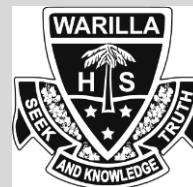


Warilla High School Newsletter

Kalori



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12 November 2012

Issue 2 – Term 4 – Week 6

Principal's Message

Our Year 12 HSC cohort have finalised their commitments, with the completion of examinations for 2012. Given that our HSC students for 2013 have already commenced the Year 12 pattern of study - with a number of assessment tasks scheduled for this term - it is timely to reflect on the ingredients for success at this level. I would contend that the following is essential:

- Engagement in all class activities.
- Regular attendance at school and a balance between school and social activities.
- An absolute commitment to the task of securing the best possible HSC and an understanding of the impact that too much part time work could have on this outcome.
- A commitment to regular and sustained study and revision.
- A study and revision program that is active in nature and includes completion of past papers; familiarity with the Board of Studies website and accessing exemplar samples of high quality responses.
- Working in study groups and taking up support structures offered by the school including mentoring and tutoring options.

The school will support this individual, self-disciplined approach with an exciting new program that focuses attention on Stage 6 writing.

Effectively, this is a forensic approach to how students respond to HSC questions and what needs to be done to de-code what the question is asking and what the very best response would look like.

Every student will have developed a repertoire of examination skills that is 'top-shelf' and proven at the HSC level. Indeed, teachers are already undertaking training in this program and will continue throughout this term and subsequent School Development Days.

I would like to think that all of our students subscribe to the famous Banjo Paterson line:

"A man who has done his best has done enough."

I look forward to the very 'best' from the class of 2013.

An important aspect of the administration and organisation of the school in Term 4 is the creation of elective lines in Year 8 and Year 9 as well as the curriculum structure for Year 11.

This process has seen the school employ the EDVAL timetabling software to maximise student choices and options, with over 92% of Year 11 achieving selections that reflect preferred subject options.

Unfortunately, there will always be those students whose combinations of subjects simply can't be offered due to staffing constraints and/or lack of students seeking that particular subject and/or combination of subjects. We will work with these students to develop appropriate and relevant patterns of study as they move into the senior school.

Our ongoing commitment to relevant patterns of study in the senior school has seen the deployment of an action research team to visit exemplar schools running alternate curriculum patterns for students who do not want an ATAR, but rather, a credential that recognises skills and competencies developed through a combination of work-placement, school and engagement with other recognised providers.

The work of this team will be seminal in determinations made about the structures to be employed when the subject selection process is undertaken in 12 months.

Lastly, I would again urge parents / care-providers to come along to our P&C meetings which are held in the school library on the second Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7pm. This is an excellent forum to discuss school priorities, practices and systems...and I promise you won't get a job! I look forward to seeing you there.

John Hambly
Principal

Deputies Report

Year 7 2013 Information Evening

On Tuesday 27 November our Year 7 2013 Information evening will occur in the School Hall. Uniforms will be on sale from 6.00pm until 6.50pm, and again after the completion of the information session, from two venues: our School Office (EFTPOS) and School Hall (Cash). Book packs will also be available in the hall for \$25.00 (cash only). The information session will begin at 7.00pm.

Year 11 HSC Information Evening

A parent information session regarding HSC courses and assessment will be held on Tuesday 13 November in our school hall at 6.00pm. Further information regarding this evening has been provided to Year 11 in Week 4. HSC Assessment booklets have been distributed to Year 11 which includes key information for our students regarding assessment. Year 11 students should bring their assessment booklets to this evening.

Student Attendance

As report time nears it is important that there is explanation provided for student absences. This is important so that justified absences are recorded as explained absences on the report. Please send any notes regarding student absences to your child's Roll Teacher or Mr Kershaw (Head Teacher Administration) so that our records can be updated.

Information for Parents / Carers in regards to School Attendance can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Jenni Raison & Ian Morris
Deputy Principals

Our School's Core Values:

Care for your environment
Embrace honesty
Respect others and value yourself
Seek knowledge

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Careers

Job Opportunities

School Based Traineeships: Warehousing Operations

Murray Mallee Group Training Company has advised that there are 2 **School Based Traineeships** that will soon become available in the Illawarra. These are for a Certificate II in Warehousing Operations.

One position is hosted at Reece Plumbing Unanderra Branch. The other position is at the new Refrigeration Unit at Reece in Wollongong. The manager at this store has asked that interested students read up on what refrigeration is about; the specialist website is at <http://www.reece.com.au/hvacr>.

