



Lyrebird

totem of the Tharawal people

Principal's Message

At the beginning of this term, Wollondilly experienced a bit of a scare and a significant interruption to normal life with Covid-19. Given these community outbreaks and what the government are finding across the east coast, this week a raft of more restrictions has been placed on schools. They are not negotiable. Here is a summary of those that have an impact on our students.

1. No year 12 Formal in Term 3. Year 12 Graduation can operate but in a limited capacity – for more details see within this Newsletter. We have met with Year 12 to share information and to seek feedback.
2. No musical groups that involve brass, woodwind or voice. The HSC arrangements will continue as students have already planned.
3. If teachers or students have any cold or flu like symptoms, or feel unwell, they are to go home and undertake a Covid 19 test. They **cannot** return until a negative Covid-19 test result is sighted by the school. The department strongly impressed this upon Principals across the state.
4. If we are taking students off site, they must stay in the local area. I have decided that this will be between Mittagong and Camden. I will continue to review this.
5. Parents and caregivers are **not** allowed on the school site. Until I am told otherwise, parents and caregivers can enter the school office via Wonga Road. The uniform shop can be accessed here. Where possible, please conduct your business over the phone. If you enter the school, there is documentation you need to complete, your temperature will be taken and hand sanitizer used.
6. Any approved essential visitors to the actual school site must have a Covid-safe plan.
7. Excursions will no longer happen unless in the local area and at approved Department of Education sites.
8. Year 7 Orientation and interschool visits are on hold for Term 3.
9. Students are encouraged to bring their own drink bottles and not use bubblers. Also to use the provided hand sanitizer and wash their hands regularly.



Mr. Warren Parkes
Principal

Parking

With the construction of the new Wonga Road roundabout, parking is horrible. It was bad before, now it is worse. We have argued with Council and presented cases to the RMS but this is what we have: Anyone visiting our front office needs to park along Wonga Road or even Argyle Street. Both are a long distance from the office. The Council have told us that they will be sending parking officers to take action against any cars not following marked signage. My staff have placed more information regarding parking on our website and Facebook page. Please do not take shortcuts through the school. Walk around Wonga Road.

Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

During this time of Covid-19, schools are being told to socially distance. This means that parents and guardians are not allowed on site where students learn anytime of the day. To ensure that our students still have a meaningful graduation ceremony, we have consulted with them and come up with the following arrangements. The ceremony will take place in the school hall in week 10 as it normally would, however there can be no parents or outside guests. There can also be no live performances where students need to blow or sing. The ceremony will be "live streamed" for parents and family to view. An information sheet is being generated and will be given to all year 12 students over the next week.

Student Wellbeing

Our student support team is growing. Last week a new position called a Student Support Officer (SSO) was filled by Emma Jackson. This position is being rolled out to all schools over the next few years and Picton High is one of the pilot schools. I have attached for your information our student wellbeing calendar for 2020. It is produced for teachers as part of our organization but I thought you might find it informative. With the interruption caused by Covid-19 some dates have changed, cancelled or been postponed.

Poor Behaviour No Excuse

The wellbeing needs of many of our students is significant and we are doing all we can with the resources we have. There are however some actions that I will not accept as they impact on the safety of all students,

Violence

PHS is not a place to fight. It is a place we come to learn and grow. Students who use the convenience of being here to solve an issue with violence, will **not** be accepted or allowed to return to school while they believe otherwise. Students need to feel safe inside our fence.

Lesson Disturbers

Students have the right to learn. If a child in class repeats disruptive behavior and fails to learn from interventions we have put in place, they will not be allowed into learning spaces.

Drug issues during school time, any weapon at school and any vandalism to school property will never be accepted.

These are a few examples of issues that will result in suspension. Whilst we almost never see some of these situations, they will never be allowed.

Similarly, we have **nothing to do with students on social media**. What they say and do outside of schools is the responsibility of the parents and caregivers. Please do whatever you can to see that these matters are solved outside of school so that we may focus on teaching and learning.

