



I am pleased to report that the students have made a terrific start to term two. Most parents and students took the opportunity to meet on the last Thursday of term for Parent Teacher interviews. It is worth noting that these were our best ever attended and parents

continue to express their appreciation of the model that requires students to attend the college with their parents for their interviews. Likewise staff acknowledge that the quality of the interviews has improved with a longer period to discuss progress with parents.

Term two will be a very busy time for our senior students with VCE exams and the GAT for Year 12 students and exams for Year 10 and 11 also occurring at the end of term.

Assemblies were held last week to reiterate the college's policies in relation to uniform, attendance, and completion of work requirements. The purpose of this was to again reinforce to students our expectations of them at our college.

Annual report

The college's annual report has been presented to college council. This is an accountability requirement of DOE and is available to all members of the college community. The report details our progress and achievements over the last twelve months and our strategic plan for the next twelve months. A summary document will be prepared for all parents and distributed and a full copy is available on our website at www.westernportsc.vic.edu.au

Arts Centre Project

We have received approval for the lining and soundproofing of the Gymnasium and possible repair of the internal seating. The total project cost is \$146,000. A consultant has been appointed to assist the college with this project

Major Building Projects

Prior to the school holidays the final inspection and practical completion for the Arts and Technology wings was completed. The college now has "official" possession and the builders have left the site.

As well as the construction of a new Gym and Home Economics wing, we are seeking to have all the existing toilet blocks replaced. It is expected that we will know whether this project has been approved by May.

College Development and Projectors

An enormous amount of development work was undertaken over the holidays with many rooms having white boards or pin boards installed, walls painted and data projectors installed. This was completed to enhance the learning environment for the students in classrooms.

Curriculum award

Ms. Lewis entered the college in the statewide curriculum awards during term one for our Kitchen Garden and Outdoor Classroom. We were pleasantly surprised and delighted to be short listed down to the last three schools for this prestigious \$20,000 award. The selection panel interviewed Ms Lewis, Ms. Sheridan, and Mrs Bracher on Monday April 23rd in Melbourne. The announcement will be made at the start of May.

Professional Development Day

The college has a professional development day scheduled for all staff, both teaching, and non-teaching, on Friday May 4th. The full day workshop is on "Understanding People" that has been run with great success in the majority of Mornington Peninsula schools over the last 12 months.

This day is being held as a pre-cursor to the college review of the Student Welfare and Discipline policy in term three.

Monash project and VCE

Monash University have included Western Port Secondary College in the Access Monash Program for 2007. This includes access to Monash University for a range of pre-tertiary programs, access to revision lectures, free tutoring for our Year 12 students, a HECS free scholarship place and a number of other activities. Our Year 12 students have already accessed a number of these programs during term one and term two. This is a further strategy in our improvement in VCE goal as outlined in the Strategic Plan

Staffing

Mr. Grant Mathews has taken a further period of long service leave during term two and will continue to be replaced by Ms Katie Burgess.

*Simon Hamilton
Principal*

IMPORTANT DATES

May	
4	PD Day No students at school
10	Y10 Mock Interviews
15	PSD Activity Day
18-25	Y10 Qld Camp/Work Experience
June	
5	Yr12 TIS excursion Grade 5 Discovery Day
6	Y10 Beacon Charter Signing
11	Queens Birthday No School
12	Y11 & 12 Exams start
14	GAT
15	Report Writing Day
18-20	Y10 Exams
28	Report Distribution
29	Last Day Term 2

Assistant Principals' Notes



SENIOR SCHOOL: The issue of work and school is always a complex one for students and family. Many VCE students have a part time work position. Occasionally we have students who ask for time off school to work. We do not encourage this, there needs to be a fine balance in the work load of a senior student and this includes managing their time to allow for all of their interests including work and school activities. In the diary, there is a timetable for managing your time or you can design your own. The use of a diary encourages better organisation and is a life long skill. Please encourage your child to purchase a diary if they have not yet done so. Use the diary to plan the day and week. Include work commitments, school work and study times.

