From the Principal

This week we celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a pancake day on Wednesday as we have majority of students at an Open Water Experience on Tuesday. Mrs Wright and the lifestyle class will be cooking up a storm and all mums, dads, grandparents and community members are welcome to celebrate with us from 10:40 – 11:00am.

Last week Mr Jamie Russell, Mr Kelly Morrison and I went to the first meeting about the school review. Over the next few weeks there will be information coming home and a survey for you as parents to fill in. This review allows us to assess our goals that we set 3 years ago and celebrate our successes. It also targets areas that we need to improve upon so as student learning is continuous and at the forefront of our minds.

The past 3 weeks we have been hosting a student teacher Miss Sarah Dalton from the University of Excellence aka University of Ballarat. This Friday is Sarah’s last day with us – we wish her all the best with her studies. It is an important role in hosting student teachers as it allows schools to be a partner in the teaching of new teachers.

Tomorrow we have students attending the MMM swimming competition with Mr Bamford I wish all the swimmers good luck and thank the three parents Judith Buffon, Deb Rowe and Leanne Fox for their help in transporting the students in to the Mildura Waves.

This week we have TASTY THURSDAY (taking over from FAT FRIDAY). Kathy Pickering has offered to coordinate the lunches this year. Just a reminder that all proceeds from the lunches go directly back to the students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM – 14th MARCH 2012
NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL PLEASE CONTACT NARELLE FOR A NOMINATION FORM.
NOMINATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY
Werrimull P-12 School has identified spelling as a current weakness in the English curriculum; this is supported by recent school level, state and national data. In 2012 spelling is a priority.

How can I help my child with spelling?

• Help your child with those areas of spelling with which you feel confident.
• Remember that not all English words can be spelt correctly by “sounding out”, e.g. the words you and said.
• Talk about how you spell, and what you do when you don’t know how to spell a word.
• Have your child write at home, e.g. filling in forms, writing notes to family members, writing phone messages and reminder notes, replying to letters, sending cards.
• Provide a dictionary and use it together. Remember that dictionaries are more useful if your child has a knowledge of the alphabet and how a dictionary works.
• Encourage your child to try words, then praise the parts that are correct, and suggest what else is needed. For example, if your child has written little for little, you might say, “You have five of the six letters right. One of the letters should be doubled. Can you tell which one it should be?”
• Encourage your child to look at new words, say them, write them from memory, then check them.

What should I do when my child asks how to spell a word?

• Ask if your child can suggest any parts of the word.
• Make sure he or she has access to a dictionary.
• Simply tell your child how the word is spelt.

Should I correct my child’s spelling?

• First, encourage your child to check his or her own work and find any mistakes.
• If your child has made a mistake with a common word, ask him or her to try to fix it without your assistance.

What should I do if my child finds spelling difficult?

• Continue to encourage your child to have a go when writing, to check words he or she is not sure of, and to ask for help.
• If your child seems to be having problems, consult his or her teacher.

What if I am not a good speller?

• No problem. Use the dictionary together. It is good for your child to see you using a dictionary. Talk about what you do when you don’t know how to spell a word.

Should I let my child use a spell checker?

• Yes. Children need to be made aware that spell checkers can be useful, but that there are times when they are not effective, e.g.
• when the word is spelt correctly but it is not the right word, e.g. shore and sure
• when the computer gives suggestions but the child still does not know which one is correct
• when the computer uses American spelling

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. Hope you all had a good weekend and were able to benefit in some way from the spot of rain that we have had over the last few days. And I do mean “Spot” so I wont be holding my breath for reports over huge downpours but all the best nonetheless.

Today I would like to inform you more specifically of one of the roles I serve in the district and the direct links it has with the outcomes of students. For the past three years I have served as President of the SCA or the Sunraysia Careers Association. The SCA is the district body responsible for organising and coordinating Work Experience, Structured Workplace Learning, SBAT’s (School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships) and liaising with local industry in order to establish more and varied pathway options within the Sunraysia community. We work closely with the NMLLEN which is the Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network and its Workplace Learning Program Coordinator Mr Chris Mitchell. As well as having strong ties and regular communication with regional RTO’s (Registered Training Organisations) such as SuniTafe, SMGT and AusNAC.

Serving on the SCA has allowed me to develop a more in depth knowledge of pathway options both locally and in a broader sense and it is this knowledge that can have a direct influence on Werrimull P-12 students.

I receive regular updates on SBAT’s that are available and have directed students towards those I thought might be of interest but that is just half of the equation. Through all of the contacts I have established in the SCA I am able to make enquiries on your behalf directly to the appropriate people. The upshot of this is that should you or your student wish to seek an SBAT or alternative full time training or employment option, I am willing and able to help in any way, be it just supplying you with contact names and numbers or making the calls myself.

I, along with all the staff members at Werrimull P-12 School, are a fantastic asset and research shows that teachers are the number one contributing factor to improved student outcomes next to their home environment and individual abilities, so I urge you to make use of them.

All teaching staff are available for you to contact regarding student progress and outcomes and in particular myself for pathways advise. I currently have a list of available SBAT’s on my desk. If you’re interested then give me a call and set up an appointment or students can just knock on my door, you know where my office is.

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:
Make use of your teachers as resources. They know a lot about a lot of things. You just have to ask them.

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

Be Well

Kelly Morrison
Wellbeing Coordinator
Dates to Remember

February

Open water Yr 4-10  21st February
Pancake Wednesday   22st February
MMM Swimming        22nd February

March

SSSA Swimming        2nd March
World Maths          6th March
Ballot closes– school council  8th March
Author Visit P-6     13th March
Work Experience Yr 10 & 11  26th–30th
End of Term 1         30th March

2.00pm Finish

April

Term 2 starts        16th April
Alpine School Commences  23rdApril
Cross Country         27th 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
No Birthdays this week

School Lunch orders from the Hotel are now available every Wednesday & Every 1,3 & 5 Thursdays of the Month

Snow Trip Reminder

Secondary students are reminded that expressions of interest and deposits are due back at the end of next week. That is Friday the 2nd of March. We must have these in so that early bookings/deals/savings can be made.

Thank You.
Mr Morrison
What’s Happening

It was good to see all the children settling in well to their second week at kinder for the year.

We are establishing kinder fish this Term but unfortunately our first two didn’t survive the week so we’ll try again. Having pets at kinder helps the children to learn about responsible pet ownership and consideration for all living things.

We had a lovely variety of shared snacks this week and all children tried different foods, something that we regularly encourage.

We had a productive first Committee meeting of the year, thank-you in advance to everyone for giving up their time for these important meetings throughout the year.

Please return your Routine Outing Permission form as soon as possible. If your note has gone missing between kinder and home another one can be supplied.

Dates to Remember

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<td>28th February</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>1st March</td>
<td>Partnership Visit to Kinder</td>
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<td>5th March</td>
<td>Kinder Meeting</td>
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<td>6th March</td>
<td>Visit from KPSA (Koori Pre-School Assistant)</td>
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<td>13th March</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>22nd March</td>
<td>Partnership Visit to School</td>
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<td>27th March</td>
<td>Library Day</td>
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<td>29th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Kinder, Term</td>
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Please remember to pack a drink bottle for you child every day.