



In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost **a week every term** - that's **four weeks** of school per year.



## EVERY DAY COUNTS

Secondary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – When students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:  
[www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)



### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### School Council Student and DEECD Representatives

Following the close of nominations, congratulations to Natasa Sojic and Jacob Mildren on being elected as Student Representatives to the School Council. Jim Morris and Scott Nugent were elected as DEECD staff representatives. The next Council meeting is scheduled for next Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Athletics Carnival

**When:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 9:00am start to 2:30pm

**Where:** Wodonga Athletics Track, Pearce St Wodonga (Altered traffic conditions, please drop off at Pearce Street entrance to racetrack, as advised by Wodonga Council).

**What:** Track and Field events, Relays, Fashions on the Field, House Team Tug of War, plus a new mystery novelty event.

**Who:** This is a whole school event, roles will be marked.

**Transport:** Students are asked to meet at the track, however a shuttle bus will run from the school to the track at 8:45am and again at the end of the day.

Students will be dismissed from the athletics track to go directly home at the conclusion of the carnival, however the shuttle bus will run back to school at about 2:30pm where bus travellers and other students who cannot go directly home. They will be supervised in room 306 until the end of the day. Any alternative arrangements approved by parents should be outlined in a signed note.

**Please Bring:** Sun protection, water bottle, positive attitude and lunch or money for lunch (canteen will be open at the athletics complex).

*Remember, it's not the winning that's important, but the taking part.*

I'm looking forward to a great day of participation, encouragement and competition in a range of events that cater for everyone.

#### Parent Teacher Interviews

Thank you to all who attended last Thursday night. The evening was well attended by both parents/guardian and students. Special thanks to the Hospitality staff for refreshments. The feedback received following the evening has been very positive. Any families who wish to provide feedback please email the College email: [seniorcollege@wssc.vic.edu.au](mailto:seniorcollege@wssc.vic.edu.au).

#### Refurbishment of the Performing Arts Centre (PAC)

Over the next few weeks the PAC will have extensive work carried out as the wooden stage area will be resealed, all existing seats and carpet removed. The lights have already been replaced. New carpet and seats will be installed before the end of March.

#### Social Media Responsibilities

The school community are to be reminded about the appropriate use of social media. Where there is a reasonable belief that illegal activity may have occurred, the Principal may report the suspected activity to the police. Disrespectful, harassing, threatening or bullying behaviour may be considered a criminal offence under State and/or Federal law. Where the behaviour does not constitute illegal activity but does constitute cyber bullying, the principal may consult with the relevant areas of the Department of Education and early Childhood Development regarding appropriate action.

#### Cultural Diversity Week

Cultural Diversity Week runs from 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The week provides an opportunity for all Victorians to celebrate their cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. We have students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and they are helping us to recognize this special week with displays around the school and in the Coles supermarket windows.

#### Harmony Day

This day forms part of Cultural Diversity Week. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.



### ISSUE NO: 6

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>  
March 2014

### CALENDAR

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> March**  
Student Immunisations

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> March - Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
Hospitality Tour to China

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
College Athletics Carnival

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March - Fri 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
Wilson's Promontory  
Bushwalk

### STUDENT IMMUNISATIONS

The first round of the school immunisation program is being conducted at this school for all Year 10 students on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**. Vaccination cards have been distributed to students. Please return the completed card to the office as soon as possible. If you do not want your child immunised with one or all vaccines your child is eligible for, you must complete the **NO** section of the relevant consent card, remembering to write your child's name on the card. If your child has already been vaccinated elsewhere and you have not already done so, please notify Council's immunisation service.

### TERM DATES

**Term 1 - 2014**  
29<sup>th</sup> January - 4<sup>th</sup> April

**Term 2**  
22<sup>nd</sup> April - 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 3**  
14<sup>th</sup> July - 19<sup>th</sup> September

**Term 4**  
6<sup>th</sup> October - 19<sup>th</sup> December

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

## SPORT REPORT

### Upper Hume Swimming Carnival 2014

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March the Upper Hume Swimming Carnival was held at WAVES in Wodonga. WSSC was represented strongly by 20 students competing in nearly 40 individual events and relays throughout the day.

The following students qualified for individual events at the Hume level competition on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March:  
 Ethen Thomas (20yr 50m breaststroke and 20yr 50m butterfly)  
 Kristen Wright (20yr 50m freestyle, 20yr 50m butterfly and 20yr 100m freestyle)



Lachlan Boye (20yr 50m MD breaststroke and 20yr 50m MD backstroke)

Chris Anderson (16yr 50m freestyle)

Tim Smith (17yr 50m freestyle, 20yr 200m I.M. and 17yr 50m butterfly)

Josh Ryan (16yr 50m backstroke)

Jessica Don (17yr 50m backstroke)

The College had a great success with their relay teams, with the 16yr male medley achieving 1<sup>st</sup> place, and the 20yr male medley, 20yr male freestyle and the 20yr female freestyle all scoring an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> against some very strong competition.