UNIFORM: New Blazers are now available for students. The College Captains are now wearing them but others may order blazers after being measured. I am generally pleased with the uniform in the senior school. A reminder that this is the last year of the white top. After this year students may choose to wear the white business shirt or green top. Yr 12 students are to always set the example to others and remain in full uniform for the year. Please make sure your supplies will last.

MONASH TUTORS: Monash University is offering free tutors to our Yr12 students. This is an amazing offer. Please encourage your student to use the system and register with Ms Rule asap. Monash will also be subsidising Revision Lectures later in the year. We are very pleased to see this union with Monash Uni growing. I would encourage all students to consider taking courses at Monash in the future.

PERIOD 5: Many students are now using the extra period in the senior school for extra homework and study. Students are finding it easier to stay and study than try to 're start' at home later in the evening. Please feel free to join in! Tutoring is available

EXAMS: The term will end with the usual exams for all Year 10 to 12 students. Now is the time to start studying!

JAPANESE VISIT: Kimitsu Education Network from Japan will be visiting the school for ten days in July. Many families have had a wonderful experience from this visit. If you would like to be part of the program please see Thuy Ta or Jill Mathers
Kym Bridgford

IMMUNISATIONS



Advance notice to parents that all girls in years 7, 10, 11 and 12 will be receiving the Gardasil vaccine that prevents cervical cancer. There are 3 doses and the dates for these are:

Tuesday 29th May

Tuesday 26th June

Tuesday 18th September

Girls in years 8 and 9 will receive the vaccination in 2008.

All students in year 10 will receive their Boostrix immunisation on Tuesday 26th June.

All year 7 students will receive their second Hep B immunisation on Tuesday 18th September.

Immunisation cards for Boostrix and Gardasil will be distributed in May. If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team on 5950 1647.

Hannah Lewis



Making decisions is a skill that can be developed. A quote that parents and teachers need to keep in mind is: "No matter how tempting, it is a really bad idea to make decisions that are not yours to make."

In other words, teenagers need to develop their skills to make their own decisions; Subject Choice decisions, Social decisions etc. Teenagers need to remember that "It is the decisions they make not the hances they take determine their destiny."

Although well-meaning parents and teachers are on hand to provide suggestions and offer advice, it all boils down to whether the young person is good at making decisions. A good check is to see if there is a system in place to weigh alternatives and choose with confidence. Here are four steps that may enhance the decision-making processes.

1. Define the decision that needs to be made.
2. List the alternatives
3. Do the pros and cons for each on a piece of paper
4. Visualise the outcomes of each alternative.

Decision-making is about choosing from various alternatives, not making a choice between right and wrong. Choosing the right alternative at the wrong time is no better than the wrong alternative at the right time, so ensure that there is adequate time to do the research before making a decision. Following the four steps will assist young people make the best decision at a given point in time, as well as provide a structure to guide decisions can be approached in the future.

"The hardest thing in life is to know which bridge to cross"

Mike Brinkman

Middle School Report

The Middle School has continued to be very busy this year. The Year 7 students have been settling into their classes quite well and the adjustment to the new system of having a range of teachers and changing rooms is proceeding smoothly. In Footprints classes they have been doing a lot of 'getting to know you' activities and we are now starting on a program called 'Habits of Mind'. This program is based around thinking skills and trains them in a number of areas which are useful both at school and in life skills includes persistence, listening carefully, being prepared to try new things, finding humour when things go wrong and managing their impulses. We are asking all the Year 7 students to be careful and thoughtful in the way they deal with their classmates and the way they speak to them, what seems like a joke can be very hurtful to someone else and can cause conflict.

The Year 8 students are receiving the benefits of the new structure that was started last year. Most of their teachers have moved up with them from Year 7 and we have kept most of their rooms the same. This has meant less organisational upheaval and teachers already know their students well which has greatly assisted the start to the year.

