From the Principal

What a fantastic start to the school year with Willah winning the Werrimull Whack and synchronise swimming and Tunart taking out the first over-all house event in the swimming sports. The parents and community members that have been a part of the days we thank as the turn up has been overwhelmingly positive.

Some of you may have seen in the paper last week Morgan Ruchel in the winning Sunraysia under 12 baseball team which competed in the state championships. Due to the teams effort they are heading to the Gold Coast to represent Vic Country in the National Championship, should they win they are then on a plane to Hong Kong. Mr Kelly Morrison was speaking to Morgan’s coach who was very high in his praise of Morgan and he commented on how Morgan was “an integral part of the teams’ victory.” Congratulations Morgan and good luck at the Gold Coast. Also Mark Thomson has been named in the Open Sunraysia squad for Country week. This is a huge achievement as he is still eligible to play juniors – again well done and good luck!

Please let me know of any other achievements as we love to celebrate good news stories.

Due to the health risks associated with ENERGY DRINKS they are not permitted by any student at school at any time.

The last school council before the AGM is on tomorrow night, just a reminder to think about nominating yourself for a role on the council if you think you would like to make a difference to the school.

My movements for the rest of this week are as follows:

Thursday in Ouyen at a Regional Directors meeting with Robyn Blackie and Ron Lake
Friday at a review meeting in Mildura
I will be able to be contacted via email or will be back at school Monday morning.
Lastly I would like to congratulate Miss Misha Rankin on her engagement to Chris Harris in the holidays.

Erin Fush
During the holidays a number of cybersafety issues were reported in the media, one case resulting in a teenage suicide. One of our jobs as teachers and parents is to prepare students for life in the 21st century, however it is becoming increasingly obvious that the bigger challenge is to recognise and deal with common cybersafety issues. Below I have listed some common cybersafety issues, if you have any concerns regarding your child’s involvement in the ‘cyber world’ don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

**Cyberbullying**
Cyberbullying occurs when the internet, email or mobile phones are used to deliberately and repeatedly engage in hostile behaviour to harm someone. Cyberbullying can result in those involved experiencing social, psychological and academic difficulties.

Children can cyberbully each other in a number of ways. These include:
- sending abusive texts or emails
- posting unkind messages or inappropriate images on social networking sites
- imitating others online
- excluding others online.

Children and young people can also be affected by hostile behaviour that is not cyberbullying. For example, a one off insensitive or negative remark or joke posted online, or sent by text, may not be considered cyberbullying, however it can still have a negative impact on a child.

**Sexting**
Sexting refers to the sending of provocative or sexual photos, messages, or videos, generally using a mobile phone. It can also include posting this type of material online.

While sharing suggestive images or text messages may seem like innocent flirting or be funny for young people, sexting can have serious social and legal consequences. To help protect their image both online and offline, young people need to consider how they manage their own and others’ messages and images.

**Safer social networking**
Social networking describes a variety of services like Facebook, YouTube, World of Warcraft, Moshi Monsters and MySpace. All of these services enable direct interaction between individuals. Users can post information about themselves, display photos, tell people what they’ve been up to, chat and play games. Social networking forms a part of the social identity of many teens.

While social networking offers many benefits, there are risks. Sometimes children can forget who they are communicating with online and who might see the information they post. It can be easier for children and teens to say and do things online that they might not do offline. It can also be easier to talk to strangers online than it is offline, and they may confide too much in people they don’t know well.

It is important that children understand the risks associated with disclosing information about themselves online and know how to manage both their privacy and online ‘friends’.

A recent addition to social networking services are location based services which enable users to report their physical location to others via their mobile phone. This is an increasingly popular function in services like Foursquare and Facebook. Using this function, users can use mobiles to physically locate friends and others from social networking sites. Individuals can ‘check-in’ from a location to let others know their whereabouts.

On some social networking services the location based functions are turned on by default. To manage these services, encourage your child to review their social networking settings to block the function or to limit who sees their location based information.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. What a day we had for the Swimming Sports! A bit chilly at first but then it blossomed into a truly magnificent day for competitors and spectators alike. Well done to all on the day and here's hoping that Willah can get up over their Blue rivals in the Cross-country.

A little more details today on events in the Secondary area that impact on Pathways and Extra-curricular Activities.

