From the Principal

As promised in last week’s Pipeline, I would like to further acknowledge the achievements of a number of students at the Murray Mallee Interschool Fashion Awards. Ashlyn Roads was awarded first prize in the craft category (chair and cushion), Nikki Fox was placed second in the same category for her chair and cushion. Amelia Symes entered three items in different categories and was rewarded with a second place for her special occasion garment. Monica Rowe and Claire Morris’s special occasion garments were modelled by Nikki Fox and Kimberley Rowe, Claire received third place. Anna Thomson entered the wearable art category with a dress covered in images from her photography class. Katrina and Bianca Simmons were the big winners as they were judged overall ‘champions’ in their respective categories. Bianca received a new sewing machine and Katrina an overlocker. Congratulations to all staff and students involved!

White Ribbon Day is held on the 25th November every year. Men and women are encouraged to wear a white ribbon as a symbol of their oath which is a commitment to promote positive attitudes and behaviours towards women. Mason Peter and Susan Skinner (Werrimull’s Youth Ambassador Representatives) are getting involved in this year’s White ribbon day. Throughout the last couple of weeks the youth ambassadors have been meeting with men who are teachers, students, council members and who come from all industries and taking their photo and collecting their signed oaths. The youth ambassadors are helping to construct a wall in the Langtree Mall in the vacant shop window where Tandy used to be.

The wall will be comprised of all the men’s photographs along with their signed pledges stating they do not commit, condone or excuse violence against women. These men are role models in the community and set an example. The wall will be on display from next Wednesday.

I took the opportunity to visit the students at Gnurad Gundidj School for Student Leadership last Sunday. After speaking to their teacher and the school principal I was impressed with the progress they are making. Bianca and Michael were enjoying a day trip to Port Fairy so I missed the opportunity to speak with them. Claire, Monica and Ben were happy to share some of their experiences with me and I also enjoyed the opportunity to see many of the photographs from their first expo. I got the impression they are looking forward to visiting weekend as I am sure their families are!

Following the meeting with the K-2 Pilot Program steering committee last week we are seeking feedback regarding the program. All families with students in K-2 should have received the survey last week. Please complete the survey and return it to school by Friday 4th November. The steering committee are currently working on a model for next year and beyond. Further details will be shared with the school council and the kinder committee at the next meeting.

The maintenance work/re-surfacing of the pool is complete. The pool is now lined with a fresh blue layer and finished off with new ‘smooth’ pavers around the edge. More details regarding opening times/dates will be available soon.

Congratulations to Alex Pickering and Zac Haines for graduating Reading Recovery. Both students have participated in the program for approximately 20 weeks. Zac and Alex have made excellent progress during this time.

Good luck to Jacqui and Anna for their impending exams. Their first exam is English at 9am tomorrow.

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to wish Mick Thomson and his family all the best following his kidney transplant.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks and what a great day we had for Cup Day! Here’s hoping that all and sundry had a pleasant day with bbq’s and refreshments for all. I hope you picked a winner at some stage and didn’t wake up with the dreaded “Morning Wallet” syndrome.

Today I’d like to talk about something that may seem straight forward and that everyone knows, but it is worth revisiting with some new research to hand. And I am talking about the benefits of exercise.

We all know that exercise is a key to living a healthy and productive life free of as much illness or disease as possible. That being said it has recently been linked with academic performance. More specifically, a study published by Australian Dr Richard Telford in the “American Journal of Public Health” shows;

“children who are taught physical education by a specialist PE teacher have much higher NAPLAN test results in numeracy and writing than students whose PE lessons are taught by generalist classroom teachers in primary schools.”

Professor Telford says the findings about the academic benefit of specialist PE teachers are supported by neurological research emerging from Germany and the US over the past 10 years. The use of brain imaging has found that exercise, especially fitness activities that involve hand-eye co-ordination, can improve brain function.

So why do I take the time to mention this here? I’m glad you asked.

Attending school in a small rural area always has its challenges. Limited resources, the tyranny of distance from services and limits on curriculum are but a few. But one thing we have in abundance is specialist teachers.

Being a P-12 School we have specialist teachers across the entire curriculum. Teachers at Werrimull P-12 are constantly reminded that although they may be Primary or Secondary specialist, they are P-12 teachers. This means that our students have access to specialist teachers and subjects that other students at other schools would not, particularly in the Primary section.

Our Primary students enjoy subjects such as PE, Art, Design and Technology, Science and Information Technology delivered by experts in the field. And as can be seen by the studies already mentioned, having a specialist teacher can have all kinds of benefits.

No school is perfect and neither is Werrimull P-12. But the ability for students to access specialist teachers from P-12 is really something to hang our hat on!

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 more information on the benefits of exercise and specialist PE teachers please see the following site:

http://www.theage.com.au/national/education/exercise-link-to-higher-test-scores-20111007-1kdh0.html

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

Be Well
Kelly Morrison
**Dates to Remember**

**November**
- VCE exams: 3rd-18th November
- School Council: 9th November
- Yr 11 exams begin: 21st November
- Yr 7/8 Uni of Ballarat trip: 28th November

**December**
- Life Saving Victoria Visit (P-6): 5th December
- Yr 9/10 exams: 5th – 9th December
- Flying Start: 12th December
- School Council: 14th December
- Presentation night: 20th December
- Last Day School: 22nd December

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**Happy Birthday**

**Meg Hickey** 6th November

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**Earn & Learn**

Thank you to everyone who collected the Earn & Learn points for the school. Miss Rankin & Mrs Mentiplay spent our points very wisely on Picture Story books, Junior Reader books and Primary Class Activity Projects.

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Mr Bamford would like to pass on a very big thank you to everyone who helped collect vouchers for the Coles Sports for Schools program. We finished with 5,700 plus an extra 500 we were awarded as a bonus to give the school a grand total of 6,200. FANTASTIC EFFORT!!! Our order has been finalised and we will hopefully see our new sports equipment in early 2012.
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!