Western Heights College

PARENT NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:
- Monday 11th April: First Day of Term 2
- Tuesday 19 April: College Cross Country
- Monday 25 April: ANZAC Day Public Holiday
- May 11 to May 13: Year 8 Camp

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 COLLEGE PRINCIPAL - SCOTT DELLLAR

MY FIRST MONTH AT THE COLLEGE:
Over the last month, I have been regularly visiting classes and having discussions with students in each learning community. It has been great to see a high level of understanding in relation to the progress of their own learning, as well as a confident outlook about the tasks being completed. Magic stuff!
The Learning Community structure is continuing to gain traction in supporting learning (a highly supportive Pastoral Care system), and feedback from students at the college has been highly positive of this 21st Century structure; this type of approach certainly underpins success and a feeling of belonging.
Congratulations to the Year level student leaders for 2016, your efforts and commitment to high achievement and this supportive student structure is certainly being recognised across the school. Well Done.

CHANGE TO SCHOOL SESSION TIMES FOR TERM 2:
After discussion with students and staff, we have reviewed College session times during each day; as a result some minor modifications to the recess and lunch breaks will take effect from the start of term 2.

The changes will extend recess from 20 => 30 minutes providing students with time to adequately reenergise for the next session block; while lunch will be reduced from 60 => 50 minutes which is will still allow plenty of time for lunch activities and meetings.
The modified session times are as follows:

WHC SESSION TIMES / TERM 2 IMPLEMENTATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Proposed option 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lockers &amp; Prep</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>9:00 – 9:50 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>9:50 – 10:40 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>10:40 – 11:10 am (30mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>11:10 – 12:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>12:00 – 12:50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:50 – 1:40 pm (50mins)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>1:40 – 2:30 pm</td>
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<td>Session 6</td>
<td>2:30 – 3:20 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dismissal</td>
<td>3:20 pm</td>
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2016 WESTERN HEIGHTS COLLEGE COUNCIL:
On behalf of the Western Heights College community, we would like to thank the following people for accepting positions onto School Council for 2016. Your decision to be involved in this important College body is greatly appreciated.
The College Council is made up of six parent representatives, five DET representatives and 4 community members that are co-opted onto the group at the AGM to be held in Term 2 after accepting nominations.

2016 membership is as follows:
Parent Representatives
Mrs Janice Blain, Mr George Taylor,
Mrs Elizabeth Everist, Mrs Karen Strawbridge-Homan,
Mrs Pam Goodall and Mrs Violeta Prodanov.

DET Representatives
Mr Scott Dellar, Ms Robyn Anderson, Ms Tami O'Hare,
Mr Lu Temelkovski, and Ms Kerrie Sirotich.

Community Representatives
Up to four community members will be nominated onto
the council at the AGM to be held on Monday 9 May.

At this point, I would like to acknowledge the work of the
last years School Council members who have decided
not to continue in 2016.

During 2015, Mr Shaun Rawolle and Ms Vicki Renick
were both involved in College Council as community
representatives, and I would personally like to thank
them for their effort during this time; a period that saw
the successful transition of Western Heights College
onto one united site of operation, as well as the
extended vision of the Community Hub. Their work and
commitment over this exciting and busy time has been
greatly appreciated by all groups within the College
community.

Mr Scott Dellar
Principal.

PERMISSION FORMS AND PAYMENTS

Please note that all sport/excursion
permission forms and payments are
to be returned to the college
two days before an activity.

For planning purposes
it is important that this request is met
to ensure students do not miss out on
these valuable experiences.

YEAR 7-9 STUDENT LED
CONFERENCES
&
YEAR 10-12 PARENT/TEACHER/
STUDENT CONVERSATIONS

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH
4.00PM - 7.00PM
&
THURSDAY 24 MARCH
9.00AM - 1.30PM

Bookings can be made on the Parent Portal at
www.whc.vic.edu.au

- Click on the Parent Portal link at the bottom left hand side of the page
- Add your individual parent logon details
- Select bookings drop down menu and choose either Student Led Conference or Parent/Teacher/Student Conversation
- Click make appointment manually wizard
- Select a date
- Select relevant teacher/s
- View Current Bookings tab to confirm your selected times.