To kick off we have work experience for Years 10 and 11. The first round of Work Experience will take place in the last week of Term 1, from Monday the 26th of March to Friday the 30th of March. Last week Year 10 students spent an entire session writing out and practicing telephone interview scripts in preparation for contacting prospecting Work Experience placements, just as this year’s Year 11’s did last year. Work experience forms were also handed out to all year 10 and 11 students. Remember, contacting the prospective employers and arranging to meet them and sign the forms is part of the learning process. Parents are encouraged to assist in finding a work placement, but should leave the actual contacting to the students so that they can develop skills and experience. I am also available any time at the school to assist students in any way. So if difficulties are encountered please let me know as soon as possible.

And now on to the Secondary Camp for 2012; The Secondary Camp is done on a rotational basis and this year’s rotation is the Snow Trip from July 30th through to August 3rd. Now the Snow Trip, due to equipment hire, ski lift tickets and ski school tends to run a little more expensive than other trips and this can’t be helped and I know Mr Whittle is booking in early and trying to cut costs wherever possible. We hope the trip comes in at around the $500 mark. This being said it is significantly cheaper per student than if students went privately, so it is a case of getting a bargain no matter what the final cost is.

In order to ease the burden of the cost, we are getting in as early as possible. Expressions of interest went home with students on Monday. A $200 commitment is asked for in order to establish numbers and costings. A payment plan can then be organised with the front office.

This is an exciting and engaging trip and I urge all who can attend to do so. Should insufficient numbers indicate a commitment to the trip, it will be cancelled and there will be no Secondary Trip for 2012. Please contact me at the school should you have any queries.

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:

Many work experience placements are found by using family contacts. Pull whatever strings you can to help students find placements, but let them do the actual leg work. It will benefit them in the long run.

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

Be Well

Kelly Morrison

Wellbeing Coordinator
Happy Birthday
Riley Berry 14th February
Ashley Rowe 14th February

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<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<td>School Council Nominations</td>
<td>15th Feb</td>
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<td>Open water Yr 4-10</td>
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<td>Pancake Tuesday</td>
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<td>MMM Swimming</td>
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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td>SSSA Swimming</td>
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<td>World Maths</td>
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<td>Ballot closes– school council</td>
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<td>Author Visit P-6</td>
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<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td>Term 2 starts</td>
<td>16th April</td>
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<td>Alpine School Commences</td>
<td>23rdApril</td>
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<td>Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSSA Cross Country</td>
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<td>Student Lead Conferences</td>
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<td>9-12 Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students return for Alpine School</td>
<td>23rd</td>
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<td>Xmas in June</td>
<td>29th June</td>
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School Lunch orders from the Hotel are now only available every Friday

Book Club
A reminder to students who would like to order from our first book club. Please have orders to Mrs Carter no later than Tuesday 21st February.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Lucy Rose Neyland and Morgan Ruchel who are our Primary VIPs this week. Both students have been working really hard.
What's Happening

I'd like to say a great big welcome back to the 4 year old group and their families and a warm welcome to our new 3 year olds and their families. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces last Tuesday morning and to welcome some new families to the Millewa Pre-School.

This year sees the continuation of our Partnership with Werrimull P-12 School and visits have already been timetabled for this Term. These visits are only for the 4 year old group, not the 3 year olds. More information will be sent home regarding the Partnership in coming weeks but if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask me.

Permission notes for local excursions, including visits to the School, were sent home last week and need to be returned as soon as possible.

I look forward to a wonderful year of kindergarten in 2012.

Dates to Remember

14th February  Library Day
28th February  Library Day
1st March  Partnership Visit to Kinder
6th March  Visit from KPSA (Koori Pre-School Assistant)
13th March  Library Day
22nd March  Partnership Visit to School
27th March  Library Day
29th March  Last Day of Kinder, Term One

Kinder Working Bee

Thank-you to those parents who gave up their time before Kinder started this year to help out at the working bee.

It was wonderful to see mums, dads and children all lending a hand to ensure that the Kinder was sparkling clean, both inside and out, for a new beginning this year.

Please remember to pack a drink bottle for your child every day.

Shared Snack Ideas

♦ Fruit
♦ Vegetables
♦ Cheese
♦ Dry biscuits
♦ Dried fruit
Cumbungi Removal at Lake Cullulleraine
Community Meeting—Update on Progress

CUMBUNGI REMOVAL TRIAL WORKS AT LAKE CULLULLERAIN WILL NOT START IN 2012

Council in conjunction with consultants GHD would like to invite the local community to a meeting to provide an update on the progress of the cumbungi removal trial works and the reasons for further delays.

When: Wednesday 22 February 9.30am-10.30am
Where: RSL Camp, Lake Cullulleraine
All Welcome!
Morning tea will be provided

For more information contact Mildura Rural City Council’s Sustainability and Resources Co-ordinator Melanie Bell on 5018 8432 or 0448 368956.