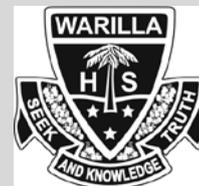


Warilla High School Newsletter

Kalori



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Issue 2 – Term 1 – Week 8

Principal's Message

It is with much pleasure that I write to you on the back of our very successful School Expo held on 6 March. This annual event saw the school opened up for prospective students and their parents to view our facilities; engage in interactive workshops and watch demonstration lessons across a range of disciplines. It was especially pleasing to hear many positive comments from "first time" Warilla High School parents.

Perhaps the most discussed item on the night was our *Core Academic Program*, set up as a pilot for year 7. It has gone from strength to strength as these kids are exposed to a range of higher order thinking and analytical skills. We are certainly committed to the concept and look forward to further refinements as we embed it as an integral part of our future curriculum structure.

Our subject offerings will be further enriched from term 2 by the appointment of a new Language teacher who is fluent in both Chinese and Japanese. This is a most exciting development, and I look forward to engaging our students with the language and culture of our nearest neighbours and major trading partners.

Likewise, our attempts to differentiate the senior curriculum via our *Learning Engagement Alternate Program* (LEAP) has really gained traction as the kids come to terms with their work related studies and weekly work placement in a range of settings. This unique initiative will further enhance the employment prospects and higher education opportunities for many of our students. Indeed, data recently released by the University Admission Centre (UAC) indicates that over 50% of our year 12, 2013 cohort have taken up offers at Universities across NSW. They have enrolled in subjects including: Arts; Business; Commerce; Accounting and Finance; Public Health Nutrition; Engineering; Digital Media; Nursing; Education; Law, and Medical and Health Sciences. This, combined with those students entering apprenticeships and traineeships, along with those engaging in part time employment and TAFE related study, will see the vast majority of our past year 12 group meaningfully engaged. Interestingly, we had a number of Year 11 students undertake an undergraduate course in the last January school holidays. All passed the 6 credit point UOW recognised course, with the highest ranking student from the public and private schools in the program, from Warilla High. These sorts of results don't just happen. They come on the back of focused and targeted professional learning and ensuring quality teaching practice is the main game in town. To facilitate this outcome, Mrs Raison has been working hard in her new role as professional Learning coordinator to link our work with the elements of the *National Teaching Standards*.

There are two other issues I would draw to your attention. Firstly, Warilla HS is a non-violent school. I refuse to accept violence as a legitimate means of resolving disputes. I have previously written to you on this matter and again I reiterate

Our School's Core Values:

that the strongest possible action-including expulsion- will be considered in my response to such incidents.

Secondly, a sincere thank you for your overwhelming endorsement of our uniform policy. The kids look great; the clothing is functional, non-discriminatory and even more importantly, it gives us all a sense of pride in belonging to our team.

With my kind regards
John Hambly

Deputies Report

It is hard to believe we were on holidays on six weeks ago. So much has happened, and the school is a buzz with students working hard. Between now and the end of term we have quite a bit to cram in....

Year 7 Parent Afternoon tea next Tuesday 25 March, then Thursday 27 is the combined **Athletics and Cross Country Carnival** and finally the last two weeks (March 31 – April 11) are the **Year 12 Half Yearly Exams**.

It is interesting, when looking at these upcoming events; they pretty much sum up Warilla High School and our priorities.

We are keen to develop genuine relationships with our parents / carers and community. It is only by working together that we can really make change with our students and their behaviour and achievements.

So that is covered in our Year 7 Parent Afternoon tea. The combined sporting day is another great day, and an event that many family members come to watch their student excel.

In age groups the students take part in a variety of proceedings including both serious and novelty events. Sporting excellence and doing one's personal best is very much upheld at Warilla ...so that is the **Athletics and Cross Country Carnival**.

Finally it is very well known what outstanding academic results Warilla High achieves and how our students do so well.

Last year 33 of our 100 Year 12 students were accepted in to Wollongong University before the exams were conducted. To be part of early acceptance like this is amazing and is evidence that academic success and doing one's personal best are values that are promoted and upheld at Warilla High... so that is the Year 12 **Half yearly exams**. Wow what a busy few weeks to come...

