



SENIOR NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

By now you would have received the most important word about how the school year has begun – the informal reports given by your son or daughter. We hope those reports are positive. We also hope that you feel the school year has begun well. We are addressing a few “settling in” issues that occur at this time of the year in every school.

Overall we believe that classes began very smoothly. The Year 10 students have adjusted easily to their new surroundings and once again demonstrates the importance of a rigorous Head Start program. A critical part of the Year 12 program is the information and opportunities presented in the Graduate Program (GP) classes. It is important for students to attend as they will be given a very clear insight on how to get the very best out of their last year of secondary school and how to prepare themselves now for whatever pathway they chose in 2016.

I would like to warmly welcome new and returning(r) staff members:

Pam Oakes (r) Assist Principal

Alex Nelson (r) – English

Sarah Maybury (r) – VCAL Coordinator

Erin Dixon – Art

Terri Gregotski – Maths/Science

Jessi Muston – Art

Michelle Pullin – Maths / Science

Sneha Thomas – Maths/Science

Jessica Wright – English/Health

Dale Stevens – VET Timber Studies

David Henricus –English/ Humanities

Keely McLaren – Sports Trainee

Michael Shimmin – Grounds Trainee

Toby Richards – IT Trainee

We would appreciate parent support in stressing to their children the importance of regular attendance and participation in class activities. We are concentrating on making sure students are in class. We will be contacting parents if students are not attending or missing classes.

I am often asked by parents:

How can I as a parent help my child do well at school?

Behind the children who do their best at school, work happily at their studies and are involved in school activities, are supported by parents who understand the importance of the home-school partnership. Older students may not seem as keen as younger children to see their parents at school, but they still need your support and help if they are to make the most of their abilities and do well at school.

You can help to make your child's school experience more productive if you:

- PARTICIPATE** ... on College Council or associated sub committees, or if meetings are not your thing, school trips, sports days and events - or support those who are able to. Vote for your representatives thoughtfully. Log onto the schools web site www.wssc.vic.edu.au and view current newsletters and information about what is happening at the College. Ask to see any notices from school and show your child you think school is an important part of family life
- ATTEND** ... parent, student teacher interview days and evenings and school events. Make a note of questions you want to ask at meetings and make sure they are answered - hand them to the chairperson or principal in writing if you are too nervous to speak in front of a large gathering. Test what educational speakers have to say against the experiences you and your child have had.
- REALISE**... that even though we are continuously improving, the perfect school for everyone probably does not exist. Most children can survive the occasional personality clash with a teacher or poor programme and this is when your support is most needed. Meet your child's principal, assistant principals or teachers so that if problems do arise, you are not appearing at the school only when things go wrong.

Continued on Page 2

ISSUE NO: 1

Monday^{2nd}
February 2015

CALENDAR

Thursday 29th January 2015

First Day of Term 1 for all Students

Thursday 12th February
School Photographs

Thursday 19th February
House Swimming Sports

Monday 9th March
Labour Day

TERM DATES

Term 1 - 2015

29th January - 27th March

Term 2

13th April—26th June

Term 3

13th July—18th September

Term 4 -

5th October - 18th December

YEAR LEVEL

Year 10 Coordinators

Tim Lamb
Brydie Hind
Tim Bridgeman

Year 11 Coordinators

Chris North
Simon Webb

Year 12 Coordinators

Matt Moylan
Paul McMullen

RINCIPAL'S REPORT CONTINUED

- 4 **CO-OPERATE** ... with the school, teachers, other parents. Complain if you need to but try to avoid blaming every difficulty on the school. Sometimes children need to mature, work harder, get along better with others, learn to think for themselves, take responsibility for their own actions. The school should be providing challenges to extend your child. Sometimes your child may be taken outside their comfort zone.
- 5 **TRUST** ... your own feelings about your child. If you are sure your child needs extra attention, help or stimulation, talk to your child's GP Team Teacher or Year Level Coordinator or one of the principals. You are your child's best advocate and schools will listen to your concerns and try to put matters right.
- 6 **ACCEPT** ... that your child may not be academically superior if all the evidence points that way but that many average students go on to success and happiness. Do all you can to ensure that your child is making the most of the opportunities offered by the school.
- 7 **SUPPORT** ... the school by making sure your child attends regularly and punctually, has the right uniform and equipment, obeys school rules, supports the College Code of Conduct, pays on time for trips and services. Criticising teachers undermines their effectiveness and prevents children from taking responsibility for their learning and behaviour.

We strongly believe that all students benefit and are more successful when there is effective and regular three-way communication between parents, teachers and students.

If you have any concerns about any aspects of your child's schooling, feel free to contact the teacher concerned, your child's graduate program teacher, the year level coordinator or one of the Principals. We welcome your interest.

Wodonga City Council Young Citizen Of The Year

We congratulate Natasa on being recognised as Wodonga City councils Young Citizen Of The Year. Natasa is a remarkable young leader with a strong passion for environmental awareness. She is an active participant and organiser of Clean Up Australia Day and National Tree Day. She has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to these causes through Wodonga Councils 2013 Red Carpet Youth Awards as the eco-warrior award winner and youth Ambassador Award finalist, as well as receiving a National Volunteer Award for environmental work.

Natasa was also a strong influence in having her school, Wodonga Senior Secondary College, nominated for a Victoria Landcare Award.

Natasa was the Wodonga Senior Secondary school captain for 2014 and in 2013, was invited to participate in the Victoria Youth Parliament program to discuss vehicle reforms. She has been a public speaker for the Wodonga Lions Club, participant of the OzGREEN Youth Leading the World Congress and recipient of the Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership Teamwork Award. Natasa was also involved in the Foundation for Young Australians Change It Up program where she was successful in receiving \$1000 to implement an idea of providing a tree for every household in Wodonga.



WSSC School Council Nominations

To become involved in your College, nominations are now being taken for the 2015 Wodonga Senior Secondary College School Council. For more information and to get a nomination form please contact our Business Manager, John McVean.

Email: SeniorCollege@wssc.vic.edu.au or call the college on 60437500



Parent Portal

In our efforts to provide better access and keep parents informed we have introduced a Parents Portal which can be accessed from our website www.wssc.vic.edu.au. By clicking on the **Parent Portal** and using the username and password posted to you at the end of last year, you will be able to access your child's absences, timetable, subjects, teachers email, coordinators email, book lists and fee schedule for 2015.

If you have forgotten your username and password contact the office on 6043 7500. New passwords are not given out over the phone and must be SMS to the family Mobile number listed in the administration software. If these details are incorrect you must visit the school office to correct them.