



Deputy Principal's Perspective

It is hard to believe Term 1 has ended!

Whilst being a very busy term, our students have been very settled and engaged with their learning and the opportunities provided for them. We welcomed a number of new students who have settled positively into the WRCS community. We also welcomed Ema Munro to our teaching staff this term and Marc Meehan to our support staff. Sue Tyrrell has been relieving Head Teacher Administration and Lauren Forner stepped up to the role of Head Teacher Wellbeing.

Many of our 2020 Year 10 students have stayed with us this year to begin their Year 11 studies. We also have our first group of Year 12 students this year. Our Stage 6 students, numbering fourteen in total, are studying Mathematics Standard, English Studies, Work Studies, Exploring Early Childhood, Visual Design and Society and Culture.

Five Year 9 students joined us at the beginning of this year, with two more ready to enroll at the start of next term. They have been engaged with our nine Year 10 students in studying Maths, English, Science, HSIE, and PDHPE. In addition, on a Friday they have been participating in Yoga with Manshant, and Aboriginal Art with Margie Kook. Some beautiful canvases have been created during their art sessions. During Sport on a Tuesday, the students have been enjoying the challenge and exercise of Hip Hop with George Vito. Many laughs have been had, but at the same time much success has been achieved!

During week 7 we studied Conflict as part of our PBL week. Students learnt about the Frontier Wars, Biological and Nuclear Warfare, positive outcomes of conflict, negative outcomes of conflict, conscription, workplace conflict, peace and intra and interpersonal conflict. Projects produced included analysis of the conflicts in the various Shrek movies, a comic strip about nuclear war, a guitar decorated with positive affirmations, a children's book about bullying, and an Instagram page with supports for personal conflict.



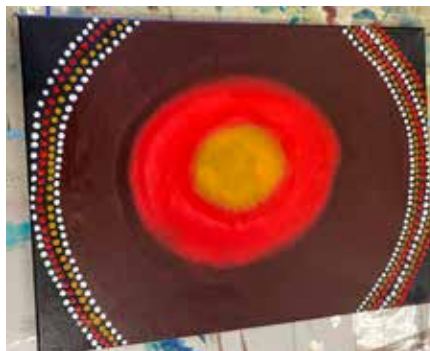
Lacey Ingram (left) and Courtney Cottom.



Artwork by a Year 10 student.



Artwork by Caleb Swainston.



Artwork by Lillie-Ann Phillpot.



Artwork by Breeanna Charles.



Next term we will be visiting Canberra during week 5 in order to visit locations such as the War Memorial and Parliament House to gain a great understanding of conflict.

Harmony Day was celebrated with much joy and enthusiasm. Samoan culture was showcased with a sharing of information and a dance. Faith, Elizabeth, and Matalena taught six of our girls a Samoan dance which was performed beautifully for the school, tears were brought to many eyes of those watching. Patrick began the dance performance. Following the performance, a communal lunch and afternoon tea was shared with food representing many different cultures.

Faith, Elizabeth, Matalena and Patrick brought in the most delicious pork buns for all to share. At the end of the day, we were all very full and looking forward to NAIDOC week where our Wiradjuri girls will be teaching a dance to our girls and performing it.

Shannon has been on leave this term and will continue her leave next term. Whilst she has been very much missed, we understand she has been enjoying spending time with her family, particularly her new niece!



Enjoying the challenge of Hip Hop during Tuesday Sport.

We have been pleased to have Lyn join us for several casual days throughout the term, it certainly has eased the pain of her leaving us. Next term we are looking forward to welcoming Ben Knight to our staff as our English/Society and Culture teacher. He will be taking over Jaz's teaching load as she becomes our Wellbeing Teacher.

It is with great sadness that we are farewelling Lauren Forner. She has been a much loved, valued and appreciated member of staff by all members of the WRCS and WRCC community. She will be sorely missed, but we wish her all the best for her new and exciting life in Melbourne.

Ann Pretty, Deputy Principal

Student Activities

Science

Stage 5 Science

During Term 1 Stage 5 students have been studying Evolution and Genetics. They began by revising the structure of a cell through the creation of biscuits decorated as plant and animal cells. They then focused on the nucleus of a cell - particularly chromosomes. Students created models of mitosis and meiosis, completed a karyotype, isolated DNA from split peas, and then as a class made a paper model of DNA.

