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 & 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 23 March at 6.30pm in A Block. Please place this date in your diaries.

I am really excited to let you know that on Tuesday 15 March David Gallop AM, CEO Football Australia, will be launching the FFA High Performance School Football Program here at Westfields Sports High. You may not be aware, however, in May 2015 FFA delivered their “Whole of Football Plan”. This 20-year plan provides the vision and strategies to make football the dominant football code in Australia. One of the key aspects and urgent undertakings of the plan is to grow the pool of talented young footballers (aged 12 to 18) in Australia to 3,000. To this end, the plan focuses on the development of high-performance schools. FFA has chosen to endorse Westfields Sports as the first High Performance Football School in Australia. We expect a large media contingent to be present so it will be excellent publicity for our school.

I know that I have mentioned this in all of this year’s 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 throughout the year.

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 $90.00 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 17 March. I would encourage parents to take up this option.

Mr R. Davis
Principal

4 March 2016

IMPORTANT EVENTS

8/3/2016
Years 7 & 11 Vaccinations

14/3/2016
Blood Bank

Winners
International Olympic Committee
Sport and Youth Trophy 2008
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

All Year 7 and 8 students have now been issued with a reading card. Students are asked to record any reading of 15-20 mins on their reading card and get a teacher or parent to sign depending on whether the reading occurred at school or at home. Once a card is complete students will then receive a merit certificate and house points. Georjah Riley-Huaki of 7Aqua was the first student in Year 7 to complete a reading card. Well done Georjah!

Ellie Carpenter of Year 10 made her full Australian debut for the Matilda’s this week in an Olympic games qualifier against Vietnam. A wonderful achievement for Ellie at 15 years of age. It was also great to see former student Alanna Kennedy score her first international goal for the Matilda’s in the same game, a solid 9-0 win. We look forward to seeing the Matilda’s qualify for the Rio Olympics.

Year 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to enter a Harmony Day competition. Mrs Jones and Mr Brame are encouraging students to submit a poster, poem, story, art work or video that celebrates what Harmony Day means to you. Entries are due by Friday of Week 8.

Year 12 half-yearly exams are fast approaching. These exams commence on Tuesday 29 March. Students will only be required to attend school for scheduled exams during Weeks 10 and 11.

We have had a number of students reporting faulty “student” opal cards. If your child has an opal card that is not working could you please contact:
concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au

with your concern stating your child’s full name, home address and opal card number

A reminder that spray cans of deodorants are banned from school. Please encourage your child to use the roll-on variety if required.

Mr D. Barrett
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

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

For all the latest information follow us @WestfieldsSport.

BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

On Friday 18 March, our school will be taking a stand together on the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

The National Day is an annual event for Australian schools where school communities across the nation stand as one against bullying and violence. Westfields Sports is dedicated to creating a safe and supportive school environment, free from bullying, harassment and violence.

Together, we can send clear messages to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside the classroom, are not okay at any time.

At our school we have a number of programs in place that counter bullying. These include:
• Our Year 7 Peer Support program
• Brainstorm productions for Year 7 and 8 focusing on sending an anti-bullying message
• Positive Peer Culture (PPC)

Our plans and activities to celebrate the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 18 March include:
• A colouring in competition for Year 7
• During the week leading up to the 18 March, Year 7 and 8 students will have an assembly devoted to sending an ‘Anti-bullying’ message followed by a Year 7 Peer Support session
• Brainstorm production for Year 7 on Friday 18 March titled ‘Verbal Combat’

Please note the date in your diaries.

Mrs S. Taylor
Head Teacher Welfare

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

THE WELFARE TEAM

In the first 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
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 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 21 and 29 March. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

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

Miss R. Freeman
Head Teacher Secondary Studies (Relieving)

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 - 10 March, 17 March - to ensure delivery at the start of next term. A deposit of $30.00 is required when ordering.

From the beginning of Term 2 (26 April, 2016) the cost of scarves will increase to $7.00.

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

Mrs J. Stickler
Uniform Shop

LIBRARY MATTERS

The start of the 2016 school year has been an exciting time for the library.

February saw the introduction of a new Library Enquiry System (OLIVER), designed to enrich the library search experience for students and staff. Some of OLIVER’s great features include 24/7 access to the library’s collection including e-books and websites, the ability for students to view their personal loan record, and the capability to access OLIVER on a mobile device through the app ‘Library Link’. This app is a fantastic feature as it will allow access to the library collection anytime, anywhere and on any portable device.

Throughout the month of February, the library has been abuzz with activity. Chinese New Year was welcomed in with the library being decorated in bright red and gold lanterns and fans, celebrating the Year of the Monkey.

March will be another exciting month in the library, with the promotion of effective Study Tips, the Premier’s Reading Challenge commencing on 7 March and Harmony Day on 21 March. Students are encouraged to be part of the excitement and take part in these library events as they are all designed to support and extend their learning.

Ms M. Zaccheo
Librarian

LOST PROPERTY

We already have a large amount of lost property in the front office. This includes, wet weather jackets, jumpers, leather school shoes, lunch boxes and much more. Please make sure your child checks lost property if they have lost any items

Mrs J. Stickler
Uniform Shop

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
HOMEWORK CENTRE - SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

The homework centre, based in the school library, is available for all students from 3.15pm to 4.15pm 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

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. 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

Mrs J. Kenny
Director of Sport

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Congratulations

- Dayyaan Matthews, Alexander Pizarro, Paul Truong, Maja Bosic, Daniel Gnjatovic, Ming-Che Ho, Ante Protuder, Christina Saofaileta, Brandon Benson, Uros Petkovic, Vimbainashe Zihori, Jet Cheng, Eric Ly, Jesse Mesa, Tomislav Protuder, Mayez Elrich – SSW

- Breanna Evans & Tayla Noble - NSWCHS State Softball Representatives
- Puma Shield Football - Westfields Sports defeated The Hills 3-1
- Puma Cup Football - Westfields Sports defeated The Hills 3-1
- Mayez Elrich & Jesse Mesa - NSWCHS State Tennis Representatives

Mrs J. Kenny
Director of Sport

Westfields Sports are proud to be supported by:

- S-Trend® Sportswear
- Skins®
- Elastoplast®
- Cabra Leagues

- Hamilton Road Fairfield West, NSW 2165
  Phone: 9604 3333 • Fax: 9725 4898
  E-mail: westfields-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
  Web: www.westfields-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
  Medical Centre Phone: 9604 3122
  Gymnastics Hall Phone: 9604 3773
  Sports Stadium Phone: 9604 9361

- 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