Thank you to all the parents who were able to make it last week to the information session regarding the changes to the elective subject selection for years 7 – 11 next year. Hopefully by giving our students choice this will improve motivation, school connectedness and therefore increase our learning data. If anyone has any suggestions on improving the school in any way please contact us as we are always looking for ideas to better our school and student learning.

I am happy to confirm that we are head lice free. Please keep vigilant with this and do regular checks at home of your child’s hair, this will ensure our school stays free of head lice.

Yesterday morning the secondary camp to the snow left at 7:30am. From all reports everything is going well with no injuries so far.

Just a reminder that Monday is SCHOOL PHOTO day. Please make sure your child is in full school uniform.

Parent Opinion Survey went home yesterday this is your opportunity to give anonymous feedback in how you think the school is fairing. This feedback is used in setting new goals in our Strategic Plan and changes that occur within our school come directly from the feedback all stakeholders provide to the school.
Hello again folks. The Secondary student’s left yesterday morning on their ski trip and if the arctic blast that we having is any indication, they should be in for some fantastic skiing conditions. Good luck team! Be safe and don’t cause our staff and wonderful parent volunteers too many headaches. I wish I was with you but I suppose someone has to stay behind and hold the fort.

Well it has come that time of year again when our senior students have to make some pretty big decisions regarding their future. Before I start I want to remind everyone that exams, ATAR scores and getting that first round university offer is not the be all and end all. If students, for whatever reason miss out on getting into that dream course it is not the end of the world. There are always options open and it is important to have a back-up plan and a back-up plan for your back up plan. However, to begin with students must first make their applications.

VTAC (Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre) applications open at 9am on Monday the 6th of August and close at 5pm Friday the 28th of September. Students wishing to apply for tertiary study options in 2013 must apply online on the VTAC website, www.vtac.edu.au, between these times. There are instructions on the website to follow step by step for the application process. An administration fee of around $26 will also apply and this must be paid online using either a credit card or through PayPal. So parents if your child asks to use your credit card and tells you it is for school purposes, they just may b telling the truth.

SEAS and scholarship applications also open at the same time and I highly recommend you apply for both. SEAS is the Special Entry Access Scheme run by VTAC that takes into account the individual nature of student backgrounds and circumstances and aims to take them into consideration when assessing their applications. It is important to note here that the SEAS applications are assessed by an independent panel and that VTAC only administers applications, it does not decide who gets into what course. That is up to the individual universities themselves. Special circumstances in applications can range from being located in a rural/remote area, for which all students at Werrimull qualify, to being from a disadvantaged background or having low socio-economic status. All students should be including SEAS applications in their VTAC application.

There is also information about scholarships on the VTAC page. These scholarships are far too many to mention, suffice it to say that there is a lot of money out there being given away so you may as well apply for it. You don’t get if you don’t ask.

Accommodation is also an important thing to organise early. A lot of students, and indeed their parents, find that living on campus or in a residential college is the best option for at least the first year. This is because more often than not students are provided with a room and all the necessities as well as two or three meals per day. Plus they are in a relatively secure environment with access to computers and libraries. However, these colleges can be expensive and they do fill up early. Make sure you do your homework and apply in time if you don’t want to miss out. Most colleges also have scholarships schemes which can ease the financial burden, so do check them out as well.

This can be both an exciting and stressful time for students and parents. Don’t wait. Start now and don’t be afraid to ask for help. Good luck.

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.

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

**July**
Secondary Snow camp 30th July-3rd Aug

**August**
School Photo day 6th August
School Athletics 10th August
Tennis Courts Working Bee 17th August
Sport/Art day 17th August
Book week Parade 21st August
Review day 24th August

**September**
School Council 4th September
Yrs 3,4,7&8 Farm safety day Ouyen 12th Sept
Keys Please course Yrs 9+10 19th Sept
Last day term 3 2pm Finish 21st Sept

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**Tennis Courts Working Bee**
If you are able to help finish off the fencing around the Tennis Courts on Friday 17th August at 12:30pm please contact School Council President Graeme Ruchel on 5028 3257. Afternoon tea will be provided.

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

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**Werrimull P-12 School**
is after a 14” Holden rim for the BBQ trailer if anyone has an old one please ring the office on 50281251

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**School Logo Embroidering**
If you would like our school logo embroidered on t-shirts or jumpers. Please contact the office 50281251. We need 10 or more to be embroidered

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**Just a Reminder**
As it’s a departmental requirement for students that are absent, a parent or guardian needs to fill in a 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

This Term we are looking at fairytales and fantasy, following the children’s interests throughout the first Semester.

We are building a cardboard box castle inside the kindergarten as one of our big projects so please continue to send along your empty cardboard boxes, we’ll need lots!

Next month the School and Kinder will be participating in Book Week with a parade and special activities on Tuesday August 21st. Children are asked to dress up as a character from a book (their favourite book if possible).

Kinder photos will be taken on Tuesday August 28th at the Pre-School by Nicole Davis. More information will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Tuesday September 4th we will be going on our annual Steam Train ride at Red Cliffs which will include a visit to Big Lizzy, the playground at Barclay Square and the Red Cliffs Library.

Tuesday September 11th we will be visited by the Discovery Program from Museum Victoria which is really exciting. More information will follow at a later date.

Have a great week,
Miss Caroline Smith

Dates to Remember

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