Year 12 Study Camp

The Year 12 Camp revealed Tom Sonneveld's propensity for injury, Molly Fergus's deadly aim with a pillow and the fact that Tegan Ainslie is a speed demon on the High Ropes.

Well done to all those who conquered their fear of heights and supported their peers with cries of encouragement as they braved Death by Pine Bark on the Flying Fox, and killer wedgies on the Giant Swing. The dolphins visited students at the beach, Elevate Education taught everyone how to improve their memories. Socialising continued well into the night. A tiring but fun time was had by all.

Ms Rule
Hello to the Western Port Secondary College community. I hope all had a great break over Christmas and are looking forward to the year ahead. I would like to thank Hannah Lewis (Acting Principal) and Donna Geritz (Acting AP) for stepping up while I was on Long Service Leave. During the break much has happened at the College with finalising of the building program which included the central planting program in the main courtyard. We look forward to seeing this area develop over the next few years as a more useable space for our students.

In our first week back we held our first whole College assembly and presented badges to our new College Captains. It was great to see our new Year 7 students who were welcomed into the school by our leaders.

**College Captains are:**
Jarryd Lymer and Tyler Winkler

**College vice Captains are:**
Rachael Potter and Lauren Walker

**Sport Captains are:**
Jake Bromley and Ebony Clark

**Art Captains are:**
Molly Fergus and Saige Hall-Norton

Last week we started the rollout of new netbooks to Senior students. It was exciting to see the reaction of students as they received their netbooks for school use. Please make sure you work with your child in monitoring appropriate use and making sure they bring the netbook to school fully charged each day.

We were pleased with the completion rate of our Year 12 students in VCE, VCAL and VET courses in 2011. Congratulations to our College Dux Lisa Byrnes. We had 19% of students achieve an ATAR above 70 and 93% of students applying for tertiary studies received first round offers in January. We wish out class of 2011 the best of luck in the future.

Congratulations to Sam Hodic who recently represented Australia at the Winter Youth Olympics in Austria. Sam competed in the Ice Hockey Skills Challenge. Sam finished a very respectable 15th in his competition which was an outstanding effort.

It has been pleasing to see our students in full school uniform. New uniform items can be bought at the Beleza store in Somerville and details are on the College website.

**Organisational matters**
At this time of the year we like to remind parents that it is College policy that we do not allow students to sign out for lunch. We ask that parents do not supply a note requesting this as it will not be allowed for safety reasons.

**Swimming Sports** are on 24th February- all students are expected to attend on the day.

If you have not done so, 1:1 Netbook Agreements need to be returned to the College ASAP. We have been pleased with uniform compliance at the start of the year. Please be aware the College does not accept suede, canvas or ballet style shoes and will enforce this all year. If you are buying new shoes please contact the College. If unsure, we have printed photographs of approved shoe styles, and these are also published on the College website.

**Mobile phones at school**
I have published this message a few times last year about mobile phone use at school and want to inform new parents of the school rules regarding this. While we are living in a rapidly changing world and understand that many students carry these devices on them it is important they are respectful regarding their use during class time. The College does not tolerate student’s texting, ringing or receiving calls during class time for any reason and will support staff who encounter problems with this. This can mean that a phone will be confiscated and stored in the front office for collection via the student or parent. If you have an important reason to ring during class times it is asked that you contact the office, not your child directly as this can cause unnecessary conflict and disruption in class.

We would also ask that parents discuss with their child how to deal with issues at school. We have noticed a rise in parents attending the College to respond to a child texting or ringing about an incident at school which encourages a “rescuing scenario” for the child. Often this causes unnecessary angst as the incident can be easily sorted out by the student seeing their Footprints/Form Teacher or another member of the Sub School or Wellbeing team. This means that all the information can be considered rather than just what the child may say about a particular incident. If you have a concern about your child please contact the College to discuss. The first point of contact is usually the Footprints/Form Teacher.

Andrew Nicholls
*Principal*
The Assistant Principals

We have had a smooth start to 2012 and thankfully the weather has been kind to us! I have talked to the Year 7 students about the importance of them being leaders in our school and shaping the future of Western Port Secondary College. Many of the Year 7’s have held leadership positions at their primary schools and have been involved in clubs, environment groups, community activities and sporting teams. It is important that they take up similar opportunities at Western Port. This term we have the swimming sports and athletics and we are also looking for students to become involved in the Environment Team and Student Action Group. Students can register their interest with me. We have a range of environmental projects we will be working on this year. The Student Action group will be discussing and developing an action plan for 2012 and identifying what students perceive to be the priorities for our College. Last year the SAG group decided that students wanted an extension of the College playground so that they had more to do during breaks and this is being installed this term.

