Hastings Literacy Festival

The Hastings Literacy Festival is a community event involving students from local primary schools and WPSC. 400 Primary students visited WPSC to participate in sessions with a range of authors, illustrators and story tellers. Sessions were held at WPSC, the Community Health centre and at the Hastings Library. Year 7 students participated in sessions with author Archie Fusillo and author illustrator, Jacquie Grantford. 8C students helped as the guides for the primary groups over the two days.

Year 7 students involved in the festival described the experience in the following way:

The Award Evening
“The Hastings Literacy award night was a good night. Everyone was happy. The guest speaker was Mark Wilson. He told us about the stories he wrote and how he used colours in his pictures. Lots of students and families were there to see their children get awards for literacy. Some parents took lots of photos when their kids got their awards. The music was great.”

Presenters
“Archie Fusillo was funny. He told stories about his grandmother and grandfather and how this went into his book, The Dons. It was funny when he talked about the bath. He gave us good ideas for mini paragraphs and he told us that we can get inspiration for writing from the things that happen to you and things you are passionate about.”

“Jacqui Grantford” taught us to draw and paint a yellow dog, and how to shade. She creates picture books sometimes using her own story and sometimes illustrating for other writers. She was artistic, inspiring and she made it all look so easy. She was so encouraging and she seemed to enjoy every bit of the day herself.”

“It was great to be involved with the festival.”
Hello to the Western Port Secondary College community. We are now looking forward to the school holiday period and finally some warmer weather.

Recently we held parent teacher interviews to help inform you about the progress of your child. Please discuss issues that were raised and support your child in completing the year well. Rollover for 2012 will be November 21st and this year we will be introducing a new completion process for students who start Year 11 and 12. This will involve having their attendance and work completion signed off by each teacher before finishing the year. Any student who does not complete this will be required to attend in the following week to complete outstanding work.

We are pleased to announce that the College is preparing for the rollout of 1:1 Netbook devices at Year 11-12 for 2012. This is being made possible through Federal Government funding to all secondary schools. Jenni Hodgins will be coordinating this process which will include a compulsory parent information session before the Netbook is given to the student. The devices will be supplied directly to the student at no cost to assist with their education but remain the property of the school. Students will able to use these devices at both home and school once the user agreement is completed.

Last week we held a very successful Discovery Week with all our local Grade 5 students. They completed the amazing race and participated in many activities. Students and visiting staff were very impressed with the new facilities and had an enjoyable time. I would like to thank Tanya Blanch for all her hard work in coordinating this week and staff that were involved. There were also many student helpers who assisted in making the students feel welcome.

Last week I attended the Interschool Sports at Ballam Park. Once again our students performed very well and behaved in a very positive manner. A number of students will now progress through to the next round of competition. Tracey Hall and the PE staff assisted in making the day a success.

This week we saw Year 10 students participate in “Mock Job” interviews as part of the Beacon Program. This is a valuable experience for these students and for some the first time they have done this. I would like to thank the many community members who volunteered time and the staff at the College who assisted in coordinating the week.

Recently seven students from WPSC joined approximately fifty other students for the Leaders in Environmentally Sustainable Schools Forum at the Briars. These students are our future leaders and gained great insights into this important area on the day.

Organisational matters

Recently we have noticed a number of students wearing incorrect shoes; generally it appears that small groups try to see what they can get away with. 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

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.

Andrew Nicholls
Principal
It is hard to believe that we are already three quarters of the way through the year. It has certainly been a busy year with all the building works going on around the school. Students have been very positive about the new facilities and have been enjoying improved access around the school.

It is always a pleasure to walk around the school and be constantly greeted by students who are positive and friendly and who will take the time to chat. In the general ‘busyness’ of the job, those interchanges often brighten my day and remind of why I am here. Blocked toilets, no hot water and leaking taps can often get in the way of ‘the real stuff’.

