



# Gang Gang

## Warrandyte High School

Issue 16 | Term 4 | 2015

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Welcome back to Term 4 – a particularly important term for Year 12 students. This week they completed the last of their formal classes as they prepare for the exams ahead. It is always a time of mixed emotions for us as they finish thirteen years of formal schooling. As teachers we have emotional ties to the wellbeing of our students who we have invested in so heavily, and though we feel sad that they are leaving us, we know that they are well prepared and we are excited for them as they set out on the next stage of their journey through life.

The annual 'Warrandyte High's Got Talent' Quests were held last week. Organised by the SRC, these talent quests are spread over three lunchtimes and provide the opportunity for our many talented students and staff to display their outstanding musical and performance talents for the entertainment of their peers. As always, the standard was consistently high and the audience was generous and appreciative. Congratulations to the SRC and to all the performers for putting on a wonderful show.

I am now looking forward excitedly to next week when the musical talent of Warrandyte High School students will again be on display at our **Annual Music Concert**.

Please note that the day before Cup Day (**Monday 2 November**) is a **Curriculum Day**. Students are not to attend school on this day as there will be no

classes and no supervision available. All staff will be taking part in professional development activities aligned with the school's Powerful Learning and Teaching journey.

Last year Warrandyte High School formally began a Sister School partnership with **Suzhou Industrial Park Xinghai Experimental Middle School**. This is a modern secondary school of approximately 4000 students with a specialisation in the sciences. In October last year I was invited to participate in the Victoria-Jiangsu Principals Forum held in Jiangsu Province, China. This forum included a visit to Xinghai Middle School and the opportunity to meet with Ms Chen, the Principal of Xinghai Middle School. Unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, I could not attend and Natalie Manser went in my stead. This year the conference is being held in Melbourne, and both I and Ms Chen will be attending. Ms Chen will also be visiting Warrandyte High School where she will be 'Principal for the Day' on Tuesday 10 November

**Stephen Parkin**  
Principal

From the Principal

## Diary Dates

OCTOBER

**Friday 16 October**

Year 12 celebration day

**Saturday 17 October**

GVBR training ride

**Monday 19 October**

Year 8 Science ALP start

**Tuesday 20 October**

Music Concert commencing at 7pm

CFA Carrum Downs visit

**Sunday 25 October**

Working Bee

**Monday 26 October**

Years 7 & 8 Robbie Kearns Shield  
Year 8 Boys' Volleyball

**Wednesday 28 October**

Year 12 Exams begin  
VET Rec 1 & 2 Hike

**Thursday 29 October**

Year 7 Sport Round Robin  
Year 8 Italian Cultural Day  
VCE Art Show

NOVEMBER

**Monday 2 November**

Curriculum Day (Note: Students will not attend school on this day)

It was my absolute pleasure to formally introduce myself to all of the students at our whole school assembly on 12 October. What did I actually say to the students in my first official address? It went something like this: I officially started here as the new Assistant Principal just over 2 months ago. Already in that time, I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of you. Some of you, I have met in the classroom when I took your class due to your teacher being absent. I have been observing some classes and so I have met some of you that way. I have chatted with some of you in the library. The School Production and our possible Year 9 trip to China next year were also great ways for me to get to know some of you.

How I have met many of you, is simply by me taking the opportunity to introduce myself when I've literally crossed paths

with you out in the yard. I can honestly say, you have made me feel very welcome here. From my first day, when two students, Tyler in Year 11 and Nick in Year 8 took me on a school tour, I have been really impressed with just how well-mannered and welcoming you are.

**I firmly believe that we are all learners.** We at Warrandyte High School believe that you all have the ability to learn and achieve. Yes we have high expectations of you – that is because we believe in you and we are driven by our wish to see you become the best student, the best citizen you can be.

**We believe in forging authentic relationships with you** – you may have heard that expression before – by authentic relationships, we mean having a genuine two-way caring relationship based on mutual respect.

**Principal:** Dr Stephen Parkin

**Assistant Principal:** Joseph Caruana

**School Captains:**

Jessie Thomas-Connor, Hugh Prescott

From the Assistant Principal

To the Year 12s, the class of 2015, what can I say? My time with you has been all too brief. I want you to know, that in the few weeks I have been here, you guys have really impressed me, I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know you and spending time chatting with you. To all the Year 12s, even the tiny few I think I haven't yet had the opportunity to meet, I wish you all the very best with your upcoming exams. Study hard. Be able to look back on this period and say with confidence, you gave your exams your best shot. That is all anyone can ask.

I know that one thing is certain, whichever pathway you choose, whichever road destiny has planned for you, you will be a success, you will make a positive difference; you will be a force to be reckoned with. Look out world – the class of 2015 are coming!

### Curiosity and Powerful Learning

Have you been watching this space since the last Gang Gang? I hope so. Exciting things continue to happen at Warrandyte High School. As teachers, we view not just our students as learners but we view ourselves as learners. We never stop learning. We never stop refining our craft. We firmly believe all of our students have the capacity to learn. We firmly believe in having high expectations and with that, as I mentioned in my inaugural speech to the entire student body, we also believe in authentic relationships. So much research into what constitutes an academically successful learning environment points to the importance of these two ingredients – high expectations and authentic relationships. Now I could say more at this stage, but instead I'll say.... Watch this space!