Students can also aspire towards receiving a range of awards at the end of each year. In term four we have our Awards Night at the Frankston Cultural Centre. Students are nominated by their teachers to receive awards for academic excellence. As well as academic awards we have a range of awards given out by community organizations such as the Lions Club, Hastings Rotary, BlueScope and HMAS Cerberus and the school for areas such as excellence in and contribution to sport, art, literacy, woodwork and citizenship.

As well as the end of year awards we have the Superstar awards each term. Students who consistently work hard, model our core values or who show significant improvement through effort are awarded for this each term.

Every student at Western Port has the capacity to make a contribution to their school community and will benefit from this. I look forward to watching our new Year 7 students developing their talents and interest.

Immunisation dates for 2012-02-17

6th March
Year 7 Hepatitis B dose 1 (boys and girls) and Gardasil dose 1(girls)

8th May
Year 7 Gardasil dose 2 (girls) and Chicken Pox (boys and girls)
Year 10 Boostrix (boys and girls)

4th September
Year 7 Hepatitis B dose 2 (boys and girls) and Gardasil dose 3 (girls)

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal

Education Maintenance Allowance information

Every child, every opportunity

Parents/ Guardians that have a Health Care or Pension must apply for EMA before the 29th February.

Please apply at the College Administration Office
The Assistant Principals

At Western Port Secondary College we strive to achieve the best outcomes for all students at all year levels within the College. This also extends to the outcomes and pathways students achieve as they finish their schooling. As a College we value all outcomes achieved by students that will put them in a good position for their future careers, employment and prosperity. We have had some excellent outcomes from those students who finished school in 2011. Some highlights from just a few of our students are outlined below:

William Lucas: Will achieved an ATAR of 80.15 for his VCE and subsequently got exactly what he wanted – accepted into Computer Science at Monash University Clayton. In his own words this was his “dream course” and he was thrilled to get in. Will is looking forward to the course and achieving his qualification whilst gaining experience and knowledge in computer programming and hoping to, on completion of the course, be involved in video game production or computer programming for private companies. Good Luck Will.

Lisa Brynes: Lisa’s ultimate career is to be a Paediatrician. In order to achieve this, with an ATAR of 83.7, she has accepted an irregular offer to complete a degree in Midwifery at Monash University Peninsula Campus. On completion of this undergraduate degree, Lisa intends to then translate into a postgraduate course in Medicine and from there achieve her goal of working in paediatrics. Congratulations Lisa on being DUX of the College for 2012!

Benjamin Chatters: Ben completed the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Intermediate Certificate in 2011, which was more appealing to him and his future career than the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). Ben also began a School Based Apprenticeship (SBA) in plumbing and completed the relevant VET program. As part of his VCAL course Ben completed a number of other certificates and modules throughout the year. Ben is now working as a full time apprentice with Hyperno Plumbing and due to his SBA will commence the second year of his apprenticeship in the next few months. Well done Ben!

These are a snapshot of just a few of many outstanding results achieved last year and I would like to congratulate all of these students. As always, the school will continue to work and support any student who did not achieve the outcomes they wanted or have decided to change their original preference.

During our first assembly back at school I mentioned to students the most common answer I get to the question “what do you want to do when you complete your schooling?” is “I don’t know”. This answer is not a surprise – or the wrong answer – but what I would encourage all students to do whether they are in Year 7 through to 12, is to think about what they might like to do, or the areas, jobs or careers they might be interested in, and find out more about them and what is needed in order to get into them. We are fortunate to now have a dedicated careers centre located next to the new Senior Study Centre. This is available for ALL students to access. Year 11 and 12 students can access this room anytime via the study center and students in Year 7 – 10 should see Ms Tsousis or their footprints teacher to arrange a time.

I wish all our 2012 students a successful and productive year!

Michael Devine

Assistant Principal
Art

Hopefully everyone had an amazing Christmas break, and I’m sure we are all just about settled back in to the old routine (as well as enjoying some awesome new classes). A new year is a time for a new beginning, and this year we want to see some changes. As Art Captains we want to see even more students working in the Art Centre, more students showing off work, and more people caring what the students create.

