From the Principal

I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful long weekend as the next three weeks at school are extremely busy. This week we have Unit 3 VCAA Exams and we wish them all the very best of luck – but remembering that we do create our own luck with hard work and study. Next week are school assessed exams for all year 9 – 12 students and they will be held at the hall to give our students a “real” exam experience. Studies have shown the more exposure to exams and exam conditions the better the performance of the student, therefore we are trying to support our students in every possible way to enhance their learning outcomes. The following week (the final week of school) is FLYING START and CELEBRATION FRIDAY! All our staff and students have been working tirelessly over the past semester and we are going to celebrate their achievements and successes.

THIS FRIDAY IS PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEWS – APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE BY TOMORROW AS STAFF NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE INTERVIEWS. PLEASE CONTACT THE FRONT OFFICE TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT. STUDENTS ARE ONLY REQUIRED AT SCHOOL FOR THEIR APPOINTMENT TIME ON FRIDAY.

Friday was an excellent opportunity for our staff to focus on their own learning and build our teaching capacity. We are trying to improve our knowledge, understanding and implementation of PERSONALISED LEARNING so as our students are getting the best possible education. We have been focusing on this area for the past semester in our professional development meetings each week and have set goals to ensure the learning is moving into the classroom.

Dana Kingi will be Irish Dancing in the International Dance section Saturday morning as part of the Mildura Eisteddfod. We wish her the best of luck.

Next week I am off to visit our students at Alpine School and am looking forward to seeing their growth over the past 9 weeks. Kelly Morrison and Jamie Russell will be holding down the fort and you can contact them for any reason whilst I am at Alpine.
For most young people, technology is part of their daily lives. It has been suggested that by the age of 21 the average person will have spent 15,000 hours in formal education, 20,000 hours in front of the TV, and 50,000 hours in front of a computer screen. Those young people with access to digital technologies are already using these resources to tailor their informal learning to their own interests, to access information of relevance to them, to communicate with people who can support their learning, and to share ideas and expertise within informal learning communities.

It is no surprise then that today's school students are downloading homework from online environments, listening to lessons via podcasts, communicating with other students all over the world through social networking sites, and even video conferencing with teachers and students from other schools.

And despite what many people think, it's not just high-school students who are making good use of the fast-moving technology; Australia's primary school students are now being equipped with the skills needed for the digital age and Primary School children at Werrimull P-12 School are no exception.

Outside school, students constantly interact with technologies such as iPods, iPads, mobile phones, the internet and social networking sites, so it is little wonder there's an expectation that these technologies will also support their learning in the classroom. **Our challenge as teachers is to use these digital literacies to personalise the learning for each and every student.**

A new project due to start at the beginning of Term 3 will link Grade 4-6 English students with students from other like schools; including Ouyen, Manangatang, Lalbert, Underbool and Tempy. The focus for the project is books and reading conversations (BARC). Students will have the opportunity to share knowledge via a video link and on the Ultranet. They will not only benefit from reaching a larger audience but also from the expertise provided by the staff at the other participating schools.

It also means that students can better communicate with their peers and access different perspectives on their reading by sharing audio and video files to discuss their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

If you have any questions regarding the BARC program contact me at school.

**NOTE:** Although ALL students are connected at school, teachers at Werrimull P-12 understand that not all students are connected in their home environment. In the case of an online task being assigned, students without online access will be given an alternative task or may be required to present their work in a different way.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. I hope you all had a good long weekend, as I did, and with the Cats having another win all appears well in the world; unless you are Spain or Greece or any of those countries in deep strife, or perhaps a Bulldogs supporter.

Today I am going to repeat myself. And so for those of you intrepid sleuths out there you may find that I have actually copied some things from a “Well Being” I did last year. But I always say “Why re-invent the wheel?”

To put it bluntly Werrimull P-12 School will not tolerate bullying and those that are found to be engaged in bullying will receive serious consequences.

I feel like somewhat of a broken record here but it needs to be said again as some instances of bullying have raised their ugly head of late. Bullying can take many forms from verbal abuse and social exclusion to straight up physical violence. It can also be at different intensities from low level, under current comments to open confrontations. Let me be clear. None of it is acceptable.

Our school and indeed our whole community need to work together in order to stamp out bullying. The AFL has very strict rules about verbal abuse, racial vilification and physical violence. Our entire community no longer finds bullying acceptable and it doesn’t matter where you live or what background you come from if you choose to live in contemporary Australia then you choose to live up to that very standard.

There are now instances of students taking bully’s to court and suing them for pain and suffering caused. This reflects what is happening in the workplace with strict workplace laws in effect regarding workplace bullying and serious consequences in place for those found guilty of engaging in it.

I even saw a story in the news recently about an Australian company advertising in newspapers that it would not hire people with a history of bullying in schools. And I definitely know that employers are looking at social media sites such as Facebook to gauge whether or not a person has the character they want before hiring them. So bullying can have long term, far reaching consequences for all concerned.

Parents I implore you. Have a conversation with your child. Set them standards to adhere to and reinforce your expectation that they will not be involved in bullying. I assure you the school will deal very harshly with students that bully. Detentions, suspensions, strikes and removal of privileges like camps and extra-curricular activities can all be used at the schools discretion if the school believes they are warranted.

I will not have bullying in my school and neither should the community. I will act on any reports of bullying that I receive. If I don’t know about it then I can’t do anything about it. Let’s work together to make Werrimull P-12 School “Bully Free”.

Students are also reminded that the anonymous “Wellbeing Box” is set up in the library and that students can contact me through that should they require it. I can also be contacted on my email at morrison.kelly.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Helpful Hint:

More information can be found at the following sites:


Please contact the school if you would like any assistance or more information on this.

Be Well

Kelly Morrison
Wellbeing Coordinator
### Dates to Remember

#### June
- Parent, Teacher Student interviews: 15th June
- 9-12 Exams: 18th June
- School Council: 20th June
- Students return from Alpine School: 23rd June
- Flying Start: 25th - 28th June
- Xmas in June: 29th June
- Last Day of Term 2: 29th June
  - 2.00pm Finish

#### July
- First day of term 3: 16th July
- Secondary Snow camp: 30th July - 3rd Aug

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### Happy Birthday

No birthdays this week

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### School Lunch

Orders are available this Wednesday and Thursday from the Hotel

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### Just a Reminder

As it’s a departmental requirement for students that are absent, a parent or guardian needs to fill in an absentee note (green note) as soon as the student returns to school. These need to be brought up to the office for Mrs Wright to enter on Cases21.