From the Principal

Our Year 12 Students got all dressed up on Friday night and attended the Sunraysia VCE Ball. From all accounts they looked beautiful and after speaking to them they all had a wonderful night. Thanks to Mrs Blaby for supervising on the night.

Just a reminder I am away this week visiting our students at Alpine School please contact Mr Kelly Morrison or Mr Jamie Russell while I am absent.

Last day of term next Friday we are having a CELEBRATION DAY as it has been a long term but the staff and students have worked extremely hard. Next Friday is also an early finish – 2pm.

Next week we start FLYING START to get into the thinking it is not the end of something but rather the start of Semester 2. All students over the break are expected to read if nothing else as we need learning to continue to happen even if students are not “at” school.

School assessed exams started yesterday, all year 9 -12 students sit subject specific exams to support their understanding of exam conditions and expectations. Exam reports will go home next week with the students.

Lastly CONGRATULATIONS to DANA and her dance group for winning the 13 years and under National Dance Group at the Mildura Eisteddfod on Saturday. This is the second year in a row the 'Sunraysia Irish & Friends Junior Irish Dancers' have won their section.

This week we have Mr Russell, Mr Donnelly and Miss Rankin heading to Murrayville for a professional development session on PERSONALISED LEARNING. This supports the learning all staff have been undertaking this past Semester and also the learning Mr Russell received at the recent Principal’s conference. The staff will then deliver the session to the rest of the staff throughout next term. All students have the right and should expect to be taught at according to their level, style and strengths and we are in the process of changing our teaching to PERSONALISE for each and every student.
THE WRITING PROCESS AT WERRIMULL P-12 SCHOOL

What makes writing so important?

- Writing is the primary basis upon which your work, your learning, and your intellect will be judged—in college, in the workplace, and in the community.
- Writing expresses who you are as a person.
- Writing helps you move easily among facts, inferences, and opinions without getting confused—and without confusing your reader.
- Writing fosters your ability to explain a complex position to readers, and to yourself.
- Writing ideas down preserves them so that you can reflect upon them later.
- Writing stimulates you to extend a line of thought beyond your first impressions or gut responses.
- Writing equips you with the communication and thinking skills you need to participate effectively in society.
- Writing is an essential job skill.

Teaching writing

Students in all grades and subject areas are taught to write for a variety of purposes. These purposes include writing to:

- inform
- entertain
- argue a point of view
- recount an experience
- discuss
- describe.
Students are taught to consider how their writing can influence their intended reader. Students are also taught how to draft, revise, discuss, edit and proofread their writing before publishing it. There is always an emphasis on correct spelling, grammar and punctuation and neat and legible handwriting.

The teaching of writing is closely linked to the teaching of speaking & listening and reading.

**How can I encourage my child to write?**

- Read your child’s writing or have him or her read the writing to you and comment on the positive aspects, for example, “I really like the way you’ve described this.”
- Praise your child for having a go at writing words that are new and explain how to spell words which are causing difficulty.
- Talk to your child about why an author or film maker might create a book, play or film in a particular way. What points of view are presented? What is the author’s purpose?
- Read and talk about the writing that your child brings home from school.
- Praise your child for using neat and legible handwriting.
- In order to develop spelling and vocabulary, play word games such as *I Spy*, *Scrabble*, *Boggle*, *Scattergories* and crosswords.

**How can I help with writing at home?**

- Assist your child to proofread and edit their writing prior to handing it in.
- Compile a photo album or scrapbook with your child and have him or her write captions for the photos and pictures, or encourage your child to keep a diary of special events, e.g. a holiday diary.
- Make the writing of notes, letters and stories a normal part of family life.
- Involve your child in helping to complete forms, such as insurance or Medicare claims, and in writing job applications or résumés.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. With a bye for the Cats on the weekend I have nothing to carry on about, a fact for which I’m sure you’re all eternally grateful. Though I did have it said to me on the weekend that my lot was done for this year. Mind you, that was from a Collingwood supporter so I just took it with a grain of salt.

This week sees the years 9-12’s sitting there Semester exams, which comes on the back of the VCE students completing their VCAA exams last week. These exams are a valuable opportunity for students to revise the work they have completed for this Semester, as well practice and get experience in skills actually sitting exams.

Now I’m I can hear some out there questioning the idea of practicing how to sit exams, as surely all you have to do is just sit there and do them. But no it is much more than that.

Passing exams is all about preparation. I like to call it the Seven P’s of Passing, that is; Proper Prior Preparation Prevents Persistently Poor Performance. And yes I do believe this and I rarely if ever wish people luck in their exams as I think luck has little to do with your chances of success; but having said that, the actual sitting of the exam also requires a specific set of skills.

Students need to work out and stick to a routine for preparation regarding sleep, nutrition and hydration. Students need to be organized with what they require to have with them when they sit their exams as they wont be able to borrow if they forget to take something. They need to practice strategies of how to approach their exams. This is because exams should not be done from front to back, they should be done from easy through to difficult questions. This is because it eases nerves by getting easy marks in the bank early, as well as providing thinking time and possible hints for the harder questions. Students need to learn how to dissect the questions in order to properly understand what the question is actually asking in order for them to get full marks. And then there is practicing simply sitting there when they are finished, after all questions have been completed and checked over and waiting for the time to expire.

These are all valuable and needed skills for students as they go through their time at school and even on to further education. In fact as recently as last week, our VCE Exam Chief Supervisor, Mrs Kayleen Impey, was very complimentary about the way in which our students operate in the exams and I believe this is at least partly due to the experience and practice students have had under specific exams conditions since end of semester exams were instituted several years ago.

So to all students; all the best with your study and prepare yourself for passing.

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

Wellbeing Coordinator
Happy Birthday
Zoe Shorrock            24th June

Dates to Remember

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

School Lunch orders are available this Wednesday and Thursday from the Hotel

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
What's Happening

In the next few weeks I will be including excerpts from the Welcome to Early Childhood Publication. We are attempting to get copies of this publication to send home, in the meantime I hope you find this information interesting.

Play-based learning

Play is often social – that is, it involves other children. Social play gives your child a chance to practise getting along with other children and to learn new skills. Play helps children learn about themselves and how they connect and contribute to their world. Evidence shows that play can support learning across physical, social, emotional and intellectual areas of development.

A few suggestions of good play experiences for three to five year olds include:

- reading books
- drawing, painting and finger-painting
- filling and emptying containers in the bath or paddling pool (never leave a child unsupervised near water)
- dressing up in your old clothes, shoes and jewellery
- climbing, digging and running outdoors
- singing
- playing with toys and digital games

Dates to Remember

- 19th June: Library Day
- 25th June: Last week of Term 2
- 28th June: Partnership visit to School

Please remember to pack a drink bottle for your child every day. The weather is still warm and even in Winter we need to drink lots of water.

Shared Snack Ideas

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