From the Principal

It was pleasing to see our new Prep students start school yesterday all enthusiastic and dressed beautifully in full school uniform. There were mixed emotions coming from the Grade 6 students as some of them seemed a little cagey about moving over to the Secondary area! The first day of Flying Start (transition) signals new beginnings for many of our students and the excitement across the school was certainly evident.

Tomorrow we welcome Mr Peter Crisp as he officially opens the BER and state capital works. The whole school assembly is scheduled for 10am, followed by morning tea at 10.40am. It is a celebration of the improved facilities we enjoy at Werrimull P-12 School as a result of joint Federal and State funding. Once again, I would like to invite all community members to attend this ceremony.

The last school council meeting for 2011 is 6pm tomorrow night. Please note the 6pm start as we are enjoying a meal prior to the 6.30pm meeting. School Councillors will not receive the agenda prior to the meeting as no new business can be added to the agenda for the final meeting. If you are unable to make it to the meeting please notify the school prior to 10am tomorrow morning.

The end of Term 4 is fast approaching and we have many changes to the daily routine. Below I have highlighted the changes.

Friday 16th December- Fat Friday 2pm finish (causal dress)

Monday 19th December- Whole school celebration (casual dress):
  2011 Prep to Grade 6’s (Putt Putt Golf & Dodgem Cars)
  2011 Year 7 to 12’s (Mildura Aqua Slide)

Tuesday 20th December- Awards night & BBQ 1pm finish (causal dress)

Thursday 22nd December- Official finishing day- 11.30am finish (casual dress)

I would like to remind everyone about the ipad competition. There has been a number of opportunities to receive entries throughout the year. The final opportunity is to submit answers to the questions that were found in the Pipeline during Semester 1. They must be given to Mr Russell by Friday 16th December. The winner will be drawn at Awards Night.

The Year 9 & 10 Accounting business (You’ll Get Fed) was once again a success. The boys used the profit from 2011 to purchase sports equipment and magazine subscriptions. The sports equipment was purchased from SportsPower, thank you to the Thomsons for selling the equipment at a discounted rate!

As many of you are aware, Corey Kirkham is currently studying an IB at the United World College in New Mexico USA. He featured in the Country Education Project Bush Voices newsletter this week. To read the article click on the following link http://cep.org.au/category/bush-voices/

In 2012, Friday 3rd February is the first school day for students. Teachers will return to work on the 1st of February and spend the first two days preparing for the new school year. On Friday 3rd February classes will run from 9am - 11.30am, followed by a BBQ and the traditional Tunart V’s Willah cricket match. School will finish at 2.00pm on this day.

This is the last Pipeline for 2011. From all the staff at Werrimull P-12 School we wish you a safe and happy holiday!

Jamie Russell
Only 12 more sleeps until the big man in the red suit comes.

Hopefully you all have been good
Hello again folks. Well this is last Pipeline of the year and so I thought it might be an opportunity to celebrate some important successes of the year.

Tucked away in the rolling wheat belt of the Millewa, Werrimull is quite literally a pub, a wheat silo, a police station, a post office, a Kinder and a school, Werrimull P-12 School, but it can boast some of the best students in the district and even the entire country.

Sixty two students large, Werrimull P-12 School prides itself on the delivery of high quality curriculum and as its motto says, “Striving to Achieve”. And as far as achievements go, 2011 has been an absolute cracker.

Year 10 student Mason Ruchel, participant in the national Indigenous Youth Leadership Program, this year attended the national IYLP Conference at Uluru, Northern Territory, where he workshoped with and presented to an audience of hundreds including media personality Jeff McMullen and AFL Legend Michael Long. On top of that Mason has been appointed as a Mildura Rural City Council Youth Ambassador to sit on the Youth Advisory Committee for MRCC where he joins Susan Skinner, another Werrimull student, who is serving her second year on the committee. And if that wasn’t enough, he has also been accepted in Melbourne University’s Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars program which will provide educational network opportunities for him in his VCE studies.

Joining Mason as a Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar this year is fellow Year 10 student Tom Skinner. Following in his sister Susan’s footsteps Tom was accepted into the scholarship program this year as was Susan last year. So with a 2012 VCE class of nine students, 33% of them are in the Young Scholars program. This honour for Tom comes along with his attendance at the John Monash Science School at Monash University in Melbourne. JMSS offered a five week exchange program for up to ten Year 10 students in the Loddon Mallee region. These students would study core units such as English and Maths but would also have the opportunity to study subjects like Astronomy, Nanotechnology and Astrophysics. One student was accepted from Swan Hill, Maryborough, Cohuna, East Loddon and two from Bendigo and the only student across the whole of the Sunraysia District to be chosen was Werrimull P-12 School’s Tom Skinner.

