From the Principal

I hope this finds everyone well as I know this time of the year the “flu bug” is out and about. It is important for all students to keep fit and healthy and make sure they are drinking water throughout the day.

Just a reminder that homework must be completed by all students. At the moment students are using the excuse “I have been lazy” which is a positive that students are telling the truth but this does not excuse their poor time management. Homework is an opportunity for you to participate in your child’s education. Homework complements and reinforces classroom learning and fosters lifelong study habits. Below is what the Victorian Government expectations around homework.

Types of homework

The homework set for your child will vary depending on their age, the subject and the school’s approach to homework.

The degree of difficulty and length of homework will also be set according to the age and abilities of the student.

Homework will become more challenging in secondary school and the final years of education.

Types of homework include:

Practice exercises
Practice exercises provide your child with opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills. They include:

- completing maths exercises
- practising spelling
- practising words or phrases learnt in a language other than English
- reading
- writing essays and other creative tasks
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising physical education skills.
Preparatory homework

Preparatory homework provides opportunities for your child to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons. For example:

- reading background material for history
- reading English texts for class discussion
- researching topics for class work
- collecting newspaper articles
- revising information about a current topic.

Extension assignments

Extension assignments encourage your child to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example:

- writing a book review
- making or designing an artwork
- completing science investigation exercises
- researching local news
- finding material on the internet
- monitoring advertising in a newspaper.

How parents can help

Some ways you can help your child with their homework:

- encourage a regular daily time to examine and complete homework
- discuss key questions or suggest resources to help with homework
- help to balance the amount of time spent between homework and recreational activities
- ask how homework and class work is progressing and acknowledge success
- attend school events, productions or displays your child is involved in
- talk to teachers to discuss problems with homework
- check whether homework has been set and encourage your child to keep a homework diary.

On a personal note many of you may have already heard on the grapevine that Jonathon and I are expecting our 2nd (and final) child, this is true! We are very happy and will hopefully have our new edition at the very end of this year. School Council will decide who takes on the Principal role at a later date.

Don’t forget this Friday is Cross Country!

Erin Fush
Interschool Cross Country
Congratulations to ALL P6 students who participated in the Primary Interschool Cross Country last Friday. Mitchell Roads, Alex Pickering, Tom Fox, Colby Berry, Zannah Harmer & Dana Kingi all finished in the top three of their respective races. Although Mitchell was the only student crowned Age Group Champion we managed to win the overall competition for the second successive year.
It was pleasing to see a large number of Werrimull supporters (including parents, grandparents, extended family and family friends) at Koorlong to support the students!

Focus on SPELLING- Spellodrome
Research indicates that spelling is important for the development of both reading and writing skills.
Spelling supports younger children in learning to read. In older students, spelling can contribute to the growth of vocabulary and in turn, reading comprehension. This is because the knowledge of symbols to sound relationships improves decoding skills.
Students at Werrimull P-12 School are currently trialling a new spelling program called Spellodrome.
Spellodrome is designed and maintained by the same company responsible for Mathletics. It is an interactive program and allows students to participate in learning tasks to practise their weekly list words.
We are still in the early stages with the program however I welcome any feedback.

We Give Books
We Give Books is a new digital initiative that enables anyone with access to the Internet to put books in the hands of children who don't have them, simply by reading online.
We Give Books combines the joy of reading with the power of helping others, providing a platform for caregivers and educators to inspire children to become lifelong readers and lifelong givers.
Visit http://www.wegivebooks.org/ and start reading!

Excessive internet use
Many parents believe children and young people are constantly online. Often they seem to be completing more than one task at a time; for example, downloading and listening to music while studying and chatting with friends or sending messages on their mobile phones.
The number of hours children and young people spend online can vary significantly. There is no guideline for the ‘right’ amount of time for children to spend online, however if their online behaviour appears to impact negatively on their behaviour or wellbeing, or that of the family, it may be time to discuss expectations and establish time limits.

If you wish to find out more visit: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents/Cybersafety%20issues/Excessive%20internet%20use.aspx

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. From my end the weather lately seems to have been lovely. Well it was pretty good for baseball yesterday. Here’s hoping that the cropping is going ok and that we get some good follow up rains.

