**From the Principal**

As is always the case, it has been a cold start to Term 3 and I am sure I am not alone in my hesitancy to leave the warmth of my bed as I prepare for my working day. This has been even harder for me this year as I travelled to Europe over the school break to spend some time with my daughter who has been studying in Switzerland for the past two years. We spent two weeks in Paris visiting museums and art galleries, viewing the iconic buildings and famous architecture and soaking up the Parisienne summer experience. We had a fabulous time and I hope to have an opportunity to return Paris in the future. However, when it came time to come home I was equally excited by that prospect. Education is my passion and Warrandyte High School is a great place to work.

As we start the second half of the school year there have been a few staff changes and I have the pleasure of formally welcoming and introducing to our parents some new and returning staff to our school. Michelle Barry has returned to the school from Family Leave. Nathan Tobin will be replacing Ante Sunjo while he is on Long Service Leave for this term. Peta May has joined our staff as an Integration Aide and ex-student Grace Johnstone has taken up a short term position as Laboratory Technician in our Science Department.

The Careers counselling process begins in earnest this term with the first of the year level Information Nights held on Monday. It is wonderful to see so many parents and their children at these meetings. It is certainly important to obtain as much information as possible and parents are encouraged to contact the Careers Teacher, Amanda Silipo for individualised information after each of the Information Evenings.

Congratulations are in order for Casey Edwards and Claire Kopietz who have both been recently announced as winners of an Australian Vocational Student Prize for 2013. Casey received her award for her outstanding work while completing VET Interactive Digital Media and Claire received her award for her outstanding work in VET Sport and Recreation. Congratulations also to their teachers, Claire Bloom and Martin Yates. Casey and Claire will each receive a certificate and cash prize of $2000.

Last Thursday students in Year 7 and Year 8 and, in a separate session, teaching staff, attended a presentation by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (acma) on being Cyber Smart.
The school had to endure a two year waiting period to secure this presentation and it was well worth the wait. Smart phones, tablets and other portable devices with access to the internet make a wealth of resources and learning opportunities available at the swipe of a finger, but the access they provide can also open up the young and the old to unwelcome approaches. An understanding of one’s own digital footprint and an awareness of the risks and how they can be avoided is crucial information for us all. Staff and students found the information presented and the tips and suggestions provided extremely valuable. The acma Cyber Smart website http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/ has resources available for parents and students as well as schools and it is well worth a visit.

Stephen Parkin
Principal

Education Maintenance Allowance

Information about changes to Education Maintenance Allowance as a result of the School Reform Agreement made between the Victorian Government and Commonwealth Government.

What is EMA?
The Education Maintenance Allowance currently provides financial assistance to low-income families to help meet costs associated with the education of their children.

How it is paid?
Parents can currently elect to have their EMA paid in one of the following ways:
- paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into the parent’s bank account; or
- paid directly to the school to be held as credit which the parent can use towards education expenses; or
- paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2013 over 70 per cent of parents receiving the EMA chose to have their EMA paid directly to their school. Each school would then use the funds for a range of expenses for that child.

Who is eligible?
The EMA currently provides financial assistance to Victorian families on a low income to help with the cost of educational items such as textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions.
It is a means-tested payment - parents must hold a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs concession card to be eligible.

What is changing?
In the recent School Reform agreement signed with the Commonwealth, the Victorian Government has changed the way it helps low income families with education expenses.
From 2015, the Government will distribute the funds previously used for the EMA directly to schools. DEECD will develop the arrangements to be used to distribute these funds to schools – consultation will occur with stakeholders about this.

Why?
Under the recent School Funding Reform an additional $12.2 billion will be allocated to Victorian schools.

Will my child be worse off?
No. Education funding for children will increase but will be delivered to your child in a new way through their school. The new agreement provides that schools with the most vulnerable students will receive the funding they need.
The students who will benefit the most from this funding agreement are those who are the most vulnerable.

Jill Treeby
Business Manager
News from the Assistant Principal

Facilities update
As some of you may already be aware over the term break we had a number of the older portables removed from the school. These portables, which were close to the Year 7 and 8 locker bays, were surplus and are being taken away and refurbished to be placed in other schools that have a demand for more classrooms. The area left behind will now be landscaped and we are hoping to build pods of seats to make the area a nicer place for students to spend time in at recess and lunch time. Two more portables will be removed at the end of this week. This removal will make room for newer classrooms when student enrolment numbers increase.

