



**Term 3 is quickly drawing to a close with Thursday 27 September the final day for class.
Term 4 begins Monday 15 October for students.**

Students are continuing to complete assessment tasks within class, attendance is consistently improving, and everyone continues to follow the school values of **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY & POSITIVITY**. Many students have reached bronze status with the School's reward program, and two students have already reached silver. These students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of activities in recognition of their commitment to learning and school values. Although it is the end of term our passion for learning has not reduced, with many exciting things recently occurring and several activities planned for our last week. Teachers are continuing to develop 'Personal Learning Pathway Plans' for all students in addition to compiling school reports, which will reflect on the students' achievements during terms 2 and 3.

School News

Adult Learners Week

On Friday 7 September, students and staff celebrated Adult Learner's Week by hosting a community luncheon. This year's theme 'Learning Changes Lives' was particularly relevant to our group of young people who have made the positive choice to re-engage with education. They are now working towards achieving their RoSA (Record of Student Achievement), ultimately providing pathways to sustainable employment or further education.

The luncheon provided a fantastic opportunity for the students to showcase their school and to step outside of their comfort zone. Students were involved in all facets of the day including planning, preparation of food, socialising with family and guests as well as packing up. WRCS staff was extremely pleased with the students' level of maturity, teamwork and enthusiasm during the day and activities such as this demonstrates their increase in self-esteem and confidence. A highlight of the day was a PowerPoint presentation which followed the school's journey from the beginning of the year when we had one teacher and six students to today; when our numbers have increased to six staff and 19 students. The day was enjoyed by all who attended and was a wonderful way to introduce WRCS to the wider community.



Student Activities

Love Bites Program

Students are continuing to take part in the respectful relationship program 'Love Bites'. The program consists of educational and interactive workshops, supporting young people to develop respectful relationships and have their say regarding important issues such as domestic and family violence and sexual assault prevention strategies. This week we were also fortunate enough to have a visit from a local women's health nurse who worked with our female students and staff to reinforce the subjects discussed in the program and broaden their knowledge about specialised services within our community.

SRC

Recently students were given the opportunity to nominate candidates and establish an SRC (Student Representative Council). Year 10 student Breanna Wells, along with year 9 students Jada Williams and Jess Carnell were elected by their peers and staff to give the student body a voice and a student perspective on all school issues. (Breanna & Jess pictured, Jada is absent)

One of the first activities the SRC will be working on is establishing a WRCS uniform, beginning with a school polo shirt which will reinforce our identity within the community and a sense of belonging. Management has kindly agreed to purchase each student a shirt, and additional items can be purchased as per need by each student. Students will be able to order their shirts in a choice of 3 colours, and each will feature the school's emblem/logo in a variation of the school colours. Staff will also be wearing the new shirts, and we hope to have shirts available to students at the beginning of next term.

Community Access Program

As part of our Community Access Program, we continue to host a range of guest speakers from the many services available within our community. Recently we were visited by staff from headspace Griffith who gave us a better understanding of the services they provide and how we can access them. Many young people experience episodes of poor mental health; ranging from stress, anxiety to depression. The development of positive partnerships with specialised services assists in reducing the stigma associated with poor mental health and ensures that students are informed if they require assistance or support in the future. Already several students have taken steps to access headspace, and we are happy to provide transport if required and accommodate appointments during school hours.



Student Activities (continued)

TAFE

Next week we are having a guided tour of TAFE to look at the range of vocations and courses they have on offer. Many of our students are currently looking at work experience or career options for the future, and this experience will increase knowledge regarding a range of career and training options. We will have the opportunity to observe classes and meet with teaching staff who will explain what their department has on offer and the many pathways to employment available.

Linking Communities Network

One of the services we are visiting next term is "Linking Communities Network". This service includes the Woman's Refuge as well as Youth Links. Youth Links offer a range of supports for young people and host a range of youth-friendly activities including drumbeat, independent living skills, advocacy and are one of the lead agencies in organising community events to acknowledge and celebrate Youth Week. LCN is also responsible for providing emergency housing for woman and children. Recently the service has asked the Griffith community for donations of non-perishable goods. The goods will be donated to those at risk or those who have found themselves homeless and have accessed the service for support. During the 'Love Bites' program students learnt that domestic violence was the number one reason people find themselves homeless and so felt that it was an appropriate and relevant cause to support. Students and staff have been asked to donate goods, and the items will be presented to the service when we visit next time. Items such as a can of soup, tinned fruit, baked beans etc. will be extremely appreciated. The act of kindness, however, small can have a significant impact on someone who is currently experiencing a personal crisis.

Outstanding Student Information

Finally, letters have been sent to all our families requesting information which is currently outstanding and required for compliance purposes. We are obliged to have copies of birth certificates, Medicare numbers etc. as part of records, and we would appreciate if you could provide us with this information as soon as possible. Also included in the letter is an updated medical form. As you can appreciate it is vital that we are aware of any medical condition, diagnosis or medications specific to your child. Conditions such as asthma or epilepsy require a health plan, and any allergies are required to be documented. In the event of an accident or illness, we would access this information when liaising with emergency services so it would be appreciated if all forms could be completed before the end of the term. Additionally, any updated reports from specialists, support agencies or mental health practitioners may also be included as it allows for a collaborative approach when developing learning plans and strategies to best support your child.

We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to a busy and exciting term 4.



Staff News

Students and staff welcome Brooke Saddler who has recently joined the staff at WRCS in the capacity of S.L.S.O (Student Learning Support Officer). Brooke's days are Monday & Friday, providing additional support within the classroom.

Next term Lyn will be on leave for the first few weeks of term with Shannon acting in the role of Head Teacher. If you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to contact Shannon or any of the staff on our school mobile 0437 784 213.

We would like to thank parents who have been notifying us of when their child will be or is absent from school. It is a legal requirement and part of our duty of care to follow up on any absenteeism, so we appreciate your support concerning this matter.

We continue to encourage students not to access their phones during class time as it proves to be a distraction. While they have access to their phones during break time if students need to be contacted urgently this can be done via the school mobile and staff will forward the message. Students do at times use their mobiles for music, as a strategy to reduce anxiety and help focus when learning and we have a few iPods available to use during class time. Students are welcome to download relevant music/apps to meet their requirements and choice. Please don't hesitate to contact us for clarification regarding this.