Build Progress

At the end of August all of the new buildings will be at lock up stage. Commencing in September, we will be taking teachers and students into the new structures to help them prepare. There are prototype rooms being set up to make the experience more informative. As you are aware, the build is very disruptive and only becomes worse as we get closer to moving in Term 2, 2021. The next disruption will be in December 2020 and February 2021. Work is being undertaken around the student basketball courts and this means there will be even less playground space for our students. We have decided to allow this as this short term disruption will be preferable to losing the same space for 2 terms.

Jeans for Genes Day

On Friday 7 August, the SRC organized fundraising for the annual Jeans for Genes Day. The day aimed to raise awareness about the need for research into genetic diseases and disorders. Students and teachers wore denim and gave generously to this worthy cause.

The funds raised came to a total of \$650. A 'best dressed' teacher competition was also organised and the winners



were Mr Tann, Mr Weick and Ms Vujicic. Thanks to everyone who participated and supported this event.

SRC

We offer our congratulations to the following students who were elected by their peers to comprise our Student Representative Council this year.

Year 7

David Stokes, Mia Clayton, Aisata Bah, Imogen Ratajczack, Ellie Mount, Harry Sellers

Year 8

Cody Hasler

Year 9

Joel Townsend & Alayah Burch

Year 10

Diaan Nasser, Lachlan O'Neill, Sakura Landles, Monique Ratajczak, Mammadu Bah, Umu Bah, Eva Majstorovic & Brodie Spanos

Year 11 SRC

Gabriel Nasser, Renee Rice, Brooke Gechevski, Jade Bell & Jake Valentini

Our SRC have started their new roles at a pace. Right now, they are investigating ways to improve school cleanliness. There have several other projects they are working on.

National Science Week

To celebrate National Science Week the students were engaged in various experiments in science classes.

On Friday 21 August, staff came dressed as a famous scientist from history. During lunch students were treated to ice cream made with liquid nitrogen.



Wellbeing Events 2020

Event	Date	Term	Coordinator	Space	Wellbeing Training	SRC	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Individual	Targeted	Universal	Staff
High Resolves Training	31 st of January 2020	1	HT Wellbeing/ Year Advisers	Common Room	✓											✓
Attendance Overview	5 th of February 2020 2:05pm-3:10pm	1	HT Wellbeing	Senior Study	✓											✓
Uniting	All Year	1, 2, 3, 4	HT Wellbeing	Wellbeing Hub			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Community Links (Reframe)	All Year	1, 2, 3, 4	HT Wellbeing	Wellbeing Hub			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
At Work Australia	All Year	1, 2, 3, 4	HT Wellbeing	Wellbeing Hub			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
High Resolves / Peak Experiences	All Year	1, 2, 3, 4	HT Wellbeing/ Year Advisers	YAP Classrooms			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
Top Blokes Boys (Junior Program)	Semester 1 (16 weeks) Mondays 9:10am-10:25am	1, 2	Year 10 Adviser	Common Room						✓				✓		
Links to Learning (Year 8 & 9 Girls Group)	Semester 1 on Thursdays (16 weeks)	1, 2	School Chaplain	GO6				✓	✓					✓		
Special Religious Education (SRE)	All Year	1, 2, 3, 4	School Chaplain	TBA			✓							✓		

