Worth Reading

Newsletter of Western Port Secondary College

No 10, October 2010

Hoddle Waddle
City Experience days for year 9 were a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see and do things, many of us had never done before.

UNIFORM SHOP RE-OPENS WITH BELEZA SCHOOL WEAR

Beleza School wear will take over the operation of our uniform shop from this week. Julie will be in the shop at the following times and looks forward to meeting you all.

From **Thursday** 21st October from **2.30 – 4.00**
Then **Mondays** from **8.30 – 10.00**

Beleza also have a shop in Frankston which will accommodate any needs you have outside of these times. They provide all means of payment, including lay-by and are very willing to assist with all enquiries.

Shop 3, 129 - 133 Beach Street
Phone: (03) 9783 1088
Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am to 1:00pm
Hello to the Western Port Secondary College community. Welcome back to Term 4 and we hope the rest of the year will be a positive one for all. Please make sure you check major tasks timelines and maintain good diary organisation to maximise your ability to complete the semester well.

This week we held our final school assembly with Year 12s before they begin their exams. We wish them the best of luck with these and their future goals whether they be work or further study.

Late last term we received our NAPLAN results. The College improved in all aspects of literacy and numeracy. Some of the highlights were the increase in Writing by 27 points at Year 7 and 34 points at Year 9 on the National Scale, and Numeracy which increased by 28 points at Year 7 and 13 points at Year 9 on the National Scale. There has been much work completed with staff this year across all domains and I would like to thank Nola Goodall (Literacy Leader) and Jacqui Smith (Numeracy Leader) for their efforts in leading this work through professional development and support to students at risk.

Congratulations to our students who recently competed in the athletics zone finals at Knox. Late last term at the district athletics at Ballam Park Western Port Secondary College finished a credible 3rd against a number of much larger schools. Thanks to Tracey Hall and the PE staff who helped coordinate students for these events.

Congratulations also to the students who received the awards from local Mornington Peninsula Shire Councillor Reade Smith for Citizenship, Kayla Bentley and Tarsha Johnson who have made it through to the final round of nominations. We would also like to commend other Western Port students who were also nominated for prizes, Mitchell Bell, Zane Carghill, Hayley King and Maxine Gigliotti.

Currently we are finalising our new capital works contract for our gym and hospitality facilities which should start around the end of the year. We will have further details in the next edition of the newsletter.

Organisational matters
If your child arrives late to school or is leaving early please supply a note with a reason. All students are to sign in/out via the front office. If your child has an unexplained absence by the end of period 1 you will be notified via SMS.

Currently we are making the transition to the new uniform supplier, Beleza. The shop will be open from Thursday for new purchases leading into 2011. We are expecting a greater level of service and many items of uniform will reduce in price. We are still expecting all students to be in uniform until the end of the year and in particular shoes. Shoes must be plain black polishable lace up or T-Bar style. If you are buying new shoes and are unsure, please contact the College. We have printed photographs of approved shoe styles.

The College also has arrangements with Bata in Mornington and Carrum Downs for a 20% discount on College approved shoe styles as well.

Andrew Nicholls
Principal
On October 9th I had the pleasure of attending The Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities State Awards dinner in Beechworth. Western Port Secondary College was nominated by the Chamber of Commerce in the ‘Efficient Energy’ category for our strong track record of achievements in energy efficient actions. We have reduced our energy consumption by 31% and our gas consumption by 63%. I would like to thank the students who presented to the judges. Mitchell Bell and Emily Monck, Middle School Environment Team Leaders, accepted the award for being nominated as State Finalists at a presentation at The Briar’s Eco House. Unfortunately we did not win the state prize but it was an honour to be one of only six state finalists, only three of which were schools.

Last Tuesday Jacob Coombe, Casey McDonnell, Hannah Herbert, Liam O’Connor, Jackson Cox, Sam Byrne, Ben Jansz, Mitchell Bell, Clare Sciberras, Dylan Paalberg and Rhys McInneny, members of the Student Action group, presented to all staff at an after school staff meeting. They presented the student body’s recommendations for changes that they would like to see in terms of teaching and the curriculum. These recommendations were the culmination of many hours of discussion at forums attended by a large number of students. The SAG Team also visited every year 7, 8 and 9 class to seek their endorsement and input before presenting to staff. They ran activities with staff as well as presenting their ideas and films they had produced showing examples of good and bad teaching.