New students
Warrandyte High School would like to welcome all the new students who enrolled at the school at the beginning of the term. We have a number of new students in years 7-11 and we hope they will be very happy at Warrandyte. I am sure everyone, teachers and students alike, are making them welcome.

I would to make a special mention though of Leona Limberger of Year 11 and Haoyuan Song of Year 8 who are joining us as short term International Students. Leona is from Germany and will be with us for the rest of the year, while Haoyuan will be attending Warrandyte High School for the next 7 weeks during his summer break from school in China.

Good luck
Good luck to Cooper Goodman of Year 9 who has been selected to represent Australia in the Under 15 team at the Baseball World Cup in Mexico from the 31st of July until the 10th August. Some of the countries he will be competing against include the USA, Korea, Japan and Cuba, all big baseball nations. This is an amazing achievement for Cooper, having been selected out of hundreds of boys across Australia. We are all sending our best wishes with Cooper for a very successful tournament. We look forward to an update from Cooper on his return in mid-August.

Parent survey
At Warrandyte High School parent feedback is very important to us. It is that time of year again and a randomly selected portion of our families have been chosen to take part in the Parent Opinion Survey. Those selected will receive a survey in the post in the next week. If these families could complete the survey and return it to the General Office or via the post it would be greatly appreciated. A stamped self-addressed envelope will be included in the package to improve the ease of this process.

Pamela Dunstall
Assistant Principal

KAKADU 2014 (excerpt from student blog)

It's 8:38am, and we're at Daly Waters - a small and very dusty town hours from just about anywhere. We are over the Tropic, and yet it's still cold. The weather forecasters claim otherwise, and we're all eagerly waiting for the clouds to dissipate.
Last night we danced to folk songs being played by someone who appeared to have recently stepped off the set of The Wiggles. We had just finished the eleven hour leg of bus driving from Alice Springs, stopping at the Devils Marbles for lunch. At night, some of us opted to sleep under the night sky. Some claimed they saw shooting stars. Some claimed they were just satellites orbiting. I'd like to believe the former.

At present, everyone's dressing in sarongs and t-shirts, and coughing at the dust that is kicked up into the air during the packing of the tents. They're dousing themselves in insect repellent (a smell we've become desensitized to) and sunscreen, and waiting in line to brush their teeth, and hovering over various electronics being charged on one powerboard. Excitement, like the temperature, is rising.

We're about to drive to a thermal spring (hot water! at long last!) in Mataranka. The bus packers are packing. The duty students are dutying. People are preparing their playlists for the collective sing-alongs on the bus. Mr Steed is lunging. And I'm scribbling this down in a small notebook. It's 8:53am.

Kyle Turpin
Year 11 Student

Library News

Friday 13th
Thanks to everyone who was involved in Friday 13 June activities in the library.
Many students participated in the donut and Oreo eating competitions at lunchtime and we all had a good laugh and hopefully no tummy aches.
The winners of the year level quiz were:
Kyle Turpin, Bethany Cummings, Chloe Williams and Lachlan Peatling.
Our costume winners were:
Jared Ottosen and Caitlin Khaw
with a special mention to Daniel Marchetti.
The winner of the Creepy Characters competition was Kyle Turpin.
Thanks to Ms Bloom for her spooky decorations.
A highlight of term 3 is the

**The Great Warrandyte High Bake-Off**

This is our annual cake decorating competition where students are asked to decorate a cake inspired by a book they have read.

Last year we had some fabulous entries and we are looking forward to another wonderful array of culinary delights.

We have a number of categories including best junior (Years 7 -9), best senior (Years 10 – 12), best cupcake and overall champion!

The competition takes place during book week in August so keep an eye on Gang Gang and Compass for entry details.

If you are struggling for inspiration go to the WHS Library Pinterest board and check out the cakes!


Look out for what’s coming in term 3:

The theme in the library for term 3 is **CONNECTION**

We will be holding a number of events and activities around the idea that the library is a place to connect with:

- information,
- reading,
- people,
- imagination,
- the past,
- the future
- skills,
- the rest of the world….
Craft for a Cause

Connecting with others
Monday lunchtimes this term will be devoted to a new project where students can come to the library and learn to knit or crochet. We will be making squares for a rug to be donated to a charity. Students may also like to learn to knit small items of clothing such as beanies for babies or even for themselves. Old knitting needles and crochet hooks and new wool would be welcome donations to this project.

