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warrandyte high school



Warrandyte High School

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Principal: Dr Stephen Parkin

Assistant Principal: Pamela Dunstall

School Captains: Jessica Brincat, Jonty Rushton

Issue 5 Term 1 2014

Dates for your Diary

Friday 4 April
Tuesday 22 April

Last Day of Term 1 - 2:30pm Finish
First Day of Term 2

From the Principal

Open Night

On Tuesday 25 March we held our Open Night. The earlier date this year was chosen to take advantage of daylight saving and this proved to be an excellent decision as it solved perennial parking issues and provided ready access to areas of the school not easily visited after dark. Open Night is an opportunity for prospective and current parents to visit the school to meet students and staff; examine samples of student work; view and discuss our programs; observe students at work; and learn about new innovations and future directions for the school. The event was exceptionally well attended and the feedback we received on the night was very positive and rewarding to all those involved. We take great pride in our school and the work of our staff and students and it is wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase this to the broader community. On behalf of all the current parents and prospective parents and children who attended, I would like to thank the staff and volunteer students who gave their time willingly to make the Open Night possible.

As a school we are confident that we are meeting the needs of our students. However, we are also very aware of the importance of continual improvement.

Below is an excerpt from the speech I delivered at this year's Open Night, highlighting some recent curriculum and pedagogical innovations we have implemented.

"We are a medium sized secondary school, nestled in the urban fringe, with strong links to our community and a determination to achieve the best educational outcomes for all our students. We see our role as being to inspire and challenge our students. To be innovative in our practice, to set high academic expectations and to be supportive of our students as we help them navigate their way through the teenage years.

Whether a student aspires to be a doctor, a tradesman or an artist, we know we have the flexibility and programs to meet their needs. The achievements of our students and the feedback we receive from their parents confirms this. Perfect scores in VCE subjects, Premier's Awards, National VET awards, Top Arts and Top Designs recognition, are regular occurrences at Warrandyte High School.

However, we have no intention to rest on our laurels and we are determined to continually improve through innovation in the classroom, structural change, and hard work. Examples of recent facilities upgrades include our Theatre and Gymnasium and the soon to be completed Video and Audio Editing suite which will be situated in The Doig Learning Centre. This facility will enable us to embed the use of multi-media as an assessment and learning tool across our entire curriculum.

Recent curriculum and pedagogical innovations include:

- The Taking the Challenge program, in which all Year 9 students spend one day each week working with a core team of four teachers. The students work individually, in teams or as a whole year level on a series of learning tasks which focus on thinking skills, problem solving, extension tasks, decision making, the development of ICT skills, interpersonal capabilities and community links (both local and global) as well as providing opportunities to experience adult like roles and responsibilities.*
- The Step Up program at Year 10. This program is designed to support the transition of our Year 10 students into the VCE. Activities include: Study Support, Tutor Time, Master Classes, Guest Speakers and VCE Subject Taster Sessions.*
- English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities immersion programs in Year 7 and Year 8. Each of these programs runs for one week, enabling students to engage in 'rich learning tasks' and 'deep investigations' and providing opportunities for our staff teams to develop and introduce new resources and pedagogies into the classroom.*
- In 2013 we implemented the Brainology program at Year 7. This program is based on the 'Mindset' work of Professor Carol Dweck from Stanford University. It focuses on the theme of lifelong learning, that through applying ourselves and working on new things we can actually grow our brain, and that as educators we must continually reinforce the value of effort. We want our students to value challenge and recognise the rewards that a strong work ethic can bring.*
- We have restructured our time-table to provide all our Year 10 students access to all of our Units 1 & 2 VCE and VET studies. This exciting innovation provides the opportunity for Year 10 students to take up to two VCE subjects for the purposes of breadth, extension or acceleration. The conditions placed upon entry to this program are; satisfactory completion of Year 9, regular attendance at school, and appropriate classroom behaviour. This innovation has led to almost all our Year 10 students taking up at least one VCE or VET subject with a significant number taking up two such subjects. It is a no risk program which can only bring academic rewards for our students. When they move into Year 11, our students will have the option of progressing onto Units 3 & 4 in these subjects or they can consolidate their understanding by re-taking Units 1 & 2. They also have the option to take alternative subjects. The following year, in Year 12, our students will be able to either add an additional study score to their ATAR score, or take the opportunity to consolidate their understanding and exam performance by re-taking Units 3 & 4 in their accelerated subject or subjects, without penalty. Whatever the option taken, an improved ATAR score should be the result.*