This year is the year to have your say! If you have any ideas on what the Arts Department should be doing, now is the time to speak up! This year is going to be more than just listening to opinions. This year, we will make a difference. Art is more than just a subject we study. Art is a life force. It lives and breathes inside each and every one of our students; we just need the opportunity to show the world what we can create together, as a school.

Art Warriors

Art Warriors is on this year every Tuesday at lunch time. At the moment the art warriors are working on a mosaic at Peninsula Health, and also making a rotary mural at the school. If anyone is interested in helping out with those projects, or many more that are to come. You can come and see us or Ms Sheridan any time for more information.
 SENIOR VCAL - City Life Excursion

On Tuesday the 14th of February the Senior VCAL students went on an excursion to City Life Café in Frankston. At the City Life Café they received their food handlers certificates while at the same time learning how to make food to be served to the homeless the next night.

Students learnt the importance of the café and what it does for the homeless, like not only do they provide healthy meals for those in need but they help them to reconnect with society. A lot of the clients who use City Life have been alone for a long time and have lost necessary social skills. Some students stayed back and interviewed the owner to understand the social diversity of the clients at City Life and to find out what they could do to help them. Sue, the owner of City Life Café said due to very little funding from the government and lack of sponsors, City Life is in need of money.

VCAL students would now really like to help this organisation by holding a fundraiser, so look out for an exciting event in the near future, ran by VCAL students, to show your support for the great work that the City Life Café does for our community.

School Sport Victoria (SSV) actively promotes school sport for all Victorian school students, years 4 to 12, as a means of supporting schools in developing their students’ health and well being. SSV operates under the auspices of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Membership of School Sport Victoria is open to all Victorian schools, providing the opportunities to participate in programs that extends from grassroots intra and inter school sport, to district, division, region, conference, state and national levels. Students attending schools affiliated with SSV are eligible for selection in Victorian Teams to compete in 2012 School Sport Australia National Championships. Further information is available from your School’s Sport Coordinator or on the School Sport Victoria website, www.ssv.vic.edu.au. Parents and teachers are encouraged to regularly visit the site.
The House Swimming Sports will be held on Friday February 24\textsuperscript{th} at Pines Forest Aquatic Centre, Frankston North. The theme this year is Beauty and the Geek. Two $10 canteen vouchers will be awarded for the two students judged the most original and best dressed.

This is a compulsory school educational activity and it is the expectation that all students will attend and participate in some way. Therefore a note for absences will be required. It is essential that all students return their individualized indemnity forms to footprints or form teachers.

Reasons for involvement:

- Social responsibility to support fellow students
- Connectedness to school and local community
- Team and house spirit
- Creates school identity
- Part of school VELS curriculum

Coordinators may contact parents enquiring about their child’s absence.

Students will be bused to the venue at no cost. Sunscreen and hats are recommended.

Canteen facilities are available, but it is advisable to bring your own lunch. Students will return to school before 3.00p.m. for normal pick up or bus travel. All parents are welcome to attend.
Reading Programs at WPSC

Year 7 students - RATBAGS - Read Any Time Books Are Great Stuff
Students are expected to read 800 pages each semester. When they have completed a book they need to bring it into the Library and conference it with a staff member, i.e. they need to tell us about the book so we know that they have read it.
At the end of each semester there will be an awards assembly in the Library. Each student who has read their 800 pages will receive a certificate. Students who read more than 2000 pages receive a silver medal, more than 4000 pages earns a gold medal and more than 6000 pages wins a trophy.
So get reading!

Year 8 students –Textploration
Year 8 students also need to read 800 pages, but the focus is on reading a variety of different types of texts, e.g. short stories, poetry, newspapers, biographies, information books and magazines, as well as fiction. They need to be reading the longer texts as part of their homework routine. Medals and certificates will also be awarded at the end of the semester. Longer texts still need to be conferred at school.

What Can Parents Do to Help Improve Their Teenager’s Reading?
1. Remind them that reading every school night is part of their English homework and encourage them to make the time to read.
2. Help them find reading material which interests them.
3. Set a good example and let them see you reading too.
4. Talk to your child about what they’ve been reading. This could be a newspaper article about an issue in the news, a magazine or a variety of books.
5. Ask them regularly how many pages they’re up to.
6. For juniors, insist on a regular bedtime. Tell them they can have the light on for an extra 20 minutes, but only if they’re reading.
7. Turn off the television.
Limit the time spent on the computer.

