ASSESSMENTS FOR SEMESTER ONE / 2016:
Parents and students please note that teaching staff are busy finalising assessment grades and report comments, therefore all work that has been set should be completed and handed in for correction and assessment. This period of time provides an important insight into the progress of each student and we encourage parents and students to spend some time with their academic report to celebrate their achievements, as well as looking at ways to further add to their learning habits.

STUDENT MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS:
It should be noted, that students in Years 9 to 12 have been involved in a series of exams during the first week of June. Feedback from examiners and teachers has been outstanding in relation to their participation in these formal testing situations. Well Done. Congratulations to all involved.

STUDENT ACADEMIC REPORTS SEMESTER ONE, 2016 … AVAILABLE ONLINE.
We as a college continue to advance our online capabilities for communication with our students and their families. As a result; Student Academic Reports for semester one, 2016 will be available online for your convenience via the Parent Portal.
This is a web gateway for our students’ parents/guardians to our College Intranet.
The Parent Portal offers many of the features our students and staff currently use, allowing parents easier access to school communications and information. Parents are able to logon to the portal from home, work or any internet connected location to review, discuss and celebrate the progress of each Western Heights College student.
To log on to the portal, see the instructions in the step by step approach outlined in the following table.
Should you require a printed hard copy of your child’s academic report; please phone the college on 5277 1177 and one will be made available for you to pick up at your convenience via the College Office.

To access the Parent Portal:
Visit our external web page at www.whc.vic.edu.au and click the Parent Portal button
Or
Save this URL in your favourites: https://home.whc.vic.edu.au/ews/parents
• Enter your username and password and click the sign in button  (If you are unsure of these details please contact the College Office).
• Select the student reports button located between Parent Drop Zone and Timetable on the menu bar at the top of the page.
(You may be prompted to select a child by clicking on the image if you have multiple students attending the college)
• Click on the link: 2016 S1 to open the 2016 Semester 1 Report for your child.

(A PDF File viewing program such as Adobe Reader or Foxit Reader are required to view these files.)

END OF TERM - WINTER BREAK:
The term is very quickly coming to a close, with our last day of term 2 on Friday, June 24, with a finishing time of 2:30pm.
This is a particularly important time for the Year 12 group, ‘Class of 2016’ with Semester 2 underway and only one full term of study to complete before preparations for the final examinations and assessments.
I wish everyone a safe and restful two week break. Enjoy!

Mr Scott Dellar
Principal.
POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS - SOAR AMBASSADORS:
Students in Year 7 continue to impress, with over 40 students achieving SOAR ambassador. This means that more than 40 students are doing things above and beyond the expected requirements of them at our college. To be awarded a ‘SOAR ambassador’ certificate and card, students must have reached 25 points. This means we have been part of, witnessed and shared over 1900 actions from these students, that go far beyond what they are required to do. This is amazing to be a part of and see our students display ‘random acts of kindness’ toward each other, staff and the wider community. Students have been rewarded for these efforts with canteen vouchers, a recent excursion to ‘Supatramp’ and additional privileges such as extra indoor days and use of facilities they request. Many students are heading toward ‘bronze SOAR ambassadors’ which requires 50 SOAR points. We are also excited that many other students will be ‘SOAR ambassadors’ in the early stages of Term 3.

Year 8 students who have achieved ‘SOAR Ambassador status’ in 2016 have been terrific role models for our Year 7 students. Students have been striving to achieve and maintain their effort from last year around their safety, organisation, achievement and respect. Students have been focused on their achievement over recent weeks, ensuring they submit work to the best of their ability. Students have put up their hand for extra curricular activities and have been positive role models for our college.

REPORTS
This week you will receive your child’s report electronically. These are exciting times in our college moving forward with online communications. Please take time to sit with your child to go over their report. Congratulate them on what is working well and for their effort, whilst looking at things that need improvement (the second comment on the report – future learning). It is always a good idea to take some summary notes across the subjects to look for any patterns so as they can further improve. Generally speaking, what each student puts into their learning, they get out of their learning. Remember that for Year 7 students, we expect a minimum of 3 x 30 minute time slots which does not include reading their literature circle novel. For Year 8, we expect at least 5 x 30 minute slots.