Year 9 students have also had the benefit of their Year 8 Footprint teachers moving up with them and have experienced similar advantages. They are coping well with the system of electives and are enjoying the challenge that this program provides. We would ask all parents and students in the program to check and ensure they have paid for their Semester One electives so the teachers can deliver the promised program.

There are a couple of important themes we have been stressing to the students. It is very important that all students feel safe and comfortable at school and that no student adversely effects the educational opportunities of another student by way of their classroom behaviour. I would be grateful if you could reinforce these principles to your son or daughter. We have also been encouraging students to get involved in the large range of activities that the college offers. These are advertised daily on the bulletin and offer pretty much something for everyone. We also have staff offering free maths tutoring after school on a Monday.

Mr Greg Reed
Middle Years Manager



E.M.A.

cheques now available from
General Office



PUPIL FREE DAY

Friday 4th May will be a
pupil free day.

Senior School Report

Uniform Policy

Now that the weather is starting to get colder the issue of students wearing the correct uniform becomes increasingly difficult to police. Senior School students have recently been briefed on what is acceptable to wear and we would ask that you help us to enforce our policy. If for whatever reason a student needs to be out of uniform they require a signed note from home, otherwise they can expect a lunchtime detention. Failure to attend this detention will result in an after-school detention and a phone call home to inform parents. A reminder that the uniform shop at school stocks all the acceptable clothing and is open Monday and Wednesday's.

Academic Progress Reports

Senior School teachers will be asked to report on students academic progress in week 4 of this term. If a student is at risk of failing a subject, teachers will report this to me, I will then pass on this information to parents in the form of a letter home. This process has been put in place to assist students who are falling behind and to give them the opportunity to catch up on work before their final assessment. The Senior School run period 5 classes (after-school) for those students who either want to catch-up or get ahead with their studies.

Mr. Smart.



INVITATION

Western Port Secondary College

in conjunction with

Beacon Foundation

and

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Charter Signing Ceremony

For year 10 students

“Bright Futures – No Dole”

**To be held on 6th June 2007, 11:30am,
WPSC Arts Centre**

The “Bright Futures – No Dole” program is a highly successful schools program, spreading rapidly across Australian business communities, offering a wide range of options for supporting school leavers into the workplace.

The program encourages business support – rather than money or promise of jobs – and there are many ways you can be involved.

Please attend - you can make a difference!

Parents and Friends

Monday 16th's meeting was a buzz of excitement, with the first funds starting to roll in for the new Entertainment Area that our group is going to be building. Thanks mainly to our parents who are Community Benefits Card holders, as well as the Open Night attendees who happily purchased refreshments at the BBQ.

There is certainly a long way to go in achieving our Entertainment Area goal. We are focusing on two great fundraising opportunities that you and your family will be able to benefit from also.

UP AND COMING EVENTS:

- **Saturday 26th May: Family Portraits (Please see the back page of this newsletter)**
- **July fashion parade of our local business's fashions (TBA), at the Hasting's Marina.**

Beacon Breakfast



FOUNDATION

On Thursday, 8th March Western Port Secondary College in conjunction with Beacon Foundation and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council hosted a Business Breakfast to celebrate the "Bright Futures – No Dole" Program at the College.

This enabled close to 100 members of Business and Education Communities to forge closer links which will benefit our young people at the College.

Speakers included Mrs. Barbara Bridger - BlueScope Steel Ltd., Bill Lawson-Founder of the Beacon Foundation and SKM and Dr. Michael Kennedy, MPSC. Guest enjoyed a scrumptious breakfast during the celebrations at the Hastings Cricket & Football Social Club.



At the conclusion of the morning Mr. Simon Hamilton College Principal spoke about the Beacon Foundation pledges that guests could offer support in a variety of ways to assist the students at the College to a Brighter Future.



**Gina Mathers
Beacon/Pathways
Assistant**

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Your School is
NOW Online!

Now you can purchase
all your child's uniform
without leaving home!!

Visit our website
and follow these easy steps...

1. Click on 'For Parents, Let's Go Shopping'
2. Select your school
3. View your uniform and price list or place your order by selecting: **ORDER NOW**
4. Garments will be delivered directly to your school on the next uniform day.

You can also print off the order
form and drop it into your shop on
campus. Our uniform co-ordinators
will ensure you receive excellent
service and assistance.

It is quick and easy!!



Primary
Schoolwear

Shred Unwanted Documents

With even the cheapest of office shredding machines you can shred private and surplus paper documents. Shredded paper makes perfect mulch for the gardens, decomposes quick and easy in compost bins, provides an excellent way of protecting valuables in transportation, and also makes great lining for pet cages.



Desk Top Publishing
Yr 9 Elective

Equestrian Club

Saturday 24th March saw the annual Flinders College Combined Training and Dressage Competition held at the Hastings Pony Club Grounds. Stephanie Comfort flew the flag for Western Port Secondary College, as she is our only representative. Steph obtained outstanding results and came equal first in the Combined Training as well as equal first in the Dressage competition.

It was a terrific achievement for Stephanie and she is a great ambassador for the WPSC Equestrian Club. Hopefully due to the initiation of the Equestrian Club we will have a few more participants at the next competition.

The Equestrian Club is open to all who are interested and meets during Friday Lunchtimes.

Miss Hodgins

Sports News

Junior Tennis

Seven girls and five boys made the rip to Rosebud Tennis courts to take on students from Mt Eliza, Mornington, Dromana and Rosebud Secondary Colleges. ???? and ????? were the most successful of the girls whilst ???? and ????? were the 'standouts' for the boys team. The boys came in fourth and the girls third. We hope to do at least one better next year. Congratulations to ?????????????, for their efforts and excellent sportsmanship and ?????, for the way they kept at it for the whole day. Well done.

Tim Ward

Girls Cricket

The Year 8 girls cricket team played two games in a friendly and sporting manner. The first game was against a well practised Dromana Team. Dromana had two fast bowlers who made scoring runs difficult. Dromana won quite convincingly in the end.

The second game against Mornington was more even and in the end Western Port lost by 5 runs.

Great effort girls!!!!

Southern Zone Lawn Bowls Championships

The Southern Zone Lawn Bowls Championships was held on Tuesday March 27th at Hastings Bowling Club with Western Port Secondary College to play Cheltenham Secondary College for a position in the State Finals. The team consisted of **Natalie Parkinson, Paul Smith, Brad Arnold and Dylan Benwell**. The



competition was a two bowl triples by 18 ends. After 17 ends with only one end to play the scores were WPSC 15 to Cheltenham 9. Cheltenham fought back courageously to win 3 shots but not enough to beat

WPSC with the final scores 15 to 12. It was a well fought final between two top teams with some excellent bowling been displayed. Thanks to George Bartley, Gordon Ross, Geoff Hooper and the Hastings Bowling Club for their support and organisation.

Western Port will compete in the State Finals at Melbourne Bowling Club on Thursday April 26th.

District Swimming Carnival

On Friday March 23rd the interschool swimming team competed at the combined swimming carnival at Pines Forest pool. Over the course of the day a number of students swam well beyond what was asked. These students deserve as much credit as our ribbon place getters. Each year the team is increasing its number of ribbon holders. All students performed to their personal best times but were outclassed by a stronger well-trained opposition. Thanks to staff, parents and students for their support. Overall Western Port came fourth, a great team effort.

