FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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 and I would like to encourage as many parents as possible to come along. The P & C have asked me to remind you that their $15.00 levy includes insurance cover for your sons and daughters for things like ambulance, medical, physio and dental. As school activities are not covered by insurance, I would strongly recommend that parents pay this levy. The next meeting is on Wednesday 25 March at 6.30 pm in A Block. Please place this date in your diaries.

I know that I have mentioned this previously in Westnews articles but I want to reinforce how important your payments 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 your sons and daughters have already received their training uniforms, and of course they have had six weeks of training to date so your first instalment ($300.00) of sport fees need to be paid immediately as well. 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 by the end of Term 3.

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 $80.00 it is extremely good value. As we do not hold many blazers in stock, they need to be ordered. To ensure that these blazers arrive by the end of this term they need to be ordered by Thursday 19 March. I would encourage parents to take up this option.

A reminder for parents that you can check all of the latest school happenings on the Westfields app. Just search for the “Westfields Sports High Fairfield West” in either the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Confirmation of our 2015 University Admissions arrived at school yesterday. I am pleased to say that it has been our best result ever. 132 of our 2014 HSC students have been offered places at Universities across NSW. A fantastic result! Once again congratulations to last year’s HSC students and their teachers.

Mr R. Davis
Principal

6 March 2015

IMPORTANT EVENTS

19/3/2015
School Photos
Day 2

25/3/2015
P & C Meeting
6:30pm
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Our programs with Sydney University are being planned now. It is a timely reminder how quickly the year flies as we book dates for Year 12 for Scholarship applications to University and for Year 11 study and planning for University workshops. Year 12 and Year 11 Half Yearly Examinations are approaching. Students should be engaged in revision and summaries for each subject in earnest now. Seizing the day will make a real difference for HSC time.

Make sure you and your child are familiar with their assessment schedules. Year 7 & 8 have had theirs issued on a page document for convenience. ROSA, Preliminary and HSC have theirs published on the school website. You can access it via Curriculum then Assessments then the appropriate course. Take time to view this and have students make up a term planner with subjects and weeks to assist in planning and preparation for tasks and examinations.

Our Links to Learning Program has begun successfully and is engaging our Year 10 student group. This will empower them to make wise choices and embrace their learning at school and beyond. Our Refugee Project has plans being finalised for next term that should be exciting and motivating for this student group.

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning approach is having impact in classrooms. Talk to your children about how they can make wise and respectful choices for the good of the whole classes learning. By guiding responsible choices now we are preparing our youth to a positive and productive future. A regular wise choice they can make and be supported by parents with is wearing full school uniform with pride every day to WSHS.

Mrs S. Walker
Relieving Deputy Principal

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

Our school, particularly Year 7 will be taking part in the 2015 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 20 March. Year 7 Peer Support sessions have the main focus as Bullying and in the weeks leading up to the day, there will be peer support sessions held and anti-bullying posters made by Year 7 that can be displayed around the school. We hope that this will help Year 7 ensure they are treating others as they would like to be treated.

Mrs S. Taylor
Head Teacher Welfare

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Catch up photos will now be on Thursday 19 March, 2015. On this day the following photos will be taken.

- Year 8 portraits (remaining students)
- Year 7 portraits
- Any absent students from previous day
- Sibling photos

Students to see Mr Boulous for a sibling envelope

Mr G. Boulous
Relieving Head Teacher Administration

WESTFIELDS SPORTS HOUSE SYSTEM

As we are now well into the first term of a new school year, it is a good time to remind students of their ‘House team’. The 4 houses are:

CLARKE (Blue): Surname A – E.
Captains – David Chappuis & Brittney Cable

HAYNE (Green): Surname F – L.
Captains – Blake Jackson & Lilliana Fante

KEWELL (Red): Surname M – R.
Captains – Eroe Piccinin & Bronte Macdonald

SAMUELS (Yellow): Surname S – Z.
Captains – Sunny Trinh & Natalie Tuialii

The ‘Champion House’, the house with the most points accumulated throughout the year, will be presented with “The Tucker Shield” and students who participate in any event or activity will receive a school ‘House Participation Certificate’

If students have an interest in a hobby or any activity that they would like to see organised as a house competition, I encourage them to approach a teacher to ask them for help in organising and managing that event.