One of the things that students would like to see is the development of policy around the use of I-Pods in class. A team of six students and six staff will be meeting next week to plan policy around I-Pod use. Rhys McInneny presented a film he had produced using his I-Pod, of one of his teacher’s teaching (filmed with his permission). The aim of the film was to demonstrate effective teaching.

The students are to be commended for their initiative, hard work and creativity.

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal

This week is the final week for Year 12 students and whilst excitement is gaining around their last day of school, one of the most challenging aspects of senior school for many individuals is just around the corner – the end of unit examinations. Whilst this is particularly apparent for year 12’s, all senior levels will undertake exams in the next few weeks, therefore I thought it would be valuable to share some advice on the top ten ways to get prepared for the exams according to Laurie Ransom who is general manager of the academic skills unit at the University of Melbourne.

1 Get organised early. Set up a study schedule that builds in time for all your subjects, and stick to it. You should aim to study each subject regularly throughout the preparation period — not cram at the end. And be realistic: include non-study activities in your schedule, such as your part-time job, sports or social activities.

2 Break larger tasks into more manageable ones. It is not uncommon to feel overwhelmed by the amount of study ahead of you. Break down your study schedule into manageable chunks of time, with appropriate breaks in between.

3 Work to your strengths. Do you concentrate better in the morning or at night? Do you prefer to work in large blocks of time or more frequent shorter sessions? Do you work more productively alone in your room or surrounded by other students in the library? Adapt your study timetable accordingly.

4 Prioritise your subjects. Which subjects do you want to do your best in? Which do you find the most difficult? The answers to these questions will help you with your study plan. Allow time for those you find more challenging.

5 Use active learning strategies. Your understanding and recall of information will increase if you engage actively with the material. Fox example don’t simply read, actively write summaries.

6 Know the test format. Is it multiple choice, short answer or essay? How many sections are there? How much reading time is allocated? Which units and study areas will be covered?

7 Stay connected. You are not alone! Set up a study group, particularly for those more challenging subjects.

8 Get help early. Worrying about what you don't know is a wasted activity - there are a lot of people who can and will help you if you ask them.

9 Practice. Understanding the material is important, but you will also need to demonstrate your knowledge. Past papers are a good resource. Check the VCE exam website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/exams/index.html for sample tests.

10 Stay motivated. The exam period is a good time to focus on your goals. Remind yourself why you are studying, and whatever your goal, stay motivated to do your very best!

Michael Devine
Assistant Principal
At Last! Helmets are finished.

As part of a Humanities project, Year 8 Students have worked hard to reproduce medieval helmets. After a mountain of homemade glue, piles of shredded newspaper, and litres of paint, some fantastic helmets were made. (Unfortunately none were painted black & white, but a Premiership Cup followed anyway). A major Homework task required students to make shields, these displayed an interpretation of aspects of medieval life. On the last day of term students rolled up their sleeves and created medieval moccasins. Thanks to Mrs. Lee who provided patterns and great advice.

Ms Smith

A number of our students entered the Australian Maths Competition this year. Angus Fowler gained a Distinction and 13 students gained credits. They were: Georgia Cox, Jayden Deas, Zed Gibson, Connor Govan, Natasha Green, Robert Kupsch, William Lemon, Robert Lucas, Cathy Runting, Billy Bricknell, Teesha Jackson, Tim Truong, Trent Wood. They are all to be congratulated.
Schools Crossing Victoria has recently introduced Children’s Crossing Supervisor of the year award. This award is to acknowledge the contribution and spirit of the work undertaken by children’s crossing supervisors throughout Victoria. An award will be given to a selected children’s crossing supervisor for their commitment and dedication to the supervision of school crossings.