More time slots for PREP will be required if a student is below the Ausvels Level for their age group. Please note that the expected level for students in Year 7 is 6.5 (equates to a C standard) for all subject areas and for Year 8 it is 7.5 (equates to a C standard). So please look at the indicators to see what level your child is at. They are working at the expected level if they receive a C grade. Every .5 above or below standard indicates that they are working 6 months above or below the expected standard. A student will need to have worked 1 Ausvel level above the expected standard to achieve and ‘A’ for certain skills on their report and .5 above will equate to a ‘B’, meaning they are working 6 months ahead of the expected standard for a child of their year level. It is important for students to reflect on their learning over the holidays to make further progress next Semester.

ATTENDANCE:
Well done to all students who have achieved a high level of attendance across the Semester. It is no surprise that data shows us that the more students attend school, the more they achieve. High attendance not only assists with learning, however builds a strong connection between the student and school. It also leads to developing social skills and capacity to work with others in a collaborative learning environment.

STUDENT EXCELLENCE:
Many students across Year 7 and 8 have demonstrated their excellent learning achievements across all subjects this semester. Well done to all students who continue to complete their PREP, work to their best ability in every class and strive to improve their learning in a consistent manner.

EFFORT:
There are a vast number of students who work diligently in each and every class, who may not receive marks above and beyond standard, however are in no doubt of achieving at the expected standard for them. It is important to recognise that these students are working to the expected levels for the state of Victoria!
Other students in this category are making every effort and may not have reached these levels, however we have seen major growth in their learning in their time here at Western Heights College! These students will be completing their PREP work, with a real focus on their learning in class. They work hard during classes and are striving to achieve their best. Congratulations to all students who are putting in these efforts, well done.

Well done to all students for your fantastic contribution to our Learning Community this Semester. I wish you a terrific and safe mid-year break.

Mrs Roth
Learning Community Leader 7 & 8

Something for the holidays…
FRIENDS, SOCIALISING AND EXCERISE
Nearly everything we achieve in life is with and through people, side by side and face to face. Being able to build rich and caring relationships with other people is an essential lifelong habit to nurture and cultivate in our students. There are many dimensions to consider when considering establishing rapport with others, and students need to learn these by explicitly being taught them, parents can’t do it own their own.

They Include:

- Living and learning collaboratively and cooperatively with others
- Giving and receiving equally
- Focusing on mutual respect; everyone is special-expect it and respect it
- Appreciating others and their thoughts; learn from them
- Listening with their eyes, their ears and their heart; being fully present
- Being true to themselves; respect the person they see in the mirror
- Building empathy for others feelings needs and views; being positively mindful

The acquisition of these personal attributes will enable students to build healthy and respectful relationships with others

Paul Rogers
Wellbeing and Engagement Leader.

FRENCH
Students of French have been fortunate to have our Language Assistant Sandy work closely with them to develop their conversations skills, as well as support them with their reading and writing tasks. Cultural tasks so far have included investigations into famous French people and regional differences within France.

Over the school holidays, all students are encouraged to watch some of the highlights of the Tour de France. This is a world famous cycling event and one of the most watched sporting events globally.

It begins in picturesque Mont Saint-Michel in the north-west of France on July 2nd, passes through epic mountain ranges, visits Switzerland and Spain, and finally culminates in Paris with the famous backdrop of the Arc de Triomphe. What better way to immerse yourself in French culture than to watch the thrills and spills of this famous race, set against such diverse and stunning scenery.

Bonnes vacances!

Madame Blakebrough
French Teacher.
TEXTILES:
It has been a busy few weeks. Students have been busy finishing off their projects before the holidays. There have been pencil cases, phone covers, felt monsters and key rings completed of all shapes and sizes. Some students have even managed to complete the extension tasks, making kids toys and pair of gloves from scrap fabric.
The Year 7 students are to be commended this year on the quality of their work and determination to finish their tasks. Well done.