Information about the Reece School Based Traineeships can be found at <http://www.reece.com.au/careers/asba>

Registrations of interest can be made here:

<http://asba.sherpanetwork.com.au/jobs/register.aspx>

Or email Reece at asba@reece.com.au

Engineering Pre-Apprenticeships: Fitting & Machining and Boilermaker

Please be advised of a Certificate II Engineering Production Technology Course (**Engineering Pre-apprenticeship**) commencing at Wollongong TAFE during Semester 1, 2013.

This course contains units of competence from the Engineering Mechanical Trade (Fitting & Machining) and the Engineering Fabrication Trade (Boilermaker).

An information and testing session is to be held on Saturday 10th November between 9:00am – 12 Noon

Further details can be found on the Illawarra TAFE website <http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au> and search for "Engineering Production Technology"

Defence Force: Trades and Engineering

Australian Defence Force Trades and Engineering Information Session is Tuesday 13th November, 6pm at the Defence Force Recruiting, 25 Atchison Street, Wollongong.

Find out about undertaking a trade or engineering role in the Australia Defence Force at this Information Session. To reserve a spot call 131901 or email cptwollongong@dfr.com.au

TAFE 2013

If you wish to enrol in a full time TAFE Course in 2013 and leave school you **MUST** attend a TAFE Illawarra Semester 1 2013 Pre-enrolment Information Session. The pre-enrolment information session helps to decide which course is right for you. Sessions are being held on the 10th, 13th, 14th & 15th of November at a range of campuses in the Illawarra region. For a full list visit the link below or call 1300 766 123.

<http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au/course-and-careers/semester-1-2013-pre-enrolment-information>

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONONG Discovery Day

UOW Discovery Day will provide students with an opportunity to experience, for a day, life as a university student. For example; finding your way around our campus, reading timetables and attending classes. Students will have a great time.

The Discovery Day program is aimed at Year 12 students who are eligible for an ATAR and who are interested in future university study. If you do not intend to go to university, you shouldn't attend Discovery Days. Warilla High students will be working with me on Thursday 15th November to register for Discovery Day. If an interested ATAR student misses this registration session they will be required to see me in their own time to register.

Get a Vocational HSC at TAFE

If you are interested in completing your HSC at TAFE in one year with a vocational focus then you need to attend the following:

Information and Enrolment Sessions for HSC 2013 – Please attend our information session to find out more about this course and about enrolment. The next information and enrolment sessions are: Tuesday 13 November 2012 6.00pm – 7.00pm in the Auditorium P Block

CANTEEN RED DAY

Wednesday 21 November

Coke, Cakes and Lollies available

Bring your money along to support your school and enjoy a great treat

Canteen Supervisors: Karen, Sue and Libby

Welfare

The Welfare Team has recently updated the School's policy on students driving and travelling as passengers to school. A copy of the policy can be found in this edition of the newsletter. It is strongly recommended that you take the time to read over this policy with your child. All students who are currently driving to school or travelling as passengers to school in a vehicle driven by another student need to complete the necessary documentation which can be collected at the school front office and returned to the Deputy Principal in charge of their Year group or their relevant Year Advisor.

Each student in Year 11 has been provided with the opportunity to be assigned a teacher mentor for the duration of their HSC studies. Mentoring is a structured, one to one relationship or partnership that focuses on the learning needs of the student. Each student should have returned their selection form to Mrs Unicomb by now and students will be notified who their mentor is within the next week.

This program has proven to be extremely successful over the last four years with many of our ex-students crediting their outstanding HSC results to this program. I would like to thank Mrs Unicomb for assisting me in the organisation of this worthwhile initiative.

Congratulations to Melissa Cleary, Eloise Neto and Tammy Kennedy who have been invited to take part in a 6 credit point subject "Belonging in the Community", which is being offered at the University of Wollongong in January 2013. Over the two weeks of this course students will be enrolled as a university student and will take part in lectures, tutorials and master classes. The students will receive 6 credit points towards their studies when they enrol into an Arts Undergraduate Program at the University of Wollongong the following year.

Students will need to hand in their merit certificates to their Year Advisor by Friday 23 November in order to receive a Silver Certificate or Gold Award in 2012. The parents/caregivers of students who are receiving a Gold Award will receive an invitation to attend an assembly and morning tea via the mail.

