



# SENIOR NEWS

Every Student, Every Opportunity, Success for All

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Review and Reflection

An important part of the learning process is to review and reflect on what you have done. Over the next two days we hope all students will reflect on what has been achieved over the last two weeks during Headstart. Interview/discussions have been scheduled for all Year 9 students transitioning into Year 10 and their parents over the next two days. We hope you will attend and discuss how the transition to Senior College has worked for you. In particular any questions you may have or changes you might want to make to your 2016 program.

Students currently in Years 10 and 11 received their Semester Reports and final GPA's on Friday. It is an important for them to read and reflect on the information contained in the reports. I would encourage all parents and students to attend this afternoons and tonight's Parent Student Teacher Interviews to discuss these reports with the appropriate teachers and use this time to help you prepare for next year.

### Asbestos Warning

As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Health and Safety Management Plan, new labelling will be installed at our school.

The labels remind people to contact school reception prior to undertaking any works at the school, to ensure they have up-to-date information from the school's asbestos register.

Asbestos - which was used extensively in building materials in the past but is now banned - is considered safe unless damaged or in poor condition.

The new labels form part of a comprehensive program to ensure Victorian government schools remain safe. Children's safety is our number one priority. That is why we are taking this extra step as a precaution.

### Social Media and Newsletter

Besides the College weekly newsletter, you can keep up to date with what events are happening or have occurred by liking the College Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WodongaSeniorSC/>

### Year 10 and 11 Awards Presentation

Last Friday the College held its annual year 10 and 11 student awards presentation. Students and their parents and guardians were invited to the College to celebrate their achievements from throughout the year. Following the formal presentation students and parents enjoyed a barbecue lunch. I would like to thank all of the staff for organising a successful event. Photos and video from the event can be found on the College Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WodongaSeniorSC/>



Vern Hilditch  
Principal

ISSUE NO: 42

Monday 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 2015

## CALENDAR

Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup>

Australia Day

Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup>

Teaching staff first day back

Thursday January 28<sup>th</sup>

First day of term 1 for students

## TERM DATES

Term 1

27<sup>th</sup> January - 24<sup>th</sup> March

Term 2

11<sup>th</sup> April—24<sup>th</sup> June

Term 3

11<sup>th</sup> July—16<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4

3<sup>rd</sup> October - 20<sup>th</sup> December

## YEAR LEVEL COORDINATORS

Year 10 Coordinators

Tim Lamb

Tim Bridgeman

Naomi Wattie

Year 11 Coordinators

Chris North

Brydie Hind

Year 12 Coordinators

Simon Webb

Sheri Parkhouse

### ANCHORING IN THE WIND PERFORMANCE

On Wednesday the 25 of November, first week of Head Start, a group of close to fifty students from Sociology classes Unit 1 - 4, attended the Highwater Theatre Companies production 'Anchoring the Wind... Because I Matter'. The authentic production centred upon and inspired by both The Border and Geelong's residential units for homeless youth and foster care system, confronted social stigma about the youth placed in these situations.

Drug addiction, mental illness, homelessness, and domestic violence were some of the key themes throughout the production, outlining the effects of these issues on youth and adults alike. The production not only broke down stereotypes but educated the audience about the political and social injustices surrounding homeless youth. The Sociology classes learnt much about the vulnerability of the youth placed in these situations, with reflection from the students based around the breakdown of prejudice within social stereotypes. The production has been a great learning tool for the classes, inspiring a change in social views and the want of a better future for all.

**Portia Stowers**  
*Year 11 Student*

### AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS CULTURE EXCURSION

The 26th of November, late spring, but on top of Mount Pilot it was cold and raining. Regardless, the sporadic weather didn't take away from the beautiful view below us. The introduction to our first unit in 3 & 4 Sociology; Australian Indigenous culture, couldn't of been more engaging and participative. The class walked around and up Mount Pilot, exploring many sites rich with Aboriginal history and culture. The day long bush walk was led by Hayden Heta a park ranger with Aboriginal and Maori heritage who spoke about the native plant life around us and how it was used thousands of years ago as tools, weapons, food and communication by the local Indigenous people and those who wandered through to trade. It also raised our awareness of how the recent bush fires had torn through the area, the plants Hayden pointing out the new immature growth after the fires. This gave us the opportunity to see firsthand the damage bush fires can have on our environment.

The many Aboriginal landmarks we were shown were contextualised by Hayden's information on the area, pointing out faded rock art and talking about what animals and images were portrayed as well as caves and how they were used thousands of years ago. Even though to get inside the caves was a narrow struggle, once inside there was a mutual agreement that the caves would have made an excellent protection from the elements for Aboriginal people years ago.

After the beautiful rock art and caves we travelled to Wonga Wetlands, exploring the area in small groups, looking at scarred trees and Aboriginal artefacts, even a group of about 20 Kangaroos joined our walk. Overall the day was filled with building relationships in the class, valuable information to kick start our unit and a rare, once in a lifetime opportunity to see rock art and other Aboriginal landmarks.

A huge thanks to Nicole Jasinowicz and Sue Bell for organising the day.



**Jordy Smith**  
*Year 12 Student*