From the Principal

The last week of school has come around very quickly as it feels like only yesterday that I was welcoming families back from their holidays. This term has been frantic with our students being involved in many different activities from sporting to visiting artists and us visiting authors. We aim to cover all curriculum areas when presenting extra-curricular opportunities to our students and I must say in my opinion we are doing a good job of it.

I sent home last week survey questions about our school and what direction you would like to see the school take. This is your opportunity to have a direct impact on the schools future so I urge you all to fill them in and send them back. It is important that we are able to have open and honest discussions and therefore your name is essential on these surveys – to form part of the review they must be named otherwise they will not be included.

I have been in and out of the school over the past few weeks at various meetings and professional development sessions. Whilst at one of my meetings the speaker commented on how important it is for our teachers to “advance with the times, and be abreast of the newest developments in education.” I agree whole heartedly and hope that you as parents do also as these are the people teaching your children, but this means that we must encourage and value professional development and promote educational improvement of our teachers. The reason I mention this is because I am still getting complaints from parents about staff out of the school too much, if we want our teachers to continue to grow, they must learn new things. Looking at the 2011 data our teachers take on average 3.47 days per year sick leave compared to the state average of over 7 days. I have no doubt this is because we treat our staff with respect and support their continued growth in their profession. I believe we have not only a dedicated staff but a group of teachers who genuinely care about the learning and educational growth of all of our students. If you want the same education for your children as what every other child in Victoria is receiving then our teachers need to be professionally developed and I make no apologies in encouraging, supporting and promoting the building of teacher and leadership capacity.

On the weekend we had Mason, Kalob, Kieran, Tom and Susan participated in the ‘Relay for Life’ fundraising event. These five students not only gave up their weekend for the cause but were required to walk for 24 hours. Congratulations and it was no wonder they looked tired yesterday!

Reports will go home this week – we do not have set Parent/Teacher Interviews – if you wish to discuss any part of the report please either email or phone the teacher you are interested in making an appointment with.

Commiserations to Mark Thomson and Mr Bamford on their cricket grand finals on the weekend. Mark’s grand final was extremely close with them losing by 5 runs whilst Mr Bamford unfortunately was soundly beaten. Now we start to focus on football and netball and – GO BLUES 2012!

CRAZY HAIR & CASUAL DRESS DAY TOMORROW
CASUAL DRESS FRIDAY
2PM FINISH FRIDAY

Also a change of date for the school x-country NO LONGER THE 27TH APRIL CHANGED TO THE 11TH OF MAY!
Hello again folks. It would seem as if the balmy days of summer have certainly left us and the crisp mornings and warm afternoons of Autumn have definitely arrived. Here’s hoping the change in weather brings you all what you need.

Today is a relatively short column and will probably be at the peril of repeating what our Principal has already said on previous occasions.

I was recently at a training course attended by many other careers teachers across the district, as well as some people from the employment industry. As these things typically go we all started chatting about how work was going and networking ideas for improvements and a bit of problem solving. And the thing that struck me, which is quite common actually, was that many of the issues that other school’s face are either non-existent or at the very least, experienced at very low levels.

Now this is certainly not to say that we at Werrimull P-12 School don’t have issues to deal with on a daily basis, because I can assure you that we do. But having said that, it is reaffirming to hear about things happening elsewhere that do not seem to have as great an effect here.

During the conversation I made sure to talk up Werrimull P-12 School and its students and programs and I was pleased to hear many of my colleagues saying they wished to work in a school like ours and asking questions about how such a small school could run so many successful programs. I felt quite proud.

It made me realize how easy it is to create some positive talk about the school. It is easy to find fault in something and as the old saying goes “The squeaky wheel gets the oil.” But you know what? Every now and then we have to stop and smell the roses.

Recently the school asked parents to participate in the school’s review process, which was unfortunately very poorly attended. The parents that did attend however expressed very positive views about the school, its programs and its direction and they all committed to taking that positive talk out into the community.

I urge you all to continue the positive talk about Werrimull P-12 School. We don’t always get things right and if something needs fixing then we need to know about it; but having said that, in comparison to many others, we have a fantastic school delivering cutting edge, state of the art programs. Please get involved in the positive feeling in and about the school and if you have any questions please come in and ask. We are only to proud and happy to fill you in on what we are achieving.

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
- 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
- Tasty Thursday: 26th April

#### May
- Cross Country: 11th 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

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**School Lunch**

**orders are available this Wednesday and Thursday from the Hotel**

Please remember to bring your library books back there are a lot of student that are unable to borrow because of overdue books and also books to the Mildura Rural City library on Friday

**Polar fleece jumper orders and jumpers need to be to the office by Friday at the latest**