



PARENT NEWSLETTER

Phone: 5277 1177
 Fax: (Quamby) 5277 9884
 Fax (Vines): 5277 9793

www.whc.vic.edu.au

Some of the items inside this issue

Campus Principal's Report	1
Learning Community Reports	2-3
Pathways Information	4
Learning Community Report	5

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday February 28	EMA Application Forms to be lodged with the College
Monday March 3	College Council Meeting
Friday March 7	Mufti Day
Monday March 10	Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday March 20	College Athletics Carnival (compulsory attendance)



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 CAMPUS PRINCIPAL - ROBYN ANDERSON

The highlights of this last week have been our strong college traditions and highlighting our routines.

The tradition of houses at Western Heights College has evolved over time with a reestablishment of four houses in 2013, a significant component in building the positive culture through our college community. Western Heights College has a strong sporting tradition which was highlighted in our House Swimming Carnival on Wednesday. Our four houses, **Barton**, **Minerva**, **Quamby** and **Vines** were well supported with students and staff alike dressed to impress and one could be forgiven for thinking that the swimming competition was secondary to the spectacle of the day. As a college event the day involved all students from Year 7 to Year 12 and it is exciting to see the leadership of many students shine through when they are interacting with students from very different year levels. It was wonderful to have a number of parents in attendance supporting their students and contributing to the atmosphere. Congratulations to all competitors and thanks to all students and staff who supported their house. Well done to Red house, overall winners of the day. Watch out for the College Athletics Carnival on Thursday 20 March!

Our Year 7 Family BBQ was held on Tuesday evening to welcome families into the college which is also becoming a WHC tradition. Many Year 7 students brought their families along to chat with staff, show off their learning community, work samples, learning spaces and their lockers. This activity is not only a great opportunity for students to feel that they belong to WHC but also a chance to introduce their new friends and teachers to their parents. As parents it is important to engage in discussion with your child about school, their learning and who they interact with, and it is so much easier, when as a parent, you can put a face to the name.

Today we have celebrated another strong tradition of the college, that of the college student leaders. These leaders were introduced to the college and presented with their badges at our College Investiture assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the leadership of our student leaders and celebrate with their families in

attendance. I also recognise the many other students across the college who are leaders in their own right and demonstrate this in a variety of ways within their own learning communities.

Student Leaders 2014

College Captains: Magan Turner and Joshua Trevethan

	Barton	Minerva	Quamby	Vines
7	Nicholas Maher	Paris Allaway	Bailey Lewis	Jye Burgess
	Jackie Worpel	Michael Feldman	Jemma Goodall	Zanetta Karkaria
8	Bailey Hall	Paige Summerton	Benjamin Platt	Tyler Eskrigge
	Hannah Vejzovic	Jake Burton	Olivia Puglisi	Cam Launer
9	Adela Disher	Aydin Dalipi	Cam Hamman	Megan Taylor
	Tim Faulkner	Siobhan Fitzgerald	Tychial Lincon	Shannon Simpson
10	Jessica Bocksette	Rebecca Hillbrick	Taylah Spalding	Rebecca Claridge
	James Worpel	Brett Spiller	Nicholas Hamann	Elijah Robinson
11	Tanika Psalia	Bonnie Brown	Rachelle Douglas	Courtney
	Tran Nguyen	Bradley Johansson	James McMahon	Aaron
12	Scott Weber	Molly Stones	Luke Hatton	Melika Arnott
	Emily Worpel	Michael Hillbrick	Chelsea Cations	Stephanie Anderson
	Leah O'Brien	Maddie Eccles	Cameron Pleissnetzer	Jack Herd

The college expectations are clearly detailed in our SOAR matrix (Safety, Organisation, Achievement and Respect). This is included in your child's study planner for your reference. Mentor and class teacher teach students how to meet these expectations through routines. For example: we expect that students come to class ready to learn. Teachers teach students the routine of: entering the learning community well before class is due to start, going to their lockers, getting out their books, pencil case and planners and sitting at their table before the time the lesson is due to begin. Whilst this may appear simple, there are many routines we teach so that students feel that they know what to do to meet the expectations (ie. there are no hidden rules) and hence gain a sense of belonging and ownership within the. Each campus has a 'focus', fortnightly at the Vines Road Campus and weekly at the Quamby Campus to further highlight our expectations. This week at the Vines Campus has been on Organisation: come to class with everything you need.

