do not overlook celebrating the feedback we receive with the students and our community in general. The college wishes the Year 8 table tennis team who has moved to state level competition all the best!

A challenge at this time of year is always to acknowledge the growth and development that we witness in the six years the Year 12 group have been at the college. I am confident as parents you will agree that this time just flies! The Year 12 group were resplendent in celebrating the completion of the secondary stage of their education at their graduation last week. I also acknowledge the meaningful address of one of our college captains, Jaimie Bellaart in her valedictory address which resonated with each of the students and audience.

We thank each of you for your time at the college, your contribution to the college and wish you the very best on the next stage of your learning journey.

Ms O'Hare
Associate Principal

COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE

If your student is going to be absent
please phone the College absence line.

5277 9793

Learning and Teaching

In 2014 all students in Years 7 – 9 will participate and learn in Literature Circles. While this has been a common practice at Western Heights College in past years, it will be our core teaching of reading strategy next year.

Why do we use Literature Circles to build reading skills?

We are all aware of the benefits of sharing with our friends, be it a story from our own lives or a film, television show or book. The act of discussion adds to the value of the experience and the stories become richer because they are shared. Our Literature Circles use this premise and mirror, in many ways, the book discussion groups that many adults join.

How do they work?

Literature Circles comprise about six students reading and studying their chosen text. The choice of text determines the group members. Using the Literacy resource levy, paid by families each year, we are able to provide sets of texts covering a wide range of interests and reading ability. Within the groups each student carries out a separate role. This ensures accountability for each member and also gives opportunity for each student to practise the skills involved in literary examination as they rotate through the roles.

A key component of the Literature Circle process is the sharing of the thoughts, information and ideas each student has gained in their role. At the end of each session the students share this in a structured manner.

Assessment happens in a couple of ways; summative and formative. For summative assessment the teacher will use the students' Literature Circle books to find evidence of learning. For formative assessment teachers will sit in with groups and offer feedback or ask critical questions to determine what learning has happened and what some goals for the next session might be.

Prior to beginning Literature Circles there is explicit teaching of what each role entails and also the best way to choose a suitable text.

This Youtube video gives further insight into Literature Circles.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okW5JBQ8qYU>

Mrs Tyzack
Learning and Teaching Leader



Year 10

As you are reading this, the Year 10 students are just finishing their exams and getting prepared to start their learning journeys as Year 11 students on Monday December 2nd. There have been many highlights this year for the Year 10s, including some that are listed below:

Many of our students said the best thing they did this year was work experience because you could learn about the job they want to do when they older.

- My highlight for Year 10 would have to be the VET Automotive Taster program.
- The best experience I had in Year 10 was the Tasmania trip. So many amazing things to do!
- My highlight was beginning my School Based Apprenticeship. It's a great way to get ahead.
- I loved playing down ball with the Year 11's at lunchtimes.
- My highlight was Takeover GPAC, it was a good night.
- My highlight was Dance and having the talented teachers come in to teach us about contemporary dance.
- Food Technology students said their highlight was going on the cooking excursion to Melbourne, visiting the Queen Victoria Market and William Angliss Institute.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mel Veljan and Neven Poljak who were successful in gaining a place in the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program based at Melbourne University for 2014-2015. Over 1500 students from across the state applied for the 700 positions available and we were fortunate to have two successful students. Neven and Mel will be taking part in an exciting program of events and activities focused on expanding their academic and personal horizons. The fun and inspiring Welcome Event will give Mel and Neven the chance to learn more about being a Young Scholar, to make new connections and get to know the University of Melbourne's beautiful Parkville campus. This is happening on Thursday December 5th and we wish them all the best as they begin this journey.

GOOD LUCK

Our 2013 Year 10's have really found their direction this year, deciding and formalising career pathways, goals and ambitions. The Year 10 team wishes you all the best for your transition to Year 11 next week and we know you will achieve your best throughout 2014.

Ms Montano
Year 10 Community Leader



Year 11

This year we have had the pleasure of a Japanese exchange student, Kai Sako, attending Western Heights College. To his credit and the great support of the Year 11 students, Kai has fully immersed himself into being an Australian Student. He has developed from his first several weeks, as a shy and easily embarrassed boy; to a happy, friendly and funny member of the college community. He was happy to attend school sports days dressed in the green of Vines House, represented the college in high jump at regional finals and accompanied the Year 10's on their Tasmania trip. His willingness to try everything included playing as goalie in the Western Zone Finals for senior boy's hockey – a game he had never seen, let alone played before!

