From the Principal

CHANGE OF DATE

SCHOOL COUNCIL AGM ON TUESDAY 13TH AT 6PM IN THE ICT/MEETING ROOM AT THE SCHOOL. ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

We are asking all families to donate an Easter Egg to our annual Easter raffle – all the fundraising money is deposited into the student accounts and families are able to use these funds for excursions, camps, etc. This year we are combining some of our fundraising efforts with the Kinder – we believe it makes sense as we are all working for the students.

Last week we had our first head lice check of the year and I am happy to report that we are a HEAD LICE FREE SCHOOL! Thank you to everyone for your diligence in this matter.

Testing is under way at the school at the moment with On Demand and English & Maths On Line being completed this week. The collection of data allows staff to tailor the curriculum at point of need for each student and shows strengths and improvement areas of the teaching and learning.

Next Tuesday our grade 3 – 6’s are going on an excursion to Mildura for an Author Visit. Last year’s visit was extremely successful and motivated our students to write in different genres. We believe it is important to expose our students to different extra-curricular opportunities to cater for all interests.

Just a reminder that on Tuesday the 20th March is the parent focus group meeting about the school review. All parents are invited to attend to give feedback on the past four years and to help direct the school in the next four years.

If you have any queries, concerns or ideas please let me know either via email or make an appointment to see me.
The importance of parental involvement as an accelerating and motivating factor in their children's education is a worldwide-accepted fact. Recent research has further highlighted the importance of getting involved, particularly in early childhood education. Below are some ideas to try with P-6 students.

**Sharing a book at home**
- Together with your child, you can enjoy sharing reading.
- Children love to hear a story read aloud.
- Try reading with different voices, lots of emotion, invented sound effects and funny faces. Change the tone in your voice, vary the loudness or softness of your voice. Have fun and enjoy it.
- It is a good idea to practise reading before sharing a book.
- Listen to your child talk about the story and the pictures.
- Try asking your child which parts of the books he or she found exciting, funny or different.
- Give your child the chance to choose a book to read.
- Try reading to your child and, at other times, ask your child to join in reading the book.
- Let your child hear how hill and home start with the same sound or how trouble and bubble rhyme.

**Researching the Internet**

Did you know?
- Using the Internet requires skills and knowledge that are different from those found in books and other printed materials. These skills include such things as links, images, icons and searching.
- The Internet is a wonderful resource for knowledge gathering, information using to support your child's literacy development.
- If you are searching for a suitable book to read, try entering a publisher or an author’s name into a reliable search engine, such as Google. Some reliable publishers are Scholastic, Penguin, Allen & Unwin and Pan Macmillan. These publishers have their own databases that will allow you to preview recent releases, read sample extracts, covers and read brief overviews.
- You can find other publishers at: [http://www.publishers.asn.au](http://www.publishers.asn.au)
- A good source for book reviews is: [http://www.cool-reads.co.uk](http://www.cool-reads.co.uk)

**Doing literacy homework**

Do you ever hear at home: ‘I have a project to do!’

Encourage your child to talk with you about the project. Ask:
- What is your project about? When is it due?
- Where do you think you'll start? Would you like any help or are you okay?
- Let’s plan your project:
- Where will you go to find out the information?
- Perhaps try Internet research and visit the local library.
- Where else might you go or what else might you do to get the information?
- How will you present/publish the information? You could write a story, oral presentation, PowerPoint, presentation poster or a brochure.

Hints:
- Don’t copy information word for word from books or the Internet.
- Write your ideas clearly in your own words.
- Have you used Spellchecker and grammar check?
- Did you use [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) to check any words for spelling?

Jamie Russell
Mallee District Secondary School Sports Association Swimming Report

Last Friday we had nine students attend the MDSSSA Swimming Sports in Mildura. Although the weather had improved from the rain earlier in the week, there was still a chill in the air.

Our students were confident of putting in a strong showing and it didn’t take long for some exceptional performances to come through. Nikki Fox put in a fantastic effort to finish third in her pet event, the 50m breast stroke.

The boys weren’t to be outdone though, with Kieran Simmons’ unorthodox butterfly action again raising the eyebrows of spectators. Despite its lack of efficiency, it proved to be effective as he swam an exceptional race to finish second. Mark Thomson again showed why he is regarded as an all-round sportsman by taking home two third placing ribbons.

