

Woonona High School

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Bulletin

13th November 2009

16-17 Nov Year 9 Exams

17 Nov	P & C Meeting 6.30-Parent/ Police Liaison Forum
18 Nov	Excellence Assembly
19 Nov	Year 12 Formal
20 Nov	Pizza Day
24 Nov	Year 8 ESSA
1 Dec	Year 6 Orientation
7 Dec – 11 Dec	Years 7, 8, 9 Clearance Days
11 Dec	Year 10 Reports issued
11 Dec	Year 10 Final Assembly
11 Dec	Dec Bulletin due out
14 Dec	Years 7, 8, 9 reports distributed
15 Dec	Annual Presentation Day
16 Dec	Final Day for Students
18 Dec	School closes

Information Evening for Year 7 and 8 parents:

Raising Awareness about Adolescent Issues for Years 7 and 8 eg technology -Cyber bullying texting, legal issues, beach parties etc.

Date: Tuesday 17th November Time 6.30-7.30

Place: Staff Common Room

Guest Speaker: Senior Constable Simone Johnson, School Liaison Officer.

Other staff in attendance: Mrs Marnie Whiddon (Miss Landrigan) - Year 8 adviser, Ms Rhiannon Sharp - Year 7 Adviser, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Whittingham - School Counsellors, Mrs Corderoy - District Guidance Officer, Mrs Pickering - Head teacher Student Services.

We have sent a flyer home to each Year 7 and Year 8 parent this week.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

1. **P&C Meeting Annual General Meeting.**
Tuesday 17th November - Staff Common Room – 7.30pm. This will be preceded at 6:30pm by a

Year 7 and 8 parent forum involving technology and Cyber bullying, texting, legal issues, beach parties etc.

2. **NAPLAN results** – we have received our NAPLAN results for students in Years 7 and 9. Our results indicate a significant improvement across all areas but especially in Numeracy in which we are well above the mean of the Region and the State. I am very pleased with the improvement in Year 9 Writing. The teachers have put a great deal of time and resources into this area of their teaching and it has paid dividends. I am confident that the improvement will continue. Two members of staff will be analysing the results and providing assistance to those students need support to raise their levels of Literacy and Numeracy.
3. We have had 13 **Interactive whiteboards** (IWBs) installed across the school. I have endeavoured to have an IWB put into each faculty area. We now have one of the highest ratios of IWBs in the Region.
4. **Rise in the school leaving age** – from this year any student wishing to leave school must either be 17 years of age or have full time employment or be in formal training. Youth Allowance etc will no longer be available to students under 17.
5. **The Northern Distributor:** The RTA and REED Constructions are hoping to open the new road (southbound) on Sunday 29th November with a community walk. There will be public consultation before this event.
6. **School and Subject Contributions** – Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 are being reminded of contributions not yet paid. School contributions are voluntary but are essential for school operation – parents are requested to pay this “contribution” or send in a note to me seeking exemption. **Subject fees must be paid** as they represent goods made or consumed by students. These must be paid before school concludes for 2009.
7. **Uniform** –Woonona High School has a school uniform which was decided through community consultation several years ago. Indeed, some parts of school uniform are dictated by OH&S regulations (e.g. students must wear covered leather shoes in any practical area of the school viz. Science, Technology, Visual Arts). Other parts of the uniform are ruled by appropriate clothing in the type and style set out in the Uniform Policy. Sports uniform may be worn on Wednesdays but otherwise PE shirts should only be worn for PE lessons. When parents are purchasing uniform for 2009 please consider these regulations. Jo's Dressing Room in Woonona (ph 4283 1933)

and Crystal Bears in Corrimal stock our preferred uniform items. The school P&C in its uniform policy expects students in 2010 to wear black leather shoes. They must cover the top of the foot. Buckle styled shoes will be accepted so long as the shoes cover the top of the foot.

The following shoe styles will be accepted by the school community:



Students MUST NOT wear black soft leather open styled 'Mary Jane' shoes, black fabric shoes or any similar styles to those shown below:



I would like all parents/caregivers to support this policy and make sure that the next pair of shoes purchased for your daughter/son is black leather.