Recently students have been completing Punnet Square problems for 'Alien Genetics' and 'Monster Genetics'.

Ann Pretty, Science Teacher



Stage 5 Science - making cells out of lollies and biscuits.



Student Activities

English

Stage 5 English

This term our Stage 5 students have participated in a study of the coming-of-age film *Looking for Alibrandi*. They have investigated the use of film techniques and camera angles to further convey meaning around important themes such as culture, race, identity and belonging.

In preparation for their assessment task, students analysed key scenes from the film, giving evidence to support their viewpoints. Students have written a series of analytical paragraphs which explore how the themes of self-identity are represented in *Looking for Alibrandi*. The composition of structured, extended responses has allowed our students to further improve their formal writing skills.

Jasmine Dossetor and Kirsty Wood, Stage 5 English Teachers

Stage 6 English Studies

Year 11

Term 1 of this year saw our Year 11 students acting in the role of several music professionals through their study of the module Let's Rock! English and the World of Music. They have explored the use of language techniques in the varying texts used in the music industry and how these may be targeted at a specific audience.

After creating a band profile of their own, students have worked diligently to write a series of texts including: lyrics for a song, a tour itinerary, a press release and a CD cover note. Students were encouraged to write a song that raised awareness about a chosen cause using a range of poetic techniques.

Kirsty Wood, English Teacher

Cause: Suicide Awareness & Anti-Drugs

Written by Yuri Mason

I felt alive Monday

Some days feels like I only need one take

Baked out my mind, can't wait till tomorrow

Sick of smoking away my sorrows

I felt alive Tuesday

New day ready to fix my mistake

Displayed a long while back

Lack the best person lost in Prozac

I felt alive Wednesday

Ashtray full of butts like a holiday

Melee away all of this hate

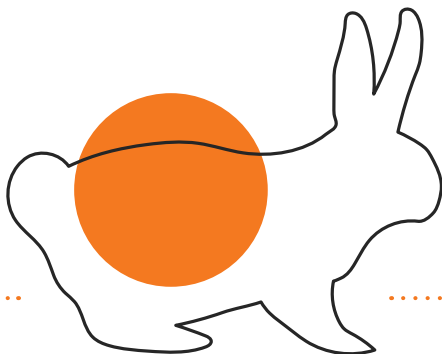
Great how I try but I'm still late

I felt alive Thursday

Sprayed my feelings with grey paint

Delayed my meeting with my demons

Don't think I can hold on much longer man





Student Activities *Continued*

Cause: Anti-Drugs

Written by Shakira Carberry

They say I should stick to rapping
But I've seen too many people die and I finally had it
I'm tired of seeing people I love
Getting caught up on drugs
Not knowing when enough is enough

Chorus:

I'm tired of all the pain
I'm tired of all the sorrow
I'm tired of not knowing
If I'll see you tomorrow

Cause: Anti Racism

Written by Brenda Goolagong

It does not matter if you're black or white
Just fight for your rights
All the colours of the rainbow are beautiful to look at
So do not sit back, Jack
Take a look at the facts
Before you fall thru the cracks

Chorus:

Why can't we all just get along?
Let us live in a world where we all belong
Why can't we all just get along?
Forget the past and move on

Stage 6 English Studies

Year 12

This term, students have been learning about English in the Digital World. They have looked at how technologies have changed the way we interact with language, as well as ethical ways that we utilise technology in our lives.

Students have studied the films *The Matrix* and *The Social Network* and will be developing their formal and creative writing skills when they compose their extended responses in their assessments for this unit.

Jasmine Dossetor, English Teacher

Stage 6 Society and Culture

The central goal of Society and Culture Stage 6 is the development of social and cultural literacy and a clear understanding of the interaction of persons, societies, cultures, environments and time. The influence of other aspects of societies and cultures - including power, authority, identity, gender, technologies and globalisation - is also central to the course.

This term, students have begun to look at the core concepts of the course and have learnt how to apply these to events and societies around the world. They will begin a focus study on the Amish people, and compare their lifestyles with their own.

Our students should be very proud of the work they have done so far this term, as they have learnt a variety of new skills and concepts.

Jasmine Dossetor, Society and Culture Teacher



Student Activities *Continued*

Maths

Stage 5 Mathematics

During this term, Stage 5 students revisited the topics of *Integers and Numbers of any Magnitude*. They compared, ordered, and calculated with integers, applying a range of strategies to solve problems.