Deputy Principals
Mr Morris & Ms Brook

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

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Coming Events

Week 8B

17 March	• Hassett Cup Cricket
19 March	• School Photos

Week 9A

24 March	• Year 11 Standard English Assessment Task – Creative Writing
25 March	• Year 7 Parent Afternoon Tea 3.30pm – 5.30pm • Year 11 Biology Excursion to Minnamurra
26 March	• SRC Induction
27 March	• Athletics and Cross Country Carnival

Week 10B

31 March - 4 April	• Year 12 Half Yearly Exams Week
2 April	• Support Art Excursion to Coniston

Week 11A

April 7-11	• Year 12 Half yearly Exams continue
11 April	• Last day of Term 1

TERM 2 Week 1A

28 April	• Staff Development Day
29 April	• Year 12 RSA & RSG Course • ALL OTHER STUDENTS RETURN • Year 12 RSA & RSG Course
30 April-2 May	• Year 11 Half Yearly Exams
2 May	• Year 8 Visual Arts Killalea Excursion

Week 2B

5-9 May	• Year 11 Half Yearly Exams continue • Year 12 Work Placement • Year 11 LEAP Work Placement
6 May	• Vaccinations: Year 7 Boys and Girls/ Year 9 Boys/Year 8 'Catch up'

Sports

Year 8 student Kiara Meredith has only just begun her second year at Warilla High School. The Successful young surfer had an outstanding 2013. Some of her recent results are as follows.

Kiara recently attended Maroubra Ocean & Earth Surf Comp, where she made the 16's semi-final. The Australian Rip Curl Grom search competitions Kiara's overall results were a 9th ranking in both 14 & 16 divisions. Locally, Kiara was lucky enough to be selected for the Big Battle of the Board riders Challenge for the under 18 girls spot to represent her Board riders Club. The team didn't make it through but she was very excited to have a heat against Dean Bowen and many others successful male and female surfers much older than her. Along with Kiara' busy Sporting Schedule which takes her all over Australia competing, Kiara has managed to also achieve success at School. She is a leader within the school and is an integral member of the Student Representative

Council for the second year running. Kiara was also asked to speak at the year 6 into 7 information evening late last year. I am sure Kiara can look forward to another successful year.



WHS Combined Athletics and Cross Country Carnival Information

Thursday 27 March 2014

Myimbar Fields - Wattle Ave Shellharbour

This is a **normal school day** and all Warilla High School students are **expected to attend**. The carnival caters to students of all abilities, and includes opportunities for students to progress to the next level, as well as enjoyable novelty events! Students who are absent on the day will require a formal justified explanation as per normal absence procedure.

Where: Meet at Myimbar Fields

NB: There will be a shuttle bus with limited seats running from school to the fields between 8:00am and 8:30am for those students who catch a bus to school and have no other way of getting to the venue.

Time: 8:25am – 2:30pm

Food: Bring food and drink, including plenty of water! There will also be a canteen provided by Lake Illawarra Little Athletics (Sausage sizzle, egg and bacon rolls etc)

Uniform: Year 7 – Year 11 are to wear FULL PE UNIFORM, as well as a hat, proper running shoes, and sunscreen. Year 12 can wear appropriate mufti for a gold coin donation.

Cross Country: Cross country will be run **AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY** starting at **8:30am SHARP**

Athletics: Students will rotate through events in their age groups eg. *12/13 years boys* and remain in these supervised groups throughout the day. No-one is to leave the venue without written permission, until **2:30pm**.

Students who need transport back to school after the carnival must notify Miss Vojkovic **PRIOR** to the BEGINNING of the carnival to make arrangements.

If any parents would like to volunteer to assist on the day, please contact Miss Vojkovic on 02 4296 3055.

Thank you
Miss K Vojkovic
Sports Organiser

Attendance – A 100% Effort by our Students

I have just in the last two weeks, sent letters to a great deal of our students congratulating them on starting the 2014 School year with 100% attendance at school. This is an outstanding effort, and I look forward to further highlighting these students achievements with attendance as the year progresses. High achievement can only happen with regular attendance at school. Students who attend regularly develop good academic and social habits that will move with them into their adult life.

The following chart highlights the impact of **non-attendance** over time. Viewed in this context, the implications of regular absenteeism are startling. The chart shows the cumulative effect of persistent non-attendance over the period of schooling from **Kindergarten to the end of Year 10**.