Strong communication between the school and parents is a critical ingredient in student success. To build on our already strong links, we implemented an online portal in 2013. The impact of this has been significant, particularly in regard to student attendance. With parents now having real time information regarding their child's attendance, the ease of communication the portal provides and the school's focus on the importance of attendance to learning, Warrandyte High School's student attendance figures are now amongst the best in the state of Victoria. The portal also provides enhanced communication between students and teachers, parents and teachers, and parents and the school across a broad range of areas beyond attendance and we will be continuing to further expand its functionality. Also, just last week we released our new school Website. This is a fantastic new resource for the school. It will greatly enhance communication with our parents and the wider community and provides another showcase for the achievements of our students.

It was developed through the combined efforts of school staff and volunteer parents and shows just what can be achieved through partnerships and an agreed vision. Later this year we are hoping to provide access for all our students and parents to our school Moodle. This will be an organised interface for learning over the Internet and will include course information and classroom materials such as class notes, revision guides, assignment sheets and links to other Web resources.

I mentioned a little earlier the work of Professor Carol Dweck. Professor Dweck has undertaken decades of research into achievement and success and was the first to identify the existence of Fixed and Growth Mindsets and the influence these mindsets have on learning. In her own words:

"In a fixed mindset students believe their basic abilities, their intelligence, their talents, are just fixed traits. They have a certain amount and that's that, and then their goal becomes to look smart all the time and never look dumb. In a growth mindset students understand that their talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence. They don't necessarily think everyone's the same or anyone can be Einstein, but they believe everyone can get smarter if they work at it."

Professor Dweck's work demonstrated the strong link between self-efficacy and learning, the need for academic challenge and quality feedback, and the necessity of hard work and focus to achieve academic growth. At Warrandyte High School we want our students to embrace challenge, to understand that there can be no learning without failure and that everybody can improve in all that they do. We understand that the development of a Growth Mindset in all our students and staff is fundamental to achieving this and since the start of 2013 we have made this a major focus in all that we do.

Now all the above are just the recent innovations. They demonstrate our determination to continually improve to ensure that we can achieve the best educational outcomes for our students, your children, and it is built on the foundation of our already very successful programs and classroom practice. I could continue to talk for hours about those various programs and practices, about the successes of our students, about our sense of community and about the professionalism of our teachers and support staff, but, much to your relief, I am not going to. Instead I will hand the microphone over to others who will talk about all those things and much more, from their perspective, as students, parents and teachers at Warrandyte High School. And following that I am sure you will understand why I am so proud to be this school's Principal."

Out with the Old

I have received confirmation from DEECD that they will be removing some of the old portables from our school in the middle of this year. This is refreshing information as these buildings are fast approaching their 'use by date' and are surplus to our needs. The removal of these surplus buildings also increases the likelihood that we will soon be receiving replacement stock for a few of our specialist portables that have also seen better days.

Stephen Parkin
Principal

Careers News

Work Experience is coming up for year 10 students. It is a valuable program giving students the opportunity to gain experience and an understanding of a workplace they may be interested in for their careers.

The dates are June 23-27. All students need to find an appropriate placement by May 30.

In previous years students have found exciting placements at Veterinary Hospitals, Schools, AFL Football Clubs, Police, Hospitals, MT Buller, the Museum, the Aquarium, Legal Firms, the Zoo.

