



Deputy Principal's Perspective

With restrictions easing regarding COVID-19 WRCS students were able to be involved in many extra-curricular activities throughout Term 2. All students participated in the Dolly's Dream Workshop and Reconciliation Week Activities.

Stage 5 students completed three days of Wellbeing and Cyber Workshops and visited Pioneer Park. Stage 6 went on a Wellbeing Excursion to Sydney, and attended a screening of *Scattered People* at Griffith Regional Theatre. Year 11 students attended RYDA and Year 12 students participated in student sessions for the Sydney's Writers Festival. A number of Year 11 and 12 students completed the YES program at Griffith TAFE. Some students and staff listened to a presentation by Thomas Mayor about the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Around all the busyness of extracurricular activities, students completed assessment tasks for each of their subjects ready for their Semester 1 reports that were handed out on the last day of term. Overall students' reports were pleasing to read reflecting their positive efforts with regards to their attendance and learning. In addition, all students received their Bronze awards, the majority their Silver and many their Gold awards.

Justine established Quicksmart at WRCS to assist students fill in any gaps they may have in their literacy and numeracy skills. A number of staff have participated in training to support the implementation of this exciting initiative.

Jaz and I were able to attend the National Education Summit in Melbourne (which had been postponed from last year due to COVID-19). It was a valuable experience being able to network with others and deepen our pedagogical knowledge.

The students of WRCS have worked hard in incorporating our school values of respect, responsibility, and positivity into their everyday schooling lives. Our captains, Elizabeth, Emanuel, Lacey and Bryce, have been instrumental in developing the bonding amongst the students. This was displayed in the beautiful farewell from students to Brenda at the end of term.

Ann Pretty, Deputy Principal



Ann Pretty and Jasmine Dosseter at the National Education Summit in Melbourne.

Student Activities

English

Stage 5 English Studies

In term two, Stage 5 English students completed a study of the graphic novel *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. The study of the wordless novel relied heavily on students' interpretation of the intricate illustrations throughout. Tan's novel tackles a range of difficult themes, including: the migrant experience, discrimination, conflict and belonging. We discussed, in-depth, the symbolism throughout the novel and students demonstrated a perceptive understanding of how elements such as colour, framing and motifs can convey meaning. For their assessment task, students were required to create a literary award which recognised *The Arrival* as a significant piece of Australian literature. They created their own titles, citations and speeches, along with a medal or trophy made from clay. Some students worked collaboratively, whilst others opted to approach the task independently. Students are to be commended on their efforts during this unit!

Kristy Wood, Stage 5 English Teacher



Nevaeh-Ann Binks award



Nevaeh-Ann Binks trophy



Jonathan and Melina's trophy



Student Activities *Continued*

Stage 6 English Studies - Year 11

During term two, Year 11 English students completed a study of the unit English and the Self: Who Do You Think You Are? We engaged with a wide variety of stories that explored the challenges, achievements and experiences of a range of people. Students analysed the use of techniques to convey emotion to the reader or listener before being tasked with creating their own life story presentation. Sharing their personal experiences was a challenge for some students, but they persevered and composed presentations which were extremely moving, supported by a range of visuals. Year 11 students have continued to impress with their attitudes towards their learning this year, and I hope to see this continue into term three.

Kristy Wood, Stage 6 English Teacher

Stage 6 English Studies - Year 12

In term two, Year 12 English students completed a study of the unit 'The Big Screen: English in Filmmaking'. We engaged with a range of adaptations from text to film, with a goal to plan and film our own. The texts we studied included the 1966 short story *We Can Remember It For You Wholesale* by Phillip K. Dick and the 1990 film adaptation *Total Recall*, *The Raven* by Edgar Allen Poe and its subsequent adaptation in *The Simpsons Treehouse of Horror*, and the children's picture book *Where the Wild Things Are* and the 2009 film of the same name. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, we were unable to film our own adaptations as planned, so students chose a song or short story and created a concept mind map in which they outlined how elements of characterisation, setting and narrative would be executed.

Kristy Wood, Stage 6 English Teacher

HSIE

Stage 5 History

In History this term Stage 5 looked at what life might have been like in 19th century Japan.

Prior to this Japan was a feudal state ruled by shoguns, daimyo and samurai. The people of Japan were not allowed to leave the country and few visitors were allowed in. Dutch traders were allowed into the port at Nagasaki but were restricted to live on the island of Najima.

