FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to begin by inviting all parents, especially those parents new to the school to our first Parents and Citizens Meeting for the year. The meeting is on Wednesday, 27 February commencing at 6.30 pm in the first floor classrooms of our administrative block. There will be a light supper followed by a tour of the school for our new parents.

By the time you read this edition of Westnews, you should have already received invoices for outstanding fees and contributions. I would appreciate it if you could make arrangements to pay the fees and contributions outlined on this invoice as soon as possible. Subject fees need to be paid immediately as we have already purchased the resources and products that your sons and daughters are currently using in these practical subjects. Similarly, we are also paying our coaches so the first instalment ($250) of the sport fees also needs to be paid immediately as well. If you are unable to pay these fees in full, I would ask that you contact Tracey Giorgiutti in our office who can arrange for these contributions to be paid off in instalments throughout the year.

We have had a very settled start to the year and as I wander around the school, it is good to see the students working hard in all of their classes. It is essential that this continues for the entire year if we are to maximise the learning outcomes for all students and equal the success of the 2012 HSC. The value added data for last year’s HSC has just arrived and I would like to congratulate the students and staff for achieving such a fantastic result. The value added data for the 2012 HSC is determined by comparing that performance with the performance of the same students when they sat the School Certificate in 2010. I am pleased to say that once again our value added places us in the top 5% of all schools from throughout the state which is a further indication of the excellent academic record that we have at Westfields. I challenge this year’s HSC students to work even harder and out-perform last year’s results.

At the weekly assemblies, I have been stressing to the students the importance of being at school on time and attending all lessons, and I would like to reinforce this with the parents. When students arrive late, not only are they missing out on valuable work, they also disrupt the rest of the class who are already working, and that is not fair on the other students or the teacher. It is even more important that students attend school all the time. Frequent absences affect the continuity of learning and means that students often miss out on valuable knowledge and skills that are a prerequisite for further learning to occur. I would ask that you support us by ensuring that your sons and daughters are at school on time every day.

Early notice for parents of Year 9 students that the meeting to hand out laptops is on Wednesday 20 March at 6.00 pm in the stadium. Parents must be present at the meeting to sign for the laptop. The laptops will be loaned to Year 9 students for the 2013 school year and collected back in December to be checked.

Mr R. Davis
Principal
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

On Saturday the 9th February, Westfields Sports staff and students celebrated 50 years of excellent education. Many former staff and students joined us for an Open Day where we showcased a great collection of memorabilia from the very first days of Westfields. Many thanks to Eric Hegarty for his comprehensive collection of pictures and documents covering the six years of the “Foundation Class.” Our current staff ran a BBQ, tours and refreshments for guests. There were many emotional highlights as students and staff were reunited.

The Anniversary Dinner at ANZ stadium was a very happy occasion – with staff, former students and guests sharing highlights of their time at Westfields. Following Mr Davis’ opening address - MC, Stephanie Brantz, held Q&A sessions with former Principal, Phil Tucker, Dan Suchy and John Coutis and with Olympian, Dani Samuels and NSW Young Australian of the Year, Corey Payne.

All parents have the opportunity to gain insights into what universities offer for their children. A series of open day sessions allows parents to visit university campuses and to talk with staff and students. A great way to be informed. Click on the link below for more information and to register interest.


Mrs H. Wilson
Deputy Principal

YEAR 8 SWIM SCHOOL

For two days at the end of last term students from Year 8 attended the annual swim school at Fairfield Leisure Centre. With warm weather conditions, all students had the chance to improve their swimming ability. Everyone put in a great effort, whether they were learning to swim, improving stroke technique, learning how to enter/exit the water safely or how to save a friend if they get into trouble. Students and teachers also enjoyed time in the water fun park showing that you can be any age and still have fun by the pool.

The PD/H/PE faculty hope that the students learnt vital water information that they might pass on to their family members of all ages.

Miss K. Burt
PDHPE Faculty

HOMEWORK CENTRE - SUPPORTING STUDENTS

The homework centre, based in the school library is available for all students from 3:15pm to 4:15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons during the school term. Teaching staff are available to assist students with homework, research and study. Whilst attendance is voluntary, students may need to make alternate arrangements to travel home as they will not be dismissed from the homework centre until 4:15pm on these days. If your child requires assistance with homework or is just looking for a quiet place to study please encourage them attend the homework centre.

Mr D. Barrett
Deputy Principal
YEAR 9 STUDENTS

It has been brought to my attention that many Year 9 students on a Friday morning have been arriving at school in PE uniform instead of normal school uniform. Some students on this day have PE periods 2&3 and then ‘sport’ periods 4, 5 and 6. However, it is part of school policy that all students must arrive at school and depart school in school uniform. Further to this, students should not be sitting in roll call in PE uniform after taking part in practical lessons before the break, due to hygiene considerations.

Please make every effort to ensure your son or daughter adheres to this rule.

Any problems please contact me at school.