There were also some very close finishes involving our students; Tim Smith outswam Cameron Thomson of Cathedral College to come 1<sup>st</sup> in the 17yr 50m backstroke with only .49 of a second separating them, well done Tim. The 20yr female freestyle covered impressive ground in their final 50m, to only narrowly miss out on 1<sup>st</sup> place by .22 of a second, another very impressive effort.

A special congratulations goes to Tim Smith of Year 11, who was awarded the 17yr Age Champion, an outstanding achievement and a well-deserved title.

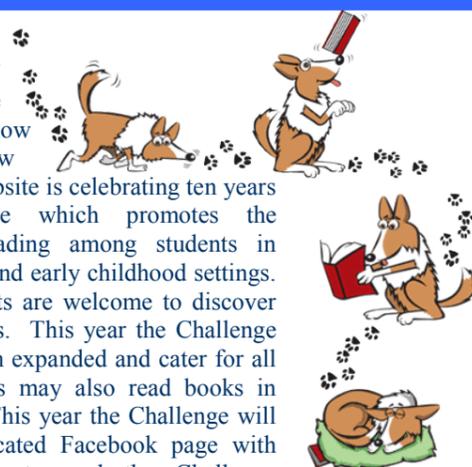


WSSC commends all students who took part on the day and wishes those proceeding to the next level the very best of luck.

**Derek Bowey**  
Sport Coordinator

## 2014 VICTORIAN PREMIERS' READING CHALLENGE

The tenth annual Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge (the Challenge) is now open. The 2014 new look Challenge website is celebrating ten years of the Challenge which promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and early childhood settings. Once again students are welcome to discover the magic of books. This year the Challenge booklists have been expanded and cater for all interests. Students may also read books in other languages. This year the Challenge will soon have a dedicated Facebook page with resources for parents, and the Challenge website will be updated with weekly videos to encourage students to stay motivated and read more throughout the Challenge. Any students that are interested please see Tracey in the Library as soon as possible.



## Join our Easter Family Night

FREE



**Time: 6pm to 8pm**  
**Date: Thursday 10th April 2014**

### Activities:

Wodonga Easter Family Night. There will be face painting, crafts, light refreshments, jumping castle, fairy floss, games & giveaways. Plus the Border Rhythmic Gymnastics Will be performing and the Easter Bunny will be making a guest appearance. Bookings are essential for catering on 60438900.

Bookings essential – for more information or to book speak to a team member in-store.



## Fundraising Chinese Banquet

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March the students of Hospitality Food and Beverage and Commercial Cookery hosted the Chinese Study Tour Fundraiser. The night was a success serving 76 people and raising \$1,200. A three-course Traditional Chinese meal was served consisting of Dim Sims/Spring Rolls for entrée, Fried Rice, Lemon Chicken, Mongolian Beef, Sweet and Sour Pork for main, and for dessert Deep-Fried Ice Cream and Banana Fritters.

Students involved gained valuable experience in waiting and cooking in a professional kitchen. Good luck to the students who are going to China later this week. We would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting our fundraiser.



## PERSONAL PROPERTY

### Personal Items Brought to School at Owner's Risk

Personal property is often brought to school by students and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to such property.

Students should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

## COLLEGE FEES

It would be appreciated that College fees are paid prior to the end of Term.

Should you need to make a payment arrangement please contact the College office on 0260437500. The College office is open Monday to Friday from 8:15am-4:30pm.

The Office will also be open during School Holidays from 9.00am - 4.00pm.

**John McVean**  
Business Manager

## CAREER NEWS

### INTERESTED IN TRADES ?

Pre-apprenticeship training is a pathway to an apprenticeship. The Victoria University Trades College runs a tour of their facilities every Wednesday at their Sunshine Campus. They will have experts from their trade programs available to discuss how to secure a trade career. Register your interest [www.vu.edu.au/trades-tour](http://www.vu.edu.au/trades-tour)



### WATCH THIS SPACE

Victoria University will soon be announcing details of an exciting work experience program they will be running for 10 lucky students in Years 10 and 11. Official details will be released in April!

### INTERESTED IN NURSING ?

You can become an enrolled nurse through studying a vocational qualification and a registered nurse through studying at university. The Australian College of Nursing is hosting a Nursing and Health Expo on April 12<sup>th</sup> at The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre between 9am – 1pm. You will be able to

The my- **ACN NURSING & HEALTH EXPOS 2014**

- VIC Saturday 12 April
- QLD Saturday 3 May
- NSW Saturday 10 May
- WA Friday 23 May

### HOW ABOUT EMERGING JOBS ?



future website gives an overview of 6 emerging occupations, including data miner and futurist, <http://www.myfuture.edu.au/explore%20careers/occupation%20showcase/emerging%20occupations.aspx>

**Tamara Mason**  
Career & Post School Options

Full Report on the Website

## EASTER RAFFLE



\$1 per ticket 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes

Drawn on Monday 24th March

Tickets on sale in the library

Proceeds will be given to Uniting Care: Support for the homeless.