From the Principal

I’d like to start by thanking the Werrimull Hotel for donating $500 to the school families. On Friday the 9th March the Hotel held an impromptu ‘Cut for a Cause’ raising money for local organisations. Jack and Brent Lambert participated in the shaving of their heads with Brent making sure his father kept his “rats tail”. The school aims to provide many wonderful opportunities, activities and programs for our students and the donation goes along to supporting these activities. The whole school community is extremely grateful for the participants donation as the children benefit directly from their generosity.

Also I would like to make mention of Josh Harris who as part of his pathways is working in a computer technical support role for the school. Josh is maintaining the computers and iPads and is implementing structures so as our technical equipment is looked after and accounted for. He is enjoying the role so much he takes work home on the weekend to complete. The school could not operate as smoothly as it does without the work Josh is completing, it is fantastic to see him so engaged and taking on the leadership/coordination of the schools technical equipment. A  HUGE THANKS TO JOSH!

Just a reminder that the school is private property and therefore no one is to be on school grounds without permission. Over the summer holidays there was vandalism of our new assembly area and recently one of the speakers in the same area was stolen. We have informed the local police and have had reports about people being on the school grounds and in the swimming pool without permission and we are following up on this. I urge you to contact the police if you see anyone on the school grounds who you think should not be here and if you would like to use the school grounds contact the school to gain permission. Thank you in advance for you cooperation.

Good luck to Mr Bamford and Mark Thomson this weekend as they both compete in their cricket grand finals.

Next Friday is the final day of term 1 – school will finish at 2pm.
Staff and students at Werrimull P-12 School have now been using the Ultranet for more than 12 months. Following the Parent information sessions last year we have a small number of families registered to access the online space. Over the next 6 months the Pipeline will be a wealth of information (regarding the Ultranet!) as I prepare for another round of parent information sessions. If you have any questions regarding the Ultranet don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

The Ultranet is a new online system that will take Victorian government schools into the learning environment of the future. It is a state-wide, secure site that students, parents and teachers can access via the internet.

Online collaboration and learning
Students and teachers can use the Ultranet for online learning activities. Students will be able to create a learning portfolio and use online communication tools such as wikis, blogs and discussion boards. They will be able to collaborate, communicate and create with students from within their school and across Victorian government schools.

A window for parents into their child’s learning
Parents will be able to access the Ultranet providing another way for them to support their child at school. They can view information that will help them keep up-to-date with their child’s learning. Over time parents will see test results, teacher feedback, homework activities, attendance and timetables.

Information about each child will build up over time, creating an ongoing record that will travel with them from year to year and school to school.

A secure site that protects student information
The Ultranet is a secure, closed website. No health, welfare or contact information will be displayed on the site. The only personal information that will be displayed about a student will be their name and photograph (parents may request that their child’s photograph not be displayed).

The benefits....
The Ultranet benefits the entire Victorian government school community. It will help improve the educational outcomes of all Victorians:

- Students will have access to an online learning platform designed to meet their current and future learning needs. They will use educational tools that will engage them and remain relevant to their lives and future careers.
- Parents, teachers, school leaders and staff will be able to interact with the Ultranet to improve student learning outcomes and contribute to their school community.
- Regional and central offices of the Department will have access to unprecedented information to support policy development and system improvement.
Hello again folks. I was in Bendigo at a training conference last Thursday and Friday and I know that it was certainly wet in that neck of the woods. I do hope that some of it found its way up here to help prepare for sowing, which is not that far away. See it’s only taken me five years to learn something about farming. See. Not that hard after all. I don’t know what all the fuss is about really. Now if only I had any idea about all of the other things that farmers have to do.

This week it’s time to check in with Work Experience. The Year tens and elevens will be heading out next week on Work Experience and so there is no better time to engage your young person in a conversation about Pathways. I know, I harp on about Pathways, but if it’s not about student future pathways then what is what we do here at Werrimull P-12 School all about?

A note to remember about Work Experience is that it is just that; an experience. It is about experiencing a work place, looking at the kind of jobs done in them. Observing work practices and even getting involved in some of the lower order work place functions. Work Experience is not; and I do emphasize, not about learning particular work place skills. It is not about learning how to become proficient with particular tools or mastering particular tasks. It is about experiencing what a work place is like.

This is most important when students are engaged in activities in the work place. All students have gone through occupational health and safety procedures regarding work experience placements and all are aware of what they are and are not allowed to do. Parents should ensure that their child feels safe in their placement and are to inform the school immediately should any student be put into situations that make them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Work Experience is an exciting time for students and I wish them all the best for their placements. One thing to remember though is that Work Experience is about finding out about industries you don’t want to be involved in as much as figuring out a pathway for yourself. So no matter what happens, if you love your placement, or come out of it thinking “Well I certainly don’t want to do that for a living.” It is all valuable experience.

Good Luck to you all!

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 do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you would like any assistance or more information on this.

Be Well

Kelly Morrison

Wellbeing Coordinator
**Dates to Remember**

### March

- Work Experience Yr 10 & 11  26th—30th
- Tasty Thursday  22nd March
- End of Term 1  30th March
  - 2.00pm Finish

### April

- Term 2 starts  16th April
- Alpine School Commences  23rd April
- Anzac Day No school  25th April
- Cross Country  27th April
- Tasty Thursday  26th April

### May

- SSSA Cross Country  23rd May

### June

- Student Lead Conferences  15th June
- 9-12 Exams  18th June
- Students return from Alpine School  23rd June
- Xmas in June  29th June

---

**Happy Birthday**

- Ashlyn Roads  21st March
- Milla Harmer  24th March

---

**School Lunch orders are available this Wednesday from the Hotel**

---

**WCS Reunion**

Did you go to WCS during the 70’s and 80’s???

We are looking to organise a reunion in October 2012 and need your help. (Exact date to be confirmed).

First step is to gather names and contact details of past students, so......

Please e-mail your :Name:,  Address:, Phone:,  e-mail:

**Years at WCS - Prep Yr 7**

Other

We would also love to have people from various year levels to help find class mates. Let us know if you would like to help.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Vanessa Schwarz (Higgins)

wcsreunion2012@y7mail.com
What's Happening

Wow, this Term has disappeared very quickly and it's almost time for School holidays and Easter!

Last week we were back to a normal Kindergarten week after the long weekend and it was wonderful to see the children still excited to come to Kinder, even after the novelty has begun to wear off.

I'd like to say a thank-you to all the community members who lost their hair on Friday 9th and raised some money for various community groups, including the Kindergarten.

This week the 4 year old children will be going on their first visit to Werrimull P-12 School as part of our Partnership Program. They will be joining the P-3s in activities which make use of the different ICT that is available at School including the SmartBoard, netbooks and iPads.

Next week is Library week so please ensure that your child returns their books and brings along their library bag.

It was great to have parents making use of the new note system last week, please make sure that the envelope stays in your child’s bag to help facilitate better communication.

Have a great week.

Dates to Remember

22nd March Partnership Visit to School
29th March Last Day of Kinder, Term One
26th March Kinder Meeting, 7pm
27th March Library Day
29th March Last Day of Three Year Old Kinder, Term One
Family Picnic Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt, 12:00pm

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

Please remember to pack a drink bottle for your child every day. This is especially important during the hot Summer months.