### English Final Examination Hot Tips

For many years I taught Year 12 English. Over the years I have had a student who scored a perfect "50" – indeed he received a Premier's Award and indeed I was invited to attend the ceremony also! I have had a student who received a "48." A gallery of students have received scores in the 40s! I have been an exam assessor over the years. So it is from a position of some experience and knowledge that I was able to offer some hot examination preparation tips for the English Exam, the only 3 hour examination! What's this? You missed my hot tips when they first hit the streets? Don't panic! Stay calm! You can find my hot tips in the last Gang Gang. Alternatively, you can find my hot tips in the last edition of the Warrandyte Diary!

### ITALIAN Culture flourishes at Warrandyte High School

The Year 7 students, on 15 October, got to experience a day at the Veneto Club! They got to immerse themselves into the Italian culture! What fun they had – playing soccer, playing bocce (Italian bowling), pasta making, pasta sauce making, pasta eating...etc..... Year 8s don't despair –

remember your fun day at the Veneto Club is coming! Places filling fast! All payment details are found on Compass! Hurry! Places filling! Abbiamo un po' di fretta ragazzi, quindi vi consiglio di usare Compass per il pagamento!

### Strengthening Ties with our Primary Schools

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Anderson Creek's Primary School** for including in their newsletter our notice inviting expressions of interest to become a homestay provider for one of our international students! Indeed our international student program is thriving! Would you like to become a homestay provider and earn around \$300 a week? Contact me at the high school!

### Science – bridging the primary school/high school leap!

Recently commenced at Warrandyte High School - weekly afterschool science lab fun classes where all sorts of wonderful experiments and learning takes place! This fantastic learning opportunity is FREE and has been made available to the Grade 5 students at both **Warrandyte Primary School** and **Anderson Creek Primary!** What fun the Grade 5's are having! All in the name of Science! We thank those primary schools for supporting this wonderful scientific initiative! We also thank Warrandyte High School's Grace Johnstone for volunteering her time and enthusiasm!

**Joe Caruana**  
Assistant Principal



## Library News

We have some very exciting news in the library.... Thanks to a very generous grant from the Warrandyte Rotary Club we will be establishing a makerspace in the library.

What is a makerspace I hear you saying? A makerspace is an innovation sweeping school and public libraries around the world. Makerspaces provide hands-on, creative ways to encourage students to design, experiment, build and invent.

### Why put it in the library?

- Libraries are about learning – Makerspaces help people learn new things
- Libraries are about community – Makerspaces help people make connections.
- Libraries are about access – Makerspaces provide access to tools, software, electronics and more!

A key feature of our makerspace will be a 3D printer; this will be available for student use... but more on that later...watch this space!

If you want to find out more about Makerspaces and what to expect in the Warrandyte High library in 2016 visit our Makerspace page on the Library website:

<http://warrandytehigh.libguides.com/c.php?g=206691&p=2451046>

"MAKERSPACES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, BUT THEY ALL SERVE AS A GATHERING POINT FOR TOOLS, PROJECTS, MENTORS AND EXPERTISE. A COLLECTION OF TOOLS DOES NOT DEFINE A MAKERSPACE. RATHER, WE DEFINE IT BY WHAT IT ENABLES: MAKING."

THE MAKERSPACE PLAYBOOK

credit: <http://tinyurl.com/pf9jo6k>

### Farewell 2015 VCE Students

Library staff would like to wish all our Year 12 students all the best for their upcoming exams. We have enjoyed their company throughout the year when they come to the library during their study periods. It is one of the great pleasures of teaching; getting to know a diverse range of young adults and watching them develop and mature (some faster than others!!)

Students are welcome to come to study in the library during their Swat Vac...we look forward to seeing them.

**Judy Steel**

## Year 8 Hockey

On Tuesday 15 September, Warrandyte High School entered a Year 8 Boys and Girls hockey team into the Mullum divisional round robin. Both teams represented the school exceptionally both through their play on the field and their support off the field. The girls' team were by far the loudest team on the day, spending a large portion of it working on their chants! They backed their chanting up with some solid play on the pitch, finishing the day with one win and one narrow loss which meant they finished in second place for the day. The boys' team played excellent team orientated hockey all day and managed to win their tournament following two big wins! This means the boys will be progressing onto the next tournament to represent our division! Thanks to all the students who participated in hockey this term. These excellent results are due to all the hard work you all have put in throughout the term. We wish the boys the best of luck at the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Finals.



## Year 8 Basketball

Since the start of Term 3 the Year 8 basketball students have been training hard in preparation for the Mullum divisional sport round robin day. On Tuesday 15 September 2 boy and 2 girl teams entered the competition, fired up ready to take on the competition. Both boy teams had a very successful day with the A team being well coached by Bryce Maidens coming runners up and the B team winning their pool. The girl teams also had success on the day but were caught short of players. It was a big ask for the A team to play with only 1 sub whilst the B team played with 5 for the entire game. Even though towards the end of the day they started to fatigue, they gritted their teeth and challenged themselves to ensure they finished off the day giving 100%. A special mention also goes to Tom Davis and Matthew Baynon who were the referees for the day. They demonstrated excellent leadership skills and were professional at all times. Thank you also to Jo Miller for coming and helping on the day. Congratulations to all members of the basketball team on a great day.

