

Calendar

Term 1:

Monday 26th March - Year 8 Volleyball

Thursday 29th March - Year 12 VCD Top Designs Excursion

Thursday 29th March - End of Term 1

Term 2:

Monday 16th April - Student Free Day

Tuesday 17th April - Start of Term 2

Newsletter

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WILLIAM RUTHVEN
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Issue 1

March 2018

Term Dates:

Term 1: Tuesday 30th January - Thursday 29th March

Term 2: Tuesday 17th April - Friday 29th June

Term 3: Monday 16th July - Friday 21st September

Term 4: Monday 8th October - Friday 21st December



Dear Parents and carers,

Term 1 has flown by much too quickly! I apologise for the fact that this is our first newsletter for the year. We have had a major re-arrangement of our office staff, and we continue to work through our processes. Next term we will settle in to the usual process of publishing newsletters on a monthly basis, and we will be hoping to move to this being an electronic publication. We will keep you informed as things progress.

It has been a very busy term at our college. We welcomed new students and families to our community and in particular welcomed Year 7 students to their first year in secondary college. They have settled in particularly well, and their term has culminated in a camp which will consolidate their year level cohesiveness. Likewise our Year 12 students have begun their final year at school with a positive attitude to learning. Our teachers are well aware of the rigours required for students to achieve their personal best, and provide them with additional support and encouragement. However, the onus is on each student to work to their capacity, and spend their time productively both at school and at home. Of course, this same attitude applies to students across the school; having a learning attitude is paramount to success, and coming to school "learning ready" will ensure success.

As a college community we also acknowledge new and returning staff in 2018; you will also be aware that Mr Paul Johnson has continued his secondment as Acting Principal at Watsonia Primary School for the term 1.

You will have undoubtedly noted that our buildings are well underway, and that they are now beginning to take shape. Staff and students are working hard to prepare themselves for learning in new spaces, and we look forward to providing our community with a first class educational facility of which they can be proud. Here is a photo of the buildings so far taken from a drone late February:



students and the excellent way in which they conducted themselves. These events are really important in the cultural life of our college, and I encourage you to support your child/children to participate in all the varying opportunities with which they are presented during the school year.

It is always pleasing to see the number of parents and students who participate in our parent/teacher evenings. This connection with your child's learning is important and we encourage you to continue to work with us to ensure that they have every chance to succeed. If you were unable to attend, we encourage you to contact your child's teachers and arrange a telephone interview to check on their progress. Staff are always willing to provide feedback in order to enhance learning.

We have been very pleased with the response for membership of School Council this year. Council is a strong component of the governance of all schools. Following the School Council election period, we are able to advise the composition of the 2018 School Council as follows:

Michael Grogan	Community representative
Tamara Parkes	Parent representative
Ange Kalaitis	Parent representative
Rachael Scott	Parent representative
Jo Conte	Parent representative
Cathy Mathews	Parent representative
Tassia Kompogiorgas	Parent representative
Andrew Elborough	DET representative
Trevor Thomas	DET representative
Judi Benney	Executive Officer & DET representative
Elizabeth Lukovska	In Attendance

We are extremely grateful to our School Council members for their willingness to commit to the college. Later this year students will also be inducted as voting members of School Council, and we look forward to this addition. It has always been our practice to invite our College Captains to report at all meetings, and their formal addition as voting members will add further value to our membership.



Students successfully get their Level 2 First Aid!

As we head into the term break, we remind you that the first day back for students will be

Tuesday April 17th, as we have a pupil-free day on Monday April 16th. Staff will be undertaking professional learning to improve their capacity as educational leaders in our school community on this day. A further reminder of the need to access College information via Compass and our "Skoolbag" app if you are not currently doing this. Should you need assistance with log-ons, log-ins, passwords or downloads, please don't hesitate to call us at the school.

Thank you as always for your support of our college. We look forward to seeing you in Term 2.

Judi Benney

Principal

Andrew Elborough

Assistant Principal

SkoolBag

This term, in a new elective call '**First Aid & Disease**', students have been learning all about first aid procedures & the different diseases that impact Australians. To pass this elective, students had to complete a 6-hour training course ran by an external presenter from **Young Hearts**.

It was a long and challenging training session, but it was well worth it as 26 students have now obtained their **First Aid certificate HLTAID003** (previously referred to as Level 2).

Congratulations to the 9/10 'AID' class this will look awesome on your resume and you never know when you may need to act and save a life.

Ms Saxton



Top Ten Words

At William Ruthven we are working towards building strong vocabularies in our general conversation as well as in all of our curriculum areas. In each newsletter you will find a list of 'Top Ten Words.' You might use these at home or make your own top ten list. Place the list on the fridge or another place visible to everyone.

What should we do with this list of words?

- Use the list words in your conversations
- find the meanings
- ask friends and family if they know the meaning of the words
- Play 'Which word am I?' by giving clues
- test each other to spell the words

cross off or tick words which have been used- add words to the list as words are crossed off.