E-books are here!
The library has 23 Kindle e-book readers available for students to borrow. A parent-student contract needs to be signed before these can be borrowed. Please ask at the library.

Volunteers Needed!
The library would love to hear from people who are interested in helping with the reading and literacy programs. Contact Ms Thompson in the library.

Maths

Maths/ Numeracy

Allow me to introduce myself to all parents, particularly ones new to the College. My name is Jacqui Smith, I am a Maths teacher at the College. I also have the role of supporting both teachers and students in this area. In particular, I work with teachers to assist them in identifying students with special needs in Maths and then in providing appropriate work.

Commencing on the 1st March, my office will be open every lunchtime, except Thursday’s, for any student who would like extra help with their Maths. This can be classwork or homework. My office is situated in the hex. Enter through the door to the right of the H1 door.

Also a note regarding text books and calculators: All students (except VCAL and Foundation Maths) are expected to have a text book and calculator. Students CANNOT rely on their phones. Students from Years 7 to 9 need a scientific calculator. We recommend the Sharp EL 531WH. Students in VCE must have a CAS calculator. We recommend the Ti-nspire. Students in Year 10 can use either calculator, however, we advise those intending to proceed to VCE Maths to buy the CAS calculator now so they can be fully conversant with it when they commence VCE.

Any queries can be directed to me at the College during normal hours.

Sports

House Athletics Carnival
Tuesday March 27th

The House Athletics Carnival is on Tuesday March 27th at the Athletics Track. All students are expected to attend as it is a normal school day; therefore a note for absences will be required. Barbeque sausages and drinks will be available. The day will follow the scheduled times of 8.50a.m. to 3.00p.m. Buses will depart at their regular times. All parents are welcome to attend.

The first House meeting will be on Friday March 9th and a follow-up assembly is on Tuesday March 13th to finalise participants. All students are encouraged to participate. It is a fun day with so many different events available.
School Procedures for the Bushfire Season

The way schools in Victoria respond to bushfires was revised following the Bushfire Royal Commission.

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

Western Port Secondary College has been identified as being a school at high fire risk, is currently listed on the DEECD Bushfire At-risk Register and will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be **Code Red**.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter, and SMS message for those who have this service, with advice on planned closures. The College will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before any 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 school busses will operate into Western Port Secondary College on days that have been declared **Code Red**.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed by the threat of fire.

We will also cancel any offsite activities during the fire season if the location of these activities places them at risk.

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 up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.
Community Notice Board

Western Port Secondary College Uniforms FOR SALE

UNIFORM FOR SALE
3 pairs of boys shorts size 92
Excellent condition
Ring Sharon on 0408 540 038
Or 5979 8974
Please leave a message

ADVERTISING IN THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
If you would like to place an advertisement in the College newsletter please contact:
Amy
03 5979 1577

BENTLEY’S BY THE BAY
Furniture Removalist
For the Mornington Peninsula
Call Tim
On: 0487 201 076
Or: 0438 001 4983

Summer Dresses
1x size 12 - $25 each
2 x size 14 - $25 each

Short-sleeved polo T-shirt with school logo
2 x size 14 - $20 each

All items in excellent clean condition
For all queries, please call Angela
Ph 59792374 or 0438591139

BAXTER SOCCER CLUB
Under 6 to F1V Seniors Boys Girls Men Women
REGISTRATION DAY
Sunday 12th February 11am - 2pm
Baxter Park: Frankston-Flinders Road Baxter Mel Ref 106 H3

Early Bird Discount
New: Under 6
Family/Injured club
Late fee
Programs
All play family-friendly
Everyone gets a go
Sausage Sizzle

Registration enquiries: Julie Henderson Tel. 5979 3219 Email: registrar@baxtersoccclub.org.au
Asthma Action Plans

As your children head back to the classroom this month we are encouraging parents to make sure that your school is provided with an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan. An Asthma Action Plan assists your school in caring for your child as it provides detailed information on how to manage your child’s asthma. This plan should:

- Be completed by the student’s parent/guardian in consultation with the student’s doctor
- Outline how to care for day-to-day asthma (listing normal medications that have been prescribed and how often they should be taken)
- List key symptoms or special features that indicate the student’s asthma could be worsening or an ‘asthma attack’ is developing and the steps that should be taken to manage it
- List symptoms that are serious enough to need urgent medical assistance (i.e. ambulance)
- List the Asthma First Aid procedure for an asthma emergency
- List the name and contact number of the parent/guardian, emergency contact and student’s doctor
- Be easily accessible for all school staff
- Be updated annually or when a student’s asthma changes significantly.