Two of the Nominees are school crossing supervisors for our school Nancy Gorrie (High Street near child care centre) and Ken Stephens (Frankston Flinders Road near KFC), Mayor Cr Gibb presented them with a certificate.

Is Your Child not enjoying school?

If they are in years 7-9,
Encourage them to come along to

CONNECT

Every Monday
3:15pm - 4:30pm in room 6
See/call Mr Quinn or Matt Bodley
WATER CONSERVATION DAY

On Wednesday the 7th October the Water group of the Environment team went to Federation Square in Melbourne to be involved in the South East Water promotion of water conservation. We were invited to see a variety of short documentaries schools had produced on the ways in which they save water. This is particularly poignant as water week is on from the 17th-24th of October and has inspired us to produce our own short film for next year and encourage our whole school to get involved in water week. The Water group will be running a series of lunchtime activities during water week as well as this being a focus in our year 7 and 8 science classes. Some simple things you can do at home to save water could be:

- Use a timer in the shower
- Check that there are no dripping taps in and around your house
- Install a rainwater tank
- Drought resistant garden
- Exchange your showerhead for free through South East Water

Brekky Club

Western Port would again like to thank the wonderful people who support our breakfast club and cook up a storm for us every Thursday morning. The helpers from Uniting Church Hastings, and the many who assist, give many students a great start to the day. They would especially like to thank the following business’ who donate goods for us

- Gourmet River Meats
- Hastings M N M Fruit Shop
- Bakers Delight
WETLANDS AT WESTERN PORT SECONDARY COLLEGE

Flowing from the receipt of a substantial grant from South East Water, the Hands on Learning team at Western Port Secondary College is developing a wetland in the Outdoor Classroom at the college. As part of this and with some sadness the Hilton Hen House is being converted and extended to become a bird hide on the edge of the Wetland.

The wetland will provide benefits to:

- The environment, by providing a carbon sink (helping the school to become carbon neutral), providing a complex habitat encouraging a high degree of biodiversity and forming part of a wildlife corridor.
- The Hands on Learning students, by providing interesting, varied and challenging tasks.
- The whole of the college, by providing attractive surrounds and a real context for curriculum content in many subjects including direct study of aspects such as water quality and indigenous fauna and flora.
Hi my name is Alex

I have Friedreich’s Ataxia, which is an inherited disease that causes progressive damage to the nervous system, characterised by the gradual loss of coordination. Friedreich’s Ataxia progresses slowly. At first, I thought that I was just a clumsy kid. I later required the use of a wheelchair. It is impossible to predict how fast the disease will progress - some people will deteriorate faster than others, such as me.

Anyway on a more positive note, what we’re really after is acceptance and recognition for who we are, Trust me, I more than understand how difficult that can be, I still struggle to accept my disability, but at the end of the day the you have to live with what you’ve got.

On top of all this I still have all the small problems you do, for instance I still go to school, I still freak out when I get a zit, and I’m a massive perfectionist.

My disability doesn’t stop me from living my life, I have friends, I love shopping, doing my hair and makeup, I can’t leave the house without nail polish, I guess what I’m trying to say is we’re really just like you given the chance.

You may prepare yourself for the way in which people may act around you or crap they may give, but it doesn’t make it any easier to hear it. People assume that just because I’m in a wheelchair it means that I’m stupid. But as the saying goes ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’.

Sometimes I feel quite isolated by my disability, I get extremely anxious, and I can be extremely self conscious which is a massive understatement. I wish I could at least hide and run away from my disability once in a while, but this is the real world, and the real world sucks!!!

My life is far from perfect, but this is my life, and I can’t change it.

People need to take a leap of faith and try talking to us. We might surprise you.