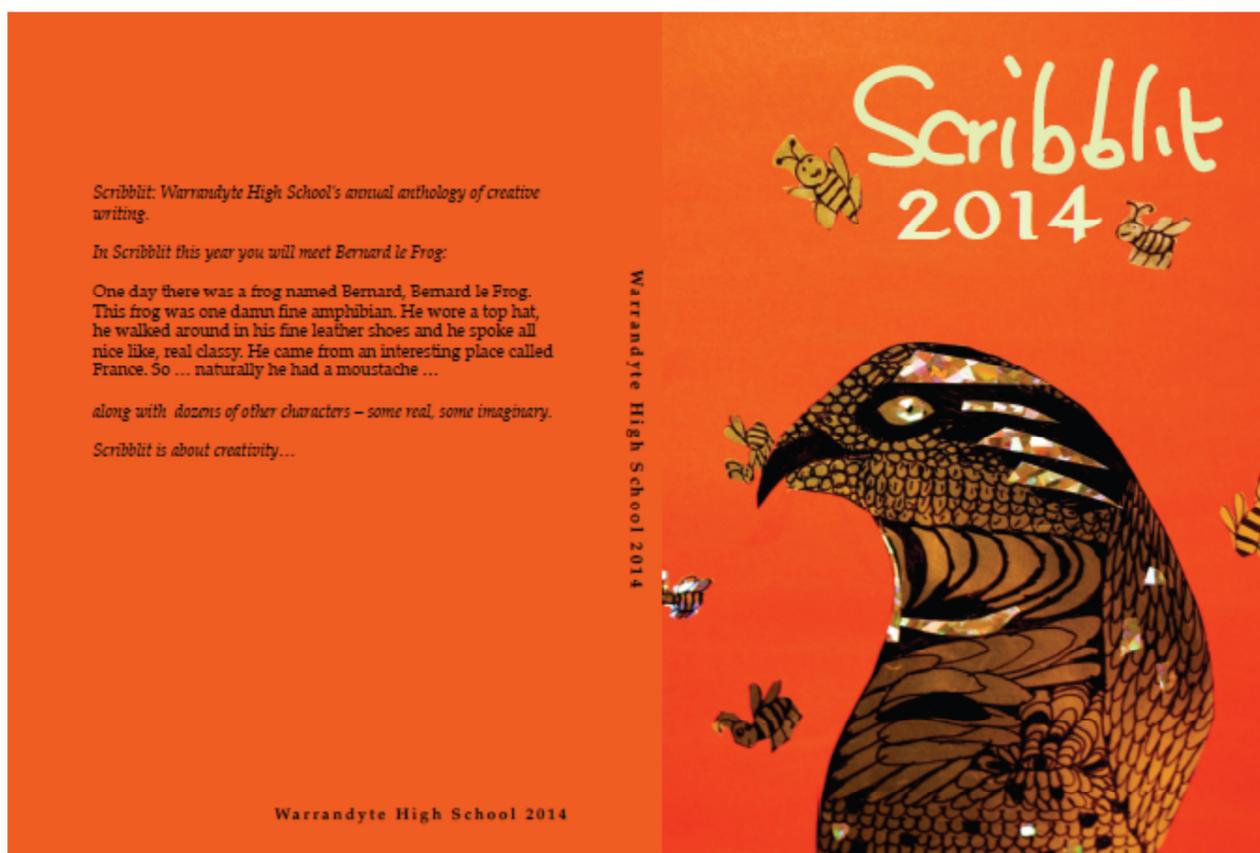
Students have worked with Architects, Builders, Plumbers, Electricians, Hairdressers, Physiotherapists, Accountants. Some students have also been offered part time work after their work experience.

The best way to find a place is to act early and be proactive. Ask parents for contacts, ask friends, research companies, make phone calls, drop in to businesses and make yourself known. As mentioned above work experience needs to be confirmed **by May 30** so if you haven't started looking its best to get onto that ASAP.

