Term 4 Week 4

Important dates to put in your calendar.

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Principal Report

Learning is first and foremost

Our HSC students are beginning to complete their final exams and our major projects have been marked. Feedback has been positive from students and staff about their approach.

Year 11 took part in an Elevate workshop this week. The focus was time management.

We wish Year 10 well as they undertake their final year exams next week.

Gonski Week

This week school across Australia have been sharing stories about the successes that have been achieved as a result of the additional funding provided the National Education Reform Agreement (NERA), or what is commonly referred to as the Gonski funding agreement.

Our school has been able to fund a number of initiatives as a result of additional equity funding. This includes additional class to support vulnerable students; team teaching for an academic Maths/Science class; funding training for our AVID classes; employing a part time engagement officer to promote positive attendance patterns; and a speech pathologist. Our annual report will outline the benefits from these initiatives.

I thank the community for supporting conversations across Australia about the important role that education can play in supporting the life opportunities for our young people as well as the broader economic, health and social benefits from the investment.

Deputy Principal Report

The rain this week, although sudden and arriving on the 2.30pm bell to the surprise of students waiting at the buses, provided a welcome cleansing of the school playground, albeit wetting a few carpeted spaces and frightening some students as the lightning struck and the thunder clapped. With the sun out the next day and a clean playground, I encourage students to take pride in the school grounds and show this by placing all their rubbish in the bins provided in the school. Too much rubbish is being left behind for others to clean up. Show the respect you have for WCS by keeping our environment clean.

Our attendance blitz has been successful this week, with students encouraged to be at school on time and in class quickly to earn points for their Wadalba Cup house. Students are feeling connected to school through their houses and it is important that this connection leads to an air of responsibility surrounding punctuality.

With exams for Yr10 and many classes finalising their assessment items for the year, it is important that all our students demonstrate the value of excellence when applied to their school work. Let’s keep the standard high as we work towards the end of the year.

Yr12 are soon to come to the end of the HSC exams. It has been pleasing to hear that they have used their time wisely, staying until the end of the examination time in most of their examinations. They have been
leaving the school regularly with smiles on their faces, reporting they had been happy with the questions presented to them and on their way home to prepare for the next challenge. We encourage them to celebrate safely as this time comes to an end and prepare for the arrival of their results with an open mind.

Our Yr11 students have benefited from another ELEVATE session this week to develop and hone their study techniques. This program is providing our Stage 6 students with many skills and the opportunity to follow through with resources provided on the ELEVATE website and in materials given to them on the day. It is hoped that our senior students make the most of these valuable opportunities.

Yr10 are fast approaching their yearly exams that they will sit on Mon, Tue and Wed, 2nd-4th of November. I encourage them to revise their work thoroughly and read questions in the exams carefully, writing considered answers that relate directly to the questions asked. In English, remember to be creative when required and draw on texts to provide examples for in written work. In HSIE, support answers with examples, facts and figures to demonstrate knowledge and how it is relevant to the real world. In Maths, remember to bring equipment including a calculator, and to show all working for each answer. In Science, read the questions carefully, recall and apply knowledge to answer questions thoroughly. PDHPE will require recall of knowledge and application of this knowledge to the questions presented. Remember to keep answers clear and concise and ensure above all that the answer relates to the question asked.

Yr9 have returned from camp with great stories to tell of the fun they had and the friendships strengthened through the involvement in so many fun activities. We back at school enjoyed the photos shared on the WCS Facebook page and the stories that the teachers had to tell about their favourite moments at camp, upon their return. ‘Ton of Fun’ proved to be just that for our happy campers.

The leadership team provided a BBQ breakfast for those wishing to start their day with bacon and egg roll and a juice on Wednesday morning. This is a great opportunity for students to engage in teamwork and present as a cohesive team working effectively and efficiently alongside a team of dedicated teachers. Thank you to all involved.

Yr6-7 Transition has begun with us meeting many of the incoming Yr6 students around the school as they venture to WCS for orientation days. It has been refreshing to see our current students working so well with the newcomers, as they proudly share their school through orientation activities.