Following encouragement by us, here is a short note written by Kai about his experience:

"I love Australia. I've been enjoying my stay in this country so much. I like the food we have, due to which I put on nearly 10kg. I like the weather we have. And I love the people out of everything. Students in WHC are all good to me. And funny. They've always made me laugh so much. They've got this sense of humour. It's so crazy but I loved it. My English wasn't very good when I came here. But I didn't have as much difficulty as I expected. I think that's because my friends and teachers helped me a lot. I actually learnt Aussie accent and slangs and some useful swear words.

I've done various things at school through a year. I played the drums for national anthem on ANZAC day, did some dance performance, played the guitar for Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. I'm appreciative that I could have so many opportunities to contribute to this school: thanks to all the teachers.

Again I love Australia. I've had a great time with everything in Australia. And why I like Australia is because I know those who read this are kind enough to take my rudeness as humour and forgive me for it.

"Thank you."

Kai Sako

As Kai's time with us has comes to an end, I'm sure that all at Western Heights College – especially his many friends in Year 11 – would like to say 'thank-you' for the experience Kai, and Good Luck. Let's hope your english language skills won't be too hard for your fellow Japanese students to understand – especially with the Australian accent you picked up!

Mr Bullock
Year 11 Community Leader



Network News

We have a new Intranet, but what *is* an Intranet and why do we need one? The dry definition first: an **Intranet** is a secure internal and private web site devoted to the operations of an organization. At Western Heights College we have had a dedicated Intranet called eWorkspace (EWS) for over 12 years. We often just refer to it at school as our “home page” (and just to make things confusing we have a home page on the internet as well at www.whc.vic.edu.au which is a public page anyone can access, this performs a different purpose but today we’re talking about our internal home page). Another way to think about it is that it acts as a portal to an organization. When you logon to this portal the web site knows who you are and how you fit in to the structure of the organisation.



evening	7:00:00 PM
Year 10 Exams	28/11/2013 8:45:00 AM
Blood bank	28/11/2013 1:00:00 PM

Upcoming Student Events	
Title	StartDate
Year 10 Exams	25/11/2013 8:45:00 AM
Year 11 Feedback classes	25/11/2013 9:00:00 AM
...	26/11/2013

College Announcements

View/Hide All Filter by: General

Add new Announcement Manage Module

Search

Print Reports My Announcements Student View Admin Re

- + Staff Chronicles for 2014
- + YEAR 12 TOP 2014 **NEW**
- + VCE Transition Loads
- + DRAFT - VCAL and VCE teaching loads 2014
- + Parent eNewsletter
- + Y10 EXAM SUPERVISION ROSTER
- + Y10 Exam Timetable
- + Student scholarships
- + YEAR 11 EXAM SUPERVISION ROSTER

What does it do? The functions of EWS allow us to post announcements for different communities within the College, share a College calendar, and have a web messaging system that allows easy communication between staff, students, classes and other groups within the College. It tracks many of our day to day administrative and operational functions such as attendance and record taking. Over the years EWS has been constantly improved and upgraded and over the past month we have upgraded to the latest version which will allow a new way for parents to communicate with the College in 2014.

The EWS Parent Portal will extend many of the features our students and staff currently use into the parent community, allowing you easier access to school communications and information. Parents will be able to logon to EWS from home and see tailored information on any of their children that attend Western Heights College presented in a dynamic dashboard overview page.

This will include

- attendance information where parents can record absence note reasons rather than ringing the school
- reports
- school announcements
- class and teacher messages
- course selections

Parents will also have the option to elect to use their own email address to have important items “pushed” to them by email, for example a teacher may remind parents that there is a biology excursion the following week for their class. We will begin introducing these features to parents during term 1 in 2014.

Mr Good
Network Manager

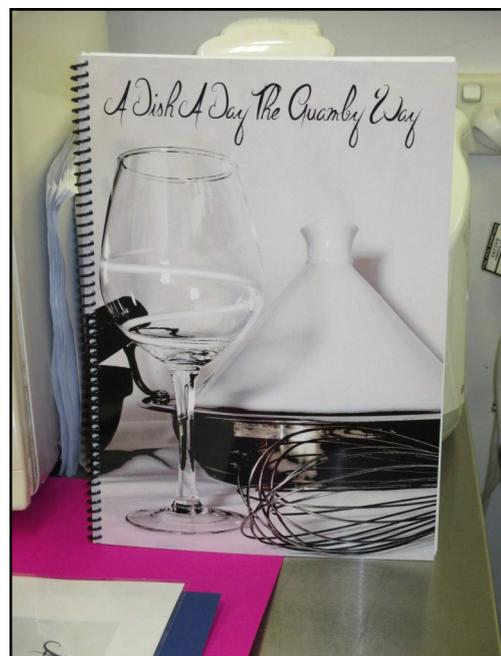


A DISH A DAY THE QUAMBY WAY

During this semester, the two Year 11 Food Technology classes have been working collaboratively on the First Annual WHC Cookbook. They have participated in food photography classes and have worked hard to cook and present a variety of interesting dishes. On Wednesday evening, the fruits of their labour were realised when they held their Cookbook launch. It was well attended by students, families and staff. As their teacher, I would like to say how proud I am of their efforts. I would like to thank the two sponsors, Brad and Saz from Botticelli's and the Malop Street branch of Bendigo Bank. I would also like to thank the photographer, Steev Cowled and also a big thank you to Anna Hurley for all her guidance and support. I look forward to next year's edition.

