From the Principal

On Thursday 2 May we held our Open Night. This was 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 well attended and the feedback we received on the night was incredibly positive and very rewarding to all those involved. We will include a more detailed report, including pictures, in our next edition of Gang Gang.

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 Open Night, highlighting some recent curriculum and pedagogical innovations we have implemented.

• The Big History Project which we have introduced at Year 10. We are a pilot school in this global initiative which is an attempt to understand in a unified way the history of the Cosmos, Earth and Humanity.

• 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, 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 tasks’ and ‘deep investigations’ and providing opportunities for our staff teams to develop and introduce new resources and pedagogies into the classroom.

• We are currently in the process of implementing the Brainology program at Year 7. This program is based on the ‘Mindset’ work of Professor Carol Dwek 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.

• This year we have restructured our senior school to provide our Year 10 students full access to our Units 1 & 2 VCE and VET studies. This exciting innovation provides the opportunity for VCE acceleration, extension or consolidation and 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. Next year, in Year 11, our students will have the option of progressing onto the Units 3 & 4 study in these subjects or they can consolidate their understanding by re-studying Units 1 & 2. 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-studying Units 3 & 4 in their accelerated subject without penalty.

This Tuesday 7 May is our Athletics Day. This is always a wonderful day as students compete for House points and to gain a place in our school athletics team. Students and staff get into the spirit of the day by decking themselves out in House colours with many going that little bit extra to create fun costumes.

Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who took part in our Working Bee on Sunday 28 April. The saying ‘many hands make light work’ is never more true than at these events, where a team of painters or gardeners can achieve fantastic results in a few short hours.

The Principal’s Assemblies held last week were the first opportunities for many of our students and staff to see our renovated theatre with its new levels of comfort. The purpose of these assemblies is to give recognition to the work of our students, to thank them for their contribution to the school, and to celebrate their successes.
At this assembly we presented the trophies from our Swimming Carnival. The recipients were:

House Swimming Champions Stiggant House

Individual competitor champions from each House:

- Stiggant House
- Anderson House
- Newman House
- Michel House and overall Individual Champion

Stiggant House       Darcy Hunt, Year 11
Anderson House      Rachel Vardy, Year 11
Newman House        Holly Mulder, Year 10
Michel House and overall Individual Champion  Jari Cooper, Year 7

We also presented our House Captains and Peer Support Leaders with their official badges.

A performance by our Theatre Studies students of an excerpt from their production ‘Tear from a Glass Eye’ was a highlight of the assembly and showcased the quality of performance that they have achieved under the expert tutelage of their teacher, Ms Niki na Meadhra.

Equally impressive were the poetry recitals of Year 10 students, Kyle Turpin and Morgan Storey. Kyle and Morgan read samples of their work that had been published in Scribblit 2013. Scribblit is an annual publication of student verse, short stories and art. It is a celebration of the creativity that is in all of us and a very important part of the whole, which makes up Warrandyte High School.

I was also able to announce at this assembly that our School Production for this year will be ‘Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat’. This is very exciting news and auditions will commence shortly.

Stephen Parkin  
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

NAPLAN the National Assessment Program for Years 7 & 9

NAPLAN testing will be held on 14, 15 & 16 May. On the 14 May the Literacy testing covering Language Conventions and the Writing test will take place for all students in Years 7 & 9. The Reading test is held on Wednesday, followed by Numeracy Testing on Thursday 16. Students sit two Numeracy tests, one with a calculator and one without.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement. All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days. Students may undertake catch-up test up to and including Friday 17 May 2013.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s skill level and also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards across Australia.

Students will need to have the correct equipment with them for the tests, HB pencils, erasers and calculator.

Kathy Hooke  
Assistant Principal
Sport News
The senior boys basketball team competed in their interschool competition on Tuesday April 30. Warrandyte entered both an A and B team into the competition. The B team had 4 matches during the day. The mix of Year 11 and 12 boys worked really well together and were able to come away winning 3 out of 4 games coming second overall. The A team was also a very tight knit team with the boys playing very cohesively together. They were a strong team winning their pool competition and went down in a very close match in the grand final coming second overall on the day.

Congratulations to all the boys for putting in a fantastic effort both on and off the court! As this is most of the boy’s last time representing Warrandyte High School they should be commended on their great sportsmanship throughout their years at WHS!

