

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome to the Week 10 edition of the Newsletter, the final edition of the Newsletter for Term 1, 2020. It almost feels like I am writing the final edition of the Newsletter for the year – because Term 1 has been so eventful! We commenced the 2020 school year on a platform of change and improvement at Waroona District High School and we have ended the term riding on the success of some of these changes and improvements, none more so than the implementation of our online learning management system Connect. I'm not going to dwell on the challenges and adversity that the Coronavirus has thrown our way, but celebrate the strengths that it has highlighted in our school community. This is a resilient and collaborative community, a community that has overcome other hardships in the past, and a community of which I am very proud to be a part. My focus therefore for this edition is to highlight the many changes, successes and improvements of this term as well as the collaborative efforts of our outstanding school community to bring them about.

Term 1 Highlights

- Despite a state wide shortage of Technologies teachers, we sourced a Technologies teacher, Mr McVey, to lead our Wood and Metal technologies programs
- We sourced a highly skilled Literacy teacher into the secondary English position, and dedicated time across Year 3-10 to support student preparation for OLNA and NAPLAN testing
- We increased our student numbers in our 2020 Census by 8% and these numbers have increased further since Census
- We added school signage to the front fascia and improved signage to the front letterbox and entry statement
- We refurbished the front administration area into a modern and functional entry for parents and students
We removed the old blackboards from the Secondary classrooms and installed new whiteboards, countertops and teacher furniture to update our teaching spaces
- We painted the Kindergarten classroom ceilings to refresh the learning environment
- We initiated a very successful Aboriginal Cultural Camp for our Aboriginal students which was supported by the Shire of Waroona and GP Down South. The camp connected students with their culture and a range of community support networks available to support them
- We initiated a Year 7 Orientation camp to introduce our Year 7s to Secondary, the Bushrangers program and build some team work skills
- We initiated our Basketball Academy program in Secondary and had students had the benefit of coaching clinics with Mark Worthington from the Southwest Slammers

- We had Elevate Education facilitate Study Skills sessions with our Year 7-10 students to develop the skills to support their learning in Secondary
- Our Year 10's commenced Workplace Learning in local workplaces to develop student readiness for the workplace and strengthen our networks within the local community
- Our Year 10's commenced a nationally recognised qualification Certificate II Skills for Work. This will complement their Workplace Learning and upon successful completion will provide them with credit points toward their WACE (West Australian Certificate of Education) in Year 11 and 12
- We launched Connect – an online application which provides access for parents and students to individual class notices, content, libraries of classroom resources and a link to teacher marks books
- We provided a Connect parent information session to demonstrate the online platform and support parent use of the learning management system
- We implemented a Mobile Phone Policy across the school which bans mobile phone use to reduce distractions to learning
- We held a Meet & Greet afternoon for parents and teachers to provide an introduction to teachers and classroom practices. The afternoon included an informal meet and greet with a free sausage sizzle for families
- We conducted free eye testing through Eyes at Australind in Junior Primary
- We conducted On Entry testing in Pre Primary
- Swimming lessons were conducted in all Primary year groups and Year 7 to improve student swimming skills and prepare for the faction and interschool carnivals
- We initiated afterschool Maths extension and homework classes in Secondary
- We initiated afterschool English tuition and general homework classes in Secondary
- We published our 2019 Annual report which documented a range of successes from 2019 in academic, sporting and cultural domains
- We reviewed our school vision as a staff and commenced a revision of the WDHS Strategic Plan to ensure a cohesive and clear direction for school improvement
- Our Year 10 students participated in Round 1 of OLNA after very rigorous preparation in Maths and English classes
- Our Early childhood teaching staff trained in "Let's Decode" an explicit instruction approach to teaching phonics, to improve our student reading proficiency in K-2
- We implemented a revised Positive Behaviour Support Policy across the school to improve consistency in practice and process with a focus on building a positive classroom environment