This weeks words are:

[agonizing](#), [acute](#), [intense](#), [exhilarating](#), [savage](#), [piercing](#), [stabbing](#), [raging](#), [harrowing](#), [tormenting](#)

If you have any favourite words you would like to contribute, please send them to school and I will add them to our next list. Have fun building your vocabulary!

*Please note there will be a small reward for any student who can pick the odd word from this first list. Please come to the Learning Centre on Tuesday morning to see me with the 'odd word' and an explanation for your decision.

Maureen Kovacevic

A Healthy start for Year 7 students at WRSC

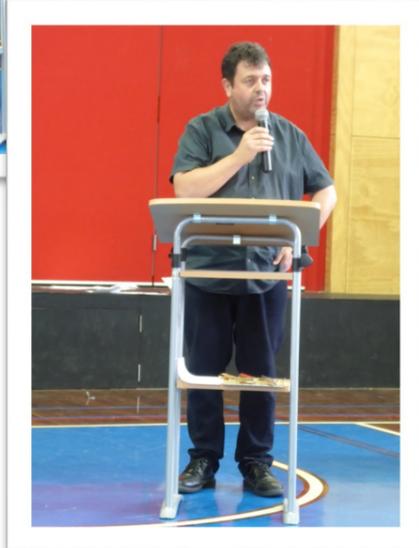
Settling into a new school has its challenges for year 7 students, but the William Ruthven program works to help students to make that transition. In Inquiry, as well as having activities and discussion that helps students in developing healthy relationships with others in the school community, the students have been learning about the importance of a healthy breakfast as a way of starting every school day.

The year 7 students have been learning how to cook up a tasty and easy healthy breakfast by making sweet and savoury muffins.

Year 7C and Ms Leptos



SRC Assembly



New Middle School electives expand student choices

Combining the year 9 and 10 students in the Middle School Elective Program has allowed WRSC to offer a much larger range of both term and semester electives in all areas of the curriculum.

Digital Art is one of the new electives designed to both skill students in a wide range of new software, as well as give students the opportunity to design and assess their own learning tasks.

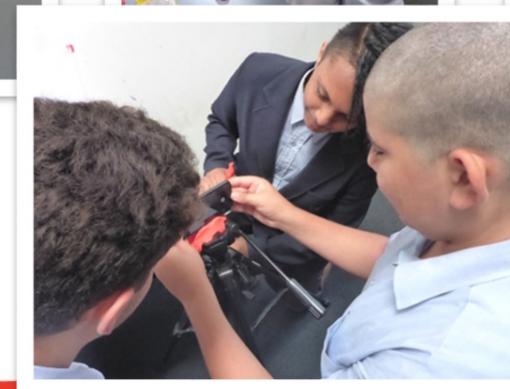
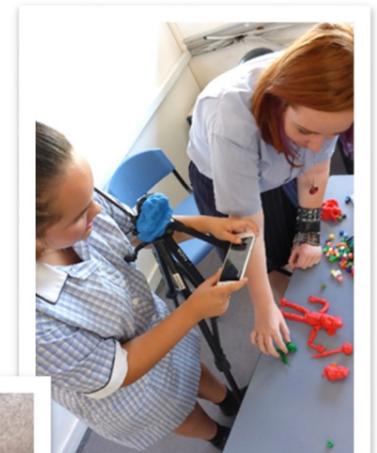
In Digital Art, students have made their own meme in Photoshop. They then produced their own psychedelic Pop Art portraits in Adobe Illustrator. Their latest foray into the world of digital art sees them making their own stop motion films in Movie Maker.

While some students have opted for making their own characters out of play doh, others have used Lego, line drawings, or collage.

It's been a great opportunity for students to develop their communication and cooperation skills, as well as use the diverse skills within the group to develop a storyline, make the characters and set, and photograph the hundreds of images they will need to seam together to make their film.

Future projects will see students learning how to do basic coding and cartooning.

Lillian Leptos



Year 9 PEEL Excursion - Article

On Wednesday 7th February, the Year 9 students ventured on an excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and took part in the Koorie Heritage Trust Indigenous walk, to learn more about Aboriginal Indigenous cultures and Australian identity.

Students discovered an innumerable amount of Australia's rich Indigenous history, linking the past to modern day Melbourne.