Stephanie Long - U/15 Freestyle will progress to the Southern Zone Carnival on Tuesday April 17th at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Placegetters:

Melissa 3rd U/17 Breaststroke, 2nd Freestyle

Stephanie 3rd U/15 Breaststroke and Backstroke, 2nd U/15 200m Freestyle

Chris 2nd U/21 Breaststroke, 3rd Butterfly, 3rd 50m Freestyle, 3rd Backstroke

Jake 2nd U/13 Freestyle, 3rd Backstroke

Roxy 3rd U/21 100m Freestyle

Davydd 3rd U/16 Backstroke

Jacob 3rd U/13 Butterfly

Adrienne 3rd U/17 Butterfly, 3rd 100m Freestyle

3rd Girls U/15 Freestyle relay

Relay members **Stephanie , Emily , Zarli , Eliza**

3rd Girls U/21 Medley relay

Relay members **Adrienne, Holly, Roxy, Melissa**

3rd Girls U/21 Freestyle relay

Relay members **Jacinta, Abbey, Roxy , Marlee**

3rd Boys U/16 Freestyle relay

Relay members **Steven, Jack , Davyyd, Joshua**

3rd Boys U/21 Freestyle relay

Relay members **Chris, Anthony, Nathan, Kane**

Ever wanted to be a really good swimmer?

Well, now you can. All you need to do is join the WPSC swim squad.

What is it you might be asking?

The squad will involve one morning a week at Pelican Park (7am start) and one lunch time per week training in the gym. The squad will focus on technique and stroke development as well as improving your speed and endurance in the water.



What could be more fun than this? All for only \$15 per term (paid up front) and \$2 per session at the pool each week.

If you are interested, come and see Ms Brabham to put your name down.



Ride2School

Western Port Secondary College has been one of four secondary schools within Victoria selected by Bicycle Victoria to be a Model School in the Ride2School Program for 2007.

College students have recently formed a cycling group, Western Port Wheelies who assisted with the organisation of activities for the Ride2school Day last Wednesday. Any student who rode, scootered or walked to school were entered into a prize draw for bicycle accessories. While the more adventurous students took on a speed trial over 15 mtrs, others tackled the slowest time trial over 15 mtrs. Many participated in a beep fitness test during lunch time while others registered for Bike Paths Discovery Day Passport which outlines fantastic Bike tracks within the Melbourne area.

Careers News

Please encourage your child to seek information about courses and career pathways in the senior study room. All information is posted up in the room.

WANT TO STUDY OVERSEAS? Many universities have exchange agreements with overseas universities where you can arrange to complete part of your degree. Some of the **exchange countries involved** are: Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Sweden, UK and USA. **For more information see:** www.services.unimelb.edu.au/exchanges/ or email exchange-out@unimelb.edu.au. **Monash University** has over 100 partners – see www.monash.edu.au/students/studyabroad/; **La Trobe University** has over 80 partners: see www.latrobe.edu.au/international/exchange/partners.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS AT MONASH – During the first half of the year Monash has a number of information evenings for parents of prospective students in regional areas. Find out about university life, moving away from home and so on. There will be a session at the Clayton campus as well. **Dates and info:** ph 9905 1320 or www.monash.edu.au/study/parents.

Valuables

Students should ensure that all of their articles are named and clearly marked as their's. Valuables should never be left in the Gym Change rooms. The college takes no responsibility for valuable items left at school. Mobile phones should not be brought to the college. If a student does so it is as their own risk. Scooters, skateboards etc are NEVER to be ridden on the college grounds. They should not be brought to school either as they are often valuable items. Once again the college takes no responsibility for their care.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BITTERN SUNDAY MARKET

Every Sunday 8am—1pm Bittern Railway Carpark

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY HOUSE

Tutoring: We are offering tutoring in English and Psychology including V.C.E / VCAL, in 4 week blocks \$20.00 per block. That makes it only \$5.00 per week. If enough interest is shown we will try and provide other subjects. Tuesday 6.00-7.00

DRAMA: Classes are starting soon, it's a great way to get into acting company's \$3.00 per class Thursday nights.

Dancing: and movement to commence soon \$3.00 per class, Thursday nights.

Form your own Group: If you have always wanted to form your own group or workshop why not come to us and discuss your ideas. We have plenty of room why not make use of the community house. For more information on any of the above please contact Carol ph: 59 79 7600.