CONSIDERATE

ASPIRING

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ENGAGED

SAFE

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- All staff participated in Classroom Management Strategies training and observation and conferencing to develop staff skills in student behaviour management through the use of Low Key Skills
- Our hardworking P&C re-opened the canteen on Mondays and Fridays and provided students with a healthy and delicious recess and lunch menu
- We conducted a community survey to identify areas of strength and areas of focus for our school improvement planning
- We commenced an application and development process for Independent School status in 2020
- We elected a new School Council Chair Mr Brad Vitale and acknowledged the outstanding contribution of Ms Annette Mason who stood down from the role after 9 years' commitment to our school
- We called for and accepted nominations for new School Council staff and parent members and acknowledged the contributions of Catherine Stone an outgoing Council member
- We initiated "Tradie's Club" with our school Chaplain to support students with additional needs
- We participated in an Evacuation drill to familiarise staff with our Emergency Management procedures
- We had our four square courts re-marked in the undercover area as they were worn out by so much use!
- We had School Photos taken as well as some additional professional photographs for media and marketing purposes
- We participated in a range of activities for Harmony Day and Anti Bullying Day to support our commitment to an inclusive, accepting and cooperative culture at WDHS
- We initiated Progress Reports in Primary, and delivered both Primary and Secondary reports via Connect for the first time
- We transitioned our curriculum delivery to online and remote delivery via Connect to support our students working from home. We also provided a range of work packages for students that do not have access to devices or internet or where online learning is not suitable

Finally, I'd like to sincerely thank every member of the school community for their efforts in Term 1. The teaching staff should be applauded for their adaptability to change and the continuity of teaching and learning that they have provided in recent weeks as we have transitioned to remote and online delivery. Our parents also deserve the greatest commendation for their support of learning at home, in both online and remote delivery.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing Easter and term break and I look forward to leading our school community throughout Term 2 in whatever form our teaching and learning takes.

Ms Jacquie Abbiss
PRINCIPAL



PRIMARY NEWS

Hello Parents/Carers and Students



Term One 2020 will go down in history as the most significant change to education delivery this century! No one could have foreseen the need to shift across to 'Online Learning' in such a short space of time. I congratulate everyone, staff, students and parent/carers for their efforts in bringing about this change reasonably smoothly - all things considered! Not all students have had the same success with learning online so I am sure the Education Department will review our system's readiness for such a situation once this is all over. Meanwhile we will continue to contact families and offer our support.

This year **ANZAC Day** falls on Saturday 25th April. Unfortunately, our usual School Anzac Assembly has had to be cancelled and all RSL public events have also been cancelled. I ask that parents/carers take the time to watch my ANZAC PowerPoint video posted on Connect on Wednesday with their children and discuss the importance of remembering those who fought to keep us free.

Parents of primary students would have noticed that **Interim Reports** were emailed last week for the first time ever. This is in place of our Parent Learning Journey's held at the beginning of Term Two. The idea of the Interim Reports is to give parents an opportunity to meet with the teacher if they are concerned about their child's achievement early in the year. This gives both the student, the teacher and parent/carer plenty of time to put things in place to improve outcomes!

Have a lovely Easter and enjoy the two week break from the Online Learning.

Mr Carl Carulli
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (Primary)



SECONDARY NEWS



I hope you all are well and have not been directly impacted by COVID-19. I have no doubt that this will change for some of us, but am confident our WA health system is well prepared for the virus.

By stating we have seen a massive change to the way we deliver the state's curriculum would be an understatement. Having said that, I am extremely pleased with the way in which our community has worked together to ensure our student's education continues. Parents clearly understand its importance and have done everything in their power to help their child adjust to this change.

Our teachers have spent the best part of 3 weeks working all hours of the night transferring what they have taught in the classroom to the online world. I now encourage our students to grasp this online opportunity and see what TAFE, University and online Certificate courses look like, this is going to be your future



Over the two-week holiday period I encourage our Year 8, 9 and 10 students to get themselves organised and think about structuring their day to ensure they login and engage. Let me make that perfectly clear, I am not talking about logging onto a gaming platform and spending all day gaming, or just chatting online! If students wish to progress they will need to discipline themselves. Next term, this will mean structure, a home study timetable and completing their assignments. The Year 7 group is doing an amazing job by connecting and joining their discussions and WebEx sessions. Well done on setting this high standard.

A timetable will be provided on Connect for all Secondary students. This will highlight when students are expected to engage in the online discussions for their class or a live WebEx session. Additional content will be provided in Connect. For those unable to connect online, work packages are available from Student Services.

This type of delivery can be frustrating at times, please be patient, provide us feedback and continue working as a committed connected community.

I wish you all a safe, different and enjoyable holiday break.

Mr David Mattin
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (SECONDARY)



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Wow who would have thought that this year would have gone like this?

So many changes and so many things going on. With everything happening it can be easy to have anxiety, fear and worries. I think that one of the issues we face is that we are unable to control what is going on outside.

Let's make sure we focus on what we can change and how we can make a difference.