Local feeder primary schools are currently undertaking orientation visits here at the school. The primary school students are receiving a taste of high school life including participating in some Science and Home Economics lessons as well as being guided around the school by our Year 9 Peer Support Leaders. Mr Cairncross, Mr Neill and Miss Munro have done a terrific job in co-ordinating these visits and we look forward to the primary school students beginning at Warilla High School in 2013.

WARILLA HIGH SCHOOL'S POLICY ON STUDENTS DRIVING TO SCHOOL AND STUDENT PASSENGERS OF STUDENT DRIVERS

Once students have been awarded a driver's licence, their parents or guardians may choose to allow them to drive to school. If this is the case, the school requires, as a condition of enrolment, that certain authorities and conditions are to be adhered to:

1. Permission must be granted by the parents/guardians of the student using the form available from the school. This authority includes a statement of permission by the parents/guardians of the student driver, details of the vehicle(s) to be used by the student driver, details of the student's driver's licence and details of passengers who have permission to be in the car.
2. Students are not permitted to park their cars in the school grounds or across the driveways of neighbouring properties.
3. Students are to comply with parking by-laws.
4. Students are not permitted to 'shift' their cars during the school day without the express permission of the Principal or Deputy Principal.
5. Students are to comply with the rules of the road.
6. Student drivers are not permitted to carry passengers to and from school or to functions connected with the school other than those for whom an authority has been given. This authority requires the permission of the parents/guardians of the passenger and the permission of the parents/guardians of the student driver.

PASSENGERS

Students wishing to travel as passengers with student drivers must have permission to do so. A form for this purpose is available from the school.

SANCTIONS

Where a student driver or passenger is in breach of any of the authorities or conditions, the school may invoke sanctions, which may include:

1. Contacting parents/guardians
2. Detentions
3. Suspension
4. Reporting illegal or unsafe driving to the police
5. Placement on the School's level system
6. Student's permission to drive to school may be reviewed

REGISTER

A register of authorised student drivers, the vehicles that they are permitted to drive, and the passengers they are permitted to carry will be maintained by the school

Policy Updates

This policy may be updated or revised from time to time. The School will notify you each time the Policy is changed. If you are unsure whether you are reading the most current version, you should contact the School.

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WOULD YOU LIKE \$500 TO SPEND ON EDUCATION COSTS?



Saver Plus will cover expenses such as:

- text books
- stationery
- equipment for subject activities such as sport, art, music
- subject costs
- computer accessories (e.g. software, monitor, printer or other hardware)
- internet connection costs
- computer, including laptop, netbook, tablet or second-hand computer
- furniture for studying (e.g. desk, chair, book shelves, desk lamp)
- equipment or fees, community activities such as sport, music, dance, art, photography or other hobbies
- tutor, subject extensions or summer classes
- TAFE/VET fees
- equipment needed for vocational training

To be eligible, you or your partner or a parent must:

- Have a current Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be in study or returning to study yourself, or have a child or partner studying
- Have income coming into the household (wage or cash in hand)

Contact: Saver Plus Coordinator, Lindi Jamieson-Brown
toll free on 1300 610 355 or
lindi.jamieson-brown@thesmithfamily.com.au

Coming Events

Week 6B

12 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 In2Uni Program Year 10 English Exam
13 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 into Year 12 HSC Assessment Information evening - 6.00pm P&C Meeting 7.00pm Year 8 ESSA Test
14 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 ESSA Test Year 11 Visual Arts Excursion to AGNSW
15 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 visits from Flinders Primary and Shell Cove Primary
16 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 PASS Canoeing Day Koori Awards in hall

Week 7A

20 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 and Year 9 Science Yearly Exams
21 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 9 Geography Excursion to Shoalhaven Zoo Year 11 Extension History Excursion to UOW Year 7 and Year 10 Science Yearly Exams
22 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 visits from Non-Feeder Schools
23 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 10 PASS Outdoor Education Day at Killalea Select Year 8 Geography students on excursion to Sydney

Week 8B

27 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 6 into Year 7 Parent Information Evening 6.00pm – 6.50pm sales, 7.00pm Information Session
30 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 8 PASS Outdoor Education Day at Killalea



Presents "Under the Big Top" Festival
13th-18th November

WHERE: Under the Big Top
McCabe Park Wollongong

Three spectacular events:
Fundraising Gala for Illawarra's disadvantaged youth,
Comedy Under the Big Top and Circus Monoxide's own "**Going Going Gong**" **Family Friendly Circus Show**.