On Thursday 14th October PSD students travelled to Frankston by train from different stations and went to different parts of Frankston. My group went to the RSPCA, Youth resource center, Job Focus café, postoffice, Commonwealth bank, safer city center and phone shop. Our group stopped for chips and gravy than headed to the bus stop and met up with the other groups. The bus was at the bus stop when we got there and we all got on to go to bowling. We walked from the bus stop to the bowling alley, when we got there we had to go get some shoes for bowling and get split up into teams. There were 4 people in our team. Half way through bowling we stopped and had lunch. We had a hot dog, chips and lemonade to drink. After lunch we went back to finish our game, then we waited for the other groups to finish. We had a group picture and then walked to Ballam Park and had a rest. After the park we walked to Leawarra station and waited for the train but it was delayed for 7 minutes. When we got on the train we all went our separate ways.

Shantine Wilson  yr 8
SPORT

Final Results of the Peninsula Athletics Carnival

On Thursday September 2nd two buses of 80 WPSC students travelled to Ballam Park to compete in the annual Peninsula Sports Athletics Championships. The level of participation was outstanding and the commitment of all those involved was a credit to themselves and the school.

The junior girls missed out on winning a pennant by only one point and the senior boys by two points. The school aggregate was forty points more than last years. After numerous victories and fifty seven placings, seventeen students will move on to the next division competing in twenty six events. Congratulations to all the students of the athletics team for achieving third position. The students who compete in events for points for the school do make a huge contribution to the team aggregate. Considering our school numbers compared to the other top schools we have achieved a very high standard.

Final Scores were:
1st Rosebud 1218 points
2nd Mt Eliza 1041points
3rd WPSC 940 points
4th Mornington 938 points
5th Dromana 425 points
6th Somerville 313 points

Thank you to the helpers, parents, and teachers and most importantly to the students for their dedication and enthusiasm. Hopefully these successful performances will continue for many more years as long as the students are prepared to participate and strive for excellence.

VSSSA SOUTHERN ZONE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Thursday October 7th fifteen competitors travelled to Knox for the Southern Zone Athletics. Western Port finished the carnival eight out of 65 competing schools. This is fantastic for the size of our school compared to other winners.

Students who have earned a place in the State Athletics Championships on Tuesday October 19th at Olympic Park are
- Alicia Coventry 18-20 years 1st High jump, 2nd 400m and Relay
- Marlee Palser 18-20 years 2nd Relay
- Zarli King 18-20 years 2nd 200m and Relay
- Emily Rowley 18-20 years 2nd Relay

Other medal winners were:
- Kyle De La Haye 17 years 3rd Javelin, 3rd 17 years boys Relay

That is a total of four events we wish them well on their new challenge. Well done to all the competitors on their performances and on reaching such a high level of competition. Thank you to the staff, parents and students who inspired such excellent achievements.
Coles Sports for schools program

From Thursday September 2nd until Sunday October 31st for every $10 spent at Coles Supermarkets, Coles online & Bi-Lo, customers will earn a Coles Sports for schools voucher worth 1 point, given at the check out. Could students collect these vouchers from, family, friends and neighbours and drop them into the voucher collection bin which is located at the front office. At the end of the collection, points will be tallied and new sporting equipment can be purchased for the school. Please help with this great opportunity to increase our sporting merchandise which will benefit all students.
Senior School

Valedictory Dinner 2010

The Year 12 Valedictory Dinner will take place on 22nd November at the Mornington Racing Club. This year’s theme is “A Night of Magic and Masquerade”. Year 12 students and their guests need to purchase tickets as soon as possible and then see Ms Rule for table allocation.

Complimentary Family Passes to VCE Success Seminar For Yr 9/10/11 students.
Get set for 2010 by attending an upcoming 90 minute VCE Success Seminar.
Learn the secrets top performers used to excel in VCE.