Werrimull P-12 School continued its educational honours in 2011 by being one of only eight schools state wide and the only school in Sunraysia to be invited to participate in the University of Ballarat’s Regional Outreach Pilot Program for Year 8 students. UB representatives visited the school earlier this year to run pathways workshops with the students and in Term 4 the students went to Ballarat to stay on the University campus with other Partnership Schools for two days of lectures, workshops and tours giving the students a pathways opportunity unique from other schools in the district.
Speaking of unique opportunities, Werrimull P-12 School has this year been working on a partnership with the local Kindergarten that is set to become official next year with a Pilot K-12 model that is unique across the State of Victoria. Details are yet to be finalised but the Pilot Partnership is set to provide a funding and transition model that is being closely watched by Government and may very well be adopted in other areas if it proves successful.

Honours this year heaped upon Werrimull P-12 School and its students don’t stop there either. At the 2011 Murray Mallee Inter-School Fashion Awards which include the whole of Sunraysia as well as Ouyen, Robinvale and Coomealla, Werrimull students won no less than ten awards, which included Best Overall Junior and Best Overall Senior Designers, sisters Bianca and Katrina Simmons. And not content on being a top designer, Katrina also spent two weeks this year in Singapore and Malaysia representing Country Victoria in hockey.

Perhaps the greatest honour bestowed on Werrimull P-12 School this year goes to Year 11 student Corey Kirkham whose achievements have now reached international standards.

Corey has this year been successful in his application for a scholarship to attend the United World Colleges United States of America Campus in Montezuma, New Mexico, for the next two years. This scholarship, the only one of its kind in Australia, will enable Corey to study the International Baccalaureate in an elite academic setting with 200 other students from all around the world.

In order to be successful, Corey had to undergo a rigorous selection process where he had to provide a written application, endorsements and references from his school and other referees, his academic records were scrutinised and then he had a seven hour drive to Melbourne to attend an interview. However it was worth all the effort.

Werrimull P-12 School and its students have certainly punched above their weight in 2011. Youth leaders and Ambassadors, local and international scholarship winners, sports stars, design gurus and cutting edge curriculum programs are hallmarks of a small rural school providing as many and indeed more opportunities than its bigger town cousins.

Here’s wishing you all the best for a safe and joyous Christmas and a happy new year. See you all in 2012!

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:

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

Be Well
Kelly Morrison
Dates to Remember

December

Flying Start 12th December
School Council 14th December
Secondary wing opening 14th December
School Finish’s at 2pm 16th December
Presentation night 20th December
Last Day School 22nd December

2012
First Day School 3rd February

All Community members are invited to the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the official opening of the refurbished Secondary wing and facility upgrade on

Wednesday 14th December at 10.30am (arrive by 10.15am).

Morning tea will be available following the official opening.
Millewa Pre-School

Term Three Staff

- Caroline Smith, Teacher
- Alanna Hill, Assistant

What's Happening

Just a reminder that we have two big weeks coming up. Tomorrow, December 14th, is our Transition Day for the Pre-School children of 2012 and next Wednesday, December 21st, is the last day of Kinder for the year and our Christmas party day, complete with a visit from Santa.

All parents, grandparents, siblings and other family members are invited to join us for our last day of 2011. Each family is asked to bring a plate of food to share at our Christmas party. On this day Kinder will be finishing at 1:30pm.

There will be no Kinder this Thursday as the four year olds are participating in Flying Start at School so please remember it is a School day, not a Kinder day.

Dates to Remember

- 12th December: Flying Start
- 14th December: Transition Day for Kinder 2012
- 20th December: School Awards Night
- 21st December: Last day of Kinder for 2011

A big thank-you to the following people who helped out at the Bunnings BBQ on Saturday: Matt and Renee Kelly, Katrina Simmons, Fiona Harmer, Charlotte Harmer, Darryl Goldsmith and Tish Neyland.

A special thank-you to Fiona for organising the day and ensuring that everything ran smoothly.

If you have any fundraising ideas for 2012 please contact Charlotte Harmer, our Fundraising Coordinator.

Shared Snack Ideas

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Cheese
- Dry biscuits
- Dried fruit

Please return all library books as soon as possible to either School or Kindergarten.
Sunnycliffs Primary School

Presents

Puss in Boots 3D

When: December 15th
Where: Deakin Cinema Complex
Time: 7.30pm
Cost: $15 per person

For enquires or to purchase tickets please contact the school on 50 241684.