If anyone at home would like to participate please contact me, Judy Steel on 9844 2749

New to the library

“\text{The more you read, the more things you will know.}\quad \text{The more you learn, the more places you’ll go.}”

Virginia Andrews’ Flowers in the Attic Collection - a gothic series about four children who were kept in the attic by their awful mother! It was based on a true story and first published in 1979 and immediately became a bestseller.

This iconic series of the ‘80s has made a fresh comeback and is still as creepy and bizarre as when it first came out.

All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr is set in WW2. The story revolves around the lives of Marie-Laure a young French blind girl living in Paris with her father and Werner a German orphan. With the backdrop of the war Doerr tells the story of how these two young lives collide.

This is the best book I have read for a long time...it is beautifully written and completely captivating. If students don’t want to borrow it maybe they could bring it home for mum or dad to read!

Judy Steel
Library Leader

Careers News

Term 3 is a very important time for career development and planning. During the term students in Years 9-12 will be undertaking course counselling. This is a process where students meet with a member of the careers team and have a meeting discussing ideas and options for 2015. We will look at VCE subjects, VET (both internal and external), ATAR scores, prerequisite subjects, VTAC applications and answer questions you may have about the upcoming year.
Career Development is a three way partnership with students, parents and the school working together to assist the student in making the most appropriate choice for their future. We will be having parent information evenings and student assemblies to give out the relevant information. If parents want to be involved in the counselling process please contact the school and we can set up a time. Please read below for details.

Year 9 Parent Information Evening- Tuesday July 29 7pm Theatre
Year 9 Course Counselling- Tuesday August 5

Year 10 Parent Information Evening- Monday July 21 7pm Theatre
Year 10 Course Counselling- Wednesday July 30
Year 11 Course Counselling- Conducted during English class week 3

Year 12 Parent Information Evening- Thursday July 31
Year 12 Course Counselling weeks 3-10

Work Experience
Congratulations to all Year 10 students who participated in the program, from reports from staff and employers you all did a great job and should be proud of your efforts! Please read the next issue of the Gang Gang for students’ perspective of their week of work.  

Amanda Silipo  
Careers Leader

Humanities News

The thought of driving for first timers can be intimidating, as 60 of our Humanities students found out on Friday 18 July. Although many hadn’t turned 16 or sat for their learner’s permit, they legally experienced driving a manual car. The 40 minute bus trip to Kilsyth was unusually quiet, as students anticipated the day’s events with nervous excitement.

On arrival there were some quick trips to the toilet to settle nerves. Then it was down to business, driving on the Metropolitan Traffic Education Centre’s private eight hectare ‘off road’ complex, in dual controlled manual cars, with licensed and experienced instructors. The day covered both theoretical and practical content, including such things as road safety, transmission of power, use of pedals, clutch, observation, hazards, car control, laws, gear changing, steering, three point turns, hand brake starts and reversing.

Stefan Walder managed to impress his instructor on the day and ended up being nominated to enter the 2014 Young Driver of the Year Award and the chance to win $500. Good Luck

STEFAN

A good time was had by all as evidenced by some of the student’s comments:

• Achieving a top speed of 80km down the back straight.
• Gaining the confidence to be able to drive on a road and in public.
• Teachers explained everything so well; it’s changed my opinion about manuals.
• I liked driving, it was so much fun.
• Instructors were GREAT.
• Drove through a puddle, and splashed the instructor through the open window of the other car as it was driving in the opposite direction.
• Interesting and terrifying, but enjoyable and rewarding.
• Great Experience, Awesome – Thankyou
HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
Log on and see ‘Porter; the Dog’ drive.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWAK0J8Uhzk

As a follow up to the METEC day, year 10 Humanities students attended the annual Keys Please forum on Tuesday 22 July. This positive and proactive VicRoads session introduced learner drivers to the different driving skills and experiences needed to become responsible and safe licensed drivers – This includes the importance of forming positive partnerships with their parent or supervising driver, and the need to acquire 120 hours of driving experience in all driving conditions. The presenter, Kirsten Naylor, kept the audience entertained and informed while the question and answer session highlighted the hazards a learner driver encounters while under instruction. Many thanks to Alex Ryan, Jamie Konstandinou and Jeremy Alfond for volunteering for the simulation game.

