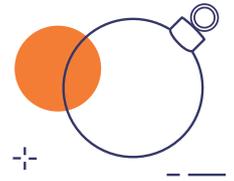




Head Teachers Report



The year is coming to an end so quickly, it is very hard to believe. As I write this, many of our students are on an excursion to Echuca and hopefully are having a fun time. The students who are here are busily making decorations for our Year 10 Graduation to be held next Tuesday night. Congratulations to the ten amazing students who have completed Year 10 and will receive their Record of School Achievement.

WRCS has evolved from just Years 9 and 10 in 2018 and 2019 to include Year 11 this year. Next year, we will have Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Some achievements this term included Year 11 students gaining their First Aid Certificate as part of their Sport, Leisure and Recreation course. During Marine Studies, they also achieved their Safe Food Handling Certificate. Many students also gained their White Card. These certificates will support them in working towards a job/career when they leave school.

Welcome to all our new students. I hope you enjoy your journey with us. Also, a big congratulations to Ann Pretty who will be replacing me next year as Deputy Principal. I am retiring from my position and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone with whom I have been involved over the past three years. It has been an amazing journey and I will miss students and staff immensely. Parent support is integral in our success at school and I would also like to thank parents for the support you have given us and provided for our young people. There will be some other staff changes as well and I know Ann will inform you of those early next year. Don't forget me when you are sending out invitations to next year's graduation - I wouldn't miss it for the world! Seeing our first Year 12 students graduate, and this year's Year 9 students achieve their Year 10 ROSA will be a highlight for my year. I wish you all the best of luck next year and I know that you can all achieve your dreams. Dream big!

Lyn Muntz, Head Teacher



Head teacher Lyn Muntz retires this year, we wish her the best.



WRCS staff celebrate with Lyn on her retirement.



Principal's Perspective

The end of the 2020 school year is upon us, and I take this time to reflect on our school's progress.

Our school was established under the umbrella of Western Riverina Community College for students who want to learn but found that the mainstream school system wasn't working for them. Over the past three years, a lot has happened at the school and there are many success stories of students progressing from school to work and further education. For many of these students, this vision was not imaginable before enrolling at WRCS.

One of our vital goals is to encourage our students to view success at school and beyond. Such visions only occur through the careful moulding of students who come to school to learn in a student-centred environment and through the commitment of our teachers and staff who provide a guiding hand. Lyn Muntz has been the primary agent of change for our students, encouraging them to have positive visions for their future.



Since day one, Lyn has taken the lead for all things related to teaching at our school. Furthermore, the success of the school would not have been possible without the leadership Lyn has provided to the whole WRCS team. Lyn's guiding hands have generated a culture of learning, empowering staff to act in a model of distributed leadership that supports students to achieve their learning goals.

While the learning and the school evolve, so too do the staff and plans for the future. Lyn's retirement at the end of this year will mean significant changes for our school in 2021. We wish Lyn the very best in her retirement and know she and her husband Chris will enjoy travelling and visiting their children and grandchildren. All of us will miss Lyn greatly, but I am sure that Lyn will reappear in a variety of cameo roles in future.

The school has appointed Ann Pretty as Deputy Principal of WRCS, commencing in January 2021. Ann is a passionate educator who is focused on working with students who have fallen through the cracks. Ann's approach to education is that one size does not fit all, so she is invested in building positive relationships with students that generate student engagement. This engagement means that students achieve their educational goals, which allows them to progress to further education and/or work. We are confident that Ann will move seamlessly into her new leadership position and pilot WRCS educational developments of the future.

As the school is now at capacity, we need to consider a new purpose-built space to allow for future growth. Current planning indicates that a facility will become available in the second half of 2021, located close to the centre of Griffith. The new facility will add to the school's success by deepening and broadening our capabilities and improving community access to the school. Exciting times are ahead for WRCS.

I wish you all the very best for the festive season and a brighter, COVID free 2021.

David Martin, Principal



*One of our vital goals is to
**encourage our students to view
success at school and beyond.***





Student Activities

English

Stage 5 English

This term, Stage 5 English students have been studying 'Romeo and Juliet', with a focus on conflict. They have engaged with a variety of adaptations of this famous work and have analysed excerpts from the original play.

Students have focused on the main characters, and how conflict has driven the events in the narrative. They have learnt to analyse Shakespearian language, as well as the history of how Shakespeare's plays have been performed over the years. Students should be very proud of how hard they have worked this term.

Stage 6 English Studies

"English and the World of Music" has been the unit of study for our Stage 6 English Studies class this term. Students have looked at the language of music through the eyes of its industry, and they have gained an understanding into how the music industry creates a range of different texts.

