

gang gang

warrandyte high school



Warrandyte High School
Warrandyte
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Assistant Principal: Pamela Dunstall

School Captains: Jessica Brincat, Jonty Rushton

Issue 1 Term 1 2014

Dates for your Diary

Friday 7 February	Year 10 Peer Support Group training Principals Assemblies Period 1 & 2
Monday 10 February	Parent Association meeting 7:30pm Year 7 Camp and Music Information Night 7pm
Thursday 13 February	Policy and Facilities meeting 6pm Finance meeting 7.30pm
Friday 14 February	Motivational Media School Council Parent Nominations close
Tuesday 18 February	School Photos 12noon MSG meeting 7:30pm World Challenge Parent meeting 6.00pm-6.30pm (Library)
Wednesday 19 February	School Council meeting 7.30pm

From the Principal

Welcome to 2014

I would like to welcome back all the families returning to Warrandyte High School in 2014 and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the families joining us for the first time this year. Last Thursday, the first day for Year 7 students, I had the opportunity to speak with a number of Year 7 parents, some of whom were new to our school. It was lovely to share in such a special occasion with these parents and I look forward to further opportunities to meet with parents and members of our community throughout the year.

I would like to welcome two teachers who are joining us this year. They are Ms Farah Zakharia (Commerce/Humanities) and Mr Sunil Behanan (Science/Maths)

We have also farewelled two staff from last year. They are Ms Kathy Hooke and Ms Nerissa Marcon. We wish them both all the best for their future endeavours.

Growth Mindset

A continuing, major professional development focus for the teaching staff this year will be the 'Mindset' work of Professor Carol Dweck, the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology at Stanford University. Her work focuses on the way in which developing a growth mindset in students can assist with their learning. In 2013 all staff undertook online training and we introduced the 'Brainology' program into our Year 7 Science classes. This program is based on the Growth Mindset concept and the science of brain plasticity and focuses on the theme of lifelong

learning, that through applying ourselves and working on new things we can actually grow our brain, and that as educators we must continually reinforce the value of effort.

There are also a series of planned activities for other year levels and we are hoping to hold some parent forums on Growth Mindset a little later in the year. Self-efficacy, the belief that you are able to succeed, is a keystone to learning and something we must develop in all our students. By the end of 2014 we hope that Growth Mindset and Warrandyte High School are synonymous with each other.

For interested parents the following two links will take you to short video clips of Professor Dweck discussing the importance of Mindset and the power of the word 'Yet'. There are also many more readily available videos and articles available on the internet.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jDvd-nCEYc>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyAde4nllm8>

VCE results 2013

I am very pleased to be able to congratulate the Year 12 class of 2013 on the excellent results they achieved. The final results were the culmination of much effort and commitment across a number of years, and reflect the contribution of staff and parents into the learning of the students. In particular, congratulations to Riley Griffiths, the 2013 Dux who achieved an ATAR score of 92.25, Nicola Pinolo, Mollie Wilkins and Casey Edwards who each achieved an ATAR score above 90, and Nathan McKinley (VET IDM), Luca Orkibi (Vet IDM), Nicola Pinolo (Biology and Further Maths), Claire Kopeitz (Studio Arts), Mollie Wilkins (Studio Arts and Visual Communication), Caroline Bell (Studio Arts), Georgia Grant (Studio Arts), Jessica Brincat (VET Sport & Recreation), Casey Edwards (Visual Communication), Riley Griffiths (Visual Communication) and Nik Henkes (Visual Communication) who each achieved study scores above 40, placing them in the top 8% in that study.

School Council Elections 2014—Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

In this issue of Gang Gang I have included a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations.

All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- consider standing for election to council this year
- be sure to vote in the elections.

Please contact me if you wish further information.

Warrandyte High School

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Warrandyte High School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on **Friday 14 February, 2014**.

If an election is required the ballot will close at **4.00 pm on Tuesday 11 March, 2014**.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	TERM OF OFFICE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 (Wednesday 12 March, 2014) to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 (Wednesday 9 March, 2016)	4
DEECD employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 (Wednesday 12 March, 2014) to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015 (Wednesday 9 March, 2016)	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Stephen Parkin
Principal

School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings have been introduced in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk.



