PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

22 March 2013

Term 1 has been busy with a wide variety of learning activities occurring across the school. Two main events were the Dux Dinner and our Swimming Carnival, photos and result of our swimming carnival will feature in our next newsletter.

DUX DINNER

Windaroo Valley hosted for the third year, the 2013 ENABLE Dux Dinner. Students in our Certificate II Hospitality Program both prepared and served a fabulous dinner to some very distinguished guests.

Our guest included John-Paul Langbroek—Minister for Education, Training and Employment in Queensland, Mr Mark Boothman, State Member for Albert, Mr Michael Pucci, State Member for Logan, Mr Michael Crandon, State Member for Coomera, Ms Desley Scott, State Member for Woodridge, Councillor Rick Stanfield, Councillor Don Peterson, Councillors Jennie Breene, Councillor Trevina Schwarz, Councillor Jennifer Saunders, Mayor Pam Parker, Mr Mark Camping, Director-General for Education, Mr Greg Dickman, Regional Director for South East Region, Mrs Samantha Knowles, Assistant Regional Director, and Mr Brian Streatfield, Assistant Regional Director.

The Dux Dinner is an annual event where we celebrate the achievement of the Duxes from each of the state high schools in the Logan Albert Beaudesert District. Vince Buendicho, our 2012 Dux also joined us for dinner.

My congratulations to Mrs Silcox and Mrs Collins for coordinating this excellent evening and meal. Thanks also to our senior students leaders for helping to make the evening the success it was by welcoming and assisting our VIP’s.

The Parents & Citizen Association AGM was held on Tuesday 12 March. I would like to thank the following people for their re-election to the P & C Executive Committee—Sheryl Raine, President, Carol Kelly, Secretary, Jane Fleming, Treasurer. Congratulations to John Kelly who was elected Vice President. I look forward to another great year working together.

The Easter holiday break begins on Friday 29 March. I would like to wish you all a safe and restful Easter break and see you back in the new term.

Kay Louwrens
Principal
Introducing the new HOD Junior Secondary

My name is Simon Bliss and I am the acting Head of Department Junior Secondary in Semester 1 2013. I am normally a State School Principal and have been enjoying my role so far at this great school WVSHS. I work with an excellent team of staff in the Learning Enhancement Department. In 2015 our school will introduce Year 7 as part of the State Government’s Flying Start program. Deputy Principal, Jason Hassard and I have been working on the implementation plan and we have surveyed students and teachers, met with other schools around Beenleigh and attended professional development in preparation for this exciting change for our school. I look forward to meeting more students and families over the coming weeks and months at WVSHS.

Simon Bliss
Head of Department: Junior Secondary

Parent/Carer NAPLAN Information

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. To provide an overview of the format of the tests, a full set of example tests is available.

In 2013, NAPLAN tests will be held on 14-16 May. Information specifically for parents and carers can be found in the 2013 NAPLAN information brochure for parents and carers.

Preparation for NAPLAN

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you are encouraged to make a time to speak with their teacher.

NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum, and NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

Participation in NAPLAN

All students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 are expected to participate in NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN tests give you information on how your child is progressing against national standards. This information allows for additional intervention if necessary to ensure your child progresses at a rate where they can fully participate in all aspects of the curriculum. NAPLAN does not replace, but rather complements, assessments run by your child’s classroom teacher throughout the year.

Adjustments can be provided for students with disability to enable them to access the tests on an equivalent basis as students without disability, and should be discussed with your child’s school prior to the tests. ACARA has developed example scenarios to provide greater understanding of the appropriate adjustments for students with disability. Some students with significant intellectual disability and/or those with significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests may be exempted from sitting the tests.

Detailed information about absences, exemptions and withdrawals from NAPLAN can be found in the Student Participation section.
Naplan Information cont:

Some students who have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the tests may also be eligible for exemption. Exemptions should be discussed with your child's school. Parents or carers may withdraw their child from the tests to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. It is recommended that withdrawal be considered in consultation with your child's school. States and territories have different ways of managing student withdrawals, but formal notification must be received by the school Principal prior to testing.

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week.

Detailed information about absences, exemptions and withdrawals from NAPLAN can be found in the Student Participation section.

NAPLAN Results

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your child's school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. Your child's school is your first point of contact for any questions about their NAPLAN report, including:

- if you do not receive a report
- for replacement reports (Please note: ACARA does not have access to individual student reports and cannot organise the reissue of lost student reports) if you want further information about your child's results
- Copies of individual student's test papers are not available.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, and is designed to illustrate the range of student performance across the country. It is not expected that all students will be able to answer all questions correctly. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia. Information on how to understand your child's individual student report is available in the 2012 Student Report - information for parents brochure.

ACARA has also developed a video (5 min 39 s) that explains how NAPLAN results are reported, including the individual Student Report.

More detailed information on the reporting of NAPLAN results is available in the Results and Reports section.

For more information at WVSHS please contact the Learning Enhancement Department.