When I do have to speak to students, in my role as Assistant Principal, about issues to do with a negative behaviour or attitude towards one of their peers or staff, having a ‘conversation’ with the student and getting them to reflect on what they have said or done generally leads to a positive outcome and to them taking some responsibility for their actions. Where students fall into the ‘blame game’ or try to deflect from their actions by drawing attention to what others have done or quickly jump on the phone to be rescued by mum or dad, it is more difficult to move forward. This does not teach young people to find solutions to their problems or to learn to be self reliant. In situations where they are angry I will say to them that it is ok to feel angry but it is what you do with your anger that is important. If they allow their anger to control them rather than them managing their anger it can only lead to destructive consequences for all.

The wellbeing Team are currently offering a range of programs to assist students to develop a repertoire of skills to assist them in being assertive rather than aggressive and also to help them to manage stress and problematic situations. Matt Bodley and Tim Ward have had great success with the ‘Rock and Water’ program this term and Justine Sharkie’s meditation groups have proved to be very popular.

Recently we conducted the mock job interviews for all Year 10 students. These are a valuable experience for students in preparation for their future careers and the world of work. Whilst some students already have part time jobs, the more practice they can get in writing applications and experiencing an interview for a variety of different employment options the better chances they will have when the ‘real job’ comes along. We would not be able to run this program without the invaluable assistance of a number of volunteers from within the community that give up their time in order to come in to the college and interview our students; we are very grateful for their help. I would also like to thank Ms Mathers, Ms Tsousis and the Beacon Student Ambassadors for their help with the program.

The application process for the 2012 VCAL program is almost complete with finalisation for all students expected in early Term 4. The timetable for next year should also be completed by early next term after which all senior school students will receive a tentative timetable which will begin after the roll over to the new school year on the 21st November 2011.

I would like to wish all students and families a safe and enjoyable term 3 break.

Michael Devine
Assistant Principal

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The Assistant Principals

During these school holidays Year 12 students are strongly encouraged to use their time wisely, and whilst enjoying a break have a planned structured program of study so they can be as well prepared for the November exams as possible. Time management is crucial, so students should plan a realistic study timetable that can be undertaken in a suitable environment; a quiet, well lit area, with suitable table and chair and away from any distractions.

The Assistant Principals

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal
RUBICON CAMP 2011

This Year we sent 19 Year 8 students along to experience Rubicon Outdoor Education Centre for one week in the second last week of Term 3. We shared our booking with Neerim District School and spent the week working in 3 groups with the students and staff from both schools working together with a group leader from the Rubicon Outdoor Centre.

Throughout the week all students participated in a varied range of outdoor and adventure activities some of the highlights included; Visiting the regeneration of Marysville and the surrounding hills to see the rebuild and growth of the area. Spending a day at Lake Mountain and learning how to cross-country ski, while we were there we ambushed the other groups with a snowball fight! We white-water rafted down The Big River we rafted in groups of 5 with 2 teachers in each raft. Each student was given the opportunity to steer and direct the raft which looks a whole lot easier to do than it really is! We stopped for lunch half way down at a beautiful camping ground before hitting the wild rapids once again. The white water day was amazing and so much fun!

We took to the sky and challenged ourselves on the high ropes course, it was very scary up there on the beams and to finish there was a huge flying fox which was awesome! We mountain bike rode through the Rubicon Valley and discovered bike trails, there were plenty of river crossings and bumps and lumps to test our nerves and even a magpie or two to avoid along the way. We completed a bike technical course and learnt all about the gears, stopping and hitting jumps.

The food on camp was some of the best camp food I have ever enjoyed the head chef Susan did an amazing job with the meals and prepared us the most delicious food. Each day because we were always out and about enjoying our activities we packed and prepared our own lunches to take with us.

Each night we did leadership and initiative activities which were always really fun and enjoyable the best one was the night orienteering competition, where we were competing against the other groups to see who could complete the course the quickest with all the correct answers. This was a challenge but with teamwork and leadership we managed to do it! On the last night of camp we completed a reflection of our time spent at camp and also completed a peer assessment before enjoying a fun photography challenge with our teams.