Students were able to apply the skills they had learned in a practical assessment task, which required them to act in the role of a commercial baker. They also investigated potential costing, profit and breaking even through collaboration with their peers.

Kirsty Wood and Brenda McKinnon, Stage 5 Mathematics Teachers



Stage 6 Mathematics

Year 11

During Term 1 Year 11 has studied the topic of Financial Maths. This has involved the application of knowledge, skills and understanding of numbers to earning, spending, investing, saving and borrowing money.

Students applied this knowledge to creating a personal budget based upon a given career scenario, considering all income and expenses faced in day-to-day living.

Brenda McKinnon, Stage 6 Mathematics Teacher



Stage 5 Mathematics - using the kitchen environment to apply new maths skill.

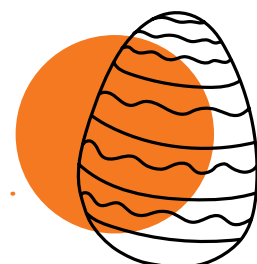
Stage 6 Mathematics

Year 12

Year 12 commenced the term with the topic of Algebra, expanding on the skills developed last year in terms of the practical applications of Algebra, culminating in the use of simultaneous equations to model real world financial problems.

The study of Algebra in Year 12 is an important aspect in developing students' reasoning skills and logical thought processes, as well as their ability to represent and solve problems.

Brenda McKinnon, Stage 6 Mathematics Teacher





Student Activities *Continued*

Exploring Early Childhood

Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood

Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood students have been studying the Pregnancy and Birth unit.

We began the year by revising how sex cells are created. Moving onto learn about conception, stages of pregnancy (looking at changes in both the mother and child), tests in pregnancy, what to avoid during pregnancy, and diet in pregnancy within this unit

Next term we will focus on learning about birth. Before we transition to study the toddler years.

Ann Pretty, Exploring Early Childhood Teacher

PDHPE

Stage 5 PDHPE

Stage 5 had the opportunity to participate in a series of swimming lessons this term with instructors from Black Line Swim School.

This program has focused on improving student swimming ability over a variety of different levels and introducing a mixture of safety procedures in and around water.

During the theory lessons PDHPE students explored the influence of media on the health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity levels of young people.

They have critiqued different sources of health information and assessed their credibility and relevance. Students have worked towards evaluating the options available for young people seeking help.

Brenda McKinnon, PDHPE Teacher

History

Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood

In first term, Stage 5 students have been studying World War I. They have been very efficient at analysing primary and secondary documents and photos - just like true historians!

We are currently identifying source material related to indigenous soldiers, the role of women on the Homefront, the conscription issue and enemy 'aliens'.

Sue Tyrrell, History Teacher



*Our students should be **very proud** of the work they have done so far this term ...*



Stage 5 PDHPE at Black Line Swim School.



Wellbeing Report

Term 1 has been a busy term, starting off with an excursion to the Altina Wildlife Park as a way to bond early in the school year.

We saw some well-trained lions, some extremely long-legged wolves and a donkey who was keen to be the star of his own show. There was a competitive photo competition, students and staff faced off to take out categories such as 'Best Photo of a Sleeping Animal', 'Best Selfie with an Animal' and 'Closest Look-a-like'. Congratulations to winners Courtney and Shakira (pictured with the giraffe), Brody and Ann.



Students have continued to complete activities promoting their wellbeing in both a timetabled subject and by participating in initiatives throughout the school week. These initiatives are assisting students to work towards the goals they have set themselves in their Personalised Learning Plans. Some of which include learning strategies to better manage anxiety and build confidence in specific situations. Other strategies also include improving their relationships with a variety of people and trying new experiences outside of their comfort zone to prepare them to enter a workplace or pursue a passion. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on these goals at the beginning of Term 2.

Other initiatives have included doing yoga on Fridays with Manshant, an experienced yoga instructor who has assisted students to learn mindfulness techniques. Students also have had the opportunity to do meditation on Mondays and Wednesdays during walk time; it has been fantastic to see many students participate!



Wellbeing Report *Continued*

We have been very impressed with the number of students who have achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards this term! These students should be very proud of these achievements. They were recognised at our recent assembly, which was also the 'Meet and Greet' event for parents and carers.