There are still some copies available from the Quamby Campus office for \$25 each.

Ms Smith
Food Technology Teacher



Pathways & Transition News

UNIT 3 AND 4 RESULTS

Students who have completed their Year 12 studies should note that timeline of dates for change of preference, very late applications and results are listed below. Staff will be available to support students who wish to change preferences after the release of results. They will be available in Quamby Campus library from 9.00am on Monday December 16.

Year 11 students who have studied a Unit 3 and 4 subject will also be able to access their results on Monday December 16. Any students who require assistance with setting up their preferred method of communication from VTAC should see Mrs Hammond.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 25 November, 9:00am: | Change of preference opens |
| Monday 2 December, 5:00pm: | Change of preference closes for graduate-entry teaching applicants |
| Friday 6 December, 5:00pm: | Very late applications close |
| Monday 16 December, 7:00am: | VCE results and ATAR service opens |

Community News



Food for Fines

Starts November 25th

In partnership with Geelong Food Relief Centre
Geelong Libraries will once again celebrate Christmas by helping to gather food for people in need of community support.

Between **25 November** and **8 December**, overdue fees will be waived in return for donations of packaged, non-perishable food items which will be given to our region's largest food charity, Geelong Food Relief Centre.

Please give generously to this worthy cause – xmas puddings, cakes, spreads and breakfast cereals are particularly needed.



*Food items must be best before May 2014 or later. Fines for damaged and lost items are not included in this campaign.

Get into serious fun!
You can play **water polo!**



Geelong Marlins Water Polo Club

Invite Junior players to register for the 2013-14 Summer junior water polo competition

Sundays 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Geelong College Recreation Centre
Talbot Street, Newtown

Registration Day Sunday 27 October
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Individual players or team registration are welcome

For more information

Junior Player Coordinators
John O'Callaghan
☎ 0418 343 132

Julie O'Callaghan
☎ 0415 514 418
Email geelongwaterpolo@eftel.net.au

 Find us on Facebook

Junior Marlins - Geelong Water Polo Club



CERTIFICATE IN HOSPITALITY

DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT THIS SUMMER!

Course Commencing Thursday 12th December 2013 at
Geelong To enrol online visit

<http://www.hosptrain.vic.edu.au/summerschool/geelong>

COURSE INFORMATION

Hospitality Training Australia is pleased to announce that it is bringing its popular Summer School program to Geelong, commencing Thursday 12th December 2013. Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students, past students and friends of Western Heights College and any member of the local community are welcome to apply.

For three (3) to four (4) days a week for two (2) weeks, over December 2013 and January 2014, you'll learn how to make espresso coffee; prepare drinks behind a bar; serve food in a restaurant; and respond to a first aid emergency. Not only that, you'll earn your Responsible Serving of Alcohol (**RSA**) certificate, your Responsible Service of Gambling (**RSG**) certificate, your Food Safety (**FSH**) certificate, your Apply First Aid certificate and more.

The qualifications and experience you gain are industry recognised and will put you in the box seat to gain part-time or permanent work in the future.

COURSE OUTLINE

Participants complete the following units of competence:

- SITX0HS001A Follow health safety and security procedures (OHS)
- SITXOHS002A Follow workplace hygiene procedures (RSF)
- SITHFAB009A Provide responsible service of alcohol (RSA)
- SITHGAM006A Provide responsible gambling services (RSG)
- SITHIND001A Develop and update hospitality industry knowledge
- SITXCOM001A Work with colleagues and customers
- SITXCOM002A Work in a socially diverse environment
- SITHFAB003A Serve food and beverage to customers (Waiter)
- SITXFIN001A Process financial transactions
- SITHFAB001A Clean and tidy bar areas (Bar)
- SITHFAB012A Prepare and serve espresso coffee (Coffee)
- SITHFAB002A Operate a bar (Bar)
- SITHFAB020A Apply food and beverage skills in the workplace
- HLTFA301C Apply first aid (First Aid Level 2)

COURSE COSTS

Total cost is \$21 per person with concession or \$5.00 with Health Care Card.

HOW TO APPLY

Enrol online at <http://www.hosptrain.vic.edu.au/summerschool/geelong> or

Telephone Admissions, Hospitality Training Australia on 1300 659 557.