Mrs Fush asked me the other day to start organising subject selection booklets for next year and to get staff to indicate possible subjects to be included. Seems early doesn’t it? But really we are half way through Term 2 and we need to know what subjects are going to run in order to know what the staffing profile is going to look like so that we can advertise and fill positions if required, all of which needs to be in place by early Term 4.

So with that in mind it is time again to have a chat with your child over possible subject choices for the year to come. And when you do this it is good to keep a few things in mind;

- Student likes and dislikes
- Student strengths and weaknesses
- Possible pathways from middle secondary school to VCE
- Possible pathways from VCE to employment/training
- Meeting the VCE/VET/VCAL requirements
- Meeting subject prerequisites for university

Students will receive subject selection books late this Term/early next Term and as usual a subject selection afternoon will be held in order for you to gain more information. However, parents and students are always most welcome to call and make an appointment to come in and see me at the school to discuss choices.

Universities have a lot of information on their websites regarding courses they offer and subject prerequisites and I also have access to this information. I recommend not leaving it to the last possible minute as this can cause some stress and confusion. And that’s just the teacher.

**It’s never too late to start planning. Don’t hesitate to call me for any assistance.**

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:

- Call Mr Morrison at the school
- Visit University campuses
- Visit University websites

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

#### May
- Cross Country: 11th May
- NAPLAN: 15th – 17th May
- ILP Meetings: 21st May
- Culture Trip: 22nd May
- SSSA Cross Country: 23rd May
- 4-6 Cluster Sport: 25th May

#### June
- Pupil free Day: 8th June
- Public Holiday: 11th June
- Keys Please: 13th June
- Student Lead Conferences: 15th June
- 9-12 Exams: 18th June
- School Council: 20th June
- Students return from Alpine School: 23rd June
- Flying Start: 25th – 28th June
- Xmas in June: 29th June

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**Happy Birthday**
- Shaun Symes: 9th May
- Mark Thomson: 12th May

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

**Mothers Day Stall next Thursday 10th May**

**Nothing over $10**

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**Mothers Day**
- 13th May
Somers Camp

On Tuesday 17th of April 2012 we went to Somers camp for 9 days. We went with 158 other students from Sunraysia. We travelled on a bus and the trip was 9 hours long to get to Somers camp.

We stayed in cabins that separated girls from boys. In each cabin there were 20 kids and ten bunk beds, two toilets and five showers. In each cabin there was a visiting teacher from Sunraysia.

Some of the activities we did were, Challenge swing, Singing at assembly, Surfing, Archery, Bike riding, Environmental Studies, Orienteering, Library, Boating, Flying Fox, Low Ropes Course, High Ropes Course, Rock Climbing and one of our favourites was Abseiling down the back of the rock climbing centre. One of the highlights of the camp was that there was a canteen and everyone was allowed to spend the 8 dollars.

The worst thing was the beef roast that tasted like rubber.

We recommend that you try to go to Somers camp if you have the opportunity.

Written by Raymond Henschke and Zac Symes.

The science department is after biodegradable “Packing peanuts” for experiments if you have any could you please send them along to the school

Thank you
What's Happening

This Term we are looking at Families and Home. If you have a chance to visit the Pre-School you will notice that everything has been moved around to provide the children with a proper home area for imaginative play.

Thank-you to all the parents who made it along to the Committee meeting last night, your participation is always appreciated.

Today we had our fortnightly visit to the Werrimull P-12 School library, it is always wonderful to see the children’s excitement and interest in borrowing new books and sharing them with their families.

In the past few weeks the children have discovered our building/construction area with a vengeance. If you have empty cardboard boxes or cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls) at home please send them along to Kinder to help us facilitate this interest.

As the weather gets colder please make sure that you send along a jacket or jumper to kindergarten as even when it is cold we still spend time outside.

Shared Snack Ideas

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Cheese
- Dry biscuits
- Dried fruit

Please remember to pack a drink bottle for your child every day. The weather is still warm and even in Winter we need to drink lots of water.

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>28th June</td>
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