Stage 5 Assembly - Silver Award recipients.



Stage 6 Assembly - Silver Award recipients.



Stage 5 Assembly - Subject Award recipients.



Stage 6 Assembly - Bronze Award recipients.



Stage 5 Assembly - Bronze Award recipients.



Deputy Principal Ann Pretty presenting at the Assembly.



Jasmine Dossetor and students on Assembly day.



Wellbeing Report *Continued*



Setu family members at Assembly.



Brody and his Dad with Kirsty Wood at Assembly.



Izac and family with Brenda McKinnon at Assembly.



David Martin with Lillie-Anne, her grandmother and Caleb at Assembly.

Students were rewarded with a day out at Lake Talbot Water Park to celebrate reaching their goal on our 'shout out' wall. There were many slide races had, impressive tricks and a whole lot of belly flops!

Our students have also shown leadership within both school and community events this term, including attending events that are important in promoting the wellbeing of those in our school and town. We have announced four captains this year to lead our school body: Zach Coborelos, Faith Setu, Jade Frean and Courtney Cottom.

For International Women's Day, our captains Courtney and Jade attended the International Women's Day Breakfast hosted by Soroptimists International. We heard a range of guest speakers, who spoke about women's empowerment, the girls represented our school very well.



Jasmine Dossetor, Captains Courtney Cottom and Jade Frean, and Deputy Principal Ann Pretty at the International Women's Day breakfast.



Wellbeing Report *Continued*

Students also represented the school on the wider stage, participating in a video being made to share around the state to promote the success of our Road Safety Education program. Zach and Olivia were interviewed and will star on the silver screen soon!

In Term 2, we are transitioning from Behaviour Management Plans to Ready to Learn Plans. These require consultation with students in the first instance and may require parental or guardian input. We will also be concentrating in wellbeing lessons on developing a charter of personal rights and responsibilities, to build on what students learnt about healthy boundaries and relationships last year.



I have every confidence these lovely young adults will continue to blossom and grow...



As I leave this role, I would like to thank those in the school community who have worked with me to support our students in their endeavours to improve various aspects of their wellbeing. I have every confidence these lovely young adults will continue to blossom and grow under the guidance of our caring and wonderful staff, including the new Wellbeing Teacher, Jaz.

Lauren Forner, Head Teacher Wellbeing

FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

Griffith Regional Aquatic Leisure Centre

Wednesday 14th April 11am-5pm

Lunch & drinks provided

Free pool entry Swimming

Photo booth Prizes for most Creative photo 😊

Dizzy Dilemma Hula hoop/Juggling Workshop

DJ Barber

DRUM BEATING & BALL GAMES

Face & Tshirt Painting PRIZES TO BE WON 😊

FREE Bus pick up

11.00am from Dave Taylor Park, Pioneer
11.20am from Kubank Park, Parko
DROP OFFS @ 3pm with last bus at 5pm

Children under 12 must be accompanied by parents



Work Studies

Work Experience

At the beginning of Week 5 this term, Stage 6 students began work experience at an employer of their choice. The following students visited these workplaces:

- Shakira - Wiradjuri Preschool
- Hayden - Farranato Autobody Repairs
- Jade - Collier and Miller retail
- Zach - The Articulate Pear*
- Elizabeth and Faith - Kindy Lane Preschool
- Amos - Lenham's Ford Dealership



Amos at Lenham's Ford Dealership.



Zach at The Articulate Pear.

Visit to the Griffith Community Centre

On Thursday 18th March, Stage 6 Work Studies students visited the Griffith Community Centre. Students had a great time helping set up for Harmony Day celebrations. They also helped make seed pods from newspaper and have been invited back to help plant them into the garden beds.

We were then invited to stay and enjoy the international morning tea. It was a great experience, and we look forward to being involved in future activities at the Griffith Community Centre.



Students visiting the Griffith Community Centre.



Western Riverina Community School (WRCS) Stage 5 Project Groups

This term we have focused on the letter 'W' and in particular, 'W' for Work. Students have researched their dream jobs and have worked on building their resumés.

Pizza from Dominoes

On Thursday Week 7, Dominoes *Feed the Knead* promotion treated us to 15 free pizzas! It was a great treat and filled the school with the yummy smell of pizza.

Emma Munro,
Work Studies Teacher

* Zach assisted with the production of this newsletter during work experience.