If for any reason you cannot make your booking on-line please contact the College on 5277 1177 and our office staff can make the booking on your behalf.

Year 7 & 8 Conferences to be held in the
Blue Building.

Year 9 conferences to be held in the
Green Building

Year 10 to 12 conferences to be held in the
VCE Centre.
YEARS 7 LEARNING COMMUNITY – OFF TO A FLYING START!
Who can believe that Term 1 is almost over? The Year 7 & 8 students have been working really hard to finalise their assessment tasks to ensure that they have submitted their best pieces of work to represent their learning in each area of study. This Friday is the final submission of work to assure they have a green traffic light – up to date and working to the best of their ability in each subject area. Well done to all students for the mature way they have gone about doing all they can to achieve A in SOAR. I wish all students and their families a very safe and happy Easter, ready and recharged for Term 2.

YEAR 7 CAMP AT LAKE NILLACHOOTIE:
Last week the Year 7 students and teachers attended the annual year 7 camp at the beautiful Lake Nillachootie, located to the north east Victoria. We were lucky and had some great weather for the 3 days at camp. All students had a go at the activities on offer: cannoning, abseiling, mountain biking, archery, night walks, flying fox and the famous team challenge obstacle course. We even snuck in a few games of cards and chess of the evenings. One highlight was the talent quest which revealed some great performers in year 7 that we did not know we had, Mr. Sachse even made a guest appearance in the show. I would like to thank the year 7 team for their contributions for helping to run another successful camp, Ms. Anderson for filling in at a moments notice, the students for having a great time and finally to Dave and his team at the camp who made this a most enjoyable camp. Thank you!

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES:
Thanks to those parents/guardians for already booking in to the Student Led Conferences with their child for either Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. Teachers are excited to hear and learn from all the students in their Mentor Group just what they have learnt this term and to see their learning at the presentation. These meetings strengthen our invaluable connection between teachers, students and parents. Information presented in these meetings has been pivotal in knowing the student’s take on their own learning, reflecting on goals, demonstrating their learning. This gives us direction in what we teach and where to next for each student. The conferences are well attended and we are excited about your involvement in your child’s learning journey. We appreciate your support and welcome your input and involvement in future events.

ATTENDANCE:
‘Being here’ is essential for every child to maximise their learning opportunities. If there is a known absence please let the school know as soon as possible so that we can plan to send work home or so that we can plan for your child’s return. Illnesses and other unknown reasons pop up from time to time, however it is still vital to call the college to let us know that your child will not be attending on any given day.

STUDY PLANNERS:
Please take some time to read your child’s planner to ensure that you are keeping up with all of their entries and important dates they are recording. You will also get a handle on the PREP work they are planning to achieve at home and the work that is due for their different subjects. Mentor teachers take time to make comments each week, either on a Wednesday or Thursday. It indicates how they are going and what might need to be improved, at times. Thanks to all parents who countersign these to continue our connection between home and school.

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 & 8 Learning Community Leader
GEELONG TERTIARY FUTURES PROGRAM:
Geelong Tertiary Futures Program has proved to be a very popular experience for all Year 9 students. Last week students had their first taste of practical sessions on both the East and City Gordon Campuses. Seeing our students in a variety of practical and safety clothing at the start of the day was terrific, then dropping into the sessions where excited and enjoyed levels peaked. Students will be completing ten single day sessions over the program of: Fitness, Desktop Publishing, Hospitality, Conservation & Management, Digital Media, Fitness, Hair & Beauty, Plumbing, Allied Health, Cookery, Bricklaying, Engineering, Furnishing, Plumbing, Child Services, Carpentry and Automotive. The Year 9's are to be congratulated for the way they have approached and prepared for this exciting program.

