From the Principal

The book fair began with a BANG yesterday! It was pleasing to see a number of staff, parents and students completing their wish list and purchasing items. The book fair is open all week; see the advertisement for further details.

The K-12 Pilot Program committee are meeting next week to discuss plans for 2012. Representatives from the DEECD, YMCA, WP-12 & the Kindergarten will all attend the meeting.

The Werrimull P-12 School 1-to-1 lease program is quite unique as we are one of the few Government Schools in Australia to have 1-to-1 access across the whole school. When a netbook, laptop or ipod is damaged as a result of carelessness or neglect it will be repaired at the expense of the lessee. Please ensure the appropriate level of care is taken with all school owned devices and report any problems to Mr Russell or Mr Donnelly immediately.

Building works continue around the school, including the resurfacing of the pool. Some of the materials were delivered last week however we are still waiting on the remainder of materials before work can continue. The Technology room extension is in the final stages and is expected to be completed by the end of this week.

The date for the Primary sleepover has been set; Thursday 8th December. In previous years the grade 1 & 2 students have set up camp in the classroom and grade 3 & 4 on the school oval. This year all grade 5 & 6 students will be invited to sleep over. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

Michael, Ben, Monica, Claire and Bianca have all settled well at Gnurad Gundidj School for Student Leadership. Parents have received their first email from the campus Principal and a letter from their child. If you wish to follow their journey and keep up to date with life at Gnurad Gundidj campus log on to http://www.gnurad-gundidj.vic.edu.au/ or check out photos on the school website (photo gallery on homepage).

Ashley Rowe, Katrina Simmons & Kieran Simmons competed in the Loddon Mallee Region athletics. Ashley placed second in the 1500m event and was also part of the MMM relay team to place second. To finish second at this level is an excellent achievement. Katrina finished fourth in all of her events and Kieran recorded three foul jumps in triple jump. See Mr Bamford’s report for further details.

Student attendance has dropped in recent weeks. I am well aware that illness has played a major role however it is important to remember if your child doesn’t have a legitimate reason to be away they must be at school. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age. Students who regularly miss school are at risk of missing out on learning the basic building blocks of each subject and may experience long term difficulties with their learning.

I would like to welcome Decklin Turner to Werrimull P-12 School. Decklin is in Prep.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. On my travels through to work I have distinctly noticed crops turning yellow. I know that some have reported in the paper that they are in for a good crop or even better than good. I also know from a discussion in the staff room yesterday that some need more rain and others don’t. So let’s hope that you get what you need and you get the best crop you can.

Today the message is simple. It’s not O.K. to be away. Since starting at Werrimull P-12 School in 2008 there has been a constant message to the whole school community about attendance, students must be at school all day every day. And since 2008 attendance at the school has seen a dramatic improvement. Sadly this appears to be slipping backwards.

Absence from school for legitimate reasons is always regrettable, but understandable. Illness, injury or bereavement will always require some time away to recuperate and sick students don’t function well in class and can make others sick as well. But the figures speak for themselves.

Since the start of Term 2 we have eighteen out of sixty three students with less than ninety percent attendance. Now let’s get that into perspective. Eighteen out of sixty three is twenty nine percent. Twenty nine percent! And to have at least ninety percent attendance students must have missed no more than 10.3 days of school up to today. 10.3 days is two weeks! So almost one third of the students at Werrimull P-12 School have missed at least two weeks of school, with some being absent for three weeks or more. It is very difficult for students to get any kind of continuity in their studies with these rates of absence.

I urge all parents and carers to consider student absence and assist the school in providing the best possible outcomes for students by ensuring that no student is absent for any reason other than those that are absolutely necessary.

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:
For DEECD Attendance Policy and Procedure see:
Please contact the school if you would like any assistance or more information on this.

Be Well
Kelly Morrison
Wellbeing Coordinator
## Dates to Remember

### October
- **Book Fair**: 17th–21st October
- **Casual Dress**: 21st October
- **Last day for Yr 12’s**: 27th October
- **Beat Box performance**: 28th October

### November
- **Public Holiday (Melb Cup)**: 1st November
- **School Council**: 9th November
- **Yr 11 exams begin**: 21st November
- **Yr 7/8 Uni of Ballarat trip**: 28th November

### December
- **Flying Start**: 12th December
- **School Council**: 14th December
- **Presentation night**: 20th December
- **Last Day School**: 22nd December

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**WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO**

If anyone would like to order a whole school photo for $10 please come to the office

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Millewa Ballet Guild are proud to present

**The Toy Box**

27th & 28th October

7.30 pm at the Werrimull Hall
Last Wednesday two of our students, Katrina Simmons and Ashley Rowe, headed to Bendigo to compete in the Loddon Mallee Region Secondary Athletics. Ashley was looking to continue on with the good form he showed in the NWSSSA round of competition while Katrina was doing well to even be able to compete after feeling unwell earlier in the week.