Following the overthrow of this system Japan went through a period of rapid modernisation and became a country to be reckoned with.

Stage 5 have been creating travel brochures for 19th century Japan, explaining the accommodation, means of travel, foods, culture and places to visit to encourage travellers to visit Japan once the borders were opened.

Sue Tyrrell, Stage 5 HISE Teacher



Student Activities *Continued*

Mathematics

Stage 5 Mathematics - Green

The green maths group have worked very positively this term on the topic Linear Relationships. They were very focussed on an assessment task which asked them to calculate the distance and gradient of ski runs on Mt Kosciusko.

All have been involved with developing fast recall of addition and subtraction facts through the Quicksmart program. It has been very exciting to see their strategies develop and their speed improve.

Sue Tyrrell, Stage 5 Mathematics Teachers

Stage 6 Maths - Year 11

During term two students completed the topic Financial Maths. This involved a series of activities on earning and managing money, as well as budgeting and household expenses. This unit provided students with opportunities to understand how wages are calculated, and some techniques for managing their money when they are working full-time post school. The importance of budgeting, and the need to be careful when considering borrowing money were presented in a real-world context to enable more thorough student understanding. Overall, students demonstrated a good understanding of this topic area in the assessment of an in-class test.

Stage 6 Maths - Year 12 Maths, Standard 2

The more complex area of Standard 2 Mathematics has seen some of our students successfully complete learning in non-right-angle triangles, applying this to practical situations throughout the unit. Further into the term, these students commenced their study of rates and ratios, with a focus on building plans and scale drawings. Students were able to locate their homes using six maps, planning, designing and costing a granny flat to be built in their backyards. This was a complex activity and was very well completed by students.

Brenda McKinnon, Stage 6 Mathematics Teachers

Stage 6 LifeSkills

Students from Year 11 and 12 commenced on a LifeSkills Mathematics program that focused on developing fundamental mathematical skills in the topic area of measurement and applying these effectively in meaningful contexts. Students completed a portfolio of measurements related to their everyday lives, specific to them individually.

Brenda McKinnon, Stage 6 Mathematics Teachers



Student Activities *Continued*

Science

Stage 5 Science

Stage 5 students studied Big Systems during term two Science lessons. As part of the unit of study they learnt about the layers of the Earth, tectonic plate movement, and impact of changes to the Earth's systems. Some of the practical activities included making fossils, modelling magnet striping, and modelling the water cycle in a beaker.

Ann Pretty, Stage 5 Science Teacher

Literacy and Numeracy

In term 2, students really got into the swing of things with the new QuickSmart program. Eight students spent two sessions a week improving their literacy and numeracy skills. They worked on being quicker with their flashcards, critical thinking, and many reported seeing an improvement in their classwork. Well done, everyone!

This term, teachers and CSOs have already begun the next phase of the professional development process, and we look forward to passing on this new understanding to our students.

*Justine Bremmans,
Literacy and Numeracy Teacher*

PROGRESS
OVER
PERFECTION





Student Activities *Continued*

Society and Culture

Stage 6 Society and Culture - Year 11

In term two, Year 11 students began study of the unit Personal and Social Identity. We considered the importance of socialisation in the development of identity and looked closely at each of the agencies of socialisation: family, peers, school and the media. We focused primarily on the role of the family and discussed different family types and birth order characteristics. Using research into birth order characteristics, we wrote a series of open and closed questions for a questionnaire to assess whether we agreed with the research. This unit will be continuing into term three, when students will explore the role of peers, school and the media.

Kirsty Wood, Year 11 Society and Culture Teacher

Stage 6 Society and Culture - Year 12

During term two students began working on their Personal Interest Projects (PIP). Students have chosen a topic of interest and are conducting in depth research into the topic. The topics chosen, include an investigation into racism in Australia, harassment in the workplace, true crime and gender pay inequality in sport. Students are in the planning stage of creating surveys and conducting interviews as part of their primary research methods. In addition to working on the individual project, students completed a unit on inclusion and diversity. This involved using pieces of artwork as the source of inspiration to explore the topic. Students had many insightful discussions sharing their knowledge, thoughts and opinions in a respectful and mature manner.

Michelle Litchfield, Year 12 Society and Culture Teacher

Friday Program

Stage 5 Friday Program

Throughout term two our Friday Program students learnt about the fundamentals of Video Editing. Students downloaded a short video and several images from the internet and then edited this media into a short movie. We used an online App called Clipchamp to include the following in our movies:

- a variety of headings with assorted sizes and types of fonts
- edited video
- a background song and sounds
- edited pictures
- a variety of transitions
- video and picture filters to improve the quality of the movie

Students very quickly developed the skills required to create an edited video and demonstrated excellent creativity and problem-solving skills during the completion of their projects.

Brett Ireland, Friday Program Teacher

Student Activities *Continued*

Design and Technology

Stage 6 Design and Technology

During term two, students have been studying the Factors Affecting Designing and Producing. Students can now identify the importance of why Function and Aesthetics are essential when designing products.

Students completed a Design Profession Case Study, researching what the job involved, further education options and searching for current jobs in this profession. Students are just about to start their Minor Design Project, where they will design, construct and evaluate a design project of their choosing. Students will have the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the design process, use their creativity to identify a solution to a need and develop their practical skills during the completion of this project.

Brett Ireland, Design and Technology Teacher



Examples of Architecture and Landscape designing.

PDHPE

Stage 5 PDHPE

In term two students learnt about the serious health effects and complications of consuming too much sugar. They viewed the documentary 'That Sugar Film' and completed an activity booklet based on the documentary. The assessment task required students to answer a series of questions based on the health information from the documentary. For the practical lesson, students completed an outdoor adventure unit, participating in scavenger hunts around the neighbourhood.

Michelle Litchfield, PDHPE Teacher

Exploring Early Childhood

Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood

Throughout term two students completed a Creative Play unit which involved learning about all the different creative activities Kindergarten students can do to support their growth and development. Students were involved in hands on activities to learn about age-appropriate play, including making playdough and creating collages from natural resources.

Michelle Litchfield, Exploring Early Childhood Teacher

Student Activities *Continued*

SLR

Stage 6 SLR

During term two, Stage 6 completed a variety of outdoor team building activities as part of the Outdoor Adventure unit. After a successful partnership with Livefit in Term One, WRCS invited Damien back to run one lesson each week. Students participated in a range of physical team challenges, league tag, orienteering and hiking at Scenic Hill.

The second practical lesson focused on team games at the park and scavenger hunt challenges around the local community with Brenda and Michelle. As part of the assessment task, students teamed up and competed in a scavenger hunt at Wagga Botanical Gardens and enjoyed a BBQ lunch afterwards.

Students also completed a first aid refresher, focusing on treating minor first aid injuries, including sprains and cuts. Stage 6 are to be commended on how well they worked together to complete all the challenges, the way they support each other and how dedicated and enthusiastic students are each week.

Michelle Litchfield and Brenda McKinnon, SLR Teachers



Wagga Botanical Gardens.





Wellbeing Report

This term, students have worked with Jaz and Kylie during Wellbeing lessons. They have been continuing their study of the Open Parachute program, learning strategies to assist them in managing their health and wellbeing. Our students should be proud of their maturity in these sessions.

Throughout the term, students have been proactively managing their mental health by accessing a range of services, and the school would like to thank these local services for working with us:

- Headspace Griffith
- CAMHS
- Griffith AMS
- Rayma Torresan Counselling
- Linking Communities

Stage 6 were very lucky to travel to Sydney for the Stage 6 Wellbeing excursion where they learnt a range of skills including learning how to use public transport, order and budget for meals and navigate their way around the city. The teaching staff that attended the excursion were very impressed with the positive attitude that our students displayed while they were away.

Our entire school cohort attended Griffith AMS for the Sorry Day flag raising event, we were honoured to be part of the community day.

Jaz and Ann attended a Regional Health Care Forum at the Regional Theatre where community members were given a chance to articulate their concerns regarding local health care issues.



Stage 6 Wellbeing excursion to Sydney



Sorry Day at Griffith AMS



Wellbeing Report *Continued*

In June, Jaz, Ann, Kirsty, Peter, Shakira and Alieria attended an online evening Zoom session where we listened to Thomas Mayor present information on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This was an insightful presentation explaining how the statement from the heart came to fruition, and what we can do to continue the important work.

Stage 6 attended a screening of 'Scattered People' at the Regional Theatre to celebrate Refugee Week. The majority of students were really engaged in the short film, with their teacher being impressed by these students' attitudes throughout the excursion.

Overall, students should be very proud of the way they have represented our school throughout the term.

Jasmine Dossetor, Wellbeing Teacher



'Scattered People' at the Griffith Regional Theatre

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