Students have had the opportunity to create the following creative texts:

- A band profile
- Lyrics for a song
- A tour itinerary
- A tour poster and t-shirt
- A press release
- A CD cover design



*Students should be **very proud** of how hard they have worked this term.*



They should be very proud of their work this term.

Jaz Dossetor, English Teacher

STEM

Stage 5 STEM

Stage 5 students completed their study of the germination of native plants, learning that native seeds needed to be either exposed to heat, smoke, water or abrasion for them to germinate.

On completion of this unit of work, they have begun completing Christmas craft activities where they have sown a Christmas stocking and made some decorations.

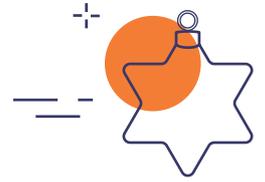
Ann Pretty, STEM Teacher



Courtney, Shakira and Alieria with their Christmas Hat decorations.



Student Activities *Continued*



Maths

Stage 5 Mathematics Standard

During Term 4, our Stage 5 students have been working on Financial Maths. Students have solved financial problems involving earning, spending, and investing money. We have explored many aspects of financial maths and encouraged students to become educated about using money wisely and the concepts of 'needs vs wants', budgeting and saving.

Some students also learned about simple interest and compound interest. They applied these concepts to real-life scenarios relating to borrowing and saving money.

The final weeks of the term have involved some assessment tasks and revision of topics students feel they need more time studying. It has been an enjoyable and productive year in Mathematics. Well done to all.

Shannon O'Mara, Brenda McKinnon and Kirsty Wood, Stage 5 Mathematics Teachers

Stage 6 Mathematics Standard

Term 4 has seen our Stage 6 Mathematics students studying the topic of Algebra. The unit has focused on developing a strong foundation in algebraic techniques, including writing and solving word equations, and the use of linear modelling to graph and explain a variety of relationships.

Students are beginning to understand that algebra has important implications for everyday life, and have been able to use equations and linear modelling to describe the behaviour of an object, or alternatively, displaying, analysing and interpreting data values from real-life situations.

Brenda McKinnon, Stage 6 Mathematics Teacher

Work Studies

This term, Year 11 students have worked through a number of modules on the government's Moneysmart website (www.moneysmart.gov.au) This website provides lots of current information relating to personal finances.

We have looked at saving, budgeting and spending, personal tax, superannuation and the issues that young people may need to deal with when moving out of home.

We have found it to be very practical information for the future and the students have used their personal experiences to help clarify each other's questions.

Sue Tyrrell, Work Studies Teacher



*...students have used their **personal experiences** to help **clarify** each other's questions.*





Student Activities *Continued*

Visual Design

Year 11 made a fantastic effort to complete their hoodies during the first part of Term 4. This project took us a little longer to complete than anticipated. However, considering that the students created their own patterns and designs, cut their own fabrics, learned how to use a sewing machine and an overlocker, constructed their own hoodies and applied design features, we are extremely proud of their achievements.

Following on from the Hoodie unit, students commenced a new unit of work focusing on graphic design. Students created an image or illustration to accompany a written text, in a genre and format of their choice. Students were invited to create one detailed piece of work or a series of smaller works.

This project has allowed each student to follow their own areas of interest and to develop skills they enjoy. Students have explored interests such as character and comic development, creative story writing, photography and music. We look forward to seeing the finished products in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to all Year 11 students who have given their personal best effort throughout the year. It has been an enjoyable year and you can all be proud of your achievements. Well done.

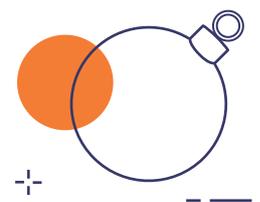
Shannon O'Mara, Visual Design Teacher



Olivia and Alex wearing their completed hoodies.



*This project has allowed each student to follow their own areas of interest and to **develop skills they enjoy.***





Student Activities *Continued*

Geography

Students have been studying the topic “Changing Places” and looking at the rapid growth in the world’s population and the effect that has on the world now and for the future. By 2050, the estimated population of the world is 9.7 billion, in Australia 37.6 million and 32,776 in Griffith.

We have looked at the unmanaged growth of slums in Mumbai and compared it with future planning in Sydney and the ways in which Griffith City Council is planning towards 2045.

We have toured the town identifying some heritage buildings and comparing photos of them in their original states and how they look today.

Sue Tyrrell, Geography Teacher



PDHPE

Road Safety has been a focus for PDHPE students this term. Many of our students already have their L plates, or are aiming to get them in the near future. During our Positive Behaviour for Learning week, we were fortunate to have some amazing speakers at the school who shared their stories and reminded us of the need for safety on the road.

