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 next Wednesday, 24 February commencing at 6.30 pm in the first floor classrooms of our administrative block. There will be a tour of the school and a light supper for our new parents.

During this coming week, you will be receiving invoices for 2016 fees and contributions. You will notice that included in the invoice is a $15 P&C levy. This levy covers the insurance for your sons and daughters which the P&C pays on your behalf 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. 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 ($300) of the sport fees also needs to be paid immediately. 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.

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 2015 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 2015 HSC is determined by comparing that performance with the performance of the same students when they sat their NAPLAN tests in 2012. I am pleased to say that once again our value added places us in the top 10% 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.

Mr R. Davis
Principal
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Term 1 is always a busy time of year as we get programs and procedures established smoothly for the year. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Sydney University and participating in some rich activities for our students at the University throughout the year. Once again volunteers will assist us in delivering quality support to our Homework Centre. Our Homework Centre runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.15pm – 4.15pm. Students are supported with teachers and University volunteers to assist with homework and study. Our Saturday school is running regularly Saturday mornings for Mathematics and English.

School Uniform should be worn with pride to reflect students being part of the Westfield’s team. Encourage your child to be prepared and organised for school by having a uniform ready each evening for the next day. Wearing the uniform with respect speaks volumes about your child's attitude and character. Help support us by encouraging full school uniform please.

Mrs S. Walker
Relieving Deputy Principal

THE TELL THEM FROM ME

Student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to aﬀect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the diﬀerent ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is conﬁdential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

If you do not want your child or children to participate, could you please call the front office on 9604 3333 by Friday 11 March.

Mr D. Barrett
Deputy Principal

THE WELFARE TEAM

In the last school newsletter, the Welfare team was outlined. This team is in place to ensure that school is a supportive environment for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s Year Advisor or Mrs Taylor (Head Teacher Welfare) should you think there is extra information we should know about your child to help support them at school. If your child has a medical condition that the school is not aware of, please as a matter of urgency, let us know.

Mrs S. Taylor
Head Teacher Welfare

APPLYING FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

From time to time, students may need to be out of school for short and occasionally long periods for medical or for travel reasons. When this happens caregivers are asked to contact the school in writing, requesting that leave be granted. This letter should explain the reason for leave and clearly state the dates the student will be absent. This letter should be given to Miss Lam, Head Teacher Administration.

It is important that before any decision to take a student out of school, consideration be given to the impact on the student’s education.

If leave is for more than 15 school days special approval is required and a pro-forma letter will be issued. Leave greater than 20 days will require a copy of an itinerary.

It is a student’s responsibility to discuss with their teachers what arrangements can be made to catch up on or complete work missed while on leave.

Miss Lam, Head Teacher Administration

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 aﬃliated national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state sporting organisation (SSO) or national school sporting competition.

The grants for individual applicants will be $500. 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 sportmen 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.

Mrs J. Kenny
Director of Sport

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

For all the latest information follow us @WestfieldsSport.
YEAR 7 VACCINATIONS

As part of the 2016 School Vaccination program, all Year 7 students have the opportunity to be vaccinated for Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Varicella (chicken pox) and Diptheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (whooping cough) free of charge. Students have received the vaccination envelopes in roll call and students are asked to return the completed vaccination card to their roll call teacher by Friday 26th February. All information on the consent card must be filled in in pen, including the medicare number. Please also ensure your child’s colour class is written at the very top of the card in bold letters.

Our first vaccination day is scheduled for Tuesday 8 March, with the following visits being the 24 May and the 8 November. Students who are absent for some reason from the first visit, will be caught up during the second and third visits by the nurses who come to administer the vaccinations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on the school number 9604 3333.

Mrs S. Taylor
Head Teacher 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.

UNIFORM SHOP

Students wishing to order a blazer for the colder months need to do this at the Uniform Shop over the next four weeks - Thursday 25 February, 3 March, 10 March, 17 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

CAPA

Westfields Sports High is pleased to offer students extra curricula music tuition in singing, piano, guitar and drums for competitive rates.

Students who are interested in learning any of these instruments at school should see either Ms Chipps or Ms Ricapito for a note and further information.

Ms M. Holden
Head Teacher CAPA

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 A. Larkin
Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE

YEAR 9 CYBERSAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Over the last couple of days, all Year 9 students have attended Cybersafety sessions as part of our school's eSmart program. We had facilitators from Community First Step run the sessions titled 'Best Enemies' and students had the opportunity to work in groups and discuss a number of cyber situations and how they would respond to them.

We hope that sessions such as these educate our students about the importance of treating others as they would like to be treated and being smart and staying safe online.

Mrs S. Taylor
Head Teacher Welfare

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

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
FOOTBALL NEWS

Term 1 has started very well with all players committed to high quality training. This week our Year 9 boys played a training game against the Matildas who are preparing for tour of Japan.

Term 1 is busy with the Opens teams due to play The Hills Sports High School in Round 1 of the Puma Cup at Valentine Sports Park on Thursday 3 March. University hamstring studies are also taking place with students.

Students will now have the opportunity to shower after sessions at school. All players are encouraged to bring thongs, towel and shower gel and will have time allocated at completion of sessions to use shower facilities.

The football program will have a parent information evening in March. Time and date to be confirmed in coming week and information will be sent home via students.

Congratulations former WSHS student Joey Caletti who recently signed his first professional contract at Brisbane Roar. This caps off a wonderful two years for Joey since he left Westfields Sports High School to further his football education in Canberra at the Football Federation Australia Centre of Excellence. Joey was captain of the Joey's (National Under 17 team) who made it to the second round before going down to Nigeria.


FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Congratulations

• Breanna Baker, Brittney Cable, Breanna Evans, Amber Frost, Shelby Fulton, Eden Hopkinson, Jamie Johnson, Tayla Noble, Ashleigh Viera, Kristy Aguilar - SSW Softball Representatives
• Luke Courtney, Creedence King, Chad Sammut, Hannah Darling - NSWCHS State Cricket Representatives

Mrs J. Kenny
Director of Sport

Westfields Sports are proud to be supported by

S-TREND Sportswear

SKINS

Cabra Leagues

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