Welcome back to all our existing staff, students and families and a BIG WELCOME to our new students Lilly Harmer and Mackenna Douglas.

Just a note from 2014 before we head into 2015. A VERY BIG THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS THAT SUPPORTED OUR AWARDS NIGHT AND OTHER FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN 2014.

- Pro Plumbing Solutions
- JRF Maintenance & Repairs
- Werrimull Hotel
- Lake Shop
- Buffon’s Butchery
- Merbein Lions Club

It is with great pleasure that I announce we are officially the approved provider for the Millewa Pre-School. We are now waiting for our name change to Werrimull K-12 but the Kinder will be keeping its original name. Caroline will be organising an official acknowledgement for all people currently involved and for everyone that has been involved in the past. More information will be forwarded closer to the date.

After the success of the fortnightly Pipeline in 2014 we will be sticking with this format. Below are the dates that you can expect a copy of the Pipeline home. Please ask your children on these dates or check the school website as it is our main form of communication to our community.

**Term 1**
February – 10\(^{th}\), 24\(^{th}\)
March – 10\(^{th}\), 24\(^{th}\)

**Term 2**
April – 21\(^{st}\)
May – 11\(^{th}\), 19\(^{th}\)
June – 2\(^{nd}\), 16\(^{th}\)

**Term 3**
July – 14\(^{th}\), 28\(^{th}\)
August – 11\(^{th}\), 25\(^{th}\)
September – 8\(^{th}\)

**Term 4**
October – 6\(^{th}\), 20\(^{th}\)
November – 4\(^{th}\), 17\(^{th}\)
December – 1\(^{st}\)
The calendar for 2015 will be sent home on Friday and will be available at the Werrimull Whack. NO EXTRA CURRICULAR DATES WILL BE ADDED, please be aware some dates may change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. Also we will endeavour to send home as many forms on the same Tuesday as the Pipeline but this is not always possible and we thank you in advance for your understanding. Please ask your child/ren each and every day if there are any notes.

With the success of the toddlers pool last year we will again be providing this, it is for NON-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN to paddle around in. Parents MUST ACTIVELY SUPERVISE their own children in this pool AT ALL TIMES.

DON’T FORGET FRIDAY IS THE WERRIMULL WHACK STARTING AT 11:30AM WITH LUNCH AT 12:30PM AND SWIM FROM 1 TIL 2PM. SCHOOL WILL FINISHING AT 2PM ON FRIDAY.

Just a reminder about excursions that students MUST bring their notes back in the day before the excursion is due to leave e.g. if the excursion is happening on Tuesday the notes are due back on Monday. If they are not back to the front office the student will not be attending the excursion. It is the students’ responsibility to take the permission forms home have them signed and returned to school before the cut-off date. Also if you are collecting your child from the excursion directly the school needs a written note to this effect handed in with the permission form.

It is coming to that time of the year again where we need to elect a new SCHOOL COUNCIL. As I mentioned last year it is an extremely important role that the parent community MUST fill for us to be able to operate as a school. Below is a little bit about what it is and why it is so important.

**What is School Council?**
* Is a legally formed body that is given powers to set the key directions of a school
* Is the major governing body of the school
* Plays an important role in school accountability and improvement processes
* Endorses the key school planning, evaluation and reporting documents

**What are the objectives of School Council?**
* Assist in the efficient governance of the school
* Ensure students’ best interests are primary
* Enhance the educational opportunities for students
* Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations

**What are the functions of a school council?**
In essence, the function is one of helping to set the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school’s operation. **It is not about running the school — that is the job of the principal.**

Three of the critical functions are:

1. Participate in developing the School Strategic Plan and engaging the school community
2. Approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure, and
3. Developing, reviewing, updating and monitoring policies including the **Student Engagement Policy** (how the school promotes expected student behaviour, how bullying will be managed and the school's approach to supporting student wellbeing) and the **School Dress Code** (this includes how students are expected to dress during school hours including traveling to and from school, if the school has a uniform and what that looks like, and any arrangement with clothing suppliers that the school might enter into)
Additional functions include:
* Preparing an annual report relating to financial activities and the School Strategic Plan and presenting the Annual Report to the School Community at the annual public meeting of school council and publishing and making available the annual report to the school’s community.
* Informing itself and taking into account the views of the school community when making decisions regarding the school and the students
* Arranging for the supply of the things needed for the conduct of the school (such as goods, services, facilities, materials and equipment) including the provision of pre-school programs
* Providing meals and refreshments for students and staff and charging for this
* Raising money for things that the school needs and ensuring any money that council receives is properly spent on school-related purposes
* Making sure the school’s grounds and buildings are maintained
* Entering into contracts for things like cleaning the school or a school council building project
  - Regulating and facilitating the after-hours use of the school premises and grounds
  - Stimulating interest in the school within the community
* Approving overnight excursions and adventure activities, etc.