Love Bites	Semester 1	1,2	Supervisor of Female Students	TBA							✓				✓		
Immunisations (Year 7/ Catchups) 9:00am-3:20pm	13 th of February 2020	1	HT Wellbeing (2IC) (Supported by Year 7 Adviser)	School Hall			✓									✓	
Valentine's Day	14 th of February 2020	1	SRC Coordinator	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Great Aussie Bushcamp (Year 7)	19 th -21 st of February 2020	1	Year 7 Adviser	Great Aussie Bushcamp									✓				
We are Gibber	27 th of February Year 8 9:20am-10:20am, Year 9 10:45am-11:45am	1	Year 8 and Year 9 Advisers	School Hall											✓		
Anti-Bullying Staff Presentation	11 th March 2020 2:05pm-2:25pm	1	HT Wellbeing	Senior Study	✓												✓
Behaviour Interviews	17 th and 19 th of March 2020	1	HT Wellbeing	Wellbeing Hub		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
National Day of Action Against Bullying – Daniel Merza Presentation	20 th of March 2020	1	HT Wellbeing (Support by SRC Coordinator/ Year Advisers)	School Hall		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	
Harmony Week	21 st of March 2020	1	SRC Coordinator (Supported by HT Wellbeing/ Year Advisers)	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	

NIPs (Attendance Interviews)	24 th of March 2020	1	HT Wellbeing / (Supported by attendance team/YAs)	Common Room		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Anti-Racism Staff Presentation	1 st of April 2020 2:05pm-2:25pm	1	ARCO Team	Senior Study											✓
Pay It Forward	30 th of April 2020	1	HT Wellbeing	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Dress for Success	TBA	2	Supervisor of Female Students	Marickville						✓			✓		
Macarthur Network Service	6 th of May 2020 10:00am-12:00pm	2	HT Wellbeing/ Year Advisers	Elizabeth Macarthur High School	✓										✓
Stand Tall Event	4 th of June 2020	2	Year 9 Adviser / School Chaplain						✓					✓	
Immunisations (Year 10/ Catchups) 9:00am-3:20pm	11 th of June 2020	2	HT Wellbeing (2IC) (Supported by Year 10Adviser)	School Hall						✓				✓	
Red Nose Day	16 th of June 2020	2	SRC Coordinator	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
End of Term Rewards Excursion (BBQ)	1 st of July 2020	2	Year Advisers	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tomorrow Man/ Woman	2020 Date TBA	3	Supervisor of Female Students/ Year 10 Adviser	Various							✓			✓	
Top Blokes Boys (Junior Program)	Semester 2 (16 weeks) Mondays 9:10am-10:25am	3, 4	Year 10 Adviser	TBA						✓				✓	
Links to Learning (Year 8 & 9 Boys Group)	Semester 2 on Thursdays	3,4	School Chaplain	TBA			✓	✓						✓	

	(16 weeks)															
RAGE	Tuesdays (5 weeks)				✓	✓	✓							✓		✓
Immunisations (Year 7/ Catchups) 9:00am-3:20pm	13 th of August 2020	3	HT Wellbeing (2IC) (Supported by Year 7 Adviser)	School Hall										✓		
Book Week	22 nd -28 th of August 2020	3	SRC Coordinator	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
NIPs (Attendance Interviews)	28 th of August 2020	3	HT Wellbeing / (Supported by attendance team/YAs)	Common Room		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Wear It Purple Day	30 th of August 2020	3	HT Wellbeing / (Wellbeing Team)	G11		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Macarthur Network Service	2 nd of September 2020 10:00am-12:00pm	3	HT Wellbeing/ Year Advisers	Picton High School, Common Room	✓											✓
R U Ok? Day	10 th of September 2020	3	HT Wellbeing (Support by SRC Coordinator/ Year Advisers)	School Hall		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
End of Term Rewards Excursion (BBQ)	23 rd of September 2020	3	Year Advisers	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
40 Hour Famine Backpack Challenge	2020 Date TBA	3	SRC Coordinator			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
World Mental Health Day	10 th of October 2020	3	HT Wellbeing	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
World Teachers Day	30 th of October 2020	3	HT Wellbeing	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Bandana Day	30 th of October 2020	3	SRC Coordinator	Various		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		

White Ribbon day	25 th of October 2020	4	HT Wellbeing (Support by SRC Coordinator/ Year Advisers)	School Hall		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
-------------------------	----------------------------------	---	---	-------------	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---	--