Overall Rubicon camp was really fun, we made heaps of new friends and developed our leadership potential. Thank you to the staff who organised and attended camp Miss Stephenson and Mr Panuccio.
“One World, Many Stories”, was the theme for Book Week this year. World clocks in the library now tell the time in six countries. All Year 7 & 8 classes were given passports and escorted onto the plane that landed in the library. After the safety demonstration, first class passengers received refreshments before all passengers disembarked to visit six continents set up around the library. (Sorry, we had to leave out Antarctica)

Students participated in a variety of literacy based activities while visiting each continent. These included reading stories and answering thinking questions (Sierra Leone in Africa), finding recipes for a menu in Thailand and India, interpreting pictures of concentration camps in Poland, reading Australian picture books and there was even some maths and science. (In Alaska, they still measure the temperature in Fahrenheit.) Passports were stamped on completion of each activity and students were permitted to leave the country for their next destination.

There were also quite a few arguments about what a country actually is when completing the alphabetical countries challenge. However, the judge has ruled that there is no country starting with W, and sorry but Wales is no longer a country but part of the United Kingdom. No correspondence will be entered into.

There was some fancy dress along the way and small prizes for the first groups finished. Staff and students all had a lot of fun. Nobody’s bags ended up in LA either, thank goodness.

Rock & Water
Rock and Water is a program run by the Wellbeing team at Western Port Secondary College, which helps students to avoid using violence in dealing with confronting situations. The program helps students to manage their anger without turning it into uncontrolled outbursts and helps build self-confidence and resilience. It is based on teaching students self-control through physical games and light self-defence training. The physicality of the program engages students and lays a platform for learning self-awareness and self-control. In term three a group of students from Years 7 to 9 have been involved in the program with many regularly commenting on how much they enjoy it and learn in it. The program will be run next term for identified and interested students.

JAPAN NEWS
"Japan, Japan, Japan ....... Last chance to apply for the Japan Tour. Students & staff will be leaving on Friday, March 23rd and returning Wednesday, April 4th 2012. A $300 deposit will be required by the first day of Term 4 (Monday, October 10th) with the remainder payable by the end of this year (approximately $3000). We will be traveling in the south of Japan visiting Osaka (Universal Studios, Osaka Castle and Aquarium), Kyoto (city tours, the Nightingale floor), Hiroshima (site of the A Bomb devastation), Miyajima Island (A-Tori Gate) and Hakone (Mount Fuji). We expect the tour to be of as much fun and interest as our last trip.

Any questions contact Mr Ward at the college.
Carry On assists secondary School students with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc.

Carry On helps any member of the Australian defence forces or Allied forces at the time of conflict who are Australian citizens, resident in the state of Victoria and who are:

- Former or serving members of the military forces or Allied forces who can show a need for financial assistance and whose need or distress has been caused directly by such service; or

- Spouse, Widow, Widower, and dependant children of the above.

If you wish to apply for the Secondary Education Grant for 2012 please phone Carry On on (03) 96296248 to establish eligibility and request an application form. Alternatively please contact the Defence transition Mentor at WPSC Justine Sharkie on 59791577 for more information.

Applications close 25th October 2011

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Swimming Program Year 7 & 8

During the Term 4, Health and Physical Education Domain will be running a compulsory swimming program for all Year 7 & 8 classes in conjunction with Surf Lifesaving Victoria (SLSV).

At Western Port Secondary College, we have operated a successful swimming unit for many years and view it as an integral part of the overall development and well-being of all students.

Water safety is of particular relevance to our own local community, as many sports and future interests of our youth involve water based activities. It is therefore critical that we support developing water confidence, awareness and encourage active student participation in our swimming program.

The swimming program has been organised over two days. The first day involves a one period session with Surf Life Saving Victoria at the College focused on resuscitation – ‘Resuscitate a mate’. The second is a full day program of beach and water based activities to be conducted at Point Leo.

All individuals will be catered for during the program, from non – swimmers through to the more advanced. Qualified Surf Lifesaving staff will run them through a range of activities depending on their individual level of competency. The cost of bus transport to and from Point Leo is included in the cost.

Cost of the total program – $25.00

Due Date for Payment – Friday 17th September, 2011

Indemnity form – Return to Office with Payment

Dates of beach program - Thursday, 10th November

Please support our school and the Physical Education faculty in making this a huge success for all the students. Contact the school if you have any concerns regarding the program or payment. Thank you for your support.