Some important things to focus on during the holidays:

1. Make sure you take some time out to relax. It's been a full on term and we all need some time to recoup ourselves.
2. Be kind to yourself. Do something nice for yourself; eat a favourite meal, watch a favourite show and do something you enjoy while at home.
3. This is a great time to focus on a new or old hobby. I know for me personally I like to do woodworking or play my Xbox.
4. Be kind to someone else. Take the time out to do something kind for someone else. This actually helps with your own self-esteem and makes you feel better about yourself.
5. Talk with your parent/ guardian on ways you can stay in contact with your friends (friendships are important).

Some important things to focus on next term:

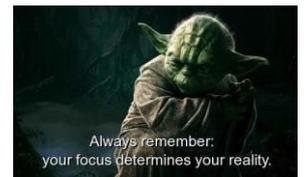
1. Your future and your schooling is one thing that you have control over. Don't allow this time to get you behind. This is a great opportunity to catch up on school work.
2. Take time to talk to your teachers and ask questions. Just because you aren't physically at school doesn't mean that you need to figure everything out on your own. Staff at WDHS are available to help any time during the week.
3. Remember to exercise regularly. Challenge yourself; planking, walking, running or any other exercise.
4. Listen to your favourite music. Put yourself in a good mood. Sometimes to stay positive, you need to work on being positive. Look for the good things in life.

You are all awesome and this will pass.

I have already heard great stories of people going above and beyond to help others. Be a person that brings positivity into their day and everyone else's.

See you all soon

Rodney van Dongen
CHAPLAIN



ASSEMBLY MERIT CERTIFICATES

The following students received merits at the last assembly:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Year 1 | Levi Riley | Toby Lockyer | Jackson McLean-Hyman |
| Year 2 | Tauri Pisconeri | | |
| Year 3 | Chelsee Dittmann | | |
| Year 4 | Kaiden Simpson | | |
| Year 5 | Bonnie Winmar | Liam Young | |
| Year 6 | Matthew Wade | Shaylene Brown | |
| Year 7 | Isabelle Mendoza | Charlie Darby | |
| Year 8 | Faith Websdale Erin Jackson | Cianne Griffiths Thomas Scott | Odin Lindley |
| Year 9 | Sophie Tyler (x2) | Jazmyne Birch | |
| Year 10 | Joey Wheeler Catherine Righton | Taj Parker | Tayla Billance |



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Due to the current circumstances involving the Covid-19 virus, we have been given the directive from the WA Minister for Health to cancel all appointments beyond 9th April 2020. We understand that this is frustrating, and we offer our sincere apologies.

In the case of a dental emergency in the weeks ahead, such as facial swelling, pain/discomfort at night or trauma, we invite you to still phone the Dental Therapy Centre for information regarding where to further direct your enquiry.

Please note the phone number for emergencies in the school holidays are as below:

After Hours emergencies 1800 098 818

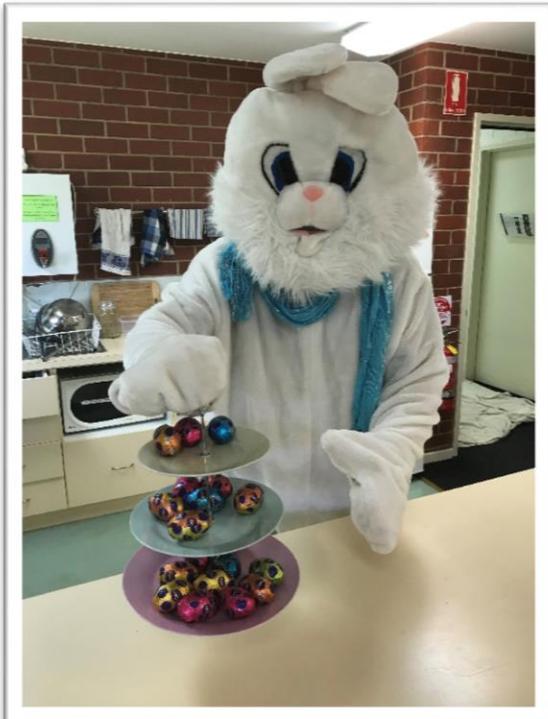
Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th – 9586 7622

Monday 20th April – 9537 2619

Tuesday 21st to Friday 24th – 9586 7622

Warm regards from all of us at Pinjarra Dental Therapy Centre

PROMOTING ORAL HEALTH & TEETH FOR LIFE
Visiting Address: 43 Mt. Henry Road, Saltier Point, Western Australia 6152
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Wishing
you a safe
and
happy
Easter