8. **Year 10 Coming Events** – Parents and friends of students in Year 10 are invited to an assembly for the presentation of School Certificates – Friday 11th December commencing at 9.30am. (Students will need to be in school uniform and attend a rehearsal at 8.45am).
9. **Year 11 and the HSC** – students in Year 11 2009 have now commenced their HSC. Assessment tasks given this term will contribute to their HSC mark. Students have been given an Assessment Booklet which includes the rules & regulations for the HSC plus the assessment timetable for this term and the three terms in 2010. I have begun an email group with Year 11 parents to relay information about the HSC. If parents did not receive the information about this they can email me: martin.arrowsmith@det.nsw.edu.au
10. **2010** – Staff return to school Wednesday 27th January. Students in Year 7, 11 and 12 plus new students to Woonona in other years attend school Thursday 28th January. All students at school Friday 29th January.
11. **Year 8 ESSA Test**
On Tuesday 24th November 2009 the Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA), will take place for all Year 8 students in the hall. The test takes approximately 80 minutes. It contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks. It covers work completed by students in Years 7 and 8 Science (Stage 4).
Students will be tested on their:
 - knowledge and understanding of science
 - understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
 - ability to evaluate evidence
 - make judgements and think critically
 - ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas using a variety of strategies.
 Students will be supplied with all necessary equipment. This test is similar to the NAPLAN tests conducted earlier and will be marked externally with results and analysis forwarded to parents.
12. **Enrolments 2010** Any student returning to school in 2010 but will be absent for the first week **MUST** let the school know **THIS YEAR** that they are returning and to keep their enrolment open.

Martin Arrowsmith

Diaries

On the first day back this term all students were issued with a new school diary for Term 4.

These planners are invaluable in helping students to be organised for all lessons, to remind them of assessment tasks and assignments that are due and as a means of communication between parents and teachers.

To gain maximum benefit from these diaries it is essential that they are filled in every period and teachers will be checking to make sure that this is being done.

Homework Centre

The homework centre is open each Tuesday afternoon from the end of period 5 until 4.30pm in the school library. Students can stay for any length of time up to 4.30pm. A Year 12 student and 2 staff members are available to help students with their work. If homework needs to be completed or if an assignment needs to be done or if students need help with any school work please encourage your student to come along and get help. This is very valuable resource that can make a big difference when used.

Mrs Abrahams and Mrs Pickering

Absences /Yearly reports

Have you written a note for the teacher explaining all absences? Absences must be explained promptly and will be recorded as an unjustified absence by the school if after seven days no note has been submitted. Absence explanation notes should be dated, with your child's name and class, the days and dates they were absent, the reason for the absence and be signed by the parent/caregiver. Currently we are in the process of writing yearly reports for all students. On each report there will be a record of all explained and unexplained absences both for whole days and for partial absences. Any partial absence is recorded as a half day absence on our reporting system. Before each report is finalised each student will be issued with a sheet indicating all days absent. If an explanation has been received an S for sick or an L for leave will be written. Please ensure that all absences are explained before reports are issued. Ring Mrs Pickering if you have any concerns.

Mrs Pickering

Head Teacher Student Services

School Captains for 2010

The Woonona High School Captains for 2010 are: Ammy Lewis, Houn Reay (Captains), Lucas Meehan, Lauren Peace (Vice-Captains), Tahleea Pomeroy (Secretary).

LIBRARY

The School Library and the Digital Education Revolution

School Libraries are changing to support and meet the challenges of the Digital Education Revolution. The school library catalogue can now be accessed from any computer with internet access. This means students can access it from home simply by going to the DET Student Portal site and going to "**MY LIBRARY**" link.

There are many excellent resources available from the catalogue. These include:-

1. **Weblinks.**

This database service provides the catalogue with over 10 000 "teacher reviewed" websites updated monthly that can be accessed directly.