Mobile 0419 370 641 or c.vercoe@goodshepvic.org.au

TENNIS COACHING TYABB

Travis Williams 0407 541 083

Email: travisw@toorakc.vic.edu.au

Asthma in Schools

Asthma affects up to one in seven teenagers. Asthma is a condition that affects the air tubes of the lungs. In a person with asthma, the air tubes are more sensitive than normal. When the sensitive air tubes are exposed to a "trigger factor" they overreact, resulting in an asthma attack. A variety of different trigger factors may lead to an asthma attack (for example, colds/flu/chest infections, exercise, pollens, dust, dust mites, temperature change, or cigarette smoke) and triggers vary from person to person.

The Victorian Schools Asthma Policy states that every student with asthma attending the college should have a written "Asthma Action Plan". This plan should be updated each year and preferably completed by the student's doctor in consultation with the student's parent/guardian. Parents/guardians are encouraged to inform the school of the asthma management plan approaches for their child. A form is available at the office for those students who need to update their management plan.

The College assists students who may be having difficulty dealing with their asthma at school. The College Nurse is available for education and support confidentially. Please discuss your Childs Asthma Action Plan with them and encourage them to carry their Ventolin on them at school. First Aid is available in the event of an asthma attack utilising our current College Emergency First Aid Policy. The Dept of Education in collaboration with Asthma Victoria mandates this policy.

Robyn Minty
College Health Nurse



Shave For A Cure

Thank you to all those who donated money for the Leukaemia Foundation or got their hair colour sprayed last month. Thank you to the students who still went through with getting their head shaved on the day even though we didn't reach our \$1,000 bid, we raised just under \$400. A special thank you to Katrina Attwood for coming in at lunchtime and shaving the heads of the students.

SLC

HPV WONTHAGGI

In 2007 the WPSC HPV team has three teams the Yr 7-8 junior team Joey, Yr 9-10 middle school team Skippy and the Yr 11-12 senior team Superoo. Similar to the Maryborough 24hr event Wonthaggi is held over 3 days and consists of pre race scrutineering of the bikes and the 24 hour endurance race. Like the formula 1 race cars our trikes are scrutineered on safety including; head lights, seat belts, turning circle, horn, brakes, safety of the rider within the trike and a timed rider escape which mustn't exceed 6 seconds. All riders also must have approved helmets, gloves, riding wear and shoes.

The race commenced at 1pm on Saturday afternoon and continued through to Sunday 12pm (because of daylight savings) the teams continuously raced around the 1.4km track and all three trikes managed to complete the race despite each trike having a few significant problems along the way. All riders put in an amazing effort especially all of our first timers, some of who, hadn't even been in the trikes before they got to do their time trials. Well done to all of the teams for their efforts and achievements and we look ahead to our next meet at Maryborough in November later this year.

Without the assistance of the parents who come to training every week and support their students at the event the team really couldn't exist. We would like to say a very special thank-you to every one who has assisted the team this year with the running of HPV. You really do make a difference. Also a thank-you to all of the team sponsors and companies who have made donations to the team. Your support is appreciated. The HPV team at WPSC wishes to thank all of its supporters and sponsors

We are currently looking for sponsors for our HPV teams If you are interested and can help by making a donation or sponsoring the WPSC HPV team please contact either Christine Gorman or Robyn Stephenson at the college on 59791577.

WPSC Parents and Friends Association



Saturday 26th May 2007

At the College's Community Band Room from 10:00am onwards, you and your family will be able to have your family portrait taken by:

[DESKENNEDY / PHOTOFINISH](#)



A \$10 booking fee paid prior to the day, to the College, will enable you and your family to receive a 10in by 13in photo of the occasion. Please note that an adult must be in the \$10 portrait.

From this photo sitting, families will be able to order a range of family portrait packages, ranging between \$45 - \$160.

Please contact the PFA President Ms Kaye Dawkins, to make your appointment time on 5983 6068.