Our Positive Behaviours Approach has been implemented across the college this year. A major component of this is encouraging students to meet our SOAR expectations, rather than just a punitive 'rules and consequences' approach. In each of the Year 7, 8 and 9 Learning Communities a reward system is in place, where teachers recognise and reinforce expected behaviour. One expectation is that all students have and use their study planner. Many teachers are using the planners to write positive comments to students and stamps or stickers. In recognising and rewarding positive behaviour we are reinforcing a positive culture at the college.

Ms Robyn Anderson
Middle Years Campus Principal



COUNTRY BUS TRAVELLERS

Students who catch the Inverleigh, Maude or Mt Anakie busses home will know that this bus leaves from Minerva Road. Students should catch the Wingeel transfer bus from Western Heights College at the Carey Street bus exchange to the Minerva Road stop and transfer busses there. Students are not to walk to the Minerva Road shops and to catch their Inverleigh, Maude or Mt Anakie bus home



Year 7



Year 7 BBQ

A special thanks to parents/guardians for attending the Year 7 BBQ on Tuesday night. Students took their families on a tour to show them some work they had completed. They talked their families through the displays on learning styles, Literature Circles, Making Connections with their Mentor Group and informed their parents about our data wall. Students also talked to their parents about feedback and we gathered feedback from parents/guardians about their child's start to Year 7 to help us continue to improve. All of the Year 7 teacher team were there to have conversations with families. It was another opportunity for us to remain connected, which we intend to sustain throughout the year. We appreciate your support and welcome your input and involvement in future events. I was impressed by those students who attended by themselves where their family could not make it, well done! For those families that could not attend, I look forward to seeing you at future events. Many thanks to our Principal Mrs Jeffery, our Assistant Principals Mrs Anderson and Mr Temelkovski who were there to interact with many families. Thank you Mrs Kelly Montano, Mrs Marlene Barker, Ms Fran Smith, Mr Paul Rogers and Mr Mark Philpott for being there and helping out, we appreciate your support.

Attendance



We have high expectations that every student attends every day at Western Heights College. There are always going to be days where some children are unwell or there are circumstances out of the families control when a child cannot make it to school. We appreciate parents communicating this information to us. Thank you to parents who have informed us of known absences also, particularly when we can write a note in the planner or call your child's Mentor Teacher.

If children have unnecessary absences from school when they could otherwise be here, they are going to miss 5 hours of learning each day of absence. This puts further pressure on students and they can quickly fall behind.

If you need support on getting your child to school, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Mentor Teacher who will assist in providing strategies for them

Planners

Thank you to all parents/guardians who continue to sign planners each week. This is a vital part of supporting communication between school and home. Year 7 students carry the responsibility of bringing their planner home for parents to sign.

In the last week, we let this slide a little, with a quarter of students in each mentor group forgetting to have their planner signed. Students are continually reminded of this action and those who regularly forget have been supported by their Mentor Teacher whereby students are once again reminded of their responsibilities. We appreciate support in keeping this communication tool an important part of student's organisation.

Camp Nillahcootie 17th – 18th March

Camp is quickly approaching. Mentor Teachers have had many conversations with parents to inform them of camp payments and dates. We have had much success working with all students to ensure they will be attending camp. We are confident after making phone calls and supporting parents that we can get 100 % attendance on our camp (which does not include medical reasons). Thank you to those parents who have provided medical certificates for students who cannot attend.



Learning – Literature Circles

All students in Year 7 have borrowed a book from the library and I congratulate those students borrowing books with orange stickers to compete in the Reading Challenge. Separate to this, students have selected a book for their Literature Circles which they read, along with another 5 students who have selected the same novel. Students then discuss the book they are reading, analysing characters, predicting how the novel plays out, learning new vocabulary from the author and understanding writing styles. All students have approached Literature Circles with such positivity. Thanks Year 7 students for your attitude and effort in making this a success!

Numeracy – Pre – Test, Learning, Post Test

Year 7 students have had a fantastic start in attending workshops if they need assistance in learning skills in Numeracy. Students now have a mapped out Individual Plans which stem from their recent pre – test. We are in the learning phase in order to 'get right' what we 'had wrong' in our pre – tests. We have seen much improvement in all students already from where they were to where they are at now in their Numeracy Skills. Our post test will be completed in the coming weeks (when we are satisfied students are ready) and we look forward to seeing the results of this test.

A reminder to please contact your child's mentor teacher in relation to any queries you may have. You can also write in your child's planner to communicate messages.

Ms Michelle Roth
Year 7 Learning Community Leader



Year 11

Last bulletin I mentioned that we had a number of new students joining Western Heights for VCE.

This bulletin, I thought it would be great to hear from some of these students and their opinions of WHC.

"Starting out at a new school was a whole new experience for me.

Before going to Western Heights College this year, I had only ever attended the one school. I was quite nervous and apprehensive about going to a school where I knew practically no one.

It wasn't just new faces and the prospect of VCE that I was worried about. I had just had a knee reconstruction prior to beginning the school year and I was unsure if I would be able to make it around without hurting myself. As it turned out, I had nothing to worry about. I was quickly made welcome by both teachers and students; I was also very impressed with how courteous and considerate people were towards with me struggling to move about.

I have found the teachers here at Western Heights College very friendly, supportive and informative. I made the move from my old school of 11 years to WHC because of the range of subjects they had on offer. All my siblings have attended this school also and they ensured me that I would get a decent education and that the teachers really knew what they were on about. So far, they have been completely correct.

I have been enjoying my time at Western Heights College and look forward to a successful year."

Jordon Smith

"Western Heights so far for me has been a good experience. I have made a group of friends already and seem to be fitting in well. This school has allowed me to take Chemistry as well as be at the same school as my siblings. My teachers are helpful and I have plenty of classes where I can catch up on the homework I am given."

Kellie Goodall

Both Kellie and Jordan, along with our other new students, have joined into college life extremely well and as you can see, the students of Year 11 have been brilliant in their welcoming and friendly acceptance of their new classmates.

Also, I would like to make special mention to the number of forms that we have requested our students to check, complete and have signed. These forms are an essential requirement for both the smooth administrative and safe running of a range of curricula programs. These forms include student detail forms, IRP passes, Authority to Record and Local excursion forms. In many cases, these have been handed in to our Student Support Office, but if you are unsure, or unaware of having seen or completing these forms, please check with your child and have them collect a new copy for you to sign and return.

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader



Network News

PARENT PORTAL

During this term Network staff will be implementing our parent portal. Last year I wrote this description...

The EWS Parent Portal will extend many of the features our students and staff currently use into the parent community, allowing parents 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 WHC presented in a dynamic dashboard overview page.

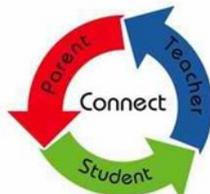
This will include attendance information where parents can record absence note reasons rather than ringing the school, academic reports, College announcements, class and teacher messages and course selections.

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.

Now the web upgrade has been completed the portal will be brought on-line over the next few weeks and we will add services and information links. Parents will be invited to logon to the portal with their confidential account details. Those parents who have elected to give the school their personal email to the school will also have this integrated into the portal to receive "push" notifications where appropriate.

A letter will be sent out over the next week or so with parent logon details and more specific information about the services you will find on the portal and how to access it.

Mr Peter Good
Network Manager



Pathways News

Year 12 MIPs interviews continue! Thanks to all of the students and parents who have attended so far.

If you are unsure of your Year 12 student's individual MIPs appointment time please contact me.

We currently have 26 students within the College undertaking school based apprenticeships or traineeships with different organisations in Geelong.



Tracey Jeffery with Jack & Paula Herd at the Year 12 Information Evening

Ms Tracey Jeffery
MIP's Co-Ordinator

Year 9 News

The Year 9 students have settled into their learning within the Year 9 Learning Community very well. Students are well into their novels for literature circles and about to finish up their first unit in Numeracy which is Indices. Students will complete a post-test and review and set their goals. The focus unit "I am" is well underway with a focus around risk taking behaviour. Students are involved in explicit workshops around managing behaviour to avoid risks.

The Year 9 staff are very keen to build strong relationships with both students and their families. We would like all parents to know that they are able to contact us to discuss their child's progress through the study planner, phone call and/or email. We look forward to continuing to develop the strong connection with you around your child's learning.



Mr Dean Greenhalgh and the Year 9 Team

Year 12

Forty Plus Club

Western Heights College has extended an invitation to each Year 12 student to be part of the Forty-Plus Club. This program aims to support students to reach their full potential in terms of their academic achievement.

The invitations that provide detailed information have been distributed to every student. The first workshop is scheduled for next Monday February 24th, from 3.30pm until 4.30pm in the Quamby Campus library. Acceptance of the invitation and payment of the \$10 fee is payable at the general office.

The first workshop will be facilitated by Elevate Education. Students will take part in a hands-on workshop aimed at developing sound time management skills which are vital during Year 12. If you have any questions regarding the Forty-Plus Club please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 12 Information Evening

This information evening took place last week and was well attended by families. A range of presenters provided valuable information on a number of topics relevant to Year 12 students maximising their learning opportunities whilst maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Thank you to each of our presenters, College Captain Magan Turner; and staff members Mrs Robyn Jeffery, Mr Lu Temelkovski, Mrs Pauline Doak, Ms Nicole Henry, Ms Tracey Jeffery and Mrs Kym Tyzack. A range of resources were distributed to families on the night. One significant document was the timeline listing the date of all Unit 3 assessments. This can also be sourced on the parental portal which will be activated next week.

Focus Day

Last Friday February 14th the Year 12 student group attended the inaugural Focus Day at Deakin University. Students were participated in team building activities and competitions and attended a range of workshops. All students conducted themselves in a mature manner and were marvellous ambassadors for our College. It was wonderful to receive numerous compliments about our Year 12 students from various presenters. This is high praise as many of these presenters deal with school groups on a daily basis and made very favourable comments about positive student conduct and attitude. Well done to our Year 12 students. The majority of the workshops were facilitated by external presenters. I would like to take this opportunity to thank businesses Spence Construction, Crowe Howarth and Griffin Coaching Consultancy for their generosity in providing presenters. Matt Gibson a director from Spence Construction provided students with a valuable insight into what employers are seeking when recruiting. Craig Biddiscombe from Crowe Howarth is an in-demand motivational speaker. He is a former AFL footballer, who has worked with schools, individuals and corporations to develop a positive Club,

culture. Danny Ryan from Griffin Coaching has an impressive resume including coaching for the St. Kilda Football Club, working in graphic design and operator of a boutique small business.

Western Heights College also has strong partnerships with The Gordon and Deakin University. Both institutes provided our students with the opportunity to speak to experts in student recruitment and course counselling. I would also like to thank Kerry Tucker, Kirsty Cassidy and Michelle Berrigan for co-ordinating this.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader



College Uniform

It has been fantastic to commence the 2014 College year with students attending in their full school uniform. Most families will be aware that the college spent considerable time developing and introducing our new uniform. As part of the process and to ensure correct and quality college uniform items, the college negotiated supply from one supplier, Bellarine Uniforms. Bellarine Uniforms is located at 162 Moorabool Street Geelong 5221 9199.

By purchasing all items at Bellarine Uniforms students and families will know they have the correct item.

Conveyance Allowance

A conveyance allowance is an allowance to assist parents with the travel cost of students to and from their nearest appropriate school where the distance to or to a contract bus service pick up point is greater than 4.8km.

If you feel you may be eligible please contact the Quamby Office on 5277 1177.

Community News

VINES ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community Kitchen

Meets every Tuesday 9.30am-12noon

Social group where everyone gets an opportunity to plan and cook their favourite recipes.

Cost is between \$3.00 and \$5.00/week, depending on what the group decides to cook.

Open to all ages.

Justice of the Peace Services

Available at reception every Wednesday 11am-1pm

Year 8 News

There have been many celebrations happening in Year Eight recently. We have elected our student leaders and look forward to celebrating their appointments at the College Assembly. These students represented their houses well at our swimming carnival and are already looking for ways to increase participation in their age groups at Athletics next month.

Our students have been sinking their teeth into learning about Democracy in MESH. Last week our students presented their learning on Nelson Mandela and his impact of democracy around the globe. This week we have looked into the recent developments in the Schapelle Corby case, looking at public opinion, understanding the differences in laws between nations and also what it means to be an Australian citizen. Students have been seeking answers around many historical events that helped shape modern Australia's Democracy and have been shocked to learn about the way many people have been treated in the past and around the world. This new learning has really assisted them in appreciating the rights and responsibilities they have as part of our Learning Community.

We are continuing to encourage and support the Year 8 students to take a higher level of responsibility for their learning journey this year. Being organised for their learning is essential. We had some internet issues last week but OneNote is ready for students to access therefore having their Slate in class, charged and ready to go is essential. Another essential for all classes is the WHC Student planner. There are only a few students still to purchase these, which is a great start. Mentors will be checking that all students are having their planners signed each Friday. Please read through your child's planner throughout the week as it is a great way for us to pass on how your child is progressing as well as the number one place for your student to write down upcoming assessments and class activities and their private study actions. As a rule, students should be completing between 30 and 60 minutes per school night of private study, including revising what has been learned in class, practicing newly acquired skills, building on new concept or knowledge areas and ensuring they are prepared for due dates and in class assessments. Another important aspect of organisation is uniform. All students are expected to wear the College uniform at all times with pride and the vast majority of our students are wearing it well. With the colder weather approaching, a reminder that hoodies are not permitted to be worn at school and the sports jacket is an additional layer to the school jumper.

