



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



Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Athletics Carnival

When: Tuesday 25th 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.

VET Hospitality China Study Tour

On Thursday 20 March our students leave for a tour of China. A highlight will be a Master Class program with students from a Vocational High school in Weihai. We know this will be a very successful tour and wish Steve Garro, Lyn Zhang and students a safe and enjoyable trip.

International Students

As part of our obligations under the International Student Program, Andrew Box and I are heading to Waihei in China to discuss how our international students are going with their parents on Saturday. We will be meeting up with our students in Weihai as we continue to build strong bonds between our two communities. I will also be travelling to Hanoi to launch the trial of our Year 10 on line LMS program with students in the Trung Vuong Secondary school.

Pam Oakes will be Acting Principal in my absence for the nine days I am away from school.

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.

First Day Term 2 - Professional Learning Day

The first day of Term 2 will be a Professional Learning day. Therefore students will start term two on Wednesday 23rd April, due to Monday 21st April being Easter Monday Public Holiday.

Vern Hilditch
Principal

ISSUE NO: 7

Wednesday 19th
March 2014

CALENDAR

Thurs 20th March - Thurs
3rd March

Hospitality Tour to China

Tues 25th March
College Athletics Carnival

Tues 25th March - Fri 28th
March

Wilson's Promontory
Bushwalk

YEAR LEVEL COORDINATORS

Year 10 Coordinators

Tim Lamb
Michelle Heintze
Tim Bridgeman

Year 11 Coordinators

Chris North
Simon Webb

Year 12 Coordinators

Matt Moylan
Paul McMullen

TERM DATES

Term 1 - 2014

29th January - 4th April

Term 2

22nd April - 27th June

Term 3

14th July - 19th September

Term 4

6th October - 19th December

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CAMP

Student leadership is a fundamental part of any school, as it allows for student voice, extra opportunities and plenty of good fun for all involved! This is exactly what was recognized and enjoyed at the recent overnight retreat in Kergunyah, undertaken by the current SLC. The aim of the camp was for team development and to create a strategic plan for the year. As the first major project for the year, members of the SLC organised all aspects of this camp, including dates, transport, location, food, equipment and lots of paperwork. All this planning came to be good learning experience for everyone involved, a debriefing at the camp indicating what was done well and what could have been improved. Anthony Nicholson, a youth services officer, completely organized our itinerary and activities for the camp, which was greatly appreciated by all.

Other activities at this camp included some interesting team-building activities involving everyone getting pretty close to each-other. We also had built rafts and subsequently raced them in the river, which was definitely a lot of fun! We had Wodonga Councilor Eric Kerr come speak to us about his experiences, both in the SLC at Wodonga Senior and in the Wodonga Council. Overall this camp was definitely a success, leading to a more cohesive SLC team with plenty of ideas for the future. Thank you very much to Sarah Kilner and Brooke Musgrave for accompanying us, to Anthony Nicholson for organising the activities and School Council for letting it go ahead. This year should be an exciting year for the SLC indeed!



Sarah Kilner
SLC Coordinator

IT'S A LIFE SAVER

NO-ONE expects anything to go wrong at school but if it does then Wodonga Senior Secondary College will be prepared, thanks to a little help from their friends.

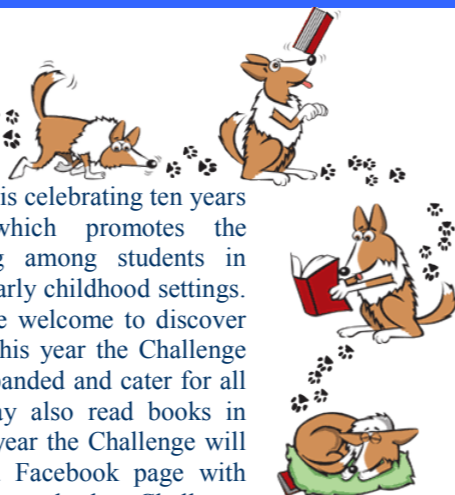
Last week the school took possession of a new heart defibrillator thanks to money donated by the Lavington Branch of the Bendigo Bank and the school's own funding and the Defib Your Club, For Life! organisation.

Bank Manager Michelle Ross said they had been looking for community projects to become involved in and hearing that the school had been doing some renovations, decided to contact them. "It is a life-saving piece equipment to have on-hand," she said. "Hopefully they will never have to use it but if they do then it will be there."



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.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP NEWS

Pancake Day

On Wednesday 5th March a number of students volunteered their time to run a Pancake Day to help raise funds for Uniting Care. This is an organisation that assists the homeless. With the help of Shaynae Ralph, Brooke Murray, Eliza Russell, Sara Enander, Liam McKay, Courtney Hillier, Bailey Reid, Sebastian McKenzie and Steven McLeod serving divine pancakes we were able to raise \$217. Overall it was a very successful day and we are privileged to be able to partake in this event. With high hopes we wish that Pancake Day will become a yearly tradition in March at Wodonga Senior Secondary College.



International Women's Day - Wodonga Primary School

On Monday the 17th March College Leaders - Natasa Sojic and Eliza Russell attended Wodonga Primary School's Monday Assembly to present a speech on International Women's Day. Natasa and Eliza spoke to the students about their individual journeys through Wodonga Education, their personal passions and how they see successful women in our society. The 760 students at Wodonga Primary School, their teachers and parents were very grateful for the student's presentation. Eliza and Natasa are pictured here with the students who completed the Maypole Dance and with Mrs Martin during the assembly.



Sarah Kilner
SLC Coordinator

CAREER NEWS

TUCKWELL SCHOLARSHIP AT ANU

Australia National University is again offering the 'Tuckwell Scholarships' for community minded students who are high achievers. 25 successful recipients will be entitled to \$20 900 per year for the length of their degree. Applications for 2015 study are now open and close **Friday 21st March 2014**. For information on eligibility and the application process, go to <http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au/>

EVENT MANAGEMENT AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Did you know that students undertake a minimum of 150 hours work experience as part of this highly sought after degree? "The tourism and events industry is one of Australia's largest employers with the demand for conference and event organisers expected to grow strongly in the next five years.

Graduates can enjoy a diverse career working with festivals, conferences, exhibitions, and community and sporting events. Past graduates have found work overseas in places such as Doha, London and Singapore", <http://www.vu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-business-event-management-bbus-bspevm>



GRAPHIC DESIGN PORTFOLIO PREPARATION PROGRAM

RMIT are running a three day program where you will be introduced to practical project-based graphic design in an energetic studio environment. The content focuses on idea generation, concept development and the creation of text and image projects for communication design. The program will run from 22nd April. http://www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/course_page.php?course=S320082

PASSIONATE ABOUT SCIENCE ?

RMIT are running the next Science in the City Lab Tour on Monday 7th April between 11.00am – 1.30pm. You will be able to

- View their state-of-the-art learning laboratories
- See first-hand the broad range of sophisticated equipment and facilities and
- Discover what science at RMIT is all about.

Lunch is provided. Please register at: www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover

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.