Days Absent	Total Days	Number of Terms	Number of Years Missed
1 day per week	440	8.2	2 years 1 term
1.5 days per week	660	12.3	3 years 1.5 terms
2 days per week	880	16.4	4 years 2 terms
3 days per week	1320	25	6 years 1 term
5 days per week	1100	22	5 years 2 terms
Average 5 days per term	220	4.1	1 year .5 term
Average 10 days per term	440	8.2	2 years .5 term

Mr Kershaw
HT Student Administration

YEAR 7 AFTERNOON TEA FAMILY INVITATION

Date: 25th March 2014

Time: 3.30 pm → 5.00 pm - Meet your child's teacher and afternoon tea

5.00 pm → 5.30 pm -Short information session in the school library

Place: Alan Peterson Pavilion (adjacent to the school hall)

Year 9 Elective Changes

The school has recently received our actual staffing entitlement for 2014. This entitlement includes a slight increase in staffing that is a result of increased student numbers this year. The added staffing will be utilised across the school including the provision of added Careers Support and the addition of added electives in Year 9.

Our timetable team has already started to make necessary adjustments the current timetable with the inclusion of added PASS and Work Studies Year 9 elective classes to create space in that Year. Year 9 students have been briefed on these new elective classes that will become available from the start of Term 2. Students are aware of the process they will need to follow if they wish to make application for a change of elective.

Most other aspects of the existing timetable will remain the same. However, there will be some changes in the staffing of PDHPE classes and rooming of classes across the school. New timetables will be printed for affected students toward the end of Term 1 for the beginning of Term 2.

Tell Them From Me – Student Survey

This term our school will participate in Phase Two of the "Tell Them From Me" student survey. The survey will provide valuable feedback on what our students think about school life and how engaged they are with school. The survey is confidential and completed on-line. Our students from Year 7 to Year 12 will complete the 25 minute survey at a designated time between 10 March and the end of Term 1 2014.

On Monday 3 March, students were provided with a hard copy of "Tell Them From Me" student survey information and consent form to bring home. This form contained all of the relevant information about the survey. To ensure all parents and caregivers received this important information it was also sent via email and placed on our school website. Please contact Mrs Jenni Raison at the school with any questions regarding the survey.

Mrs J Raison
Deputy Principal

Welfare News

After school tutoring is once again available on a Tuesday afternoon from 1:45pm until 3:30pm. This service is facilitated by university students and takes place in E21.

Tutoring is available in all subjects and is free of charge. If you are interested in accessing this service for your child please contact me at school.

Mrs Farrugia is on long service leave during Term 1 so Mr Raftery will be relieving Year 9 Advisor during this period.

Michael Stanizzo
Head Teacher Welfare

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Warilla High School is again participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge in 2014. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten-Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

Students wishing to participate need to visit the NSW Premier Reading Challenge website: <https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html> and log in using their DEC portal username and password.

Any students needing help logging on to the Challenge please see Mrs Bryant in the library. The library has the list of books for the challenge and many of these are designated by a red dot on their spines on the WHS library shelves.

CS Lewis said - through literature *'I become a thousand people and yet remain myself'. Through reading books we can learn about different things and we can meet interesting people. Turn the pages of a book and you can listen to the voice of someone who lives or even someone who lived in another time and another place'*.

Happy Reading
Mrs Bryant
Librarian

THE BOOK LOVERS CLUB

We are excited about being able to tell you about the grand opening of our BOOK LOVERS CLUB.

As part of our National Partnership Literacy program, from the 1st Wednesday in Term 2, students will have a great opportunity to visit us in the Library and explore their love of reading and the magical world of words.

From 7.45am until the bell, every Wednesday morning, a large variety of activities will be on offer.

Students will be encouraged to read books and magazines in their interest areas and for those that like a challenge every now and then, other activities such as crosswords, puzzles, cryptics and even creating their own E book will be on offer.

Everyone is welcome and we would encourage you to help get your child to engage in this opportunity.

Warilla Winners will be on hand and a light breakfast can be picked up from B Block.

Hoping to see your child join up!

If you would like any further information please contact the school.

Maria Bryant
Librarian
Officer

Kathryn Boyle
Literacy Project

AN ACTIVE MIND
IS A HEALTHY ONE

Do you enjoy exploring
the world of books?

Or are magazines more your thing?

Or even a word puzzle or two?

THEN WHY NOT JOIN OUR NEW BOOK LOVERS CLUB?

WHERE? The Library

WHEN? Every Wednesday morning from 7.45am until 8.25am

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

EVERYONE WELCOME