If an Asthma Action Plan is not provided, school staff will follow the Victorian Schools Asthma Policy 2006 for Asthma First Aid, which is a standard national asthma first aid protocol.

For further information, please call the Asthma Telephone HelpLine on 1800 645 130 or visit The Asthma Foundation of Victoria’s website www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au

Back to School Spike

Back to school time presents a phenomenon called the ‘February Epidemic’, which is a well-documented occurrence of an increase in asthma hospital admissions in children. This trend occurs two weeks after school goes back, with the spike generally occurring in mid to late February.

- An increased exposure to colds and flu, the most common triggers for asthma, can explain the peak.
- Schools can ensure that all students with asthma have a written Asthma Action Plan that outlines their asthma management, including details of medication, emergency contact details, asthma triggers and what to do in an asthma emergency.
- Knowing the probability of an asthma attack is higher during this time of year, it is vital that parents ensure their children take their prescribed preventer medication and carry their blue reliever medication at all times.

For further information, please call the Asthma Telephone HelpLine on 1800 645 130 or visit www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au
Secondary school students in Victoria are eligible to receive free immunisations to ensure their continued protection against preventable diseases. Immunisations are provided by local councils in cooperation with secondary schools. The purpose of this fact sheet is to advise parents about which immunisations are offered, when and why they are recommended and how they can be obtained for free.

Why are immunisations needed?
Adolescence is an important age to have a booster dose of vaccine. The protection from some immunisations given to children gradually disappears over time so needs to be boosted. The government also funds some vaccines especially for adolescents because they are an age when the vaccine will be most effective, providing protection before they can be exposed to a disease in later adolescence or adulthood.

Immunisation is a proven and safe way to be protected against diseases which cause serious illness and sometimes death. Immunisation not only protects the person having the vaccine, but can protect other people around them who cannot be immunised due to illness or age (for example pertussis, also known as whooping cough, can be deadly for babies, however babies under six months of age are too young to be fully vaccinated).

What immunisations are offered to adolescents?

Year 7 (about 12 to 13 years old)

**Hepatitis B vaccine**
This vaccine is given if your child has never had a course of hepatitis B vaccine or has not finished a course previously. A course consists of two doses with four to six months between each dose.


**Chickenpox (Varicella) vaccine**
This vaccine is given if your child has never had the disease chickenpox or you are not sure if they had chickenpox in the past. It consists of a single injection.


**Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine**
A three dose course is given to girls only with two months between the first and second dose and four months between the second and third dose.


*Important note:* Some Year 7 adolescents may need to have two or three injections on the same day. More than one injection does not increase the chance of an adolescent having a reaction to the vaccines. To make sure your child is protected against the disease, it is recommended they receive all the due vaccines on the same day.

Year 10 (about 15 to 16 years old)

**Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine**
This vaccine protects against the three diseases in a single injection.

Find out more about diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis: www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/resources/adolescent-diphtheria.htm
**Important Dates for your calendar**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th February</td>
<td>HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6th March</td>
<td>YR 7 HEPATITUS B-DOSE 1(BOYS AND GIRLS) AND GARDASIL DOSE 1(GIRLS)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14th March</td>
<td>OPEN NIGHT</td>
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<td>Tuesday 27th March</td>
<td>HOUSE ATHLETICS</td>
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<td>Thursday 29th March</td>
<td>REPORTING TO PARENTS</td>
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<td>Friday 30th March</td>
<td>END OF TERM 1</td>
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<td>Monday 16th April</td>
<td>BEGINNING OF TERM 2</td>
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<td>Tuesday 8th May</td>
<td>YEAR 7 GARDASIL DOSE 2(GIRLS), CHICKEN POX(BOYS AND GIRLS) AND YEAR 10 BOOSTRIX(BOYS AND GIRLS)</td>
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<td>Friday 30th March</td>
<td>END OF TERM 1</td>
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<td>Friday 8th June</td>
<td>SEMESTER 1 REPORT WRITING DAY</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12th June</td>
<td>ROLLOVER SEMESTER 2</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12th June</td>
<td>VCE MID YEAR EXAMS</td>
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