



WEST WYALONG HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Monday 26 July 2021

Term 3 Week 3

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin my first newsletter for Term 3 by acknowledging the great work of our school community in adjusting to the new COVID-19 restrictions. Our students have been extremely compliant by following the health advice to wear masks. I also appreciate the way our parents have adjusted to mandatory sign in procedures for essential visits. We continue to adjust to the frequent advice and changes to keep our community safe. We will keep our school community updated with any changes. Our Facebook page and school webpage will have uploaded current information as we receive it from the Department of Education.

As we progress through the colder months, I would like to remind all students and parents about the importance of school uniform. The temptation is always there for some students to wear their weekend sports attire to school, however, this is not school uniform and we would like the support of our parents to assist on suitable warm school uniform. Our P&C have also supported the purchase of school beanies and they are becoming quite popular with our students. These can be purchased through the front office.

In earlier newsletters, I have promoted the importance of student attendance and the link with a better education and improved life for our children. We continue to focus on improving the attendance of all students. Year Advisors are making calls to some families to help with attendance matters.

Please read the following extract from the compulsory school attendance information from DoE.

"On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school, you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the Principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified."

I encourage all parents to contact myself, Mr Bishop or your child's Year Advisor if you have any issues related to your child's attendance. Absenteeism can become habit forming and together we can improve your child's wellbeing.

Mr Sheens

CALENDAR – TERM 3, 2021

WEEK 3 TERM 3

Tues 27 July	Year 10 into Year 11 – Parent Information Night
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WEEK 5

Mon 9 Aug – Friday 13 Aug	Year 12 HSC Trial Examinations
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WEEK 6

Mon 16 Aug – Friday 20 Aug	Year 12 HSC Trial Examinations
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STUDENT ORGANISATION

IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

From time to time your child may get sick and display symptoms that mean it's best to keep them away from school and see your doctor. Some of these symptoms include:

- A fever of 38°C or above
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Severe cold or flu symptoms
- Rashes of an unknown origin.



To find out more about when you need to keep your child home from school visit

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/wellbeing/health-and-safety/too-sick-to-go-to-school>.

WEDNESDAY MORNING FREE TOASTIES

WEST WYALONG HIGH SCHOOL



Our School Support Officer, Ricky Bishop is making cheese toasties and serving juice every Wednesday morning. This initiative is directed at improving student wellbeing. This is free for all students.

WWHS BEANIES

West Wyalong High School has now got school beanies. They are available to purchase from the front office for \$15.00 each by cash or online payment through the school website. Students are reminded that beanies are allowed to be worn in the classroom whilst we have to have the windows open to ventilate the rooms.



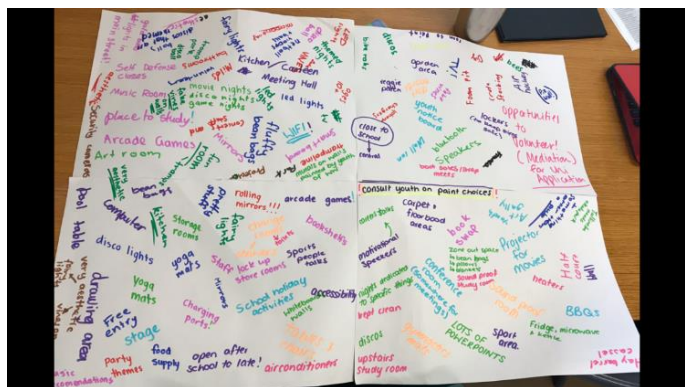
WEST WYALONG YOUTH COUNCIL

During Week 1 of Term 2 to celebrate Youth Week, Craig Sutton and Bec McDonnell from Bland Shire Council held a free BBQ at school. All students were encouraged to think about what we want in our town for our age group allowing their voices to be heard. A suggestion box was provided for us to submit our ideas. Following this, a Youth Council group was formed. 28 students attended an open forum and met with our town Mayor Brian Monaghan and General Manager Ray Smith at the Bland Shire Council Chambers.



We represented the voices of West Wyalong Youth to raise and discuss the most popular suggestions.

Since this initial meeting the Youth Council members have continued to attend and participate in multiple meetings during school lunch times. We strongly agreed on the need for a safe, after school hour's multi-purpose space.



This space is presumed to be supervised and available to be utilised during the school holiday periods. Students agreed that this potential space would need to have a Code of Conduct to ensure safety.

The main aim of a Youth Centre is to be safe and useful for a variety of activities and events to support the youth of our town.

Recently on Tuesday 8th June 2021, eight students along with Ricky Bishop our Student Support Officer, attended the Community Reference Group meeting. We addressed Councillors and attendees with our idea for the Youth Centre to be located centrally in town.

We expressed why we want a Youth Centre and listed some suggestions of what we want in this space.

All members at this meeting were very impressed with our organised delivery and expressed interest in our idea and its function.

Being a part of this process has been a great experience and has allowed many students the opportunity to witness how a council meeting is conducted.