Amanda Silipo
PE Department

Sporting Leaders Achievement

Well done to all the Year 10 Sports Leaders who successfully undertook their AFL Umpiring Certificate and passed with very high results. This is an external governing body award run with AFL Victoria. We have embraced connections with it as it develops many life skills as well as the confidence and ability of umpiring AFL games. Every successful participant is now able to umpire many matches within the regions, a superb achievement. We will put them to the test very soon, as many will be umpiring the Auskick grid games for a couple of the AFL Rounds at the MCG. We wish them luck in their future umpiring ventures!

Clare Rayner
PE Leader
Year 10 Vet Sport and Recreation Surf Camp

On the 23 April, the Year 10 VET Sport and Recreation class headed off to Phillip Island Coastal Discovery Camp for an overnight camp to develop surfing skills. Whilst the sky was clear when we left Warrandyte things were definitely not the same when we arrived at Phillip Island with the heavens opening up just as we arrived. Students eagerly found their rooms before having a quick tour of the campsite, having lunch and then getting ready for their first activity rotations. Luckily the rain settled to just a drizzle and all students suited up into wetsuits. Whilst one group developed their surfing skills the other group developed their knowledge of beach safety, completed a beach risk analysis and developed their knowledge of rips before braving the cold conditions learning about and performing different rescue techniques. After a quick hot drink and a warm up students then swapped groups. Whilst the waves were a little dumpy all students persisted in the cold and had great success with most students being able to stand up by the end of the first day. The evening was spent going tenpin bowling, playing table tennis, billiards and racing each other on arcade car racing games before returning to camp and watching movies and chatting.

Everyone awoke (after limited sleep) to blue skies and eager to further develop their skills with another surfing lesson. This was until they realised that their bathers and wetsuits were still wet from the previous day. After much laughter and cursing all students braved the cold wetsuits and suited up. The weather produced some good size waves which enabled all students to develop their surfing skills and also produced some great ‘wipe outs’. Once again success was achieved by all students with everyone being able to stand by the end of the session.

Over the two days there were some great laughs, friendship strengthened and great times had by all. The students who attended should be congratulated on their efforts. It was definitely a camp that all will remember. The only downside to the camp as quoted by many of the students was ‘it was simply not long enough’. I look forward to continuing to work with the Vet Sport and Recreation students and seeing them challenge themselves at our next camp (3 days bushwalking).

Katie Cook
PE Department
Congratulations Chelsea Angelo

Warrandyte High School student, Chelsea Angelo of Year 12 was recently featured in the magazine Victorian State Racer.

Chelsea grew up racing motorbikes and go-carts and is now driving a Duratec powered Mygale making her debut at Round 3 of last year’s VSACs. In mid 2012 she attended a CAMS Scholarship Camp through the AIS.

Warrandyte High School is very proud of you Chelsea!

Congratulations Alex Geary

Alex Geary competed in the 2013 Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships at Kirra Beach Queensland last week. Alex qualified as a junior lifesaver for the Anglesea Life Saving Club just this summer and took up surf lifesaving competition in the Under 15 category although still only a 13yo.

Her team achieved a bronze medal in the Under 15, 5 Person Resuscitation & Rescue (R&R) event which was an outstanding result considering this was their first National competition and they were competing in an older age group.

This bronze medal caps off a great season where Alex also won a Gold medal with her team in the Under 15 R&R event at the 2013 Victorian Senior State Championships which was also followed up with a Gold medal in the Under 14 2 person R&R event at the 2013 Victorian Nipper State Titles. Well done Alex!

Canteen News

Daily specials are as follows – ordering would be appreciated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specials @ $5.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilli Chicken Sub or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Falafel Wrap</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meatball Sub</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Burger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spaghetti Bolognaise</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Butter Chicken &amp; Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Dog Cheese &amp; Sauce</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicken Schnitzel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fish and Wedges</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souvlaki – Chicken or</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lamb</td>
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</table>
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 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 7 May</td>
<td>Athletic Sports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 May</td>
<td>Paula Huntly</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Thursday 9 May</td>
<td>Jenny Davies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 10 May</td>
<td>Karen Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13 May</td>
<td>Justine Puls-Welsh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14 May</td>
<td>Tracy Cooper</td>
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</tbody>
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Cheryl Hart
Canteen Leader

Public Notices

FREE BMX ‘COME AND TRY’ DAY

A free session for anyone interested in learning about BMX racing.

Fully qualified instructors will be present.

Catering for all ages, boys and girls.

WHEN: Saturday May 4, 9-11 am (8:45 registration)
WHERE: Park Orchards BMX Club, Stintons Reserve Park Orchards.

MORE INFORMATION/WHAT TO BRING: [www.popbmx.com.au](http://www.popbmx.com.au) or phone: 0418555365