However our best result of the day came when our very own Matt Welsh aka Kalob Ruchel, powered his way down the pool to totally dominate the 16 Years boys backstroke. It was an exceptional swim by Kalob, which sees him now qualify for the Loddon Mallee Region finals in Swan Hill on March 15th. Congratulations Kalob! We wish him the best and look forward to seeing how he goes.

All of our students gave it their very best effort and should be proud of their performances on the day. I would like to thank Jeanette Thomson and Judith Buffon for driving students to and from the event. I would like to say an extra big thank-you to Judith for doing timekeeping throughout the day.

Paul Bamford
Sports Co-ordinator

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
The 12th Annual Lindeman's Tour De Murray, a Charity Family Fun Day, will be held on Sunday 11th March 2012. Enjoy a walk or ride along the picturesque Murray River, through beautiful scenery and past rolling vineyards. Choose between the non-competitive 114km or 75km bike ride out past Lindeman's Winery; 30km Mountain Bike or Family leisure ride to King's Billabong; 7km Mayoral walk (a great activity for the whole family including the 4 legged ones). Our major sponsors include: Lindemans, Tasco Inland, Mildura Weekly, Tankard Dental, Prime, Madec, Davidson Ford, Ramsay Health Care and more.....

All funds raised are distributed to local charities and the 'Chances for Children' program, which is a fund that aims to remove financial barriers for young people to achieve their potential whether it be educational, sporting, arts or music.

Cost - including BBQ lunch; refreshments; and choice of activities

$15 adults; $5 students; children under 12 FREE

7.15am  Registrations open
7.30am  114 Km ride to Nangiloc and return commences
8.30am  75 km bike rides to Lindemans Winery and return commences
9.15am  Mountain Bike ride to King's Billabong commences
9.30am  7.5 km Celebrity Mayoral walk to Apex Park and return commences
9.45am  30km ride for families to Kings Billabong and return commences
12 noon  Auction - $500 Travel and Bike vouchers – 3 day luxury Houseboat Holiday valued at $3000... and more......
12.30pm  Rhee Tae Kwon Do martial arts exhibition

*times subject to change – please check on timings the day before

Details on how to register go to www.chancesforchildren.com.au or ring Sharon on 5021 7474
**Dates to Remember**

**March**
- World Maths 6th March
- Ballot closes– school council 8th March
- Labor Day Pupil free day 12th March
- Author Visit P-6 13th March
- Work Experience Yr 10 & 11 26th–30th
- Tasty Thursday 29th 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

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

Hello to Werrimull P-12 families,

My name is Sonya and my children and I have recently moved to the area for the Werrimull P-12 school in the hope of attaining a better education.

Not only has Werrimull P-12 proven to be a savvy educational institution but it has exceeded my expectations. The improvement in my children at school and home has been outstanding.

I am now extremely happy to call this area our new home however, we are yet to find a permanent residence. We are looking for a 2 to 3 bedroom home to rent and due to family commitments in Paringa/ Renmark SA, we are looking for a place to rent between Werrimull, Cullulleraine and Morkalla rd.

If you have a home that we could rent please contact me on 0400791814
What's Happening

We've had a bit of a topsy turvy week again as Kinder had to be cancelled today due to the fact that Alanna is very ill and we were unable to get a replacement. We are not the only Kinder facing this problem, other kindergartens in Mildura were faced with the same dilemma this week. The YMCA are doing what they can but without more relief teachers or assistants there is only so much that can be done.

This coming Tuesday is a Library day so please remember to send your child to school with their library bag and library books. If they do not return their books they will not be able to borrow again until our next Library visit.

Our first Partnership visit from the School children last week was a wonderfully positive experience with the children getting to know each other as a large group and interacting with different children at different activities. In a few weeks time the Pre-School children will be visiting the School.

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,

Miss Caroline Smith

Dates to Remember

- 1st March Partnership Visit to Kinder
- 13th March Library Day
- 22nd March Partnership Visit to School
- 27th March Library Day
- 26th March Kinder Meeting, 7pm
- 29th March Last Day of Kinder, Term One