Amanda Silipo
Careers Leader

Scribblit

There's an old saying: "Don't judge a book by its cover". Generally speaking, that's a good rule to follow. But take a look at the cover of Scribblit 2013/2014.



This is a book that Warrandyte High School students, parents and teachers can be proud of! It's filled with great art work and great writing – all from students and teachers at our school.

The third new-format SCRIBBLIT anthology of creative writing has been sent to the printery, and will be available early in Term 2. Students who have ordered copies on the booklist will be able to pick them up from the school.

If you would like to order a copy, please contact the General Office, or send an email to the following:

carozzi.barry.b@edumail.vic.gov.au

It's a great read. And you might like to buy extra copies for grandparents and friends of the family.

Barry Carozzi
English Teacher

Library News

IRISH WEEK

Last week the library turned green to celebrate a week of all things Irish. Students participated in a wide range of activities including:



A daily quiz on quirky Irish facts.



A guess the famous Irish person competition – Kyle Turpin Year 11 won a movie ticket for his fantastic effort in getting all thirty correct.



A Limerick writing competition – Kyle Turpin and Cassie Roberts of Year 11 showed great flair, rhythm and rhyme to win movie tickets. Georgie Siddall Year 9 was a special commendation and Jarrod Stewart Year 12 tried hard to flatter the judge with his entry.



Ms Na Meadhra told enchanting traditional Irish stories captivating her audience with her ability to magically take the listener to another time and place.



Irish music rung out through the library at lunchtime. Maybe not to everyone's taste but Van Morrison is certainly a hit with the teachers.



An Irish film, 'Waking Ned Devine' was screened during lunchtime.



A display of Irish literature was featured in the library.

Students should look forward to term two when our next **THEMED WEEK** will certainly wake the dead!

Judy Steel
Library Leader

Music News

Warrandyte Festival

Our Music Department presented three ensembles this year at the Warrandyte Festival. Our choir opened with a Lorde song Royal followed by the symphonic band who performed an original of Mr Maillardet's called So Funky followed by a Peer Gynt medley then concluded with Bill Hayley's Rock Around The Clock. I had the privilege of conducting again this year and really appreciated the development of the bands unity and confidence. We concluded our set with a solo performance by our VCE music guitarist Jackson Price playing a number by Jo Satriani, All Of Me, All Of You.

Open Night

Our Music Department was well represented on Open Night. We had a Percussion Quartet jamming on the Theatre loading bay greeting families with exotic rhythms on the way into our car park. Jocelyn Barker was playing her favourite piano forte pieces in the Theatre as families were entering for our Principals address. Our Symphonic Band, conducted by Mr Maillardet, played Rock Around The Clock for the families in the Theatre followed with Jackson Price playing some Jazz VCE pieces in the Amphitheatre. Our Choir held an open live rehearsal in the Music Classroom, parents were inspired by the display of intrinsic motivation and independent learning by the Choir.

Instrumental Music

Numbers are the largest in the last few years, with over 100 students enrolled into the program. Our new Junior band has 26 prospective students who will meet together for the first time this Friday. Our Choir has 16 students enrolled. They are performing some excellent a cappella pieces. Marcus Frost and Claire Bice, Kristen Robertson and Yasmine Bekirofski are demonstrating great leadership skills in the running and leading of the Choir.

Kal Stavropoulos
Music Leader

Canteen News

Daily specials are as follows – ordering would be appreciated.

Specials @ \$5.00

<u>Monday</u>	Chilli Chicken Sub or Tandoori Wrap
<u>Tuesday</u>	Chicken Burger, Meatball Sub or Spaghetti Bolognaise
<u>Wednesday</u>	Fried Rice or Hot Dog, Cheese & Sauce
<u>Thursday</u>	Chicken Schnitzel, Nachos Box
<u>Friday</u>	Souvlaki – Chicken or Lamb or Fish & Wedges

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