



Welcome to term three at Western Riverina Community School. We hope to have two newsletters per term to inform you about the many achievements and activities undertaken here at school. We also have a Facebook page which is updated periodically.

Currently, we have 18 students enrolled at WRCS with a waiting list of students who will commence in 2019 or term four if a vacancy becomes available. Community interest continues to grow with expressions of interest taken on a regular basis. Our current students are to be congratulated for their continued commitment to their studies, the consistent increase in attendance and their desire to gain an education. Also, our new school website will be launched by the end of the term.

Staff News

And then there were five.....

This term we welcome Sue Tyrrell to our staff. Sue has taught in the local area for many years, and we are extremely fortunate that she has joined our staff three days per week to share her knowledge and expertise with the students and staff. This increase in teaching staff numbers provides a better student to staff ratio, therefore, allowing for a more supported learning environment.

Please remember to contact the school if your child is going to be absent or is unwell. Part of our duty of care is to maintain an accurate record of attendance. WRCS can be contacted any time on our mobile 0437784213. We are also available to discuss your child's progress or any issues or concerns you may have. In the next few weeks teaching staff will be working on the first school report which will provide feedback regarding your child's progress and achievements at school.

We do ask however if you can avoid where possible contacting your child during class time as it may disrupt not only their learning but also that of the other students. This term we are working extremely hard to minimise the access that the students have to their mobiles in preparation for when they join the workforce. As you can appreciate this is a mammoth undertaking given that we are working with adolescents however we will continue to remain optimistic that this can be achieved with minimal opposition from students. We would appreciate your support regarding this matter by only contacting students during designated breaks. In the case of an emergency, staff have access to the school mobile at all times. Please see designated breaks over page.

Student Activities

Senior Constable Alex Davis from Griffith Local Area Command continues to deliver the respectful relationship program, "Love Bites". This domestic and family violence and sexual assault prevention program has been specifically designed for school students. The program aims to increase the student's knowledge, skills and attitude regarding violence against women. Students are to be congratulated for their mature approach to such a sensitive topic and have actively engaged in group discussions in a respectful and supportive manner.

On Thursday 23 August students and staff have been invited to a presentation delivered by mental health advocate, Joe Williams. Joe was involved with professional sport for over 15 years (rugby league and then boxing) and after a suicide attempt and battling with episodes of poor mental health received a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Joe spends his time working to inspire youth through motivational speaking workshops. He has worked with disengaged youth in primary and secondary schools, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and gaols.

After the presentation, there will be a BBQ and activities for those students who have achieved Bronze Award, at Lake Wyangan. For students who do not wish to attend the presentation, and those who have not achieved Bronze, classes will be held as usual. (THIS IS A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY).

Finally, many students have started exploring their work experience options or looking at opportunities within the community where they can volunteer. Work experience provides an opportunity for many to experience working life for the first time, explore career options and gain a better understanding of their community and the world we live in.





School News

This term we are focusing on “sustainability” and looking after ourselves, the environment and our planet across all key learning areas. This holistic approach allows students to have a better understanding of the world around them and the repercussions of our actions; both positive and negative. The students develop knowledge, skills and experiences through being involved in a range of learning experiences including; healthy cooking, physical activities, the development of a recycle program reducing their carbon footprint, research tasks and community engagement. We will be hosting guest speakers each week from a range of local service providers who will broaden the student’s knowledge about the community in which they live.

Students are continuing to set personalised goals based around one of the WRCS values; Respect, Responsibility and Positivity and this, along with our recently introduced reward program positively reinforces the acknowledgement of personal growth and achievement. At the end of each day, students are asked to reflect on their commitment to their goals, their learning as well as their behaviour and record the results. After achieving five subsequent positive days, the students have achieved bronze status. The system progresses from bronze to silver to gold with a suitable reward at each level. The system will also provide evidence to support the students accessing activities, experiences or excursions within the local or wider community. Students are therefore responsible for their learning and behaviour and have the opportunity every day to make positive choices.