2. **Links4learning.**

This site provides students with ready links to carefully selected websites and online resources from Kindergarten to Year 12 as well as [Information skills](#) and [Reference](#) tools.

3. **Reading Lists.**

Resource lists have been provided for Year 12 HSC English showing the related texts for Belonging and Electives that are held in our library.

4. **NSW State Library Database.**

The State Library provides NSW parents and students free access to thousands of online resources and full text articles, relevant to all HSC subject areas, from the convenience of home. The resources include local and international newspapers, journals, magazines, rare books, and literary and film resources – many of which are not freely available online. To gain online access, simply [register for a readers' card](#) on this site.

5. **Inside Break**

Lots of HSC Resources provided by the Northern Beach Libraries of Sydney.

6. **HSC Online**

Excellent resources for the HSC

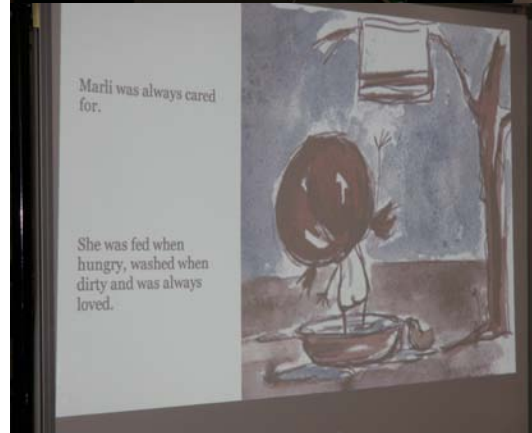
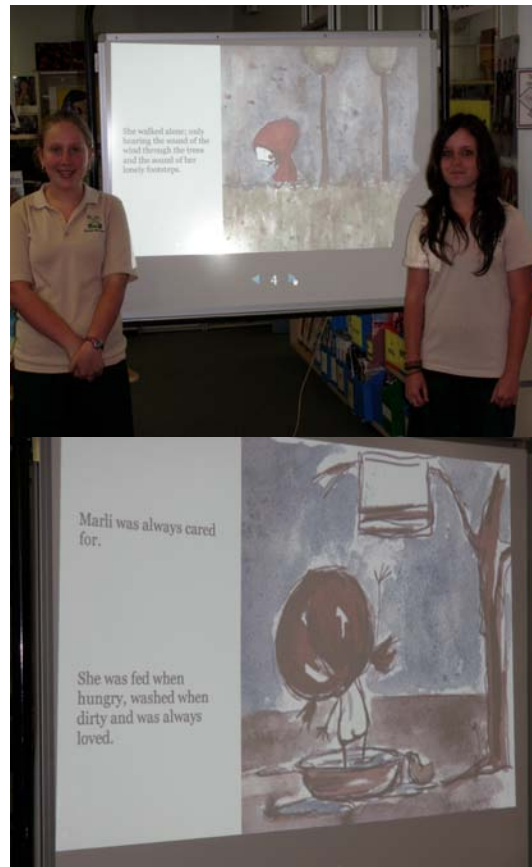
MANGA, ANIME and GRAPHIC NOVEL DISPLAY

Much interest was generated by our Japanese Manga, Anime and Graphic novel display. (Manga are Japanese comic books.) The art in Manga books has a very definite look to it and is characterised by black and white pictures featuring characters with exaggerated features. Anime is a branch of Manga that contains coloured illustrations. Both these type of books are becoming extremely popular amongst teenage readers. We have recently purchased a large number of these books to add to our collection. Titles include Dragon Ball Z, Wiki Falls, Tales from the Crypt and many more.



STORYBIRD

Recently Ms Green's 7Y English class proved that they were more than capable of meeting the challenges of the Digital Education Revolution when they produced some outstanding work in the library using the online digital tool called Storybird to create a collection of E - Picture books. Storybirds are short, visual stories that you make with family and friends to share with others. Emilee Turcato, Amber Burden- Hill and Jessica Cotterill created the fabulous picture book below called "The Orphan".



Mrs Roddis – Teacher Librarian