

As we move through the Coronavirus pandemic, WRCS remains open.

Head Teacher Report

We have some staff working from home and some working with students.

Work is being sent home regularly. Students are asked to complete it and let us know when done so that we can collect it and send more home. We have also gone online and we are communicating with students through this platform. A sheet has been sent home for those students who have not been attending explaining how they can download and use the app.

Student health and wellbeing are just as important for our students during these times as completing school work. To support all students in this area we will be mixing the work up and staying in touch. Make sure everyone eats well, exercises as much as possible, stays in touch with others as regularly as possible, not only via texts but verbally as well. We also recommend that you download this app, which keeps everyone's line of communication open.

Finally, we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable break during the school holiday. Please look after yourself and those around you.

Lyn Muntz, Head Teacher

Year 11 update

2020 has seen the first group of Year 11 at Western Riverina Community School. Subjects studied include English Studies, Mathematics, Visual Design, Marine Studies, Work Studies and Sport, Leisure and Recreation. Our theme across all subjects this term has been Tourism and most subjects have found ways to base their learning around this theme.

Our vision at WRCS is to provide alternate educational opportunities for school-aged secondary students. We achieve this through providing a supportive learning environment designed to enable our students to develop and generate a positive view of their future. We aim to build, strengthen and reduce barriers within our community through the provision of alternate education.

Students will not need to sit an external Higher School Certificate. There are many alternate pathways for students wishing to continue onto a university education after high school. Students set goals when they first arrive and these are reviewed on a regular basis. This helps us to better prepare them for a happy, healthy and successful life after school.

We look forward to seeing the growth in our students this year.

Lyn Muntz, Head Teacher

School Captains

Congratulations to our two School Captains Shakira Carberry and Olivia Johnson.

We have two very deserving Captains, whom we are sure will lead other students in a mature and competent manner through this pandemic and when life gets back to normal.





Student Activities

Science

During first term, Stage 5 has been studying the unit "Investigating Science". They have been focusing on developing their scientific investigation skills, particularly with regards to conducting valid, reliable and meaningful experiments.

Recently they have been carrying out their Student Research Projects, which has involved them designing an experiment of interest and carrying it out. Some examples of the experiments designed by students include exploring the properties of slime, bath bombs, potato batteries, plants, defrosting water, making icicles, aquaponics, rust, and how long it takes to upload images onto Snapchat.

Ann Pretty, Science Teacher



Students have conducted experiments with slime, bath bombs and potato batteries.



STEM

Air surfing has been the focus of STEM studies for Stage 5 students this term. They have created and built paper airplanes, paper walkalong gliders, foam walkalong gliders, flying cups and dragonfly helicopters. It would be fair to say that we have had varying levels of success in flying our constructions!

Ann Pretty, STEM Teacher

History

In History this term, students have been learning about flappers, gangsters and bootleggers. But it hasn't all been about the parties! We have also been learning about the discoveries, advances and events that changed people's lives in the 1920s.

Here are some interesting facts from that era.

- Henry Ford developed the assembly line to produce the Model T Ford.
- The sale and production of alcohol was banned during Prohibition.
- Al Capone was imprisoned on Alcatraz.
- The first Motorist's Hotel (motel) was built. It cost \$1.25 per night!
- Refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and radios became common place in people's homes.

Sue Tyrrell, History Teacher



Students designed magazine covers that would be suitable for a 1920's edition of US News Illustrated.

Marine Studies

Year 11 students have been studying Coastal Tourism this term. The focus has been on activities tourists can do whilst holidaying at the coast. They have studied snorkeling, scuba diving, surfing, fishing and using boats.

Currently they are developing a brochure to advertise a place that can be visited for a coastal holiday, such as Airlie Beach, Bali, Rotorua, the Whitsundays and the Dominican Republic.

Ann Pretty, Marine Studies Teacher

Student Activities *Continued*

Maths

Year 11

Throughout Term 1, our Stage 6 Mathematics students have studied the unit *Financial Mathematics*. This has involved the study of interest and depreciation, earning and managing money, as well as budgeting and household expenses.

The last unit was partially cut short as we cope with life during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the assessment task students have been working on has covered vital components of budgeting when planning for major purchases and ongoing expenses.

Financial Mathematics is an important core topic, designed to educate students on the fundamental elements of managing money that they will face when they leave school and begin their careers. Developing an understanding of wages and salaries is a particular focus for students, including what are they entitled to be paid and, as a new employee, how they become familiar with these entitlements.

Brenda McKinnon, Maths Teacher

Year 9 and 10

This term, Years 9 and 10 have been working really well in Maths, and some students have shown great improvement in their numeracy skills.

The students have worked through the following topics:

- Comparing integers;
- Fractions, decimals and percentages; and
- Algebraic techniques

Students should be very proud of their effort so far, as they have applied themselves throughout the entire term.

Jaz Dossetor, Shannon O'Mara, Sue Tyrrell and Ann Pretty, Maths Teachers

Cooking

Our students in Years 9 and 10 have expanded on their cooking skills this term and cooked a range of delicious meals for their peers and teachers.

The students have been cooking some delicious meals, including:

- Roast pumpkin pasta, served with garlic bread and garden salad.
- A Mexican feast, including salsa, pulled pork, beef taco and Mexican salads.
- An assortment of cakes and slices.

Jaz Dossetor, Cooking Teacher



Shakira Carberry



Jayden McCoustra



Student Activities *Continued*

English

Year 11

In English Studies this term, students are learning about travel. They have started planning a trip to destinations including New Zealand, South Africa, Cook Islands, Italy and Greece. They have been examining a range of advertisements as well as reading short stories about travel. This has led to our students composing their own original travel narratives of exciting adventures about safaris, pickpocketing, famous landmarks and foreign celebrities. Some students have even entered their tales in writing competitions!