Mr C. Jarvis
Head Teacher PDHPE

MUSIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM – YEAR 7

If your daughter or son plays any instrument and/or sings, they are welcome to join the Music Enrichment program. Here your child will be a member of a music ensemble, which rehearses at 8:10am to 8:45am every Monday and Thursday morning.

If you would like to know more information or if your child is interested in joining, please contact Ms Ricapito or Ms Chipps for an information booklet.

Ms T. Ricapito & Ms V. Chipps
CAPA Faculty

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme will be running again at Westfields Sports this year! Students in Year 9 who would like to participate can collect permission notes from Miss Freeman (History) or Mrs Lee (English). We will be accepting the first 30 students who hand their notes in and have a good welfare record. Parents who would like to find out more information or who have any questions are welcome to call and talk to us anytime or alternatively visit the Duke of Edinburgh website http://www.dukeofed.com.au

Looking forward to another excellent year.

Ms R. Freeman & Mrs K. Lee
Coordinators

MUSIC TUITION

Westfields Sports Music Department offer students the opportunity to have guitar, drums, keyboard, singing and violin lessons.

Our school provides your child with expert tuition by experienced musicians at very reasonable rates. Students also have the opportunity to sit for external music exams, for example, AMEB.

For further information, please contact Ms Ricapito or Ms Chipps.

Ms T. Ricapito & Ms V. Chipps
CAPA Faculty

CARDAC KIDNEY HEALTH STUDY

Students at Westfield Sports have the opportunity to be involved in the ARDAC Kidney Health Study.

We are currently recruiting any students who would be interested in participating in the study.

We are looking for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants.

Screening takes approximately 5 minutes and involves measuring height, weight, waist circumference, blood pressure and a urine test.

The participants receive a football or a $10 gift card as a thank you gift.

A parent information letter and consent form for students to take home and have signed will be issued once numbers are confirmed.

Interested students should see Mrs Chidzey in the Home Economics faculty by Wednesday the 13 February 2013.

Mrs M Chidzey
Relieving HT Welfare

HOSPITALITY WORK PLACEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following Year 12 Hospitality students who were recognised by South West Connect for outstanding Work Placements in the Hospitality industry:

Bopha Cheav - Sizzlers
Linda Do – Sunnybrook
Jack Fulton – Blue Star Cafe
Eric Lim – Rosetti’s Cafe
Ailsa Nguyen – Sunnybrook
Sean Tang – Savanna’s
Blake Tuxford – Savanna’s

These students received Certificates to add to their impressive work portfolios.

Mrs H. Clarke
Head Teacher Home Economics

VACCINATIONS YEAR 7 BOYS & GIRLS / YEAR 9 BOYS

On Wednesday Year 7 viewed a presentation on Human Papilloma virus (HPV) during assembly. The link is provided below for you to view and discuss with your child. Year 9 should take the opportunity to view this at home.


Vaccination packs were issued to all students this week and should be completed and returned.

Vaccinations will be carried out at school and the dates are as follows:

6 March 2013 - HPV, dTpa
9 May 2013 - HPV, HepB, Varicella
5 September, 2013 - HPV, HepB

Should you require additional information please contact me on 9604 3333 during school hours.

Mrs M Chidzey
Relieving HT Welfare
MOBILE PHONES

Students may bring a mobile phone to school. All phones must be turned off throughout the day.

Inappropriate use of phones – including images or recording of fellow students is unacceptable.

If a student is found using their mobile phone during school time the phone will be taken from students and placed in the school safe for collection by the student at the end of the school day.

Subsequent offences will result in parents having to collect the phone from the school office.

LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS FUNDING

This Australian Government initiative has been designed to provide financial assistance for junior sportsmen and women towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing at an official national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state sporting organisation (SSO) or national school sporting competition.

The grants for individual applicants will be $500 and $3000 for team applications. To be eligible to apply, young people must be aged between 12-18 years and travelling more than 250km to compete in state or national level sporting competitions. So if you know any junior sportsmen and women at your school that maybe finding it difficult to meet the ongoing and significant costs associated with participation at sporting competitions, send them this flyer and encourage them to apply for an LSC grant online at http://www.ausport.gov.au/champions

Grant applications are assessed three times per year. Round opening and closing dates are as follows:


FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Congratulations:

• Robbie Osseev & Zachary Zielinski – NSWCHS State Cricket Representatives
• Year 9 Cricket - Westfields Sports 1/91 (K Chisholm 43no & B Crosbie 43no) defeated Endeavour SHS 86 (A Hemani 3/14, H Hemani 8/18, J Wilton 2/5)
• Year 9 Cricket – SHS Champions
• Davidson Shield Cricket – Westfields Sports defeated Hunter SHS
• Mark Waugh Shield Cricket – Westfields Sports defeated Picton HS (Final)
• Year 9/10 Cricket – Mark Waugh Shield Champions
• Bayley Campbell, Jet Cheng, Mayez Elrich, Zachary Limare, Phillip Tu, Rui Zhang, Yu Zhang – SSW Boys Tennis Representatives

Westfields Sports are proud to be supported by:

Mrs J. Kenny
Director of Sport