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Student Absences

If your student at the College is absent please contact the College on:

SMS: 0428 937 348 (note, this number cannot be called, it is SMS only).

Or

Absent line to leave a voice message: 5979 3511

Please do not let your student at the College call the absent line or SMS, these will be disregarded.

Thank you
### Bell Times for 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form Assembly</td>
<td>8.45 am - 8.55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>8.58 am - 9.55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>9.58 am - 10.55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>11.19 am - 12.16 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>12.19 am - 1.16 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 5</td>
<td>2.03 pm - 3.00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure your student is here before form assembly or a note will be required to explain absence, and an **SMS WILL go out.**

### Education Maintenance Allowance Information

EGA Cheque’s are ready to be collected from Administration, if you would like your student to collect your cheque please give them written permission to do so.

Thank you

### College News

#### Education Maintenance Allowance Information

*Every child, every opportunity*

EGA Cheque’s are ready to be collected from Administration, if you would like your student to collect your cheque please give them written permission to do so.

Thank you

#### College News

#### Smoke-Free School Policy

The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development guidelines state that:

- Schools should be smoke-free environments
- All school activities should be smoke-free
- Students, staff and parents should refrain from smoking in school premises, on the school grounds (including the car park), or at school functions and activities
- An ongoing communication strategy should be designed to inform the whole school community of the reasons for a smoke-free policy

All members of the school community should be aware of their role in implementing a smoke-free environment.

Our school supports this and believes we should make every effort to set a positive example for young people with respect to health issues.

Tobacco smoking continues to be a significant health issue for Victorians. It is responsible for 90% of drug caused deaths in Australia. In 2005, 8% of students who were twelve years of age had smoked in the past year, increasing to thirty seven per cent among students who were 17 years. In absolute figures this percentages equate to around 140,359 students. If they all became smokers 70,180 would die prematurely. On a more positive note, the smoking rates among current smokers (smoked in past week) aged 16 and 17 almost halved between 1999 and 2005 (source QUIT Victoria 2009).

Western Port Secondary College is a Smoke-Free school. Students found smoking, in the company of smokers, in possession of cigarettes or supplying cigarettes to other students while at school, in school uniform, or at a sponsored school activity will be liable to a range of sanctions.

The emphasis of the College procedure is to put the health and wellbeing of students first.

**First Incident:**
- Parents will be contacted by the Team Leaders.
- Students will be referred to the Adolescent Health Nurse, whereby a risk reduction agreement will be negotiated with the student. Students will also have to attend a community service.

**Second Incident:**
- College policy for non-compliance with the College policies is invoked. This may involve an after school detention and possibly a review meeting with parents. The risk reduction agreement is reviewed with the Adolescent Health Nurse.

We encourage all parents to support our smoke-free school policy. If any parent would like to discuss this policy or would like further information sent home, please contact Monique DeRoche (Adolescent Health Nurse) or Hannah Lewis (Assistant Principal) on 59791577.

#### Advertising in the College Newsletter

If you would like to place an advertisement in the College Newsletter please call the General Office on 5979 1577.
Community Notice Board

Limited time left to complete HPV immunisation free-of-charge

If your daughter started the three-dose human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Year 7 but has not yet completed it, she has only until the end of this school year before any missed dose will need to be purchased from a health service provider at a cost of approximately $150 each.

The HPV, or cervical cancer vaccine, has been provided to girls in Year 7 since 2007 as part of the National Immunisation Program. In Victoria, girls who enter the program in Year 7 have two years, or until the end of Year 8, to complete the three-dose course at no cost.

It is important that your daughter completes the full course to ensure she has the best possible protection against cervical cancer, genital warts, and other HPV-related illnesses. Victoria has already seen a 50 per cent reduction in the number of high-grade cervical abnormalities in young women since the HPV immunisation program commenced.

Ideally all three doses are given within a six-month period – at 0, 2 and 6 months. However, research shows if the second and third doses are given later than planned, the body still responds to the vaccine and makes antibodies which protect against HPV infection.

Missed vaccine doses can be obtained through public council immunisation sessions and your local GP. If your daughter has not completed the HPV vaccine course, please contact your local health provider as soon as possible.