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed due to the risk of fire. We will also cancel any offsite activities (such as school camps and excursions) and out-of-school care if the activities are at risk. There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On high fire risk days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared is to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire, we have completed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s self-assessment of our emergency preparedness.

What can parents do?

Make sure your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website <http://www.warrandytehigh.vic.edu.au/#> and the Compass Parent Portal and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the Bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay. If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan. You can access more information about school closures on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Bushfire Alert Drill

Warrandyte High School is very aware that even with the Code Red closures, there is still the need to be thoroughly prepared for the current bushfire season and, in particular, the need to ensure that our new students are familiar with our emergency procedures. For this reason we held a Bushfire Alert Drill on Friday 31st January. The drill went very smoothly and we were very impressed with the behaviour of our students.

In a bushfire alert situation, students will not be allowed to leave the school unless they are signed out by a parent or a person authorised to collect their child. This authorisation can only be given via our 'Emergency Management Plan; Authority to collect students 2014' proforma which is included at the end of this edition of the *Gang Gang*. You will need to complete and return this form to the General Office if you wish to authorise the collection of your child by someone other than yourself.

Student drop off: The drop off and collection zone for students is at the front of the school off Warrandyte Road.

Parents are to enter from the Warrandyte end and to take great care as they depart and re-enter Warrandyte Road near the school crossing. Parents may also park in the gravel car park behind the gymnasium to drop off or pick up children. Parents are **not** to drop off or pick up their children in the top staff car park, nor are they to stop illegally outside the school office in the lower car park.

Both car parks are full of activity just prior to the start of the school day and are similarly hectic at the end of the school day.

Cars double parked and students moving through this area while cars are being parked or backing out of parking spots is a recipe for disaster. Please consider the safety of your own child and others, rather than the 30 seconds in the day that you can save by this dangerous and irresponsible behaviour.

Uniform

Our uniform supplier is **FCW fashion**. They operate a uniform shop from the school premises on Tuesdays from 3-3.45pm and Thursdays from 8-9.30am. Uniforms can also be ordered online at www.fcw.com.au or on a form from the General Office.

The school uniform is clearly set out in the student planner and students are expected to be in full school uniform and of neat appearance at all times, including while travelling to and from school. Students not in full school uniform are required to provide a note and report to their Level Leaders office for a pass before the start of Period 1. Students who are out of uniform without appropriate parental notification will receive an afterschool detention.

In particular the following expectations will be focused on over the forthcoming weeks.

- Correct footwear – traditional black shoes - should be worn to, at and from school.
- Jewellery should be discreetly unobtrusive, ie, it should not draw attention to itself. Students will be asked to remove excessive jewellery, including neck beads, large hoop earrings and facial piercings.
- If cold, students should wear the regulation pullover or jacket. Non-uniform jackets will not be permitted.
- Girls must wear white socks with both summer and winter uniforms or blue tights with the winter uniform.
- Facial piercings are discouraged and if worn need to be discrete studs only

In 2014 we will be enforcing a small amendment to the uniform policy with students required to wear their summer uniform in Terms 1 and 4 and winter uniform in Terms 2 and 3. There will be a 2 week changeover period at the beginning of Terms 2 and 4 to allow for weather anomalies.

Under no circumstances are students to wear thongs to school. This includes out of uniform days as they pose a health and safety risk.

Acceptable use agreement for Internet and Digital Technologies.

Students and parents are reminded that students will not be able to access school computer resources until the **Acceptable Use Agreement**, has been signed by both student and parent and returned to the General Office. This document was given out in packages at the end of year assemblies last year.

Year 7 Camp & Music Information Night 2014

On **Monday 10 February at 7.00pm** all Year 7 students and parents are invited to our information session which will be held in the Warrandyte High School Theatre. On this night you will receive notices for the upcoming Camp ADANAC scheduled for the 17th to 19th of March. You will also be provided with information about our extensive instrumental music program.