SOAR EXCURSION:
This week we celebrated our first group of SOAR ambassadors reaching 25 DoJo points. The students chose to go to Supatramp in Grovedale. We had 22 students join Mrs Kaur and Mr Scott for an hour of bouncing and climbing excitement. The feedback has been terrific and the next lot of ambassadors are already looking forward to their excursion.

COLLEGE ABSENCE LINE
Please phone 5277 1177 to report all student absences and select option two.

It has been a full and rewarding semester in Year 9 as we complete the term for the mid-year holiday. Year 9 student have had the opportunity to develop and extend themselves across the curriculum. We congratulate our students for what they have achieved terms one and two this year. Students have understood and worked towards our Year 9 themes of Success and Respect.
The Geelong Tertiary Futures Program has been a highlight for most students. A focus during this program and during term is to make the most of opportunities that benefit student’s career pathway. All Year 9 Mentor Teachers will continue to encourage our students to participate in these opportunities, the next being the three day Year 9 Camp to Charnwood week nine. We want every student to participate in this fantastic opportunity. We realise that for some students this will be a challenge, however Mentor Teachers will support, organise and participate with our students making sure this is a fun and memorable experience. Year 9 students had an AusCamp presentation last week. This presentation aims to give students the opportunity to see pictures of the camp and program, meet instructors. We want students to have some “take up time” to think about camp, we want all students to accept the challenge and enjoy this experience.

We ask that parents please support their students over the holidays to follow up any loose ends regarding uniform, or equipment for class. We want each and every student in correct uniform and organised for Semester 2. Best wishes for a great holidays, the Year 9 Mentors and teachers look forward to seeing our students revitalised and focused for Semester 2.

Mr Roger Conron
Year 9 Learning Community Leader.

CAMP:
The camp for Year 9 students is a three day camp from Wednesday 7 September until Friday 9 September, 2016 at Charnwood Outdoor Education Centre – Lima East, north of Mansfield. Students will participate in a range of exciting adventure activities including bushwalking, abseiling, adventure sports and downhill mountain bike trail riding. The camp is being run in conjunction with AusCamp who will assist our staff in running the outdoor adventure activities. This camp will challenge students, further develop their outdoor education skills, offers opportunities to excel in different ways and to broaden their understanding of the natural environment.
LITERACY
Year 9 students presented their advertisements in front of their class using a visual aid such as a poster, slide show, pamphlet or movie clip. Many students performed well and are to be commended on their efforts. Quite a few students, however, realised that they could definitely improve with more practice beforehand. With practice comes greater fluency and more confidence in front of an audience. We look forward to oral presentations in Term 3 as students continue to develop and hone their public speaking skills.

Mrs Rarotoga Deo
Year 9 Literacy Mentor

FIRE UP FELLAS:
Last week on Wednesday 15/6 we went rock climbing at the indoor rock climbing centre called the Rock. We had to pick partners after that the instructor taught us how to tie knots. One of us climbed and the other person's job was to make sure that the climber didn’t fall (Belay). Over all we learnt a few new skills and it was a fun and successful afternoon.

By Liam Grant

On Friday 17/06/2016 the Fire Up Fellers in Year 9 went to Main Event for a fitness class which was very successful and a lot of learning which helped us learn some stuff about the Main Event and some defense moves to help us if we are in a situation where we are in a fight. It was very fun and we hope to do it again in term three. It was aerobic fitness and we did warm ups at the start which were mountain climbing, star jumps, push ups, sit ups, jump in the air and do the plungers and we did the same at the end of the session as well.

By Baily Miletic

LEADERSHIP CAMP:
During this term Michael Moore and Amiee Spoors have had the opportunity to attend the ‘School for Student Leadership’ at the Gnurad Gundijdj campus in Glenormiston. During their time there they have had many opportunities and experiences to further their development, education, resilience and leadership. I had the privilege of attending a day with them recently where they presented their Community Learning Project after a tour of their campus. I am excited to see the enthusiasm and experiences they will bring back and look forward to they positive impact they will have in our Learning Community upon their return.