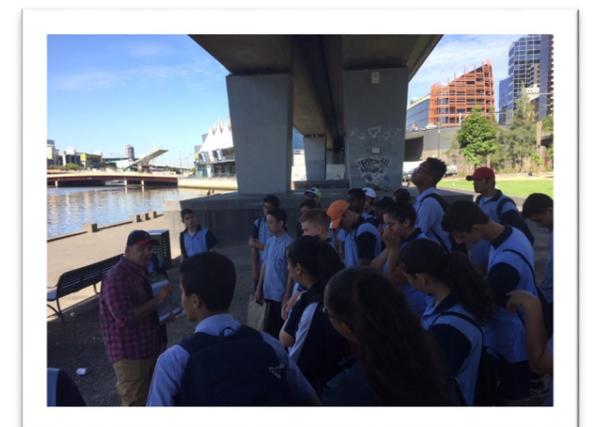
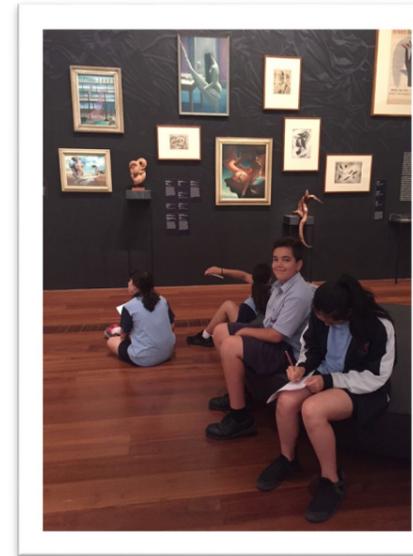
We explored the common and well-known streets of Melbourne's CBD with a new perspective. To continue our topic on Australian identity, we were challenged to look beyond the concrete buildings, and investigate thousands of years of history. The city became more to us than just the modern architecture that stood tall. The site the sacred sites where generations of Indigenous Australians had once called home, where they lived off of the land and its natural resources.

With the assistance of our tour guide, Dean Stewart, we learned about the development of Melbourne. We had the opportunity to visit and stand on some of the many sacred Indigenous sights and discuss the importance of not only remembering them but also conserving these places. We learnt about the discovery of Australia and the naming of our many well-known monuments and suburbs throughout Melbourne. We discussed the lives of Indigenous people and how they differ from our own and their traditions which define them as Indigenous.

Exploring Indigenous culture further, we attended the 'National Gallery of Victoria' where we viewed exhibitions of Indigenous art and learned about the individual meanings of each piece. Comparing traditional and modern works. The year 9 excursion was a success and contributed a lot of new information to Australian Identity. - Alana, 9B

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the day; walking through Southbank and along the Yarra River, to see how unique and sacred this place really is, as well as learning how we can all contribute to preserving and acknowledging our rich Australian identity.

The PEEL Team



The wellbeing journey continues for year 7 students in Inquiry

The college wellbeing staff, Hailey and Deanna organised a wonderful series of workshops for the year 7 Inquiry students. The day began with an introduction to mental health and its link to general wellbeing.

The students then circulated through the three workshops. The first, run by Alison from the YMCA worked through a short course on yoga. The students learnt how to be “present in the moment” and how to connect physical environment with breath.

The second workshop focussed on Mindfulness and the activities were designed to illustrate how being present in the moment can clear your mind and help you focus on one specific task.

The third workshop was about self-care, physically, mentally and emotionally. It encouraged students to think objectively about what they are currently doing to look after their bodies and minds. They then went on to identify areas of self-care that they can improve on in their own lives.

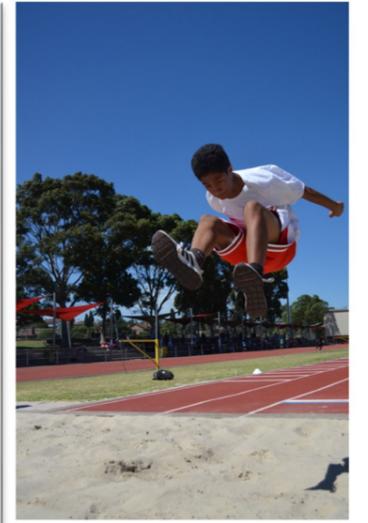
Ms Kourabas, Ms Hartley, Ms Leptos



Athletics Carnival Photos



Athletics Carnival Photos



VCAL fit for life

The WRSC VCAL course works to make our senior students fit for a successful life beyond the school gate. As well as developing students' literacy, numeracy and work-related skills, the learning activities are designed to prepare students for the freedoms and challenges they will face once school rules and close parental supervision are a thing of the past.

Students in VCAL literacy have been reading and discussing a variety of risk-taking behaviours and their consequences. VCAL's Nineph and Tori stepped up to organize a guest speaker for the class from Spinchat, a community organization that seeks to raise awareness, promote prevention and educate secondary school students about spinal cord injury. Our VCAL students had to negotiate a speaker, organize a venue and check that audio-visual equipment was functional.

Our students listened to Joel Housey, a double gold medal Paralympian, with a spinal cord injury, whose car accident shortly after his 18th birthday, nearly killed him. Even though he survived, the accident forever changed his life. The accident that left Joel in a wheelchair did not involve speed, drugs or a drunken driver, but instead, three loud mates who had been drinking and managed to distract the inexperienced driver who lost control of the car. The rest was history.

Resilient and determined to make the best of his life, Joel worked hard to carve out a career for himself as a top athlete, but he would give up the medals, the overseas trips for competitions and all the accolades to get back the use of his legs and his old life.

Year 12 VCAL students and their guests, 7A students, formed a respectful audience for Joel's presentation. They asked some wonderful questions and for the first time in their lives, got to handle a gold Olympic medal.

Joel's talk was very inspirational. There were lots of messages there. For Bonnie Baddock, Joel "warned us not to drink, get silly and distract drivers". For Sienna Scarpa there was also the message that "even in your darkest hour there is light if you look for it"

Lillian Leptos and Joe Mazzeo

