Term 1 Week 10

Important dates to put in your calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/4/2015</td>
<td>SDD</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/4/2015</td>
<td>Students return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22/4/2015</td>
<td>Year 7 camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/4/2015</td>
<td>Anzac Day Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/4/2015</td>
<td>Year 11 exams start</td>
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<tr>
<td>29/4/2015</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Immunisation catch up</td>
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<tr>
<td>30/4/2015</td>
<td>Yr7/8 Immunisation catch up</td>
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Principal Report

Academic

Congratulations to Y12 for completing their half yearly exams. This should be the next launching pad for them in their studies. Congratulations to the many students who have completed quality work, including submission of assessment tasks over the term and achieved their learning goals from the start of the year. Most recently this has included seeing many junior high school students bringing in projects as they enter school in the morning. Y11 were also involved in a Study day over the last fortnight which included seminars presented by Elevate Education. Feedback was positive from students about the value of the day. Below is a sample of student comments:

How would you rate the overall program?
“It was amazing and the presentation... group interaction was a good addition to the course”
“They really broke down what to do and how to get good marks”
“It allowed me to have a clearer understanding as to what will help me succeed through studying”

What was the most important thing you learnt today?
“To actually do practice papers”
“Use colours and pictures to make it easier to remember”
“Using syllabus for notes”
“Developing trigger words”
“More time management”
“The most important thing is memory”
“How to set out my study work and key points on memorising my study notes for tests”
“How to revise and summarise effectively”
“Helpful tips for writing”
“How to really get motivated”
“Use mind mapping”
“The triangle, revise and organise”
“Start earlier”

We also asked our students to complete a short survey that we will repeat on an ongoing basis. An interesting finding was that 60% of students who reported studying more than 10 hours in the week prior also reported asking teachers in two or more subjects for specific feedback that they then incorporated into their learning. This is double compared to students who reported studying 1-5 hours in the week prior. Seeking and incorporating specific feedback into student work is seen as a key driver of increasing performance.

Student Brilliance

As a school we believe it is really important that students are able to connect to a group within the school that is of interest to them. This supports our children and young people feeling visible and valued at school as an individual. Many of these groups are small, diverse and can be project based. One of our groups is Agricultural students who are involved in school, local and state level events. Most recently our students have played a role in building the exhibition above at this year’s Royal Easter Show. In the same spirit, our equestrian team will also start their competition season this month.
Another example is that our school will be represented at the local ANZAC Day ceremony at the start of next term by over 50 students, including our Drum Corps leading the march on the 100th anniversary.

**Happy Holidays and Reading**

“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales,” Albert Einstein.

Holidays are a great time to read for pleasure. Most people would not be surprised to know there is a large amount of research about the value of reading for intelligence and general knowledge. Less known is that reading has many benefits children’s general wellbeing and outlook about themselves and the world.

We wish all families a happy holidays. It is timely to remind our children and young people to be diligent and make good decisions with crossing roads and other safety matters.

*Mr McGrath*

**Principal**

**Deputies Report**

Good Morning,

I’m sure we all can’t believe how fast this term has gone with Year 12 having just completed their Half Yearly Exams. Most of these exams were 2 hours in length and reflect the types of questions students can expect to see in their HSC exams. I have spoken with a number of Year 12 students and they felt that they were well prepared for their exams both in the structure and style of questions and the knowledge required. Prior to the exam, students had the opportunity to participate in a program run by **Elevate**, focusing on exam technique and improving memory. We also had a whole school focus in specific periods to deconstruct questions and develop quality answers. We recently commenced a mentoring program where students nominate a teacher to work with them to identify strengths and weaknesses in assessment and exam preparation. Next term, students should be provided with explicit feedback from their exams around how they can improve their results both in terms of exam technique and knowledge. Some useful websites for exam preparation include;

- [http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au](http://www.hsc.csu.edu.au) - an excellent resource for all students with extensive notes and information. (HSC online)
- [http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/) - a large array of information can be found here. An excellent program where students can complete multiple choice questions from previous HSC’s. Answers can be marked online and feedback given on time taken and answers most commonly selected. There are past HSC exams for students to complete. The standards packages can also be found here. These demonstrate student answers from 2001 and 2002 HSC in a variety on bands. This is a very powerful tool that indicates the standards required to move into higher bands.
- [http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/](http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/atar/) - This site gives lots of information about how the ATAR is calculated and also a table (table 3) that shows historically what ATAR a particular mark will equate to in each subject.
- [http://www.elevateeducation.com](http://www.elevateeducation.com) - students have a password to access follow-up information from session on study skills, time management, improving memory and exam techniques.
- Students should also speak to their teachers for subject specific websites.

The Easter holiday break is an ideal time for students to catch up on assessment tasks as well organising notes and developing summaries.

I wish everyone a wonderful Easter.

*Cameron Dusting*

**Deputy Principal (Year 9 and 12).**

**ENGLISH**

It has been a great time in English.

All students in Years 11 and 12 have received Course Information documentation for Advanced, Extension and Standard English. English Studies students have also
received course outlines. We wish you all well in these final years of study and know that you will do your best.

Students in Years 8 to 10 have received a Study and Assessment Schedule giving details of units of study and assessment. There will be two styles of assessment for Stages 4 and 5:

**Skills Based Tasks** in Literacy, Viewing/Listening, Figurative Language and Visual Texts.

**Substantive Written Tasks** in the form of a Writing Portfolio, TXXXC Response and Speech.

The first skills-based task for Literacy was completed in Week 5 and students are busily completing their submissions for the Writing Portfolio due this week. Students have been given the opportunity in both tasks to choose their level of participation to allow every student to feel successful in their pursuit of personal excellence.