Mr. Nicholas Chudoschnik

GEELONG GEM CLUB EXCURSION:
Last week two Science classes went to the Gem Club in Carey Street as part of the Geology topic in the World Around Us science unit. Des McKernan showed students how rocks can be cut, faceted, and polished to expose the beauty of gemstones. Students were shown how the gemstones could be set in silver to make a piece of jewellery. Des showed students examples of petrified wood, fossils and ores from local areas. He explained how they had been formed and where students would be likely to find such examples. It was pleasing to see some students collecting applications to join the Junior Gem Club program run on Friday nights.

Mrs June George
Science Teacher.
Year 10 News

Our Year 10 students have just finished their exams for all of their subjects. All students put in a great effort and took the process seriously. The Year 10 staff are so proud of them. A lunch has been organised to celebrate their great effort.

All Year 10 students have had the opportunity to complete a MIPS (Managed Individual Pathways) appointment. Looking at their career pathways and talking to students regarding the up and coming Year 10 Work Experience Program. Work Experience will be running between August 1 and August 5. This is a great opportunity for our students.

The Year 10 students have started their Semester 2 course. It is a great opportunity for our students to develop positive learning relationships with their teachers.

The Year 10 staff wish our students a safe and enjoyable break, resting up and relaxing ready for another great term.

Mr Dean Greenhalgh
Year 10 Learning Community Leader.

DUKE OF ED:
The Silver Duke of Edinburgh students recently participated in a testing procedure to complete the requirements for their Level 2 First Aid Certificate. This was just one aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh Award students value in not only being equipped to assist people in medical emergencies but is also a valuable certificate to have when seeking employment opportunities. Well done to all those students who have participated in the Semester One Duke of Edinburgh Program.

Mr Beasley
Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Teacher

VCAL News

Intermediate VCAL:
This semester we have been working hard on not only finishing the major features of our school community kitchen garden but also working on our employability skills, OHS skills and have been working in the community. We have built a website about our project which you can log on to at http://whckitchengarden.weekly.com/

We have finished a concrete slab that will hold the wood oven we are building next semester and have also finished our picket fence and gates. We have started putting in our computerised irrigation system and have planted out the start of our edible and sensory plants. We worked at the ENCOMPASS urban farm in Leopold working alongside young people with a disability and helped run the farm. We also learnt lots about working in the health and community services sector.

Trae and Shannon planting out pineapple sage.
Tyler laying bricks for the central herb bed.

The ENCOMPASS farm plant delivery to WHC and Annika laying out weed-mat.

Mr Nathan Feldman
Intermediate VCAL Teacher.
As we end Semester one of 2016 I cannot believe how the time has absolutely flown by and what an eventful semester it has been. With reports now available on-line through the parent portal, I believe it is an important step of the process for both you and the students to read and discuss the comments each teacher has added to ensure continued improvement is achieved by everyone.

Firstly, I must congratulate how the students have thrown themselves into the year to date. The step up into VCE/VCAL is probably the biggest leap in the educational journey for many of them.

The VCAL team have continued to do wonders in their construction of the Kitchen Garden. Nathan Feldman and the students should be proud of the quality of work in their design and construction. Well Done!

Our exam week, including the GAT for students completing Unit 3 and 4 subjects, is also something that the Year 11 teaching team have been proud of. Running under strict VCAA rules, the students conducted themselves with a maturity that demonstrated how far they have come as people in the past 5 months. Although results may have varied for most of the students, we hope the biggest learning experience for them was that preparation was the key to success in examinations.

We followed the exam week up with a talk from ‘Elevate Education’ on being a Study Sensei during advisory. Patrick and Emily spoke to the students about techniques to study smarter and more effectively. This has included note taking practises, writing summaries and the proven and most successful ways for exam preparation. This was well accepted by the students and we will spend time, next term, in advisory expanding on these.

This week we will provide students with a number of speakers relating to making responsible choices. Firstly, Red Frogs, you may be aware of the work by Red Frogs during schoolies events to provide a Safe Environment for students celebrating the end of high school. Digital Thumb Print will discuss the pitfalls of posting things on social media and the possible effects on a person’s future. Finally, we are lucky enough to have Brent Alford who is a motivational speaker about life choices. During a night out with friends Brent fell 2 stories and his story since then has been truly inspirational.