It was a long trip to Bendigo but the two managed to keep themselves entertained with Katrina tuning into some beats on the I-pod while Ash took to smashing the Netherlands to all parts of the ground in a couple games of stick cricket.

After loading up on the carbs at La Porchetta and discussing important issues such as whether the Rebels bikie gang would shed as many tears as the boys were on Sons of Anarchy, it was time to get some shut eye.

Arriving at the competition early we had plenty of time to sit around and take in the atmosphere. Katrina first competed in the long jump. She was competing against students that are professionally coached and spend a lot of time training and competing specifically for long jump. She put in a gallant effort to come 4th. In her next event, triple jump, Katrina was competing against many of the same students and again came a very respectable 4th.

Time eventually rolled around for Katrina and Ash to compete in the 1500m. Making a bright start Katrina led the field for the first lap and a half. As the race continued Katrina’s performance was being hindered from her sickness earlier in the week. She battled bravely to finish 4th.

Ash then took to the track and like Katrina made a bright start. Ash led the field for the majority of the race. Ash was looking in a strong position as they started the final lap. Then from nowhere another runner put the burners on and took off putting a sizeable gap between himself and Ash. Ash fought the race out well to finish 2nd. This result sees Ash qualify for the state finals in Melbourne on October 25th which is a fantastic effort.

Ash wasn’t done there. He teamed up with the MMM boys to compete in the 17 year old boys 4X100 relay. Ash was the third runner and after receiving the baton in midfield, he put in an inspired effort to put the boys into the lead at the last baton change. Unfortunately our final runner couldn’t hold on for the win but did manage to come second which again qualifies the boys for the state finals.

Both Katrina and Ash should be very proud of their efforts on the day against some quality athletes.

Paul Bamford

Sports Co-ordinator
Congratulations

Nathan, Riley and Holly for receiving encouragement awards and Evie for getting 4th place in her category for the art work entered in the Mildura Show

Dear Community,

Our School is about to launch a Galaxy of Books Scholastic Book Fair on Monday 17th October to Friday 21st October

We would love to see you there

12.30 to 1.30pm & 3.00pm to 3.30 pm every day

Yours sincerely

Jenny Mentiplay
Library Coordinator
This Term the P-8s are participating in EngQuest in their Science classes. They will be creating different models that represent different aspects of engineering.

Some of the tasks include: catapults, model houses, pull along toys, solar cookers, bridges, water wheels and rebuilding a community.

To help us to create our models we are asking for donations of any of the following materials if you have them lying around at home:

- wood
- cement
- cardboard boxes
- glass
- ice cube trays
- pvc pipe
- tin
- rope
- springs
- nails
- screws
- nuts
- bolts
- wire
- cardboard rolls
- carpet
- polystyrene

Later in the Term we will also be asking community members to come in and help us to make our models, so if you’re handy we’d love your help!
Millewa Pre-School

Term Three Staff
♦ Caroline Smith, Teacher
♦ Alanna Hill, Assistant

What's Happening

Last week was a wonderful start to the Term, it was great to see the children so happy and settling back into routines so quickly.

This Wednesday I will be visiting Nangiloc Kindergarten as part of my Practicum requirements for university. Julie Hayward will be filling in for me this week and then for the following two weeks as I complete my visits to Nangiloc. Unfortunately it has to be completed within a specific timeframe and as Nangiloc only operates on a Wednesday I am also visiting Red Cliffs Kindergarten four times this Term but this will impact on School, not Kindergarten.

On Friday the 28th October at 11am the School has a group coming out to do a performance called ‘Beat Box’. If you would like to bring your child along it is $5 per child. If you have any questions please call Jenny Mentiplay at the School on 5028 1251.

This week is the Book Fair at School. It is open daily from 12:30—1:30pm and 3:00—3:30pm. Please feel welcome to come along and have a look at the wonderful books for sale during these times.

Don’t forget your library books tomorrow!

Shared Snack Ideas
♦ Fruit
♦ Vegetables
♦ Cheese
♦ Dry biscuits
♦ Dried fruit

Dates to Remember

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Pilot Program Dates

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