Pamela Dunstall
Assistant Principal

Warrandyte High School - School Council Awards 2013

Congratulations to the following award recipients for 2013. These students were all acknowledged at our School Council Awards ceremony in December 2013. It is important that we celebrate their achievements and reward them for their commitment to success.

AWARD	RECIPIENT
School Captains 2014	Jessica Brincat Jonty Rushton
SRC 2014	President: Dani Robertson Vice President: Holly Mulder Secretary: Rachel Vardy Treasurer: Maverick Knight
Music Captains 2014	Kelly Miller Daniel Puls-Welsh
Senior Leaders	Luka Orkibi, Kyle Maloney, Rachel Vardy, Jacintha Abandowitz-Lee, Darcy Hunt, Dani Robertson
The Rotary Citizenship Award sponsored by The Rotary Club of Warrandyte/Donvale	Kiara Pianta
The Rotary Excellence Award sponsored by The Rotary Club of Warrandyte/Donvale	Laura Doguet
The Literary Prize sponsored by Warrandyte Market	Nicola Pinolo
The ANZAC Award sponsored by Warrandyte RSL	Zac Ratcliffe
The Kiwanis Award sponsored by The Kiwanis club of Doncaster/Templestowe	Holly Mulder
The ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards sponsored by Australian Defence Force	Jenna McNamara Jack Poole
The Blake Prize sponsored by Michael and Brenda Blake	Casey Edwards
The Artistic Excellence Award sponsored by Ryan Smith, Member for Warrandyte	Mollie Wilkins
The Sports Award sponsored by Warrandyte High School	Marcus Eldridge
The Lions Music Excellence Award sponsored by The Lions Club of Warrandyte	Nathan France
The Manningham Promoting Character award sponsored by Manningham Promoting Character	Brianna Murphy

The Jean-Pierre Lajoie Prize sponsored by Warrandyte Market	Andrea Fidock
The Junior Technology Award sponsored by Hire A Hubby East Doncaster (Jason and Annabelle Pinder)	Stephanie Mortlock
The DUX 2013 sponsored by Glennis Pitches	Riley Griffiths

Year Level Awards

Award	Recipient	Year in 2013
All Rounder	Amie Grisold	7
Sports Person	Darcy Poole	7
Excellence in the Arts	Brooke Turner	7
Academic Excellence	Jasmine Grisold	7
Endeavour (Lane Bossard Award)	Kassie Jones	7
All Rounder	Holleigh Mann	8
Sports Person	Ryan Seini	8
Excellence in the Arts	James Puls-Welch	8
Academic Excellence	Grace Carty	8
Endeavour	Andrea Fidock	8
All Rounder	Ben Willis	9
Sports Person	Caitlyn Sanderson	9
Excellence in the Arts	Maddy Vandermeer	9
Academic Excellence	Pierce Bowman	9
Endeavour	Stephanie Mortlock	9
All Rounder	Taylor Padfield	10
Sports Person	Jake Dezwart	10
Excellence in the Arts	Kate Eldridge	10
Academic Excellence	Hugh Prescott	10
Endeavour	Maggie Elvin	10
All Rounder	Jessica Brincat	11
Sports Person	Jonty Rushton	11
Excellence in the Arts	Daniel Puls-Welsh	11
Academic Excellence	Adrian Raso	11
Endeavour	Rachel Vardy	11
Citizenship	Kelly Miller	11
All Rounder	Riley Griffiths	12
Sports Person	Marcus Eldridge	12
Excellence in the Arts	Casey Edwards, Mollie Wilkins	12
Endeavour	Brianna Murphy, Nik Henkes	12
Academic Excellence	Nicola Pinolo, Laura Doguet	12
Citizenship	Kiara Pianta, Callum Turpin	12

Working Bee Sunday 16 March

Our first working bee for 2014 will be on Sunday 16 March to tidy up in readiness for our Open Day. Lunch will be supplied. Please see future editions of the newsletter for updates on all our working bee information.

