It was good to see so many new faces, along with the regular attendees at last week’s Parents and Citizens Meeting. The P and C is a really important link between home and school. I would like to encourage as many parents as possible to come along. At the meeting the P and C decided to take out insurance to cover the cost of treatment for injuries sustained by students. In 2013, the P and C will absorb this cost on behalf of all parents. From 2014 onwards, the P and C levy will increase to cover the cost of this insurance. As such I would ask that all parents pay the 2013 levy, which is only $10. The next meeting is on Wednesday 27 March at 6.30 pm in A Block. Please place this date in your diaries.

I know that I have mentioned this in previous Westnews articles but I want to reinforce how important the payment of fees are. As you have now all received invoices for this year’s fees and contributions, I would appreciate it if you could make arrangements to pay these as soon as possible. As I outlined in the last Westnews, practical subjects have already purchased the resources and products that your sons and daughters are currently using and as such we need subject fees to be paid immediately. Similarly, we are also paying our coaches, so the first instalment of sport fees need to be paid immediately. All other outstanding contributions need to be paid by the end of this term. 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. I have also previously mentioned the Federal Government’s Schoolkids bonus, which is made available to assist parents with the payment of fees. Not everyone is eligible to find out if you are, please visit the website australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus.

Even though the cold weather is still some time away, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about our school blazer. It is an excellent addition to our winter uniform and at $80 it is extremely good value. As we do not hold many blazers in stock, they need to be ordered. To ensure that the blazers arrive by the end of this term they need to be ordered by Thursday 14 March. I would encourage parents to take up this option.

A reminder 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.

For the safety of all students parents should not be wandering through the school grounds searching for their sons and daughters. Please report to the Administration Office and we will locate your child for you.

Mr R. Davis
Principal
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

At our first P&C meeting for 2013, parents enjoyed a wonderful supper provided by Ms Cameron’s hospitality class. Students prepared and served the delicacies. It was of a very high standard and set the bar high.

Last Wednesday, our assemblies enjoyed a solo performance by Year 12 student, Mactulina Shamano, playing and singing her own composition. Students showed great appreciation.

Thanks to Ms Murray, Year 10 technology classes have had a great opportunity to learn about robotics this week via a video conference, students were able to engineer control of their robots and determine a path for them to travel - a great display.

Congratulations to Ms Burt on the highly efficient coordination of last week’s swimming carnival. Over 200 students and staff worked to produce some excellent results, which will take many of our competitors to regional championships.

HSC students have three weeks to prepare for their half yearly exams, which commence 2 April. Now is the time to find out what will be included in the exams and how best to present answers. Students are reminded that these exams are compulsory and any absence must be notified to the school office on the day of exams. A medical certificate must be presented to Mr Barrett or Mrs Wilson.

Universities will commence their 2014 information sessions for both students and parents. The first “University Visits for Parents” is Wednesday 10 April @ The University of Sydney. Parents can register online: www.sydney.edu.au/bridges-parents-visit and also gain further details.

Any HSC student interested in a career in Accountancy should make a point of attending the “Cadetship Evening” on Wednesday 15 May from 4.30pm and “Meet the Business Leader” on Tuesday 30 July from 4.30pm. Also check the website: www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students

For students considering Engineering, the University of Technology has a range of programs to find out more about this career as well as learn about available scholarships. See http://www.feit.uts.edu.au/outreach/schools/

New initiatives have been announced by the Federal government regarding apprenticeships. Any student who is considering an apprenticeship should have a look at the following websites: http://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/aapathways.com.au

Both of these offer very useful advice and additional links.

For parents, there is a special workshop to explore techniques for families to assist students with studying and completing assignments. This will be held at Learning Links – Level 1, 46B Reservoir Road, Mt Pritchard. Phone 8568 8200 to register. Also there are two Careers Expos. The Sydney Morning Herald HSC Expo - 30 May to 2 June. Details at: www.hscandcareers.com.au and Western Sydney Careers Expo will be held 20 June to 23 June at Sydney Showground. Details at: www.westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au

Now is the time for senior students to be considering requirements for scholarship applications, which will come on line during Terms 2 & 3. Students will need to give evidence of their academic achievement, extra curricula activities, sporting involvement and/or community activities. I have advertised to assemblies the “Youth Off the Streets Scholarship”. This will provide $5000 to the successful applicant. I have application forms.

It was great to welcome Brendan Hamill back to Westfields recently. He is currently playing football in South Korea. BJ has undergone rehabilitation for injury at Westfields Sports, utilising both our physiotherapist and strength & conditioning facilities.

On 14th May, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to undertake a formal interview procedure in preparation for employment, traineeships and cadetships. Students will be expected to dress and prepare responses for a mock job interview. More details will be published in next Westnews.

Mrs H. Wilson
Deputy Principal

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The annual school swimming carnival was held on Monday 25 February at the Whitlam Centre with our largest group of competitors participating in many years. It was great to see the students cheering on competitors who swam in many events and displaying the colours of their sporting houses. A special mention must go to Madeline Scullino (Year 8) and Sinisa Pavlovic (Year 11) who won all the events they entered on the day. They will be participating in eight and seven events respectively at Sydney South West Regional Championships.

A team of 46 individual swimmers and 25 relay teams will represent the school at the Sydney South West Championships to be held at Bradbury Pool on the 18 March. Good luck to all involved.

Congratulations to Samuels House for winning the point score.

Miss K. Burt
Swimming Convener
SLS EXCURSION

On Wednesday Week 4, Year 12 Sports Coaching participated in an Excursion to Wanda Surf Club in Cronulla for a Surf Life Saving and Learn to Surf Excursion. Students from Miss Elliott and Mr Williams’ class, as a part of their Surf Life Saving Unit, completed a Certificate Level 1 in Safe Surfing. The course included surf awareness, current and rip detection, beach safety and negotiating waves safely.