Beacon “Polish” Days

On the 14th & 15th of September a small group of year 10 students went to the Hastings Community Health centre to participate in the Beacon Polish program. Michelle and Darren ran the days program.
We learnt new skills about how to present ourselves in the workplace and when applying for jobs. We learnt about self confidence and participated in job interviews for experience. We learnt dining etiquette before having a two course lunch with special guests.
My thoughts about the day were that lunch was delicious and that although I did not want to get up in front of the group and speak, what I had learnt enabled me to overcome my fears and I spoke confidently to the group.
Thank you for such a great day special thanks to Ms Gina Mathers and Ms Gudgion and Mr Michael Devine for the organisation of the days.
Thank you to Beacon, Bendigo Bank and the Mornington Peninsula Shire for sponsoring the event.
Hannah Swinnerton
**Community Notice Board**

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**Dance Techniques**

**New Dance Classes Now Started!!!!**

At Bittern Hall: Mondays  
Hastings Primary School Hall: Friday and Saturday

We are Offering Classes In:-

- Jazz  
- Funk  
- Hip Hop

- Contemporary  
- Lyrical  
- Ballet (pointe) RAD.  
- Stretch Classes.  
- Relaxation.  
- Performance Classes.

3 & 4 yrs dance, songs & games intro. to dance.

We also offer Kids dance parties!

Locations  
Hastings Primary School, Hodgins Road, Hastings  
Bittern Hall, 2426 Frankston Flinders Road, Bittern

For further information please do not hesitate to contact:  
Trish Neville: 0401 622 372 (I will call you back)

Email: [dancetechniques@hotmail.com](mailto:dancetechniques@hotmail.com) or visit:  
[www.myspace.com/dancetechniques](http://www.myspace.com/dancetechniques)

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**KARATE**

Hastings has a new Zen Do Kai Freestyle Karate School. It has opened at Pelican Park on Thursday evenings.  
The instructor is "Sensei" Peter Smedley. He is a third degree Black Belt. Senior classes are at 6.30pm.  
The first lesson is free of charge, so its a great opportunity to see if you like it!  
Peter is happy to answer any questions you have, so you can contact him on 0418 319 064.

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**Bittern Sunday Market Inc**

**Every Sunday**

9am - 1pm

* Local made food products to purchase* Fruits & Flowers* Needlecrafts* Quality new & second hand items* Fleece & Knitwear & Tailored clothing* Bric-a-brac & Chinese souvenirs (Midways Ref 184 P)

Ph Enquiries 0409 417 483

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**Dromana Art Show**

Melbourne Cup Weekend, 29th October - 1st November, 2010

Title: “Autumn in Tuscany”

First prize for the art show raffle

donated by Barbara McMorne

Dromana Primary School,
McCallum Street, Dromana (Mail Ref. 150 DR)

Opening Night: Friday, 29th October at 7.30pm

Mediterranean Food & Wine provided

Cost $13 per person

Other Days: Cost $5 per person with catalogue 10 am - 5 pm

Enquiries: 5981 4412

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**Support Your Community!**
## IMPORTANT DATES

**October**
- 26 Early Finish 1 pm
- 22 Last Day Year 12
- 28 Year 12 Exams Commence

**November**
- 2 Cup Day– No School
- 5 VET Balance due in full for 2011
- 8 Year 10 & 11 Exam week
- 15 Rollover Week Begins
- 22 Valedictory Dinner, Mornington Racing Club
- 23 Secondary Experience Day Year 7, 2011
- 25 Whole School Assembly, All welcome
- 26 Year 11 Final Day
- 29 Lorne Camp, Advance Program

**December**
- 3 Year 10 Final Day
- 7 Orientation Day
- 10 Reports Distributed
- 13/16 End of Year, Activity week

### 2011
- Jan 27 General Office opens
- Feb 1 Teaching Staff return
- Feb 4 Students commence 2011

### Bell Times For 2010

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<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Form Assembly</strong></td>
<td>8.45 am - 8.55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Period 1</strong></td>
<td>8.55 am - 9.53 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Period 2</strong></td>
<td>9.55 am - 10.53 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recess</strong></td>
<td>11.17 am - 12.15 am</td>
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<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td>12.17 am - 1.15 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Period 5</strong></td>
<td>2.02 pm - 3.00 pm</td>
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Please ensure your student is here before form assembly or a note will be required to explain absence, and an *SMS WILL* go out.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL DATES

**Term 3**
- October 12th
- November 9
- December 7th

## Parents & Friend’s Association

Future meeting dates:

- 11th October
- 8th November
- 13th December

VENUE: The Community Meeting Room (next to the music room in the small car park).