STUDENT LED CONFERENCE:
Year 9 student led conferences will be held in the Year 9 Building (Green Building). Parents can book an appointment with their Mentor teacher through the parent portal at www.whc.vic.edu.au.

OUT AND ABOUT CLASS:
Year 9 students had a challenging mountain bike riding session at Anglesea last Wednesday. Students were instructed by GORATS and most soon found their balance and groove as the class covered the bush tracks. A fun afternoon was had by all.

“On Wednesday 9th of March the Year 9 Out & About group drove out to Anglesea to the GORATS Mountain Bike Riding Company. When we got there we choose our helmets and our bikes. We then went on the warm up route which had sharp turns and small hills. We then went on the trail route which took us two hours to complete. On this route there was narrow corers, uphill, downhill, little jumps and single tracks. When we had gone through the track we got to a very big hill that we could ride up… It was hard for some but others rode all the way up… The hill had uphill climbs then went flat all the way up. When we reached the top we had to go back down, this track was single so you had to make sure you where spaced out, this track had narrow turns and was close together it had tree roots which made little stars you had to go down. At the end we rode to a Bike Park which had jumps everyone had a go at the jumps and went really fast. It was great and I would recommend people to participate in this Year 9 subject.”

Amiee Spoors
Year 9

HAND HELD CALCULATOR FOR NUMERACY:
Reminder to all Year 9 students that they need a handheld calculator for Numeracy. The preferred calculator, the green Ti-30XS Multiview calculator, can be purchased from the College Office for $23.

Mr Roger Conron
Year 9 Learning Community Leader.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT: VOLLEYBALL:
It was a pleasure taking the Year 9 Girls Volleyball Team out to the Corio Leisure Centre last week on Friday. The girls were very enthusiastic and showed good sportsmanship. They were full of energy and managed to play soccer outside, in between volleyball games! Thanks to Emina Glumcevic (Team Captain) and Ajlina Buric (Vice Captain) for running training sessions at lunch time over the last few weeks. Quote from Ajlina: “It was a great learning experience. Everyone was so friendly and the referees and officials were helpful and gave us tips during pre-game practice sessions.”

Mrs Deo (Team Manager)
Year 10 News

Year 10 students are almost half through their first semester of classes. Parent/Teacher/Student Conversations are fast approaching. This is a great opportunity for the Year 10 students to discuss their fantastic work that they have complete this term.

The Year 10 students are about to complete their Pat Testing for both Literacy and Numeracy. This is a very important process and the tests will be completed again at the end of the year.

Year 10 students had the opportunity to experience a performance on Thursday, March 10 “Love Drunk” which looks at choices that young people may have to face in the future.

Mr Dean Greenhalgh
Year 10 Learning Community Leader.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities.

How to Apply:
Application forms are available from the college office or download from: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

Year 11 News

As we approach the end of our first term of VCE/VCAL I would like to congratulate the students on the progress they have made so far. Their mature approach to this year has seen the students come along in great leaps and bounds in their confidence and abilities. The uniform is looking great and although we may have a few little slip ups now and then, the students are looking part of a team.

I need also to mention our traffic light reports. This process is the same for year 11’s as it is for all other year levels. If a teacher is concerned about the process of a student they will mark them in red, three reds will lead to a contact home from the mentor. Most importantly, this does not mean that the student is failing, we are just trying to identify students who may need support early to ensure success. This is a perfect lead up to the Parent/Teacher/Student conversations this week. The importance of these cannot be stressed further as a valuable step in also achieving success for all students. Interview times can be made through the parent portal or via the general office. I look forward to seeing as many year 11 students and parents as possible over Wednesday evening and Thursday Morning.

Finally, may I wish everyone a safe and relaxing break over the Easter holidays as term 2 is a big one!

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader.

SMS APPROVAL

The College is trialling a new initiative to improve communications with our families regarding upcoming events and activities.