In this edition of the newsletter, our student Zach shares his narrative about secret military business that takes his narrator to Nigeria.

Lauren Forner, English Teacher

Year 9 and 10

Our Year 9 and 10 students have been studying a unit about self-identity and assumptions, and we have looked at a range of text types. For their assessments, they are working on a 'slam poem', which is a performance poem. They've watched a range of examples and have developed their understanding of what makes an engaging performance. They've learnt to incorporate a range of poetic techniques into their writing and are now able to articulate their ideas more effectively.

Jaz Dossetor, English Teacher

Freedom Fighter

The street was crowded, people were scrambling, glass was shattering, the sight of riot police created a reverse effect to what they had hoped to achieve; the people weren't afraid, they were full of rage. Then the sound of a megaphone crackled through the streets urging citizens to fall back. The crowd pushed, the canisters plumed in a cloud of white smoke.

Charlie's heart was racing, his adrenaline rushing, his mind trying to comprehend what was happening, and why. Then, something caught his eye, a young child, 6- or 8-years old laying on the cold, hard asphalt, lifeless. In his 15 years of service, he had never seen such a horrid sight and anger rose up in him. But Charlie wasn't here to protest, he was here to protect.

He quickly dashed toward the source of the asphyxiating smoke. Placing his scarf over his mouth, he grabbed the canister and threw it with all his might, over the riot shields and into a squad of Military Police standing behind a line of riot officers.

They appeared from behind the shields, brandishing their weapons, and shouting at the protesters to back off or they'd resort to lethal force. And in the god almighty roar, people fell around him. Charlie ran to cover as fast as he could, making it to the back of a yellow bus.

He had heard of the severe police brutality in the Lagos slums; the very thought of it made him fume and reach for his Berretta M9, but he fought the urge to use it. The last thing I need, is to have to explain why I just smoked a bunch of MPs supporting a civil rights protest, he thought to himself.

To Be Continued...



Student Activities *Continued*

Personal Development Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

Being a part of a team, improving basic skills, sportsmanship, fairplay and leadership skills have been the focus this term for Year 9 and 10 PDHPE. Students have developed the rules for a number of games themselves and it has been great to see all students participating in games in a positive and respectful manner.

Lyn Muntz, PDHPE Teacher

Sport, Leisure and Recreation

Students have been learning all about local opportunities available to become involved in outdoor recreation. Thorough planning, safety, the environment and equipment essentials are the basics for success when participating and we have enjoyed some time bushwalking and orienteering. Later this term, we will visit Cocoparra National Park. As the year progresses, we will also be enjoying some kayaking, and our excursion will involve some outdoor recreational activities outside our local area.

Students are at present researching adventure tourism within Australia and creating an advertising poster. There are so many opportunities out there for fun in the sun and this has been an eye-opener for all.

Lyn Muntz, Sport, Leisure and Recreation Teacher

Visual Design

Year 11 students started the term by creating a vibrant title page for their new art diaries. They experimented with drawing and lettering styles, and each title page reflects each student's individual style. They look amazing! The first formal unit of study focuses on travel. We have been exploring a variety of artistic techniques to create different artworks. Students explored their local area and their personal environments to find an object of interest, then created three artworks based on that project.

We have also been building up our computer research and presentation skills by creating collages. The first collage focused on travel destinations and different styles of travel. Students could source travel images that inspired them from around the world. The second collage focused on travel luggage, in particular, backpacks. Students will ultimately design and make their own travel luggage and these practical activities will commence in the weeks to come. Congratulations to Year 11 students on an excellent start to the year in Visual Design.

Shannon O'Mara, Visual Design Teacher



Above are contrasting pictures of the scenery on Scenic Hill. Students looked at the impacts of littering for bushwalkers.

Work Studies

My Working Life has been the unit of study for our Stage 6 Work Studies students during first term. They are currently working towards developing a plan for their future working life, which involves exploring different career opportunities and pathways, and the skills and qualifications required for these careers.

Their current assessment task focuses on working through a step-by-step process to build their own personal career plan. This plan sets the foundation for Work Studies for the rest of the year, with students being able to constantly revise their plan and further develop their goals.

Brenda McKinnon, Work Studies Teacher

Wellbeing Report

This term, students have a one-hour class of Wellbeing each week. During this time, students learn about psycho-education practices and strategies that they can use to cultivate healthy mental habits and ways they can manage emotions. These strategies centre on principles of mindfulness, and include:

- Identifying and labeling thoughts
- Using the five senses to come back to the present
- Meditation for relaxation and awareness
- Visualisations
- Thought-defusion
- Fact-checking self-talk
- Morning brain dump
- Ready to learn check in

I encourage you to speak with your child about these strategies at home and assist them to practice them.

As part of Wellbeing this year, we have also been running social games at lunch times, which students have been enjoying immensely. Games that have been getting a good work out include Uno, Uno Flip, Uno Stacko, Jenga, card games and puzzles. These sessions have been really important in providing learning opportunities for students to acquire social skills, such as using appropriate language, cooperating and giving positive feedback.

Lauren Forner, Wellbeing Teacher

Friday Learning

Each Friday, students have a one-hour session during which they focus on a wellbeing skill. These include:

- developing positive social skills;
- participating in physical activity to improve health;
- participating in art or music to develop their creativity;
- using the time to develop their knowledge and skills in driving, aiming towards passing their Learner Driver test.

Lauren Forner and Shannon O'Mara

Excursion

Students who achieved bronze level through our school rewards system enjoyed an excursion to Star Bowling. Congratulations.