Alexander

The 2013 School magazine, ALEXANDER, is another outstanding edition. It is a wonderful collection of all the people, events, places and faces of the 2013 school year. If you paid for and did not receive your copy or would like to purchase a copy for \$16, please contact the office.

School Photos

School Photo day is Tuesday 18 February. This is always an exciting day. However, it is also very hectic with an extremely tight timeline to complete all the photos. Parents can help immeasurably on this day by ensuring that their children are in correct uniform. Please note that any student unwilling to wear their uniform in the correct manner will not be permitted to take part in the photo day.

- Photos can be purchased on line via Compass or by collecting an envelope on the day, this is at an extra cost of \$10.00
- Photo packs should be delivered to the school two weeks after the photos are cleared by the school
- If a student missed the initial photo day a catch-up day is schedule for a week later
- The schedule for the day is Year 12 - 12noon, Year 11 - 12.20pm, Year 10 - 2.40pm, Year 9 – 12.50pm, Year 8 - 2.10pm and Year 7 - 1.40pm

***Helene Butterworth
Executive Assistant***

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; **uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery.** You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; **or**
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; **or**
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- \$300 for year 7 students
- \$250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*.

* A pro-rata amount is payable for students turning 16 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school general office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by **28 February 2014.**

For more information about the EMA, visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx>

***Jill Treeby
Business Manager***

Year 12 Theatre Studies Production Coming Soon

The Year 12 Theatre Studies class have begun the year with buckets full of enthusiasm and heaps of creative talent. Rehearsals begin next week for their Term 2 Production "The Golden Key".

Each student in the team will have two roles in the play, which is reminiscent of the Theatre Studies production a few years ago "Epic Theatre". This time the show is based around a band of Travellers, Irish gypsies, who will warmly engage the audience and invite them into their world. The Travellers have been going through hard times, so they will entertain you with a wonderful storytelling performance of their magical tale.

Students will also have a backstage role designing costumes, make-up, set, sound and lighting, as well as working as a promotions team and stage managers.

Later this term we might be putting a call out for help with making or altering costumes, set building and volunteers for a front of house team. Drop me an email if you would be interested in hearing more about opportunities to be involved. Keep an eye out for our billboard advertising the show that will go up on Warrandyte Road.

Keep the dates Production dates free: April 30, May 1 & 2. Make sure you get your tickets early!

***Niki na Meadhra
Theatre Studies/Drama***

Sport News

Sporting Excursion Responsibilities for Students

We are often asked to tighten up on meeting deadlines throughout school as this is an important habit to adopt. We have to do this even more with ALL our sporting excursions this year.

All payments, parental consent forms and VCE teacher consent forms (If appropriate) will need to be returned 1 week prior to the competition date.

If we have a gap in our teams, unfortunately the whole team will not play. It will be very sad for our sporting teams, but we have to use this weeks' notice time to confirm staffing and ensure all bookings are in place. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Sport Ed / PE department.

***Katie Cook
Sport Leader***

Canteen News

Daily specials are as follows – ordering would be appreciated.

Specials @ \$5.00

<u>Monday</u>	Chilli Chicken Sub, Tandoori Wrap
<u>Tuesday</u>	Chicken Burger, Pasta dish
<u>Wednesday</u>	Butter Chicken & Rice, Jacket Potatoes, Nachos
<u>Thursday</u>	Chicken Schnitzel, Fried Rice
<u>Friday</u>	Souvlaki – Chicken or Lamb, Hot Dog with cheese and sauce

The Canteen is selling hot toasted sandwiches at recess for \$2.50, ham & cheese and ham, cheese & tomato are available. Egg and bacon rolls are periodically available at recess as well.

***Cheryl Hart
Canteen Leader***



Emergency Management Plan

Authority to collect students

Name of child/children	Class
1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....

I authorise the following adult/s to collect my child or children from Warrandyte High School in the event of an emergency such as a bushfire.

Name of adult	Relationship to child	Contact phone numbers

Parents' names:.....

Parents' signatures:.....

Date / /