Parents; if you’re nervous about supervising your learner driver then log onto www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/supervisor to access the VicRoads online resources. The site features eight videos to help supervising drivers work through the four stages of learning to drive. Each video provides tips and advice on how to supervise your learner driver.

Christena Gazeas
Humanities Leader
From our Italian Assistant

Here we are, ready to start a new Term: back to reality, after two weeks off. Not that much, compared to the three whole months of public holidays we have in Italy. But getting back to school and everyday life is still shocking -for both students and teachers. And even more shocking for language assistants: at the beginning of Term 2, I was coming from spring and Europe, and this was quite a big change already; but this time, at the beginning of Term 3, I am coming straight from summer, and from a world which is geographically closer than Europe, still much further than Europe in its vibe. As several people claim, Melbourne and Victoria are quite European in their mood and landscape: quite familiar for people coming from Europe -bad weather included. Nothing to do with the exotic atmosphere you can find in Northern Queensland, where I travelled during the School Holidays, starting from Mackay and heading north.

During the holiday, the weather was that of an Italian June or September; the landscape, though, was not Italian at all: boundless sugar cane fields, mangrove trees, rainforests, banana plantations....everywhere there was something I have only read about, until now –most likely, on a geography book, chapter ‘Climates and environments’, paragraph ‘Subtropics’. But it was not only the landscape: also my favourite usual summer activities looked different there. I usually go swimming and snorkelling in summer as you can find wonderful seabeds in Sardinia, in Sicily and in smaller Mediterranean islands, but snorkelling on the barrier reef is something completely different. I usually go hiking and camping as well, but sleeping in the rainforest, in your tent, while it is raining and still the rain can’t reach the ground, because of the dense vegetation, is something different. Coming across a red-bellied black snake, while you are following your track in a National Park, is also, definitely quite different.

I was not the only one: my fellow travellers all shared my feelings. And not surprisingly: I was travelling together with five other language assistants, all coming from Italy, and spread in the whole of Victoria. Not very good for my English, too many days speaking Italian! Even worse for my English, we unexpectedly met several Italian speaking people. The most unexpected one was an Australian old fisherman who had never left Northern Queensland -“never, never south of Townsville!”- and had a deep knowledge about crocodiles and crabs and cassowaries, but at the same time could speak perfect Italian, his father coming from Venice. Most of them, though, were young Italians living in the hostels and working in the farms, all with their Working Holiday Visa. Apparently, this is becoming the new general trend in Italy. After your Bachelor or Masters degree, you need to leave as soon as you can, and go elsewhere. Australian countryside seems now the best option (it was London, until a few years ago), even though you are going to pick and pack fruit and vegetables, a job you would probably never choose in your own country.

By the way, this new Italian trend would certainly be approved by the long bearded old man, living in its small shaky hut, we met in Cape Tribulation, his prediction was the very close end of Europe - and of Italy, of course, which, according to his theory, will be the first country to be devastated. He advised us to remain in Australia as long as we can, because it is the only country completely safe in the world. It was quite a disquieting meeting. Especially because he looked and talked like a prophet, or a hermit, but he finally admitted he had read the whole story on a website. I do not know if the old man is right, nobody can know, I hope he is not. But after these days spent eating coconuts found on the beach and swimming in the falls, I would not mind staying in Australia a little bit more.

Ludovica Lannini
Italian Assistant
Canteen News

Daily specials are as follows – ordering would be appreciated.

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The Canteen is selling hot toasted sandwiches at recess for $2.50, ham & cheese, and ham, cheese & tomato are available. Egg and bacon rolls are periodically available at recess as well.

Volunteers are always welcome in the canteen. If you are available on a Friday only, Karen is always able to change her day. The canteen staff look forward to seeing you in 2014.

_Cheryl Hart_
_Canteen Leader_

Community Announcement’s

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**Warrandyte Junior Cricket**

REGISTRATION DAY
Saturday, 16 August at our new Clubrooms.
Between 9am and 12pm.
Need players for U10’s, U12’s, U14’s and U16’s.

Keep up to date with what is happening for the up and coming season on our facebook page:

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**Eltham Little Theatre**

1603 Main Road, Research
Presents

**Oliver! The Musical** by Lionel Bart
11-27 July
And coming soon

**The Wisdom of Eve** by arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd
29 August-13 September

Bookings can be made on [www.elthamlittletheatre.org.au](http://www.elthamlittletheatre.org.au)