Simon Bliss
Head of Department: Junior Secondary

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<td>School Resumes</td>
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<td>Chaplaincy Dinner at Beenleigh PCYC</td>
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<td>P &amp; C Meeting—Common Room 6:30pm</td>
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2013 Schools Clean Up Day Australia at Windaroo

For the second consecutive year Windaroo Valley State High School has registered as a site for Schools Clean Up Day. This year the event was held on Friday, 1/3/13. This was extremely successful once again with a fantastic turnout from both students and staff to assist to clean up the school and also the surrounding shops. Some groups from the school that participated were; the Senior Student Leaders, the Girls group and the Spartan (Boys group). Captain Green our school mascot also led the clean up and the school spirit displayed was exceptional.

Keep being Green!

Jason Hassard
Deputy Principal.
SENIOR SCHOOLING
It's been another very busy start to the year for all of our Senior Phase of Learning students. (Years 10-12)
Student progress
Already we are well into Semester One and students should be continually reassessing their study and work habits, pathways choices and their results to ensure that success will be achieved. This may involve teacher-student and parent discussions to determine if any changes or modifications are required, such as subject changes, time management or questioning techniques. It's important that parents monitor their child’s progress and if there are concerns, contact teachers. Email is often an efficient way to do this.
Industry Liaison Officer (ILO)
In previous years Windaroo Valley has utilised the services of the Beenleigh Regional Industry Training Network (BRITN) to help with the placement of students into School-Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships. (SATs) With the demise of BRITN, we now have our own Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) based at the school for two days a week.
Mrs Bel Brown will be initially based in the Senior Schooling office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Her role includes:
• Work Experience
• SATs
• Assistance with resumes and applications
• Advice on vocational pathways
Students can make appointments to meet with her for assistance with any of these issues.
We welcome Bel as a valuable addition to the school, especially at a time when industry opportunities are becoming more difficult to procure for our students. If there are any members of our community that are seeking our highly motivated students with Work Experience, Training or advice, please feel free to contact Bel or myself.

We all look forward to helping the students achieve their best outcomes possible.
Rudi Schwarz
HOD Senior Schooling

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT
Lifting the Lid on Learning Enhancement
The WVSHS Learning Enhancement Department consists of a Head of Department Junior Secondary, Support Teachers (Literacy and Numeracy), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer, two specialised Learning Enhancement Teacher Aides and an English as a Second Language Teacher Aide. This dynamic team supports students in all year levels and subjects and strives to enhance student learning outcomes. Our learning enhancement programs support the students by physical, digital, electronic and human resources enabling these students to develop and demonstrate their abilities.

Our GTEK (Gifted, Talented, Extension, Kids) Program is offered in Years 8 and 9. Students study together in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Studies of Society and Environment. It is a fantastic learning environment which provides the students with the opportunity to work at an advanced learning pace and to achieve higher standards of performance compared to students of the same age.

We also support a group of year 8 and 9 students in classes designed to enhance their Literacy and Numeracy skills in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and SOSE. This program is our Fast Track Program. It encourages students, in improving their perseverance, self-organisation, team work and self-monitoring.

We also support our English as a Second Language (ESL) students with a part time Teacher Aide and our Indigenous students with an Aboriginal and part time Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer.

To contact the Learning Enhancement Department please call the school office.
GTEK Program
(Gifted, Talented, Extension Kids Program)

Optimising every student’s opportunity to achieve their potential, lies at the heart of our GTEK Program at Windaroo Valley High. We continue in our commitment to the education of students who respond very positively to extension work.

Our staff continues to:

• Gain an increasing awareness of the prevalence and specific needs of these students
• Identifying students regardless of their ethnicity, abilities and/or disabilities, gender or economic status
• Strive to meet the specific needs of these individuals and improve their learning outcomes
• Foster cooperation and collaboration among teacher, parents/carers, student, education administrators and our community, to ensure these students have the opportunities to develop their abilities.

Student that our GTEK Program strives to support, may be capable of excelling in one or more areas, such as:

• general intelligence
• specific academic studies
• creative thinking, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills

We recognize that the learning environment, supported by physical, electronic and human resources, is pivotal to enabling these students to maximally develop and demonstrate their abilities.

We continue to implement, expand and fine turn our GTEK Programs:

• Providing links with TAFE, Universities, Government Departments, Scientists, Post-Graduate students in order to support action research.
• Fostering cross-curriculum involvement
• Supporting students via mentoring programs developing communication skills
The Windaroo Valley State High School faculty of Mathematics has purchased a school subscription for Mathsonline (www.mathsonline.com.au). Your child’s maths teacher has given each student a log in and password. Mathsonline was developed by experienced Australian mathematics teachers and is specifically designed for our current curriculum. The program features hundreds of fully animated and narrated relevant maths lessons with over 15,000 exam-style questions to test a student’s mastery of the curriculum content. It can be accessed at any time of the day from any computer with an internet connection. The feedback in previous years has been very positive from both students and parents and the program has been reintroduced to further enrich the Mathematics experienced by Windaroo Valley State High students.