We looked at statistics on country roads, hazards on country roads, how to tackle roundabouts and the importance of assertiveness when driving, particularly as a young driver. We also looked at the short term and long term effects of car accidents, both fatal and with only minor injuries. I hope this will lead to our young drivers making safe choices when driving.

Lyn Muntz, PDHPE Teacher

SLR

Year 11 have studied resistance training this term. They looked at the muscular system and how the muscles work. Students studied different types of training programs, different types of exercises and safe practices when in the gym. This knowledge helped them to plan a training program to suit their individual needs. I’m sure this regular exercise has helped them to feel better, both physically and mentally, and I hope they continue to include this in their daily routine.

Lyn Muntz, SLR Teacher





Student Activities *Continued*

Science

This term, Stage 5 Science students have been studying chemical patterns. As part of the unit, we have studied the Periodic Table and learnt that Mendeleev came up with the arrangement of elements for the Periodic Table in a dream.

We have also looked at rates of reactions and carried out an experiment to determine how temperature affects a glow stick. We discovered that the warmer the temperature, the brighter the glow stick. In addition, we have made various types of plastics out of readily available products such as milk, vinegar and cornflour.

Ann Pretty, Science Teacher



Brody making casein plastic.

Marine Studies

Stage 6 Marine Studies students have now finished their studies into Food Hygiene and gained their certification qualification 'Use Hygienic Practices for Food Safety' (SITXFSA001).

They have moved onto studying marine employment where they have learnt about the types of jobs available in the seven types of marine industries:

- fishing
- aquaculture
- offshore oil and gas
- shipbuilding
- shipping transport services
- supporting and "high technology" industries and services
- tourism and recreation.

Students have had an opportunity to write employment advertisements for jobs in the different marine industries. Students will be moving on to look at first aid in the marine environment.

Ann Pretty, Marine Studies

Cooking

Our Stage 5 students have started cooking much more independently this term, and have learnt to cook a range of different meals. They have improved on their preparation, cooking and presentation skills and are now able to produce an entire meal in pairs.

This term, they have made:

- Chicken and mushroom casserole served with mashed potatoes
- Pasta Bolognese
- Omelettes served with hash browns and bacon
- Rocky Road
- Christmas cookies

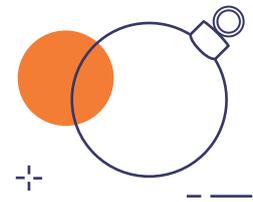
All of the students have improved their cooking skills immensely throughout the year, and will hopefully have more confidence in the kitchen.

Jaz Dossetor, Cooking Teacher





Wellbeing Report



Project Based Learning Units

Late last term, students completed a week-long Road Safety Education unit, at the conclusion of which they produced a product to help keep their communities safe on the road. We had some excellent guest speakers who informed us about the dangers of road hazards, the impacts of losing a loved one on the road, the processes through which to get your L and P driving permits and ways to reduce anxiety when driving. Thank you to the community members who contributed to our program.

Students produced some excellent educational products during the unit, including games, videos, interviews, bracelets, songs and Tik Toks, some of which will be shared with the community.

The next aspect of this Road Safety project includes supervised driving for those students with their Learners permit. This stage of the project is being planned and delivered with the Association of Independent Schools NSW, community and government agencies. We have secured funding for the project to enable students to have experience with professional driving instruction next year.

In Week 5 of this term, students completed another Project Based Learning unit on First Nations people around the world. They learnt about traditions of different groups, Dreaming and creation stories, the impact of climate change on Indigenous peoples and the way children become adults through initiations. Students had a celebration day, during which they showed off their excellent products, including head dresses, sculptures, jewellery, paintings, musical items and portraits. The valuable learning that came from this was an appreciation for why we need to celebrate and preserve the knowledge and ways of Indigenous people around the world.





Personalised Learning Pathways Reviews

Over the term, students have been engaged in reviewing their Personal Learning Pathways (or PLPs), reflecting on their goals and progress throughout the year. Congratulations to all the students who have achieved their goals, including obtaining their Record of School Achievement, successfully completing all assessment tasks in Year 11, getting their Learner driving permit and implementing healthier sleep and eating routines.

Students have set goals for 2021 and will begin working towards these from the start of next year. Copies of these updated goals and reflections have been sent home to parents and carers. If you have not received it, please contact Lauren on 0437 784 213.

Health Checks and Dental Checks

Eligible students have had their annual health check at the Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service and are currently completing their dental checks. Students may need follow-up appointments during the holidays, in which case the Aboriginal Medical Service will contact students, parents and carers directly.

Lauren Forner, Wellbeing Teacher



*Students have set **goals for 2021** and will begin working towards these from the start of next year.*