This has been a valuable experience for the youth of West Wyalong and we would like to thank Ricky for giving us this opportunity and assisting us be a voice for our town. We would also like to thank Craig and Bec from Bland Shire Council for reaching out and helping us with having our voices heard.

Loudy Bishop, Annaliese Stokes and Jorja Hill
West Wyalong High School

NAIDOC WEEK

On the last week of Term 2, West Wyalong High School celebrated NAIDOC week. We had a range of group and whole school activities that students participated in.

We held whole school Indigenous games on McAlister Oval on the Tuesday where all staff and students participated in a circuit of Indigenous inspired games. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and participation from all year groups with this activity.

During the week, students also:

- Painted Indigenous Artworks
- Made and painted Boomerangs
- Created food utilising native Australian ingredients in a contemporary way
- Watched the Eddie Mabo Story
- Had representatives from Evolution Mining talk
- Taylor Hampton from Birrang Cultural Connections did a 2 day workshop with students
- Miss Astley and Mrs Heydon taught students how to weave
- Watched 'In My Blood It Runs' (A documentary about an Aboriginal boy in Alice Springs)
- Cultural Talks with Linton Haworth and Mark Starr

Over the week in regular classes, staff also focused on NAIDOC week:

- Music – Indigenous performers and music
- Science – Indigenous Environment + Science
- English – Year 10 – Indigenous documentaries
- PE – Indigenous Sports People + Racism in Sport
- HSIE – Environmental Impact on Australian Landscape and Culture

West Wyalong High School would like to extend a huge thank you to the visitors, including -

- Taylor Hampton from Birrang Cultural Connections
- Mark Starr, our Aboriginal School Support Officer
- Marlene Collins, our Aboriginal Support Officer
- Evolution Mines Representatives Steff Wills & Tammy Rawson
- Linton Haworth from the Local Lands Council

We would also like to thank all of our fantastic staff for organising and running sessions as well as being flexible in their days to accommodate for a week of NAIDOC celebrations. Our students all thoroughly enjoyed the week and were exposed to meaningful learning and cultural experiences.





West Wyalong High School would like to extend a huge thank you to ex-student, Taylor Hampton, who attended our school during NAIDOC Week last term. Taylor attended as a representative of his company Birrang Cultural Connections which aims to develop understanding and education surrounding the preservation of Indigenous culture. Our students' engagement in Taylor's sessions highlighted the school values that we encourage each day.

During NAIDOC week Taylor -

- Held cultural talks with our students
- Painted Boomerangs
- Brought Indigenous Artefacts to showcase to the students
- Made returning paper boomerangs
- Spoke and played the Didgeridoo on assembly

Both staff and students found Taylor's presence during NAIDOC week to be incredibly beneficial and rewarding. We observed a level of engagement among our students that can only be described as motivated and authentic quality learning. We would like to thank Taylor for his time and for sharing his immense knowledge with our staff and students. We hope to build a lasting collaborative relationship with Birrang Cultural Connections



WWHS P&C

BATTERY DRIVE

**COLLECTION POINT IS
WWHS AGRICULTURE
PLOT.**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED
TO UPDATE STUDENT FACILITIES.**

**WWHS P&C BATTERY DRIVE**

The West Wyalong High School P&C fundraiser for 2021 is a battery recycle drive. If you have any old batteries lying around that you are happy to donate, we would be extremely grateful. All proceeds will go towards upgrading student facilities at WWHS.

We will accept all used lead acid batteries - car, ute, truck, tractor, farming machinery, boats etc.

Please call Jo Kirkby on 0472532736 to arrange drop off times, remembering that parents should not be entering the school premises. Collection can be arranged by calling Kerry Costello on 0478192008.

Batteries such as AA, AAA, D, C, Lithium, NiCd, NiMH and mercury, are not Lead Acid Batteries and cannot be accepted as they carry a disposal cost.

We thank you for your support in this P&C fundraiser.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Chat to the Intereach NDIS Local Area Coordination team

If you are aged 7 and above and living with a disability, Intereach may be able to deliver Local Area Coordination (LAC) services to you.

This includes linking you to the NDIS and to mainstream and community supports in your area.

An Intereach LAC team member will be available to provide information and answer questions you may have about Local Area Coordination and the NDIS.

When: 3rd June, 1st July, 29th July, + 26th August 2021

*Where: Home and Community Centre (HACC)
72 Ungarie Road West Wyalong.*

Time: 10am. - 2pm.

For more information please contact:
Intereach Community Links
Email: contact@intereach.com.au
Phone: 1300 488 226

For more information about the services Intereach offers:
P: 1300 488 226 | www.intereach.com.au



CLEANERS WANTED

Applicants need to be available to work
Monday to Friday between the hours
5:00am-7:00pm.

- Split shifts: 5:00am-9:00am and 2:00pm-7:00pm
- Day shift available from 11:00am-3:00pm

careers@jossgroup.com.au
www.jossgroup.com.au