Having seen many similar programs, in our opinion, Maths Online is by far the most appropriate and best tailored program for our students needs.

Benefits
- Gives student the freedom to study without stress, at home, in their own time, at their own pace.
- Parents can work with their children on “virtual lessons”.
- Students can catch up on missed lessons or concepts they have not fully understood.
- Because maths concepts build upon each other, sometimes it’s necessary for students to go back and revise a particular concept before moving on to a new topic, this can be done as every student has access to the entire Year 7 to 12 program curriculum.
- Students can preview lessons at home before they take them at school.
- Students can gain understanding and confidence especially in areas where they have previously struggled.
- Students can complete the worksheets to test their understanding. All of their results are recorded so that their progress can easily be seen.

Above all, it works!

Suggestions for parents

Maths Online provides an opportunity for a parent to be involved in their child’s learning. To do this you can sign up for a Parent’s Report. The Parent Report is generated by the Maths Online system and is sent weekly to registered parents. The report includes a log of the student’s activity on Maths Online during the preceding week, details of homework tasks that have recently fallen due, and the homework tasks, if any, that are upcoming. To access the report, log on with your child’s log in and password and click the “Parent’s Area” tab. On this page you can request a weekly e-mail report on your child’s progress and/or a regular newsletter for parents. You can also track the overall progress of the student using the “Reports” tab. Classroom teachers will occasionally set specific tasks which will appear when a student has logged on.

I hope that you will find this program beneficial. Please feel free to ask me or your child’s maths teacher if you have any further questions.

Parents can check on their child’s progress at any stage.
Simply go to “Parents login” on the web page, Choose option 2 and enter your child’s login and password.
If you wish to receive a regular weekly report you can choose this option as well. Remember to supply the email address from which you wish to receive reports.

Ramon Doon
Head of Mathematics
Flooding on the First Week Back at School
By Anthony Evans – 9C

Some students and staff, had problems getting to school for the first week of 2013. All this was caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone - Oswald, causing a down-pour on Australia Day. This cyclone came from Cairns in the North and worked itself down to QLD and into New South Wales. Over 230 000 people were left without power due to telephone wires been wet, transformers destroyed and even power faults. Energex was very busy. The depth of Cambogan, Dairy and Ooah Creeks was over 5 metres from the base (noticeable because the indicators were unable to be shown.) School resumed for all students at Windaroo Valley State High School on Wednesday 30 January 2013.

Dairy Creek Flooded – before peak
Cambogan Creek Flooded – before peak

Ooah Creek Flooded – before peak
Cambogan Creek Flooded – after peak

Bookroom
All students who have paid their Student Resource Hire Scheme are invited to collect their Text Books from the Bookroom in G205 Monday to Thursday before school or during break times
Canteen and Uniform Shop
Price List

Girls Dress Uniforms
- Skirt (short length) 10—12 $33
- Skirt (long length) 10—28 $36
- Culottes 8—28 $33
- Blouse 6—28 $30

Boy Dress Uniforms
- Grey Shorts 62cm—117cm $33
- Shirt 12—30 $30

Sports Uniform
- Mesh Shorts 10—28 $23
- Polo Shirts 10—30 $23
- Senior Polo Shirts (Yr11-12) 12—30 $25

Winter Uniform
- Unisex Jacket XS—XXXL $55
- Unisex Jumper 10—30 $33
- Girls Grey Slacks 4—26 $27
- Boys Grey Pants 67cm—117cm $40
- Microfibre Trackpants XS—XXXL $28

Uniform Shop is open every day from 7:00am—2:00pm
Come in and see our friendly staff

EFTOS is now available in the uniform shop along with cash.

Our canteen is open for breakfast everyday from 7:15. Orders can be placed for morning tea & lunch (so no missing out on your favourite food)
Orders may be picked up from the middle counter, with no waiting in lines.

CentrePay Dedications
CentrePay is a free direct bill paying service available to customers who receive a Centrelink payment. Windaroo Valley SHS is registered as a provider to offer this service to the school community. It is the easy way to ensure your school financial commitments are met.

For further information please contact the Business Services Manager at school, Centrelink, or visit the Centrelink website at www.centrelink.gov.au.

Wendy Hawkins
Business Services Manager

Internet Banking is Here
Windaroo Valley SHS is offering you internet banking as an alternative way to pay your school financial commitments. Internet banking is the preferred payment option for all activities. Payments made must be clearly identified to ensure that the correct outstanding invoices are credited against the correct student.

The reference code used must commence with your student’s EQ ID number. (This number is recorded on their Student ID card.) This should be followed by a description of the activity.
For example: Jason Smith, EQ ID No – 1234567893Q is going on the X-Country excursion.

The school account details are as follows:
- BSB: 064-401
- Branch: Beenleigh, QLD
- Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
- Account Number: 10078860
- Account Name: Windaroo Valley State High School – General Account

As a school we are pleased to offer you this alternative payment method.

Wendy Hawkins
Business Services Manager

School Watch
Look
Listen
Report
13 17 18