Come on down and catch some highflying action and have a really great laugh. More info and tickets www.circusmonoxide.com.au



WE ARE OFFERING A SPORTS & ACTIVIES CAMP OVER THE FORTHCOMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. PARENTS WE WILL KEEP THE KIDS ACTIVE AND ENTERTAINED WHILST YOU ARE AT WORK, KEEPING YOU STRESS & WORRY FREE. WE ALSO OFFER JUNIOR COMPS, KIDS AFTERNOON WEEKLY SPORTING ACTIVITY GROUPS AND HAVE A GREAT RANGE OF PARTYS AVAILABLE. PLUS SOFTPLAY FOR THE TODDLERS, AND NATURALLY ADULT COMPS IN MANY SPORTS CALL 4295-4444 FOR INFO OR Email shellsports@y7mail.com

We're on the way to becoming eSmart



Earlier we advised that our school had registered with eSmart – a comprehensive approach for managing cybersafety and dealing with bullying and cyberbullying in school communities.

We're pleased to let you know that we have completed the first phase of our eSmart journey.

We have planned many activities in line with the eSmart Schools Framework, and are now progressing with implementation.

Expect to hear a lot more in the coming months about our efforts to promote the smart, safe and responsible use of digital technology.

We hope you will also take part in some of the opportunities to learn more about being eSmart.

For more information visit www.esmart.org.au



Our School's Core Values:

Care for your environment
Embrace honesty
Respect others and value yourself
Seek knowledge

Regular School Attendance

Information for parents and carers



All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can children make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes.

Schools play a vital role in the social and emotional development of children. Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and building important coping and friendship skills. Confident children are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour.

If students miss out on the basic skills in the early years of school, they may experience learning problems in later years. Ultimately, unsatisfactory attendance at school may affect the awarding of the School Certificate.

Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as a part of their duty of care, monitor part or whole day absences. Parents and school have specific responsibilities concerning children's attendance at school.

Responsibilities of the principal

Principals are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. When reasons for absences are provided to the school by parents, principals are accountable for their decision to record a student's absence as justified. Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence and will record that absence as unjustified.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to illness are frequent or prolonged.

Responsibilities of parents

The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school or are registered with the Office of

the Board of Studies NSW for home schooling. The New South Wales Department of Education and Training may take legal action against parents and carers who do not send their children to school without a valid reason.

What is a justified reason for being absent from school?

Justified reasons for absences may include if the student:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably, these should be made after school or during holidays)
- is required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- is sick, or has an infectious disease.

Head lice infestations can be a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools. Parents should check their child's hair regularly for head lice and undertake treatment where eggs or lice are identified. Information on how schools can support parents to manage and prevent the spread of head lice can be accessed from the student health section of the Department's website at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php>. Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice. Head lice, is not a justified reason for prolonged absences from school.

Absences for reasons such as some of the following may not be justified.

- Shopping
- Sleeping in
- Working around the house
- Minding younger siblings and other children
- Minor family events such as birthdays
- Hair cuts.

It is important to realise that parents (including carers) may be prosecuted if children have recurring unjustified absences from school.

Keeping the school informed

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

Whenever possible, parents and carers are encouraged to provide an explanation for absences before the absences occur.

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' requests for their child to be absent from school, or an explanation given for a child's absence from school.

Holidays

Parents and carers are encouraged to not to withdraw their children from school for family holidays. Occasionally it may be necessary for students to accompany their parents on family holidays during school term. Parents should discuss these absences with the principal and may be requested to apply to the principal for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school to ensure these absences are not permanently recorded as unjustified.

When considering applications for Certificates of Exemption, principals may consider a variety of factors such as compassionate reasons. For example, family reunions, the educational merits of the holiday and agreement for the student to complete assignments while on holiday. In some cases application for Distance Education may be more appropriate than seeking an exemption from school attendance.

Arrival on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that students don't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,

Need help?

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you might like to talk to the school principal, the school counsellor or, in primary school the assistant principal and in secondary school, your child's year adviser.

Home school liaison officers can offer support with attendance at school. Some school areas also have Aboriginal student liaison officers who support the attendance of Aboriginal students.

Telephone your local Department of Education and Training regional office and speak to the student welfare consultant if you would like further support. A list of regional office telephone numbers can be accessed at the web site address: www.det.nsw.edu.au/contactus/index.htm or by telephoning 131 536.

- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained by parents or carers in the same way as other forms of absence.

Must my child attend all activities, including sport?

YES. Sport and other physical activities help the healthy physical and mental development of children. Sports and sports carnivals are normal school activities and students must attend.