If you are unsure of your daughter’s HPV immunisation record, please contact the National HPV Vaccination Program Register on 1800 478 734.

The HPV vaccine protects against four types of HPV which cause around 70 per cent of cervical cancers and 90 per cent of genital warts. Taking the vaccine now will protect your daughter against cervical cancer later in life.

If you need more information, visit www.cervicalcancervaccine.org.au or phone the Victorian Department of Health immunisation section on 1300 882 008. You can also call the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20.

Hannah Lewis
Assistant Principal
It’s time! Start collecting Sports for Schools vouchers!
From July 29th shop at Coles and start collecting your Coles Sports for Schools vouchers.
Don’t forget, for every $10 spent at Coles, Coles Online, BI-LO and Pick’n Pay supermarkets, you will receive 1 voucher for your school to redeem for sports gear! Plus throughout the program there will be opportunities to collect bonus vouchers with our special promotional offers on selected products.
Collect as many vouchers as you can before October 18th from family and friends to get more sports gear for your school.
The collection box will be located in the school foyer.
Please place vouchers in there.

Petition to extend Hastings bus route

Community members from Hastings Neighbourhood Renewal are keen to improve the bus services in Hastings and as such have started a petition to redirect the existing 782 and/or 783 Bus Routes, so that a regular service is provided to the residential area bound by Hodgins and Hendersons Rd, High St, and Frankston Flinders Rd Hastings.

If you would like to support this initiative and think that a bus being available for all people to catch in this area would be a benefit to the community of Hastings, please sign one of the petitions at the Schools front desk. Alternatively head to any of the services that are ran from the Hastings Community Health Services at 185 High St Hastings, visit the new Neighbourhood Renewal Community Hub at 1973 Frankston Flinders Rd, and keep a look out for other sites in the community that are supporting the extension of the Hastings bus route.
Limited Time Left for Year 8’s to Access Cervical Cancer Vaccine for Free

There are only three months to go for girls in Year 8 to finish their HPV immunisation course free of charge. Once the school year is over, any missed dose of the cervical cancer vaccine will need to be purchased from a GP or other health service provider at a cost of approximately $150 each.

The HPV - or human papillomavirus - vaccine has been provided to girls in Year 7 since 2007 as part of the National Immunisation Program. To get free immunisation in Victoria, girls must commence the course in Year 7 and complete all doses by the end of Year 8. After that time, any missed dose must be paid for.

Ideally all three doses will be given within a 6 month period - 0, 2 and 6 months – however research shows if the second and third doses are given later than planned, the body still responds to the vaccine and makes antibodies which protect against HPV infection. This means it is still beneficial to complete the full three-dose course of the vaccine, even if doses aren’t received at the correct intervals.

The HPV vaccine protects against four types of HPV which cause around 70 per cent of cervical cancers. It is important for all girls to complete the full course to ensure the best possible protection against the disease and other HPV-related illnesses.

If your daughter has still not completed the HPV vaccine course, please contact your local health provider as soon as possible. Missed doses can be obtained through public council immunisation sessions and your local GP.

Girls in Year 7 will receive their third and final dosage of the vaccine at school on Tuesday 6th September.

If you need more information, visit www.cervicalcancervaccine.org.au. You can also call the Department of Health Immunisation Section on 1300 882 008 or call the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20.

The vaccine can reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer. Visit cervicalcancervaccine.org.au or call 13 11 20 to find out more.
**Semester 2, 2011**

- **Friday 23rd September**: END TERM 3
- **Monday 10th October**: BEGINNING TERM 4
- **Monday 21st November**: ROLLOVER
- **Monday 21st November**: VALEDICTORY DINNER
- **Monday 28th November**: YEAR 7 READING AWARDS
- **Tuesday 29th November**: YEAR 8 READING AWARDS
- **Tuesday 6th December**: ALL LIBRARY BOOKS ARE DUE BACK/ NO MORE BORROWING FOR 2011
- **Friday 16th December**: LAST DAY FOR YEAR 7-9 STUDENTS
- **Friday 16th December**: REPORTS DISTRIBUTED