Parents are asked to complete an approval form at parent/teacher conferences this week or at the college office to be included in this new form of communication.
TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN YEAR 12:
In previous newsletters I have listed a number of external organisations that support Year 12 students to maximize their achievement. One of these is tsfx, once you subscribe they regularly forward students handy hints for setting themselves up for success. They provide weekly hints on how students can maximize their use of time spent at school, as on average students spend half of their learning time at school.
To subscribe to tsfx you should follow this link: http://www.tsfx.com.au/

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT CONVERSATIONS:
Bookings are now open for Parent Teacher Conversations. A letter with instructions on how to book online was distributed to every Year 12 student. Year 12 Parent/Teacher/Student conversations will take place in the VCE Centre on Wednesday March 23 and Thursday March 24.

It is imperative that every Year 12 student books a meeting with each of their subject teachers. This provides an opportunity for an individualized conversation on student achievement, effort and areas for improvement.

SWOT MASTER CLASSES:
The University of Melbourne is conducting SWOT master classes at Western Heights College. Master class workshops operated for Chemistry and Biology this week and were well attended. The feedback from attendees was very positive.
There are three master classes next week the details are listed below. Each master class will run from 3.45pm until 5pm, in VCE W. Afternoon tea is provided. Bookings can be made via: http://goo.gl/forms/8AZvaDYwlq

Monday 21 March - Further Maths
Tuesday 22 March - Chemistry
Wednesday 23 March - Maths Methods

TERM 1 STUDY BREAK:
The Term 1 study break commences on Thursday, 26 March. It is important to note the use of the terminology “Study Break” as opposed to holiday. The forthcoming study break is an opportunity for student undertaking Unit 3/4 subjects to catch up on any learning that was overlooked or missed during term 1, revise and study for forthcoming assessment. I strongly encourage all students to make use of past exam papers and examiners reports for revision purposes.

Some Year 12 teachers will be offering workshops in the term break. They will communicate with students on an individual subject-by-subject basis. As the details for these are finalized I will post this information in an announcement on the homepage next week.

Ms Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader.

Healthy Together Geelong Achievement Program
Earlier this term, students from the Western Heights College Yr11 & Yr12 Leadership team met to be introduced to Steffanie Rodd who is the secondary schools coordinator for supporting schools who want to be involved the “Healthy Together Geelong Achievement Program”. The program is aimed at utilising the leadership skills of the college’s student leaders to work together by following a framework that promotes key health concepts that serve to benefit all members of the Western Heights College Community. The students in a follow up meeting have identified two key areas to focus on for this year; “Encouraging Physical Activity” and “Improving Mental Health”. There will be school activities and events arranged later this year for students to be engaged in that support these key areas. The students are excited about being involved and working together to achieve positive health promoting benefits from this ongoing program. Western Heights College has committed to the program by signing the required Health Charter.

Mr Gary Beasley.
Autumn is upon us folks! What a wonderful time of year this is, so much change and so much contrast in the local foliage. The days are becoming noticeably more varied weather-wise – certainly it is a lot cooler in the mornings and evenings, and rather warm in the middle of the day. Mind you, in Victoria we tend to be able to offer an experience of all seasons within a short time frame. Usually an hour. Or half hour!

Weather is no deterrent for our onward focus in Wellbeing as we work alongside students and staff. Our inspiration is taken quite naturally from the Assyrian Empire’s postal creed of 500 BC during the reign of Emperor Cyrus

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

Therefore, we persevere once more in our ongoing theme of..

ATTENDANCE:

Friends, we have one of the most beautiful, modern and educationally conducive facilities if not statewide, then nationally. It is an uplifting experience being able to walk the paths through the lawns, interact with students of all year levels and their staff, and enjoy the fellowship of the communal areas. If for this fact alone should we be seeking to attend every day. However, that is just the material basis – education is the only way for any of us to forge ahead and be contributors, supporters and leaders of our community. Please, if you are finding it hard to be at school, if you have a friend who seems to be absent continually, or if you are a parent/caregiver and feel at your wits end getting your student here – we are here to support you! Please get in contact with us, your student’s mentor or a member of the principal team. You will be pleasantly surprised as to what lengths we will go.

