Welcome back to all our existing staff, students and families and a BIG WELCOME to our new students, families and staff. Last year was again a success with many of our students receiving various scholarships, awards and acknowledgements for their chosen activities. We also saw the final stage of our school refurbishment complete with the Technical wing being revamped – now we need to look at new equipment and hopefully the funding will be provided for this via the Trade Training venture.

2012 will see many extra-curricular events so I thought to allow everyone to get organised I would place the dates we have so far in the 1st Pipeline, events may change and there will possibly be more added but this is what we have as of today.

**February**

10th Swimming sports                      15th School council nomination open
21st Open water Grade 4 – 10               21st Pancake Tuesday
22nd MMM Swimming

**March**

2nd SSSA Swimming                         6th World Maths
13th Author visit P6                      26th – 30th Work Experience Yr 10 & 11
30th End of term 1

**April**

16th Term 2 starts                       27th X-Country

**May**

23rd SSSA X-Country

**June**

15th Student Led Conferences             18th 9-12 Exams
25th – 29th Flying Start                  29th Xmas in June
29th End of term 2
It is coming to that time of the year again where we need to elect a new SCHOOL COUNCIL. There is one position available for parents of our school and as I mentioned last year it is an extremely important role that the parent community MUST fill for us to be able to operate as a school. Below is a little bit about what it is and why it is so important.

What is School Council?

- Is a legally formed body that is given powers to set the key directions of a school
- Is the major governing body of the school
- Plays an important role in school accountability and improvement processes
- Endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents

What are the objectives of School Council?

- Assist in the efficient governance of the school
- Ensure students’ best interests are primary
- Enhance the educational opportunities for students
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations
What are the functions of a school council?

In essence, the function is one of helping to set the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school's operation. **It is not about running the school – that is the job of the principal.**

Three of the **critical functions** are:

- Participate in developing the School Strategic Plan and engaging the school community
- Approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure, and
- Developing, reviewing, updating and monitoring policies including the **Student Engagement Policy** (how the school promotes expected student behavior, how bullying will be managed and the school's approach to supporting student wellbeing) and the **School Dress Code** (this includes how students are expected to dress during school hours including traveling to and from school, if the school has a uniform and what that looks like, and any arrangement with clothing suppliers that the school might enter into)

**Additional functions include:**

- Preparing an annual report relating to financial activities and the School Strategic Plan and presenting the Annual Report to the School Community at the annual public meeting of school council and publishing and making available the annual report to the school’s community.
- Informing itself and taking into account the views of the school community when making decisions regarding the school and the students
- Arranging for the supply of the things needed for the conduct of the school (such as goods, services, facilities, materials and equipment) including the provision of preschool programs
- Providing meals and refreshments for students and staff and charging for this
- Raising money for things that the school needs and ensuring any money that council receives is properly spent on school-related purposes
- Making sure the school’s grounds and buildings are maintained
- Entering into contracts for things like cleaning the school or a school council building project
- Regulating and facilitating the after-hours use of the school premises and grounds
- Stimulating interest in the school within the community
- Approving overnight excursions and adventure activities, etc.
Limitations: What school council does not do

- School council does not manage the day-to-day running of the school. For example, it does not employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination, decide which classes students will be assigned to, or sort out issues relating to individual teachers and students and/or parents.

- Nor does it discuss individual issues relating to teachers or staff or parents – these are very clearly management roles, and therefore the principal's job.

- School councilors are not appointed to represent specific interest groups or permit special interests to dominate the agenda of the council.

- School council does not renew the principal’s contract nor recruit or dismiss the principal - that is the role of the regional director. For the majority of schools, the school council is responsible for recommending to the Secretary, DEECD, a person to fill a vacant principal position.

- School Council is also not allowed to license or grant any interest in land; purchase a motor vehicle or plane; enter into hire purchase agreements or obtain credit or loans; form or become a member of a corporation; or provide education services outside of Victoria, unless it is given permission by the Minister.

Role of school council members

- For school councils to operate effectively, members need to respect everyone’s opinions – even those they disagree with.

- It is also important that once council reaches a decision, all school councilors support that decision in the school community.

- Parent members on school council bring their experience as parents at the school and the views of the wider school community to school council meetings.

- DEECD employees bring their educational expertise to school council meetings.

Do I have what it takes to be on school council?

- You need to be keen, but you don’t need to be an expert.

- It helps if you like people and you do need to be able to work as a team member.

- You do need to be prepared to commit the time and effort needed to ensure the work of council gets done. 8 meetings per year!

- School councils work best when they have people from a variety of different backgrounds and who have different experiences.
Nominations and if required elections will be held in the coming weeks. Please contact Narelle for the forms. The AGM is on the 14th March 2012 at the school in the meeting/ICT room at 6:00pm.

Any further enquires please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

Due to the busy nature of the 21st Century I have included all staff edumail address so as you can communicate efficiently to your teacher or your child’s teacher. If you have not provided your email address to the school please email Narelle asap so as teachers can be in contact with you.

fush.erin.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
morrison.kelly.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
russell.jamie.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
donnelly.james.b@edumail.vic.gov.au
whittle.douglas.h@edumail.vic.gov.au
birnie.leith.n@edumail.vic.gov.au
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hall.margaret.h@edumail.vic.gov.au
rankin.misha.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
bamford.paul.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
smith.caroline.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
goldsmith.joelene.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
wright.narelle.e@edumail.vic.gov.au
sly.helen.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Homework is always a bug bear of all parents, students and teachers and we make sure that it is not given just for the sake of it – what is sent home is an important part of each student’s learning and therefore needs to be completed in a timely manner and with the idea in mind that it is improving knowledge. In our student code of conduct it states that every student must complete homework each night – this will vary depending on the age of your child but will range from reading to more complex activities. Homework is an opportunity for you to participate in your child’s education.
Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning and fosters lifelong study habits. Our discipline policy for non completion of homework is the first time they receive a detention, if the second non completion happens within 2 weeks of the first occasion they have a week’s detention and the third non completion in the 2 week period or there is a pattern of non completion a after school detention will be enforced. Parents will be notified after the second non completion via email or a phone call. Please support your child in their home study by regularly checking their diary.