At present, after a few events including: Year 12 blood donation, Year 9 fitness challenge and Mathletics, the table looks like this:

1. Hayne 516 points
2. Samuels 453 points
3. Clarke 422 points
4. Kewell 412 points

Mr C. Jarvis
House Coordinator

UNIFORM SHOP

Students wishing to order a blazer for the colder months need to do this at the Uniform Shop over the next two weeks - Thursday 12 March & 19 March - to ensure delivery at the start of next term. A deposit of $30.00 is required when ordering.

The Uniform Shop is open every Thursday during the school terms from 8:00am to 11:30am.

Mrs J. Stickler
Uniform Shop
Social networking describes a variety of services like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, World of Warcraft, Moshi Monsters, Twitter, Skype, Snapchat, Minecraft and many others.

All of these services enable direct interaction between individuals. Users can post information about themselves, display photos, tell people what they’ve been up to, chat and play games. Social networking forms a part of the social identity of many teenagers.

Online grooming is the illegal act of adults making contact with a child online for the purpose of establishing a sexual relationship. Often this will be via a social networking site, but it may also be through other online services.

As a parent you can help your child have positive experiences on social networking sites.

• Stay involved in your child’s use of new technology. Set up your own account and learn about privacy settings so you can understand how you can best protect your child. It can be fun for you too!

• Check the age restrictions for the social networking service or game. Some social networking sites (such as Club Penguin) are created especially for children under the age of 13, but most mainstream sites like Facebook, Instagram and others require the user to be 13 or older.

• Advise children to set their accounts to private so that only people they want to see it can view their information.

• Encourage children to think before they put anything online. Information posted online can be difficult or impossible to remove. An inappropriate image posted today can have a long-term impact on their digital reputation.

• Show them how to set up location services on their phones so they are not inadvertently broadcasting their location.

• Remind children to be careful when making new friends online, people may not be who they say they are. Never arrange to meet an online friend unless a trusted adult is with them.

• Report any abuse or inappropriate content to the social networking site and show children how to do this too.

• Learn how to keep a copy of online conversations and how to block people prior to an issue occurring.

For more information on managing your children’s access to particular social networking sites, visit http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/parents.aspx

Cyberbullying information from ‘parents’ guide to online safety from Australian Communications and Media Authority website

Ms S. Taylor
Head Teacher Welfare

SMS MESSAGING

On receiving a message parents/caregivers can reply by pressing the reply option and providing the following information student’s full name, year, roll call, date of absence and the reason for absence or lateness.

eg. Shauna Smith 07R01 sick 13/3

Please do not use abbreviations or preferred names

The school expects parents/caregivers to contact the school in advance if they know their child is to be absent and to ensure the current mobile numbers are provided to the school.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation

Miss T. Lam
Head Teacher Administration

HOMEWORK CENTRE - SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

The homework centre, based in the school library is available for all students from 3.15pm to 4.15 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 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 to attend the homework centre.

Mr C. King
Relieving Head Teacher Pedagogy
ACCIDENTS OR ILLNESS

Students who become sick during the school day will be given permission by their teacher to go to the sick bay. Minor injuries are treated at school. If necessary, an ambulance will be called.

Staff will contact parents/guardians if students need to go home.

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO CONTACT PARENTS DIRECTLY.

Ms D. Zanet
Deputy Principal

EARLY LEAVERS

If a student needs to leave school early they should;
• bring a parental note stating why and when the student is required to leave school
• show the note to the Deputy in Charge of their year and receive an Early Leavers Pass
• show their classroom teacher the Early Leavers Pass when leaving class

All appointments should be made outside of school times.

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION

Mr A. Rogers
Deputy Principal

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.

Ms D. Zanet
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

PDHPE AND SPORT REMINDER

During PE and Sport lessons students need to be properly prepared with hat, drink bottle and sunscreen. In extreme weather, lessons will be modified with adequate rest and drink breaks provided.

Whilst it is commendable for students to be looking after their hygiene and want to use a deodorant after PE or Sport, it is important to remember that the spray can variety is not suitable to use in the school environment. Roll on deodorant is the most suitable and should be the only method used.

Mr C. Jarvis
Head Teacher PDHPE

Our School now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We are asking parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name "Westfields Sports High Fairfield West" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store

Westfields Sports are proud to be supported by :