Next term, we commence NAPLAN preparations for Year 9 and Film Study for Years 8 and 10. In the second half of the term, Year 9 will commence their Film Study and Years 8 and 10 will move on to Shakespeare. Films for Year 8 will be rated PG. In Year 9 and 10 we will also strive for a PG rating, however, some films studied may be rated M or MA15+. If this is the case, a permission note explaining this choice will be sent home to inform you.

During Term 1, we have had two exciting excursions. In week 5, Mrs Clark and Mrs Stone organised an eye-opening trip to Sydney for the students in 8EngA and 8EngD who studied the Australian classic, *Playing Beattie Bow* by Ruth Park. Students relived Abigail’s adventures in the historic Sydney Rocks area in a guided tour. In week 8, Mrs Louie and Mrs Holmes accompanied the 9Eng1 and Year 9 Creative Writing classes to the Newcastle Writers’ Festival Secondary Schools program. Students had the pleasure of meeting and listening to Marlena Marchetta and Garth Nix, both well-known Australian Authors. A few autographs and new books travelled home with us.

Our English Staff contains several new faces this year, beginning with myself as Head Teacher, appointed during Term 4 of 2014. In my time here at WCS I have met many friendly members of the community and look forward to working with parents to achieve the best outcomes for your children in English.

This year we welcome two new graduates, Miss Kokinovic and Mr Williams, who are enjoying beginning their teaching careers here at WCS. Miss Butler (a former student) also joins us during Ms Redman’s leave. Mrs Louie officially joined us as a permanent member of staff and we congratulate her on her appointment.

We are looking forward to continued success in English and hope you will enjoy seeing and hearing about your children’s efforts in our wonderful subject.

*Mrs Holmes*

*Head Teacher, English*

**PDHPE**

It has been pleasing to see the majority of students following our school policy in regard to bringing and wearing correct PDHPE uniform for all practical lessons. The uniform shop still has some shirts and shorts available for those students that have not yet been able to purchase theirs. We would like to thank students for their completion of recent assessments and congratulate those students that have completed their tasks to the best of their abilities and received pleasing results.

**Sport**

Term 2 sport choices are now up and running and students are able to make their sport selections through our school Moodle site. Follow the links to Student resources and then Student Sports Selections: [http://web1.wadalba-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/moodle/login/index.php](http://web1.wadalba-c.schools.nsw.edu.au/moodle/login/index.php)

Students are reminded that buses that take students to sport leave at 12:15pm (half way through lunch). If students have any difficulty in selecting a sport for Term 2, they should see Mr Marlin in the Middle School Staffroom to make their choice. 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.

**CHS KO Team Results**

Congratulations to our Open School CHS KO teams that have been successful in their preliminary rounds and we wish you all luck in your upcoming games.

**Carnivals**

Unfortunately, our school Athletics Carnival was postponed due to wet weather on Friday 13th March (Week 7) at Warnervale Athletics Track. The new date for our carnival will be Wednesday 6th May (Term 2 Week 3). Our Cross...
Country Carnival will also be held in the same week on Friday 8th May.

Mr M Sawyer
HT PDHPE

NAPLAN - National Assessment program - Literacy and Numeracy 2015

Just a reminder that NAPLAN is coming up next term in week 4 for years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Language conventions will be on Tuesday 12th May, Reading 13th May and Numeracy 14th May. The results of these tests will provide important information for schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. In the Numeracy tests, students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. Students in Years 7 and 9 will require a calculator for one of their Numeracy tests. Please ensure students come to school prepared for this. Please contact the school if you require any further information.

Ms Karen Jones
English and Humanities teacher

Homework Centre

Homework centre will be closed this week and reopen week 2 term 2. I would like to thank all the staff who have supported this program during term 1.

Mrs L Hancock
HT Mathematics

YEAR 7 Camp has been POSTPONED!!!!!

Due to issues with site works and council regulations on the Morisset school camp site we have had to postpone the Year 7 camp to:
Monday- May 25/5/15 to Wednesday 27/5/15

Melanie Coghlan
Year 7 Advisor

Learning Choices

Program Focus: Crusader Year 10
During this term, the students in the Crusaders program have been working exceptionally hard, completing their first assessments that will count towards their Record of School Achievement (RoSA).
In English, students have been refining their writing skills and have written and produced their own silent movies using iPads and the app Movie Maker. All students have been involved in the production process and have learnt how to give and take constructive feedback, working in groups and time management skills.
During Science lessons, all students have designed and tested their own experiments that prove one of Newton’s three Laws of Motion. Students had to design an essential question and then hypothesise as to what would happen. All students participated well and we had experiments using a range of equipment from water bottles, water balloons to nerf guns. Students collected and analysed their data and had to discuss with the class their results.
In Maths, students have continued to work hard on financial maths including rates of pay and percentages and have also begun to work with the properties of 3D shapes.

In HSIE lessons, students have continued to discuss Human Rights and Indigenous Policies in Australia. All students have attempted their work with maturity and are now writing their essays. We are very proud of the work ethic of all members of the class and look forward to term 2.

Mrs Samantha Burton
HT Learning Choices
Miss Crystal Reynen
Class Teacher
Year 7 Humanities

Year 7 Humanities classes are busy working on their assessment task, which is due this week. Students will be reviewing the novel they have been reading over the term and explaining how their chosen character has grown and developed throughout the novel. Students have also been learning skills in History, looking at primary and secondary sources and in Geography they have been learning to read maps, using an atlas and creating their own maps.

Students will be looking at the ancient world next term, covering both Egypt and China. There is an excursion to the IMAX theatre to see Egypt in 3D and a visit to Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University on Friday 1st May. Please look out for the permission note and return your money as soon as possible. On this excursion, students will be participating in a hands-on program that develops archaeological skills to investigate the ancient past.

Ms Karen Jones
English and Humanities Teacher