Just a reminder about excursions that students MUST bring their notes back in the day before the excursion is due to leave e.g. if the excursion is happening on Tuesday the notes are due back on Monday. If they are not back to the front office the student will not be attending the excursion. It is the students’ responsibility to take the permission forms home have them signed and returned to school before the cut off date. Also if you are collecting your child from the excursion directly the school needs a written note to this effect handed in with the permission form. If the permission form is lost, for the student to receive a second note (no third note will be printed the student will miss the excursion) the STUDENT must explain to staff as to why they should receive another note. We believe this allows the students the opportunity to redeem themselves and be responsible for their actions. Some of you may think this policy to be harsh but the extra time it takes to reprint notes is wasted time, we do not want ANY student to miss an excursion and we will support them to be successful in being organised.

I have no doubt that this year we will build on the successes of the previous year if we continue to work together – students, parents and staff – as we all are striving to do the very best

Erin Fush
Principal

PLEASE NOTE:
SWIMMING SPORTS
Friday 10th February
Lunch orders due back Wednesday
Welcome to the 2012 school year. I trust you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday. Thank you to the families who attended our ‘family day’ last Friday, it was an enjoyable way to begin the new school year.

Once again, in 2012 my role will include the co-ordination of the 1-to-1 program. As we enter the fourth year of the program all Year 4-12 students have access to a portable device (at a discounted price) and an ipod, P-3 students have access to their own netbook during school hours and all students have access to ipads at school. Exposing students to such technology allows us to better prepare them for life after school.

Recent research has shown, teachers who use technology frequently in their classroom see greater benefits to student learning—particularly learning 21st century skills—than teachers who are less frequent users.

Along with the benefits of such a program come responsibilities. Students must

- bring their netbook/laptop to school every day
- ensure it is fully charged when they arrive at school
- only store/save programs and documents that are directly related to their school work
- not stick foreign objects all over the device (including stickers)
- take reasonable care of the device (for example- all keys should be intact, screen should be clean etc.)
- inform a teacher of any damage immediately.

Tech support is provided on a fortnightly basis. This support allows us to maintain the software installed on the device. If a laptop/netbook requires extensive work it may take longer than two weeks for the device to be returned. Any issues relating to hardware (including repair costs) are the responsibility of the lessee.

If you would like to know more about Werrimull P-12 School’s 1-to-1 program don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks and welcome to the 2012 school year at Werrimull P-12. We have an exciting line up of activities for the students to be involved in this year, ranging from leadership and wellbeing opportunities to careers and pathways days and seminars.

One thing worth a mention is the continued partnership with the University of Ballarat who will be visiting the school again this year with their Regional schools Outreach Programs for Year 8, 9, 10 and 11. We have recently been advised by UB that funding for their Outreach program has been extended until 2014, so we can look forward to more visits both to and from UB.

Year 10 and 11 students are reminded that the first block of Work Experience this year is from March 26th to March 30th. That’s the last week of Term 1. So get to work on a placement. Forms will be handed out next week.

Another partnership we hope to continue to foster is with Red Cliffs Secondary College where a joint metropolitan experience was run in 2011 with our VCE students who looked at tertiary institutions in Adelaide. The details for this have not been confirmed, but watch this space and hopefully we can join RSC this year on their trip to Melbourne.

And speaking of space; how’s that for a lame segwei; the internet is like space you wouldn’t believe how vastly, hugely mind bogglingly big the internet is. I mean you may think it’s a long way from here to Pirlta, but that’s just peanuts to the internet! And what can you find on the internet?........Money!

Yes money. There simply loads of people, businesses and organisations that are just lining up to give you their money. The trick is you have to go find them, and then you have to apply for it. Grants, scholarships, sponsorships and more are available for many and varied students, subjects and sections of our community. Please take the time to log on and go in search of what may be that pot of gold. The school is more than happy to help you apply for them, but we are unable to take the time to look for them all, so let your fingers do the walking for you!

Lastly I’d like to remind everyone that all staff are available should parents or students have any concerns or questions about anything. At the risk of using a cliché, we can’t fix it if we don’t know it’s broken. And I refuse to agree with old chestnuts like “If I tell them it will only make it worse.” or “There’s no point in telling, they don’t do anything anyway.” Ensuring students have a safe and productive environment at school is the responsibility of all staff and I can guarantee we take that responsibility very seriously.

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:

Google “scholarships”, “philanthropic organisations”, “grants” linked with education - Victoria or Australia

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

Be Well

Kelly Morrison

Wellbeing Coordinator
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<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<td><strong>February</strong></td>
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<td>School Council Nominations</td>
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<td>Open water Yr 4-10</td>
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<td>Pancake Tuesday</td>
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<td>MMM Swimming</td>
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<td><strong>March</strong></td>
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<td>SSSA Swimming</td>
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<td>World Maths</td>
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<td>Ballot closes– school council</td>
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<td>Author Visit P-6</td>
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<td>Work Experience Yr 10 &amp; 11</td>
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Thanks to all the parents, grandparents and other community members for collecting the Coles vouchers and it bought picture story books, class sets, big books and stationary for the library and classroom.