From the Principal

Congratulations!
I would like to begin by passing on huge CONGRATULATIONS to Jonathon, Erin & Niamh Fush following the safe arrival of Jobe Roy Fush on Friday 7th December. Jobe was in a hurry to enter the world and although a couple of weeks early he was a very healthy 8lb 14oz.

Flying Start (Transition)
It was fantastic to see the new Prep group excited about being officially crowned PREPS! Although the day was short lived for some (illness forced Archie home much to his disgust) most were very tired by 3.00pm and will appreciate the day at home Wednesday.

When speaking to the new year 7 group they could hardly contain their excitement, even on a day when they had both Maths and English. A couple of the students were quick to explain that they enjoyed English much more with their new teacher, I guess a change is as good as a holiday!

Visiting Principals
Mallee Cluster Principals met at Werrimull P-12 School yesterday to discuss future plans for the cluster (Werrimull, Murrayville, Robinvale, Manangatang, Ouyen & Tyrell). The need to create networking opportunities for both staff and students was identified as a priority as we endeavour to stay in touch with ‘like’ schools. For some of the Principals it was their first visit to Werrimull however Tony Hand (Tyrell) and David Griffin (Manangatang) recalled a very different school; all were impressed by the state of the physical surrounds as well as the ‘feel’ around the place. I look forward to our increased involvement with the Mallee Cluster.

Polycom Awards
Many of you are aware of the Literature Circle program (Mallee BARC) we have been participating in with Ouyen. Students engage in discussions about the book they are reading via the Polycom video conferencing system. The Mallee BARC program was nominated for an award at the 2012 Polycom Teaching Excellence Awards Victoria and we received the literary award!

A few reminders:

Wednesday 12th December- NO SCHOOL FOR 2013 PREP STUDENTS

Wednesday 12th December- Final School Council meeting and dinner @ 6pm

Friday 14th December- Fat Friday lunch menu & 1PM FINISH

Monday 17th December- Activity day in Mildura

Tuesday 18th December- School will finish at 1:00pm. Awards and concert @ 6.30pm (shared BBQ from 5.30pm). Families receive semester and exam reports following the concert.

Please inform your bus driver if you are no longer attending school after the 18th December so they know who to expect on their morning run.

Monday the 17th and Tuesday 18th of December students are not required to wear school uniform BUT they must be dressed appropriately for concert practice and their shoes must meet OH&S requirements. No sandals, thongs or shoes that are not covered in and no singlet tops!

If there are any queries about the last week of school please don’t hesitate to contact the school on 5028 1251.

Jamie Russell
Hello again folks. Well 2013 has officially started at Werrimull P-12 School in the shape of flying start week. This means that all students step up a year level and begin next year’s work. This is an important part of the school’s transition program and really helps set the scene for students into 2013. So full steam ahead with no let up until activities week next week.

Today I am going to do an opinion piece. This does not represent the opinion of the Department or Werrimull P-12 School, it is simply my opinion of recent events in the media. And to be specific I speak of the terrible events leading up to the tragic death of the nurse in England who was the victim of the prank call from an Australian radio station.

Now I will not go into the specifics of the event as I am sure we are all well aware of what transpired. You may also disagree with what I am about to say and everyone has a right to their own opinion. But I think that these tragic events need to be scrutinised and commented on for what they were. Bullying.

Here you have people in a position of power involving an innocent victim in a practical joke where everyone had a good laugh at the victim’s expense. Sound familiar? This is the very essence of bullying and I have had to deal with it literally hundreds of times in my career. Of course you have the same old arguments; “We were only joking.” ”We didn't mean to cause any harm.” ”We just thought it was funny.” Well no one is laughing now.

Bullies increase their own feelings of self worth by causing physical, social or emotional harm to others without regard of the impact it will have on the victim. It is as simple as that. The people involved in this tragedy had no regard for the feelings of their victims. And there was more than one. Most importantly there was the poor nurse, her family and friends. And then Princess Kate and those associated with her. Now whether or not you are a fan of the Royal’s makes no difference as far as I am concerned. Surely a pregnant woman, any pregnant woman, who is ill and in hospital has the right to her dignity and privacy. I have also heard some say that people need to learn to take a joke. Well it’s only a joke if everyone involved is laughing.

Time and time again we hear of young people harming themselves as a result of being bullied but it often gets swept under the carpet and again the same old things get brought up; “Oh it's just kids being kids.” ”It'll toughen them up for later life.” “It happens to all of us. There is nothing we can do about it.” Not good enough. As a society we need to stand up and be counted. We need to shout from the rooftops that bullying is not and will not be accepted. A Principal I once worked for said a behaviour unchallenged is a behaviour condoned. Well I challenge this.

The Bullies involved in this are now in hiding and rightly so and it will be interesting to see how they are treated by the media given that they are two of their own. And I can just see it now ”We are sorry.” ”We didn't mean it to hurt anyone.” ”We will live with this for the rest of our lives.”

Well at least they will be alive. Actions have consequences. We need to remember that.

Students are also reminded that the anonymous “Wellbeing Box” is set up in the library and that students can contact me through that should they require it. I can also be contacted on my email at morrison.kelly.j@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Helpful Hint:

Please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you would like any assistance or more information on this.

Be Well

Kelly Morrison
Wellbeing Coordinator
### Dates to Remember

#### December
- **Flying start week**: 10th-14th December
- **School Council**: 12th December
- **Early finish 1.00pm**: 14th December
- **Activity Day**: 17th December
- **Awards & Concert early finish 1.00pm**: 18th December
- **Reports go home**: 18th December

#### January
- **Office reopens**: Tuesday 22nd January
- **School starts 2013**: Thursday 31st January

#### February
- **“Werrimull Wack”**: Friday 1st February

### Just a Reminder

As it’s a departmental requirement for students that are absent, a parent or guardian needs to fill in an absentee note (green note) as soon as the student returns to school. These need to be brought up to the office for Mrs Wright to enter on Cases21.

### Happy Birthday

**Kieran Simmons** 11th December

### Don’t forget you raffle tickets and Christmas hamper donation. It can be left at the office up till this Friday 14th
What’s Happening

This year’s three year olds had the chance to become four year olds for a day as part of our Transition and Enrolment day today, Tuesday 11 December. They were very excited to stay at kindergarten for the whole day and those who travelled home on buses felt like ‘big kids’ indeed.

We also had two of our new three year olds visit for the morning with their parents, allowing them the chance to experience kindergarten so it isn’t scary or unknown when they start with us next year. It was wonderful to see how well they fitted and the enjoyment they got from completing different activities both inside and outside.

Next Tuesday, 18 December, is our Christmas Breakup for the year. This year’s three and four year old groups come to kindergarten as per usual in the morning and we invite families to join us for a shared lunch at 11:30am followed by a visit from Santa at 12:30pm. We ask that you bring along a plate of shared party food for our lunch and fruit for shared snack as per usual.

After our Christmas Breakup we will be finishing at 1pm.

Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-14 December</td>
<td>2013 Flying Start Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>2013 Kindergarten Transition Day</td>
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<td>18 December</td>
<td>Christmas Party, 1pm finish</td>
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<td>18 December</td>
<td>Awards Night / Concert</td>
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<td>5 February</td>
<td>First Day Term One, 2013</td>
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Shared Snack Ideas

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Cheese
- Dry biscuits
- Dried fruit

Water

Please remember to pack a drink bottle for your child every day. As the weather warms up it is even more important to stay hydrated throughout the day to stay healthy.