Students also know that they may wear the full college sports uniform on days where they have a scheduled PE class only. There has been some confusion about Performing Arts days. Students have access to changing facilities when they have a practical class and are expected to be in full college uniform for the remainder of the day.

Next week students will be completing On Demand testing of their Literacy and Numeracy skills. These results will be shared with you at Student Led Conferences at the end of term. Many students have been working hard on their skills and knowledge so we are looking forward to showing you an excellent growth in your child's learning since their last testing in 2013.

Next week, information will be coming home about Year Eight Camp. We will be excited for all students to attend camp as it is a fabulous experience for all. Spending time away as a group builds friendships, grows independence and gives students memories that will last long after their Western Heights College days. The 2014 camp will be running mid Term Two, May 14 – 16.

Ms Kelly Montano
Year 8 Learning Community Leader



Student Wellbeing & Engagement

2014 has had a great start for our college and the Wellbeing Team members are excited to be actively involved in enhancing student engagement and learning! So who are we and what do we do? Our core team consists of four members:

Paul Rogers	Student Wellbeing and Engagement Leader
Mark Philpott	Youth Counsellor and Year 7 & 8 Engagement
Marcus Allport	College Chaplain
Lisa Cooper	Educational and Health Promotion Nurse

However we have on site and available the expertise and availability of **Natalie Holmes**, pre-Psychologist from Deakin University, **Graeme Castle**, Psychologist through NIRODAH and of course the educational support offered through our Geelong North Network – social work, speech pathology, educational psychology and youth work.

In addition, our team is linked to the many agencies that assist our young people (CAMHS, Headspace, Barwon Youth, Time for Youth, Newstart and so on).

All in all, we as a College can rightly boast we are richly resourced in our provision of care and support of the best quality to our students as they learn, grow and engage with the world.

Student Wellbeing & Engagement

So far despite the few weeks it has been fantastic to be a part of many programmes as they continue, or are initiated. The Breakfast programme continues every Wednesday morning, the Year 7 welcome BBQ and information evening, the recent Year 12 day at Deakin University are but a few of the many events. Coming up are the revamped Life Connections Program (25 participants) linked with Barwon Health to the Grace MacKeller Centre, the white ribbon movement and Be the Hero for our Vines Road Campus students, a refurbished Environmental Management Committee, Young Men as role models, Girls groups and many others.

Our groups are unique – we encourage students to initiate them, or if invited to join in, to be responsible members and contributors. We have been proud to see so many of our young people step up and take on positions of responsibility, liaise with external agencies and generally identify the need in the college student body, and respond with their own marvellous ideas.

Another unique aspect of our college is the link between our students and their mentor teachers; watching these relationships grow has been fantastic.

We as a team are excited for 2014!

Wishing you all the very best,

Mr Paul Rogers
Student Wellbeing & Engagement Leader

EMA

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by **28 February 2014**.

For more information about the EMA, visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx>

2014 Canteen Menu

ROLL OR SANDWICH	Wholemeal or White	
Salad		\$4.30
Ham Salad		\$4.80
Chicken Salad		\$4.80
Chicken, Lettuce and Mayonnaise		\$4.30
Ham, Cheese and Tomato		\$3.80
Ham and Cheese		\$3.60
Salad Box (Meat Extra)		\$4.30
HOT FOOD		
Hot Dog		\$3.60
Chicken Fillet Burger		\$4.60
Chicken Strip Roll		\$4.10
Pizza		\$3.20
Pie		\$4.10
Chilli Chicken Strip Roll		\$4.60
Noodles		\$3.20
Nachos		\$3.50
Sausage Roll		\$3.10
Lasagna (Vines Campus)		\$3.70
Chicken Wrap (Quamby Campus)		\$4.00
DRINKS		
Pump Water	\$2.60 Small	\$3.60 Large
Mt Franklin Water		\$3.10
Flavored Milk	\$2.60 Small	\$3.60 Large
Daily Juice		\$3.20
Nippy's Milk	\$2.10 Small	\$2.80 Large
Iced Tea		\$3.60
Just Juice		\$1.70
Muffin		\$3.60
Donut		\$1.70