Both classes participated in a surf lesson. Most students were able to stand up on their boards and even showed potential for some young budding surfers from Westfields Sports. The excursion was a successful day enjoyed by all. The students represented the school tremendously and were a credit to themselves and their class.

Miss T. Elliott & Mr C. Williams
PDHPE Faculty

WESTFIELDS SPORTS WELFARE TEAM

Year 7 Adviser  Ms Awad (English)
Year 7 Assistant  Mr Wallace (Social Science)
Year 7 Deputy  Mr Cherry
Year 8 Adviser  Mr Azzopardi (Science)
Year 8 Assistant  Ms Freeman (History)
Year 8 Deputy  Mr Rogers
Year 9 Adviser  Ms Cufre (History)
Year 9 Assistant  Mr King (Learning Centre)
Year 9 Deputy  Mr Barrett
Year 10 Adviser  Ms Ricapito (CAPA)
Year 10 Assistant  Ms Kendirjian (English)
Year 10 Deputy  Mr Cherry
Year 11 Adviser  Mr Deligorious (English)
Year 11 Assistant  Ms Alic (Home Economics)
Year 11 Deputy  Mr Rogers
Year 12 Adviser  Ms Burt (PDHPE)
Year 12 Assistant  Mr Scott (History)
Year 12 Deputy  Mrs Wilson
Positive Peer Culture  Ms Chidzey (Home Economics)
Head Teacher Welfare  Ms Healy (PDHPE)
Assistant HT Welfare  Ms Chidzey (Home Economics)

Mrs M Chidzey
Relieving HT Welfare

HISTORY

My Archaeological Experiment

On Monday 25 February, our class, 7BLUE History conducted an archaeological experiment. Miss Paragalli gave us two toothpicks to pick out or ‘excavate’ the chocolate chips out of a choc chip cookie. We had to have accuracy and precision to keep the cookie intact while ‘excavating’ the choc chips. We had to imagine the cookie was soil and the choc chips were the valuable artefacts. While some of us were doing a great job, others got a little hungry and ate their artefacts!

The winners of this activity were Daniel and Clayton because they had the most choc chips that were still intact. It was a fun challenge for the whole class. I really enjoyed it!

Matthew Thacker (7Blue)

On Monday the 25 February, my class, 7BLUE History did an archaeological experiment, where we had to excavate little chocolate pieces out of a choc chip cookie. Miss Paragalli said we had to make sure we didn’t damage the choc chip pieces, as they will lose their value. I thought it was going to be especially difficult when I found out our only tools were two toothpicks to take out the choc chips.

The experiment was difficult to accomplish since it was a very hot classroom and the chocolate was melting. In the end, no one had managed to take out all the choc chips, but the good thing was that we got to eat the cookies!

This experiment made me think about whether I want to become an archaeologist in the future. I decided it wasn’t for me because it was too hard. Having said that, I really enjoyed the activity!

Aljaska Tulemija (7 Blue)

ISSUING OF LAPTOPS TO YEAR 9

On Wednesday 20 March at 6.00pm Year 9 students will be required to attend the Stadium with a parent to be issued with their DER laptop. A short presentation will be given explaining how the devices will be loaned and the responsibility required by each student. The presentation will take about 30 minutes and then parents will need to sign for the devices. Students should attend in full school uniform.

Mr D. Barrett
Deputy Principal

STUDENT RECORDS

In cases of emergency it is very important that Student Records are accurate and up to date.

If you have changed your address or telephone number, or wish to update your emergency contact person, please advise the Administration Office as soon as possible.

Mrs M. Edwards
Administration Office
YEAR 10 HISTORY

As part of 10H6’s examination of the Vietnam War students in this class participated in a re-enactment of the 1971 Melbourne Moratorium. The students were each organised into the groups who participated on the day such as the SOS, Labor Party, Conscientious Objectors, student, actors and singers. The students were responsible for designing engaging posters, badges and a chant that highlighted their demands and perspective. Each group wrote a speech that they had to deliver on the day. I want to take this opportunity to again congratulate the students of this class for their extremely engaging, factual and emotive speeches that were delivered with such passion. Well done 10H6 for your hard work and enthusiasm.

After our moratorium our class was very lucky to have had Geoff Thomas, a Vietnam Veteran and grandfather of one of our class members Joshua O’Connor, to speak to them about the impact of the Vietnam War on the Veterans. His honest portrayal of the war and the task of adjusting to life after the war greatly contributed to the students understanding and made this event much more personal and relatable for the students. Thank you very much Geoff for taking the time to speak to Year 10.

Ms R. Freeman
History Faculty

UNIFORM SHOP

Over the next two weeks - Thursday 14 & Thursday 21 March any student requiring a blazer needs to place their orders at the uniform shop to ensure delivery for the beginning of Term 2. If the order is not placed within this time frame delivery dates cannot be guaranteed. A deposit of $20 is required when ordering.

Mrs J. Stickler
Uniform Shop

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

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Congratulations:

- Stephanie Cheng, Kristina Ferreira, Klaudia Traga, Theresa Udovicic - SSW Girls Tennis Representatives
- Ashleigh Wickens - NSWCHS State Softball Representative
- Troy Adams, Jake Barnes, Simon Borcherdt, Christopher Douglass, Gavin Dixon, Shane Kelleher, Gary Sinclair-Carroll, Callum Smith, Ryan Whitley - SSW Baseball Representatives

Mrs J. Kenny
Director of Sport

Westfields Sports are proud to be supported by: