Welcome to 2017

I would like to welcome back all the families returning to Warrandyte High School in 2017 and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the families joining us for the first time this year. On Wednesday 1 February, the first day for Year 7 students, I had the opportunity to speak with a number of Year 7 parents, some of whom were new to our school. It was lovely to share in such a special occasion with these new parents and I look forward to further opportunities to meet with parents and members of our community throughout the year.

I would also like to welcome Mr Brendan Rule (PE/VET Sport & Recreation), Ms Leanne Zammit (Science), Melissa Jurgens (Science Technician) who are joining us this year, and welcome back Ms Fiona Dzur who has returned from leave. Mr Simon Andrews, Mr James Croker, Mrs Michelle Kennedy, Ms Jessica Fitzsimmons and Ms Grace Johnstone have taken up positions in other schools or are pursuing other career paths.

We wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.

VCE results 2016

I am very pleased to be able to congratulate the Year 12 class of 2016 on the excellent results they achieved. The final results were the culmination of much effort and commitment across a number of years, and reflect the contribution of staff and parents into the learning of the students. In particular, congratulations to Zaid Al Algawi, the 2016 Dux who achieved an ATAR score of 96.4. Also congratulations to the following students who achieved study scores of 40 or better, placing them in the top 8% of all students in that study.

Zaid Al Algawi (Business Management, English, Legal Studies), Annalise de Zwart (Biology, Physical Education), Stephanie Mortlock (Biology, Studio Arts), Sabrina Raso (Product Design and Technology), Christopher Thompson (Product Design and Technology), Brigette Nassour (Health and Human Development), Gizelle Arykova (Russian), Ben Willis (Further Mathematics), Nicholas Wade (Further Mathematics), Brett Watkinson (Further Mathematics), April Synhur (Physics), Sarah Nassour (Psychology), Andrea Fidock (VET Sport and Recreation)

Child Safe

Last year all schools were required to demonstrate that they are compliant with the new Child Safe legislation. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian early childhood services and schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

For further details please see: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx

As part of our compliance expectations, we must ensure that all parents/guardians receive a copy of the document “Protecting Children from Abuse: For Parents and Carers.” This document can be accessed by double clicking on the icon below:

ChildSafeStandard5_ParentsProtectingDo

School Council Elections 2017—Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

• A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education & Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

• A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

• An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

• standing for election as a member of the school council

• encouraging another person to stand for election.
Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
In this issue of Gang Gang I have included a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations.

All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
• ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
• consider standing for election to council this year
• be sure to vote in the elections.

Please contact me if you wish further information.

Warrandyte High School Awards Evening - 2016
Throughout each school year we are privileged to witness many outstanding achievements by our students in the pursuit of academic and artistic excellence, citizenship and sport. The Warrandyte High School Awards Evening held in December each year provides an opportunity for us to celebrate and give recognition to our students who have excelled throughout the year and it is also an occasion on which we can acknowledge and give thanks to those students who have taken on the responsibility of being our student leaders for the following year.

A full list of recipients is included below.

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Welcome to the New Year….

Things are looking good in the library for 2017 with lots of plans to improve our services and support for both students and teachers. As usual we have lots of events planned for the year, new books coming in weekly and the Makerspace is up and running for lunchtime use.

Year 7 students and those of you who are new to the school may not know but in the library we have a small Makerspace room, complete with 3D printer, a range of craft materials, Lego and colouring pages which you can access at lunchtimes. All you need to do is book in at the front desk.

Don’t forget that if you want new books to be ordered into the library we have a Request form, also located at the front desk, and we will do our best to acquire the book for you.

Our Libguides website located here... http://warrandytehigh.libguides.com/home has lots of resources and reading resources… so make sure you keep this address as one of your favourites.

Our digital noticeboard is up and running and if you have any photographs or notices you would like to share with the school please drop by and let me know.

All our teachers are reporting a great start to their classes and are enthusiastically preparing fabulous lessons. Keep an eye on this space for updates from the Library, English, Humanities, LOTE and ICT departments.

Judy Steel
Teacher Librarian / PLTT Leader
English, Humanities, LOTE and ICT

Student accident insurance/ Ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school

Parents/Guardians are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students.

Parents and guardians of students who do not have student accident insurance/ ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance / transport and any other transport costs.

Parents/Guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers.

Private property brought to school by students is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

Jill Treeby
Business Manager

I would also like to welcome our school community to 2017! Our students have certainly settled in very well! This includes all of our returning students, our many new Year 7 students, our new International Students and our many new students who have joined us in all other year levels.

Correct, our International Student Program continues to expand. Currently we are pleased to welcome 25 international students! By mid-year, we expect to have around 35 international students!

Uniform

Overtly we are exceedingly pleased with the way 2017 has commenced on the uniform front. A gentle reminder is always a good thing, and certainly for the benefit of the new members of our school community, I will ever so briefly touch on a few key points:

White the Shirts for boys

Indeed only white shirts for boys are the go! The polo top is folklore now, a thing of the past!

Facial piercings

Our uniform policy states that “Students are not to wear items of costume jewellery. A maximum of three small sleepers or studs (per ear) can be worn for pierced ears. Studs or sleepers are not permitted to be worn in any other visible part of the body including nose, eyebrows, tongue or cheek.”

Coloured Hair and Fingernails

“Extremes in terms of hairstyles, hair colour and facial hair must be avoided at all times.” Nail polish will only be permitted if it is a clear, non-coloured variety.

Inappropriate footwear

Students must wear black polishable lace ups or T-bars. Skate shoes and black runners are not permitted.

Fire Drill

On Friday February 5 we had a Bush Fire Drill. The Year 7s and a Year 8 class also participated in a relocation to our Shelter-In place which is the A Block. All went smoothly. As we are in bushfire season we indeed seized this early opportunity to ensure all of our students become familiar with our emergency management plan, especially our new students and new staff.

School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children’s services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and via the Compass Parent Portal. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00pm the day before the potential closure.

Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. This will be done via a notice on the Compass Parent Portal Newsfeed, an email to families and through the information message on our phone system.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

• No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
• School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
• Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

• Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
• Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
• Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by checking the Compass Parent Portal regularly. If you do not know your Compass log in please contact the General Office on 9844 2749 who will be able to assist you with this.
• Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
• Talk to your child about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website.

Alexander

The 2016 School magazine, ALEXANDER, is still available. It is a wonderful collection of all the people, events, places and faces of the 2016 school year. If you have not yet picked up your copy from the General Office please do so or you may purchase a copy for $26, from the General Office.

Continued next page
School Photos

School Photo day is Tuesday 14 February. This is always an exciting day. However, it is also very hectic with an extremely tight timeline to complete all the photos. Parents can help immeasurably on this day by ensuring that their children are in correct uniform. Please note that any student unwilling to wear their uniform in the correct manner will not be permitted to take part in the photo day. A gentle reminder: correct uniform includes our coloured hair and facial piercings policy.

There are three methods available to order photo packs:

1. Place your order online prior to photo day using the unique web log-on code printed on your prepayment order form. Tick ‘order on line’ box at top of order form and have your child hand it to our photographer on photo day.

2. You can complete the prepayment order form. Include your cash, cheque or credit card payment in the envelope and have your child hand it to our photographer on photo day.

3. You can choose to wait five working days to go online to VIEW the images and CREATE a package to suit. (You have 14 days to do this) Please tick the box at top of order form to say “I will order on-line” and have your child hand form to the photographer on photo day.

If you do not wish to purchase photos, please tick the box printed at top of order form to say “I am not buying photos today” and have your child hand the envelope to the photographer on photo day.

All queries should be directed to the photos@schoolphoto.com.au or go to website at www.schoolphoto.com.au

The schedule for the day this year is Year 7 starting at 9am, Year 12 approximately starting 9:30am, Year 11 approximately starting 9:50am, Year 10 approximately starting 10:10am, Year 9 approximately starting 10:35am am and Year 8 approximately starting 11:30am.

Peer Support Leadership Training Day

Recently a wonderful collection of Year 10 students participated in a full day of Peer Support Leadership training. Our special guest star did a fantastic job at teaching a plethora of essential leadership skills. As part of our pastoral care program focusing on our Year 7 students, these wonderful Year 10 students of ours will be playing a vital role! Indeed some of these Year 10 students will have their lockers in the Year 7 locker bay, one of many initiatives aimed at harnessing this pastoral care element which we value highly.

Hello Everyone

I have some very exciting news.

On January 9 Jill returned me to Guide Dogs Victoria to enter the assessment phase. The morning was one of celebration and sadness. There were many guide dog puppies being returned so the room was full of Puppy Raisers and puppies. I was on my best behaviour, impressing Jill no end.

A morning tea was provided whilst the Trainers spoke telling all the Puppy Raisers what the next two weeks would entail. Two vision impaired ladies also spoke. They told us how they had lost their vision and how moving from the white cane to a guide dog had changed their world. I was behaving very well sitting under Jill’s chair until I spied one of the guide dogs at the front. This was too much for me so I barked at him. This set off the other puppies which meant chaos for a minute or so. I calmed down but was most impressed that the Guide Dog had not moved or reacted. I guess that is was I am meant to do.

Afterwards I was taken into the kennels leaving Jill. During the next week I was taken out by my Trainer and allowed to show off all that I had learnt. I must have impressed him with my personality, walking, and all of the other skills I had. My report was excellent with top marks and comments. The assessment was complete and I have been accepted into the Guide Dog program.

I am only back at school until Friday Feb 17 because my Trainer injured himself and they had to billet his dogs. Jill and Quinn were pretty stoked to see me back so I am having a great time. Please come and see me before I go again. Maybe you will see me one day guiding my owner.

Thank you for the many visits and plays throughout the year. I have learnt so much from being at Warrandyte High.

Love Nerida.

Girls Take Over

Year 10 students, Meg Hambleton and Greta Wallace were fortunate to attend an exciting seminar on Tuesday, Feb 7th.

The Department of Education working with Facebook and Instagram, hosted a #girltakeover safety seminar on Safer Internet Day at Facebook’s new Melbourne offices in Docklands.

The facilities were amazing with lots of fun things to encourage creativity and innovation. Girls from 10 schools worked together with the focus of the session being Safety in the age of disappearing media. Increasingly across social platforms — whether it’s Snapchat or new product features on Facebook and Instagram — there is the option to share content that disappears. This may give rise to a false sense of security and safety. The girls considered the issues and possible messages and policy changes that would be required to support all students to be safe and responsible users in such online spaces.

Both Meg and Greta agreed it was a fantastic day, with great food, engaging facilitators and inspiring surroundings. They hope to share their findings with Warrandyte students later in the year.

Claire Bloom
ICT Leader
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Warrandyte
Sunday
5th March 2017

New for 2017 - Make a team and raise money for SOPCK

Events 2017
15km
10km
5km
2.2km
U8 Kids Run
Gift - 100m

Raising money for: STOP ONE PUNCH CAN KILL

Register at: WarrandyteSports.com.au