Our programmes are now happily well under way. Breakfast Club is moving along every Wednesday morning, and is held in the magnificent PAF café area. All staff and students are encouraged to come along and enjoy the view, conversation, a toasted sandwich and box of juice from 8 am until 8.45 am.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES:

Should you be experiencing financial hardship and are struggling to purchase uniform or textbooks, the Wellbeing Team may be able to assist you. Please contact Paul Rogers (Coordinator) or Ali Henry (Tues-Thurs) for an appointment to discuss your situation.

The College understands that the purchase of slates or laptops can be difficult for some families. Please speak with the college office staff about a payment plan using your Centrelink payments.

The No Interest Loan Scheme is now available to assist parents with their “back to school” costs. You can borrow between $300 and $1500 with no interest, no fees & no charges. The repayment plan is tailored to each person’s circumstances. For more information, please contact UnitingCare NILS on 42101108 or visit www.nils.com.au.

Saver Plus program can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500. You need to have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, have a child in school now or starting next year, and have some form of household income (usual, part-time, full-time or seasonal work). Bethany Community Support offer this program: contact Amanda 52788122 for more information.

We hope you have a fantastic week!

Mr Paul Rogers
Wellbeing & Engagement Leader.

PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL COSTS

To assist families with payment of your school expenses the college offers the options:-

CASH/EFTPOS/CREDIT CARD/CHEQUE

Cash, credit card, EFTPOS payments can be made to the college office.

CENTREPAY

Centrepay is a free direct bill-paying service offered to Centrelink customers receiving regular Centrelink payments. You decide how much you would like to pay directly to your school account from your Centrelink payments. Contact the office for further information.

DIRECT DEPOSIT (recurring)

Set up a recurring direct deposit to the college bank account which will be receipted against your Family Statement. You will need to contact the college for the Bank Account details and your Family Reference Number if you choose this option.

PAYMENT PLAN

If you are having difficulty in making payments for your school costs you can contact the Business Manager to make an alternative payment plan.

PAYMENT BY PHONE

You can pay by credit card over the phone, just contact the college office.
On Monday 23rd and 29th of February, the intermediate VCAL students went to Encompass’ Paddock Urban farm in Leopold.

Encompass farm, The Paddock is a farm that gives people with a disability an opportunity to build employment skills in farming and agriculture.

We got on the bus from school at 9:15am and headed down to Leopold. We arrived at like 9:35am. We were greeted at the gate by Chris and Steve who are the people who mainly look after the farm. We put out bags in the lunch rooms and went on a tour of the garden, we went through the veggie gardens, hot houses and looked at where they plant the plants to grow. We also looked at the pizza fire oven to get ideas of how we wanted ours to look.

We went and had snack and got introduced to the people that work there. We then split into groups. 1 group did harvesting of the plants, another did planting lettuces and the last group dug up weeds to make a new area to plant plants. After a couple of hours we had lunch.

We went back out into our groups and one group road the lawn mower another fed the chickens and the last group did seeding.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to going back next Monday.

On our second visit, the day was started slowly as they had the big boss come down. But we started the day by seeding some broccoli, leeks and cauliflowers and then putting them in the hot house.

We then had some food and went back out and helped move some rocks from a pile into the garden beds. We loaded up the trailer and then drove it to the spot we needed. We then unloaded them and wet them with water to clean of the dust and make them look good.

We loaded up the trailer with posts and drove them to where we are making the fence. We dug holes and added the posts in.

We help to collect the eggs from the chicken sheds we 14 eggs in total.

We’re all going to miss going there.

Shannon Simpson
VCAL Student.