**Katie Cook**  
PE Leader



From 12 to 26 September, a group of 17 students between Years 8 and 11, along with Ante Sunjo and Antonella Bitta boarded a plane and headed off to Italy for an exciting two week tour of the country. We flew via Doha, Qatar, and arrived at our first destination, the bustling capital of Rome, with its incredible ancient structures and rich political history. We explored the city under Ms Bitta's excellent knowledge of the winding streets and buildings, and visited incredible icons including the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, The Pantheon and dozens of beautiful churches.

A day was also spent wandering the enchanting Vatican City, gazing in awe for hours at the endless paintings, tapestries and statues, crafted over hundreds of years with such high precision and detail. The Sistine Chapel and St Peters Basilica were an amazing display of human achievement and dedication. Of course, we spent another day to experience the Forum, the beginnings of Ancient Rome, and the iconic Colosseum. The feats the Romans pulled off in this ancient arena are extraordinary – they once filled it with water and crocodiles and had miniature wooden boats float around to create a thrilling sea battle, right in the heart of Rome! They also held their famous gladiator fights with an array of exotic creatures including tigers, lions and even a rhino.

After being thoroughly dazzled by this beautiful city it was time to hop on a bus and drive to our next destination – the archaic city of Pompeii. This enormous and surprisingly advanced city was destroyed when Mt Vesuvius, a large volcano just 26km away, erupted during 79AD. Most of the citizens of Pompeii fled, though some remained, and plaster casts of their bodies are on display to show the horrific ordeal they experienced. Our knowledgeable guide showed us buildings around the city which have been excavated, including the bath houses, a café and several houses of varying class. The largest was once owned by a rich family, with many rooms and a beautiful courtyard at the centre. Despite how far back in time this civilization thrived, they were

incredibly advanced, with many political and social systems in place well before others around the world developed them.

After exploring Pompeii we once again boarded the bus and headed to glittering Sorrento for a couple of days. This forms part of the Naples City along the coast, and boasts a lively and lemon-scented atmosphere surrounded by crystal blue waters. Our hotel was right by the bay – we had time to walk the streets and glowing alleyways.

After relaxing around this gorgeous city we headed off to Florence, stopping along the way at Siena, a famously well preserved medieval city in the region of Tuscany. Twice each year a famous horse racing event – 'Palio di Siena' – is held in the Piazza del Campo. We had time to climb up the bell tower and look out over the beautiful sea of terracotta rooftops laid out below, surrounded by rolling green hills, vineyards and forests. We visited the Duomo di Siena, an ornate striped church.

After many pictures of Siena we continued on through the glorious Italian countryside until we arrived in Florence, where we spent another few days. We got the opportunity to experience an Italian Language Lesson, and also toured some of the city's iconic sites, including the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo di Firenze and the Florence Cathedral. We also visited the Accademia, which displays beautiful biblical paintings from throughout history, as well as Michelangelo's renowned marble statue 'David'. We spent an afternoon visiting Pisa to see the infamous 'Leaning Tower of Pisa', a bell tower which became a worldwide sensation when it began to lean due to its construction on unstable soils. After many selfies with David, daggy photos with the tower and lots of walking around Florence, we caught a fast train to our final destination, the romantic city of Venice.

We were instantly entranced by the snaking canals and fabulous stores selling traditional painted carnival masks and handmade glass items. We toured the Doges Palace, St Marks Basilica and drank in the delightful views of Venice from the top of the bell tower. We took rides on the water taxis and spent hours shopping – fortunately we didn't get too lost! On our last day we caught a boat to the Venice Airport and flew home, bursting with photos, gifts and stories of our memorable journey to beautiful Italy. Until next time, Italy – Ciao! Many thanks Warrandyte High School and the Italian Department!

**Stephanie Mortlock**  
Year 11





## Empowering Women to Feel Safe in Manningham Workshop

Friday 23 October 2015, 9.30 am – 12 noon

Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

The community are invited to attend an interactive and informative workshop, aimed to empower women by increasing knowledge and confidence about feeling and being safe.

This free workshop will include:

- Crime prevention – practical tips on feeling and being safer in our community
- Preventing violence – recognising signs of an abusive relationship and leaving an unsafe situation
- Navigating the legal system and laws relating to women's safety
- Gender equity
- How connecting with your community is important for wellbeing
- The workshop will conclude with participants invited to create a positive message of safety/gender equity that will be included in the Manningham Peace Path Project.

Free event – refreshments provided

Bookings are essential as places are limited:  
email [bookings1@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:bookings1@manningham.vic.gov.au)

For further information please contact Council's Community Safety Officer,  
Anissa Gracie on 9840 9330 or email [anissa.gracie@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:anissa.gracie@manningham.vic.gov.au)