As we break for mid-year, I must remind you all of the importance of students being in school uniform at all times. We will be following this up again at the start of term three and we will be handing out sanctions for students out of uniform. Please spend the break ensuring the shoes, jumpers and white socks are ready to go for the start of school.

Finally, term three will be just as full as the year to date – I can’t wait!

Thank-you to the work of our Year 11 mentors,

- Marli McCarthy
- Brenna Loe
- Nathan Feldman
- Leanne Jemmett
- Maree Luckman
- Zane McKeon
- Fraser Pilkington.

We wish Leanne Jemmett a relaxing long service leave break – I’m sure she will spend days cuddling her beautiful first grandchild Lucy.

Have a relaxing and safe family break.

Mr Brett Bullock
Year 11 Learning Community Leader.
FOCUS DAY:
Tomorrow all Year 12 students will be involved in Focus Day. The aim of the day is to support each Year 12 student to achieve their best. External experts along with Western Heights College staff will be presenting workshops on time management, SEAS applications, health and well-being, relaxation and mindfulness. This is also the only opportunity for students to have photos taken in the Photo Booth. These photos will be used in end-of-year audio-visual celebrations. All Focus Day activities will run in the VCE Centre, full school uniform is required, lunch and morning tea will be provided and students are required to bring along their fully charged laptop. Please direct any questions to your student’s mentor teacher.

GAT:
Recently all Year 12 students and the Year 11 students who are undertaking a Unit 3 and 4 subject undertook the GAT. The students conducted themselves in a focused and orderly manner and are to be commended for their efforts. This was terrific preparation for the students who will undertake their end-of-year exams in October.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Congratulations to James Hallsworth from Year 12 who was recently awarded an Australian Government UpStart Grant by the Australian Business Finance Centre. James was required to prepare a detailed application and interviews to receive this grant. The grant provides him with funds and mentoring to support the development of his graphic design business. It is great to see such entrepreneurial skills being rewarded.
Well done, James.

Mrs Kerrie Hammond
Year 12 Learning Community Leader.

TERM BREAK WORKSHOPS REVISION LECTURES:
There will be term break workshops for a number of subjects. Individual subject teachers will communicate details to students. A number of external organisations offer term break revision and overview lectures for students. I have web messaged details to students and have also provided hard copy brochures on the “sign in” table in the VCE centre.

TRANSITION PROGRAM:
Next term we will launch a program to support Year 12 students as they transition to post-secondary study and employment options. This takes the form of a series of workshops and information sessions. A letter detailing the program will be posted to each family.

CENTRELINK / CENTREPAY
To assist families in paying school expenses the college has the facility to offer Centrepay to eligible families.

Centrepay is a free direct bill-paying service offered to Centrelink customers receiving regular Centrelink payments.

- Centrepay is voluntary and free of charge.
- Payments can be stopped or started at any time.
- You allocate the amount of money to be deducted from your Centrelink payment.
- The minimum payment amount is $20.00.
- The money is sent directly to the college and paid off your school fees and subject charges.
- Funds received by the college will be allocated to outstanding charges or you can nominate which charges you would like your Centrepay payments to be allocated to.

For more information on Centrepay go to:-

Parents wanting to apply will need to check eligibility with Centrelink.
If you have any queries regarding Centrepay please contact the college.
IDAHOBIT DAY (International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia)
On Wednesday May 18th IDAHOBIT Day was celebrated by students at Western Heights College. Lunchtime activities included a free lunch, painting and craft activities, rainbow stickers and a guest speaker from GASP Geelong. (Local support service) Success of the event was obvious from the level of laughter and speed of the food disappearing!! This was the second of our awareness raising events this year, following on from Harmony Day in March. Upcoming events include RUOK Day, Year 12 Focus Day, Cup cake for a cure day and White Ribbon Day.
"You are a lot of things, unique just happens to be one of them!"