Mrs Erica Burge
DP 7 and 10

Year 7

Year 7 has had an extremely busy start to the term with multiple assessments being completed in class. They have also finished 2 assignments in both Humanities and Measuring Physical Space. The teachers have been amazed with the quality and application shown by the students. Currently all of Year 7 is busy trying to complete their ‘Genius Hour’ assignment ready for presentation in week 7. They will have time at school, however, they will need to make time to complete their investigations at home and be ready to present their work.

As we are coming close to the end of the year, it is very important to remember a few things. All students of Wadalba Community School are required to come to school prepared for every lesson. All year 7 students need to have the correct book, pens, pencils, ruler and calculator. They will also need to come to class with the correct mindset. All classes will be working right up to the end of the school term and getting ready for Year 8.

Kind regards,
Jade McLachlan
Year 8 Advisor – MPS teacher

PDHPE

Congratulations to our Yr 12 students on their completion of thirteen years of schooling and we wish them the very best of luck for their HSC Exams. We are anticipating receiving some good results when they are released later in the year. We would like to thank our Year 10 students for their efforts in their recent completion of their assessments and wish them luck in their preparation for their upcoming ROSA exams in Week 5. We would also like to encourage our Year 7, 8 and 9 students to continue applying themselves to their studies in both theoretical and practical lessons for the remainder of the year.
TSP

TSP trials for Year 6 into 7 were held at Morrie Breen on Tuesday 20th October. Despite the very hot conditions, coaches were able to interview potential candidates for the program and conduct their team trials. I would once again like to thank all coaching staff as well as those students from the programs that assisted with selections and congratulate all students that gain selection into their respective program.

Sport

We will be holding our annual Sports Presentation evening on Thursday 26th November 2015 (Week 8). All students have been encouraged to complete forms that provide details of their school, Zone, Regional and CHS representation commitments throughout 2015 and return them to the PDHPE staffroom.

Term 4 sport choices have been finalised. We ask any student that has not yet made their selection to visit the Middle School staff room to see Mr Marlin to select (or change) their sport. Mr Marlin has been doing a fantastic job with school sport and we ask all students to support Mr Marlin and the sport staff by meeting requirements and expectations of them during Tuesday sport.

Students are reminded that buses take students to sport leave at 12:15pm (half way through lunch). Buses cost $5.00 and some venues have additional charges involved. Students must make sure they have their correct money for sport with them on Tuesday afternoons. Exact money for buses is appreciated.

Mr M Sawyer
Head Teacher PDHPE

HSIE

While teachers are busy writing reports and finalising assessments, work goes on for Year 11. Most will have started their HSC courses now, with some electing to review the courses they are continuing with.

Please note that all students will now need to meet their deadlines and hand in assessments on due dates OR have an Illness and Misadventure form submitted within 3 days of the tasks due date (with supporting documentation). The submission can then be considered by Head Teachers, Deputies and the Principal.

It is vitally important that all students in classes complete their assessments to the very best of their ability. Therefore time management and organisation are essential. Most HSIE HSC courses will have one assessment due before the end of the term. This mark will contribute to the final HSC mark, so students – put in the necessary effort please!

As parents, it is a good idea to ask to see the handbook that outlines due dates for assessment tasks.

I have asked HSIE teachers of the 2016 HSC to send out initial warnings for those students who are not meeting course expectations. This may involve poor attendance which ultimately leads to falling behind and struggling to meet course outcomes as outlined by the Board of Studies.

Year 8 are working on Global issues this term and will have one more assessment to complete before the end of the year. Year 9 is completing a unit of work on Communities in the Geography classes and the classes completing History work will be finalising WW1 and WW11 tasks. Year 10 are working on a History unit and will also have one final assessment task to complete before the end of the year.

Planning for the June/July trip to Vietnam is well underway thanks to Mr Hancock. We have about 15 students who have committed to this amazing trip. They will have a fantastic educational and social experience.

As many of you will be aware, Ms Jenny Moes has left Wadlaba Community School and taken up a position with the NSW Teachers Federation as a Welfare Officer. This is a 3 year appointment for her. I would like to publically thank her for her work in the HSIE faculty and across the wider school community and wish her well in her future endeavours. Thank you also to the teachers that have accepted the responsibility of finishing the year with Ms Moes classes. It is not an easy job to step into someone’s shoes who has an established rapport with a group of students.

Congratulations to Ms Alison Clark (HSIE and English), who was recently
asked to present at an English Teachers Association event, and then asked to present a webinar for teachers in rural communities. Fantastic recognition for an outstanding teacher.

As always, if there are questions relating to your child’s progress in HSIE, please contact me or their classroom teacher to discuss your concerns.

Jenny Bennett
Head Teacher HSIE

Year 9 Camp
Last week, Year 9 went off to a camp of a lifetime on Ton of Fun Road, Forster. Judging by the reactions of the Year 9 kids, you could say it was a ‘ton of fun’. We went from Monday the 19th to Wednesday the 21st.

For night activities we first had Commando, which involved teachers versus students in a giant game of spotlight. On the second night we had challenge night, which involved a series of team challenges, followed by a fire show put on by the instructors.

After each activity we were given something to eat. The food was different every time we ate.

In the Zorb Balls activity, we were put in clear inflatable balls, which then had air pumped into them and we had to run around the pool. Inside of the blown up Zorb Ball it was extremely hard to even stand let alone move the ball. Walking on water is not as easy as it sounds.

Raft building … wasn’t the best. The idea was that three groups of about ten students had to work together to make a raft that would not only float, but would actually been able to get from one place to another. In some groups it did work out quite well but most teams struggled to cover the distance required.

The flying fox was thought of differently by everyone; some had a blast flying out over the lake with a partner, while others thought it was kind of boring.

The teamwork challenge was fun. The exercise was called Jacob’s ladder. It was made up of a series of horizontal poles suspended from wires that got further apart as they went up. How Jacob’s ladder worked was three people would climb up it while wearing full body harnesses. There was the option of working with your two team-mates, or leaving them behind.

The quad bikes were really fun! The quad bikes were manual, so we had to change gears from neutral to 4th; this of course made things harder for those who don’t normally ride them.

Mud world was, as expected, a world of mud. It was fun throwing the teacher into the mud river, though the mud was pretty cold and everyone was slipping around. We worked pretty well in teams for this one.

In go karts, we had to split into groups of four before we went in the vehicles. People with long hair had to wear a hair net (which was quite the fashion statement) under helmets before we were allowed onto the track.

Pretty much everybody had a great time on the waterslides. We had to use mats to go down the slides, but if anything that made us go faster and concealed the bumps.

If you’re going into Year nine next year, go to camp. You won’t regret it.

Jordyn Watts and Heath Anderson

Cultural Affirmations
We have been lucky enough to have artist Brett Parker from Billyara Aboriginal Art working with the primary and secondary students on a mural in the Marjorie Woodrow room. He has been working with students every Tuesday and Wednesday for since Term 3 Week 8.

The mural was the idea of the High School Aboriginal leaders and they collaborated with Brett to design the wall. It includes all different aspects of Indigenous culture and totems. Every student has placed their fingerprints to create the leaves on the trees, over time new students will add their fingerprints and the tree will grow.

All the students have thoroughly enjoyed working with Brett and listening to his stories. We are very excited to see the finishing touches being placed on it over the next week and appreciate all the hard work by the teachers and students.

In particular Joan, Miss Kasmar, Mrs Church, Mrs Wright, Mrs Cox and Mrs Butler for giving up their free time to work with the students and Mrs Moes for starting the idea.
Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service is a 24/7 aeromedical, search and rescue service free of charge to the communities of the Hunter, Central Coast, Mid North Coast, New England and North West regions of New South Wales. One of our big streams of funding this community based organisation is via fundraising events held on the Central Coast. From High Teas, to Race Days, Golf days and Grand Balls, we work hard to be advocates for the service at these events, while raising funds to keep this free for anyone who may need it.