As we have been thinking back over term 2, it has been a great exercise and encouragement to celebrate the success of our students. We are doing this in a formal way towards the end of this week by meeting with those students out of the many who were nominated by teaching staff for their exceptional effort and achievement throughout the semester. We encourage you as parents, significant adults, and community members not only to be aware of this, but also to take a closer interest in what your student is achieving in their own learning. Every small success is a step closer to bigger successes, and often it takes only one small encouraging word of affirmation/recognition from a significant adult to boost the confidence of a young person in a way that is very personal and real.

Next term we in the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Team are looking forward to assisting our students in their engagement, confidence, emerging adulthood and overall resilience through a variety of creative educational and developmental opportunities. One area we are now excited about entering rides on the back of our encouraging successes with student programs – as a community of learners which includes us as teaching and non-teaching staff, we recognise the extremely important role of parents and other significant adults as encouragers and supporters who empower young people to have the courage in taking appropriate risks in pursuing the learning opportunities available.

We wish you all a refreshing and safe break, and we look forward to working alongside you again in term 3.

Mr Paul Rogers and the Wellbeing Team.

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.
Western Heights College has a strong tradition of public speaking, and many of our students from Years 7 -12 volunteer to compete in inter-school competitions every year.

Over the past three weeks, we have competed in three competitions against students from local government and private schools.

The Debating Association of Victoria competition on May 13, saw our junior public speakers present one 5 minute prepared speech on a topic of their choice relating to social justice, as well as two impromptu speeches. All students competed well and impressed the judges with both the content and delivery of their speeches. Congratulations go to Ajlina Buric of Year 9, who won the Geelong region round, and will now compete in the semi-final in Term 3. Well done Ajlina!

The Legacy Australia competition on May 20, saw our students present a 5 minute prepared speech from a list of topics centring on issues important to modern Australia. They also presented an impromptu speech on the topic “the advantages and disadvantages of social media”.

The Plain English Speaking Awards, organised by the VCAA, are held annually for senior students. Students present a 5-6 minute prepared speech on any topic of their choice, followed by a 2-3 minute impromptu speech.

Congratulations to all the students who competed in these events. Public Speaking is a wonderful experience, with many educational and personal benefits, including research skills, critical thinking, planning and presenting, as well as boosting self-confidence and promoting social awareness and engagement.

There are more competitions coming up next term, as well as Ajlina presenting in the semi-final of the DAV competition.

Ms. Kerrie Sirotich
College Librarian.
The New Entertainment Book

Western Heights College is selling the NEW Geelong & Ballarat Entertainment Books for $60 each.

The College will receive $12.00 per book sold.
To order your Book or your Digital Membership securely online visit:
and collect your book from the College Office

Or
You can choose to pay cash at the office and collect your book.

20% from every membership sold contributes to supporting Western Heights College.

School Holiday Program
Monday 27 June 12 & Under Singles
Tuesday 28 June 14 & Under Singles
Wednesday 29 June 16 & Under Singles
Monday 4 July doubles events in all age groups

Players will play in a minimum of 3 sets in a round robin format. Winners of each round robin will then play in a finals round. Winners and Runners-up in the finals round will receive a trophy. All participants will receive a certificate of participation. Players can enter on-line or by contacting Alan Doherty.

Singles entry is $20 per player. Doubles entry is $10 per player.

Contact Alan Doherty (0439 555 783) for more details.
SATURDAY 25TH JUNE, 2016

VINES ROAD COMMUNITY HUB OPEN DAY

Come and celebrate the re-opening of the Vines Road Community Hub with loads of fun activities.

9am – 1pm Saturday 25th June

 clk2sell

SNAP CLICK SELL

Created by and proudly supporting State Schools’ Relief

clk2sell – the fastest way to buy and sell your kid’s school uniforms.

Just snap a photo of your item, then with one click they’re uploaded to a streamlined marketplace.

Plus there are no listing payment hassles – it’s all FREE.

For more information about the app visit: www.clk2sell.com

Download the clk2sell app on the App Store today

GIVING BLOOD FEELS GOOD

Geelong Blood Donor Centre
237 Rhyie St

Now open extended hours:

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