Limitations: What school council does not do:
* School council does not manage the day-to-day running of the school. For example, it does not employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination, decide which classes students will be assigned to, or sort out issues relating to individual teachers and students and/or parents.
* Nor does it discuss individual issues relating to teachers or staff or parents – these are very clearly management roles, and therefore the principal's job.
* School councillors are not appointed to represent specific interest groups or permit special interests to dominate the agenda of the council.
* School council does not renew the principal’s contract nor recruit or dismiss the principal - that is the role of the regional director. For the majority of schools, the school council is responsible for recommending to the Secretary, DEECD, a person to fill a vacant principal position.
Role of school council members
* For school councils to operate effectively, members need to respect everyone’s opinions – even those they disagree with.

* It is also important that once council reaches a decision, all school councillors support that decision in the school community.

* Parent members on school council bring their experience as parents at the school and the views of the wider school community to school council meetings.

* DEECD employees bring their educational expertise to school council meetings.

Do I have what it takes to be on school council?
* You need to be keen, but you don’t need to be an expert.

* It helps if you like people and you do need to be able to work as a team member.

* You do need to be prepared to commit the time and effort needed to ensure the work of council gets done. 8 meetings per year!

* School councils work best when they have people from a variety of different backgrounds and who have different experiences.

Nominations and if required elections will be held in the coming weeks. Please contact Narelle for the forms. The AGM is on the 11th March 2015 at the school in the Polycom room at 6:00pm.

Any further enquires please don’t hesitate to contact me at school.

Due to the busy nature of the 21st Century I have included all staff edumail addresses so as you can communicate efficiently to your teacher or your child’s teacher. **If you have not provided your email address to the school please email Narelle asap so as teachers can be in contact with you.**

fush.erin.m@edumail.vic.gov.au  
russell.jamie.m@edumail.vic.gov.au  
whittle.douglas.h@edumail.vic.gov.au  
mccormick.andrew.j@edumail.vic.gov.au  
hall.margaret.h@edumail.vic.gov.au  
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bamford.paul.p@edumail.vic.gov.au  
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sly.helen.m@edumail.vic.gov.au  
carter.leonie.r@edumail.vic.gov.au  
hepworth.lauren.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Dates to Remember

January
- Family Cricket Day 2.00pm finish 30th January

February
- Red Food Day 6th February
- First Round immunisation 11th February
- Long Distance Swim 12th February
- Werrimull P-12 Swimming Sports 13th February
- JMMS information session 16th February
- MMM Swimming Sports 20th February
- School Council Meeting 25th February

March
- Mallee District Swimming Carnival 4th March
- Labour Day Public Holiday 9th March
- School Council AGM 11th March
- Year 10 & 11 Work Ex 23rd-27th March
- Kinder at School 25th March
- Red Food Day 27th March
- Last day of Term 1, 200pm finish 27th March

The Mildura Rural City Council Immunisation Team are providing a free School based Immunisation Program to all Secondary schools in Sunraysia.

In 2015 the following vaccines are being offered:

Year 7’s : HPV, chicken pox, Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (boostrix)
Year 8, 9, 10’s: Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis called (boostrix)

*By now your Year 7,8,9 and 10 student has received the consent cards to take home.*

Please complete your child’s details, sign the card(s) and return to school as soon as possible. If you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccines at all or at school, it is important that you still complete the cards and return them to school.

**How do I get further information?**

You may obtain further information any of the following ways:

- Mildura Rural City Council Immunisation Team on [immunisation@mildura.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@mildura.vic.gov.au) or phone on 50 188 211
Werrimull P-12 School invites you to their annual
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Friday 13th February beginning at 9am

Bring your chair, picnic rug and basket and watch the action ignite!

Please note....
- The program will be available on the morning of the carnival
- Lunch orders for the carnival need to be returned to the office by Wednesday 11th February.
This year, a new style of dance will be offered to the students of the Milawa Ballet & Dance Guild. This style of dance will be a fusion of Jazz, Funk and Hip Hop. It is fun and energetic and will include the more technical elements of Jazz incorporated with the funky and free elements of Hip Hop – it is similar to the dance seen on popular music videos today.

Come this Wednesday the 4th of February to try out for free!

Timetable (Subject to change)
Classes are on Wednesdays starting 4th February.
Group 1 (3-4 year olds) - 2:30pm – 3:00pm
Group 2 (5-8 year olds) – 3:20pm – 4:05pm
Group 3 (9-11 year olds) – 4:10pm – 5:55pm
Group 4 (12 years and older) – 6:00pm – 6:45pm

The Teacher
Misha Harris currently teaches at Werrimull P-12 School. She attends Jazz classes and teaches Hip Hop at Ebz Dance. She has been involved in many concerts and public performances over the years as well as performing and choreographing for Eisteddfod competitions.

What happens in class?
Classes differ depending on age level but all aim to improve coordination, creativity and technique while having fun!

For more information contact Deb Rowe on 50283208 or 0427283208. Or you can join our Facebook page by searching for Milawa Ballet & Dance Guild.
Purpose of this policy

To ensure students and parents/guardians are aware of the expectations and policy requirements regarding the use of student mobile phones.

Policy

Students attending Werrimull P-12 School may use their mobile phones before or after school and during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Mobile phone cameras (still and video) must not be used:

- in banned spaces such as changing rooms, toilets and the swimming pool.
- to film people and their activities without their knowledge or permission.
- to send harassing or threatening messages.

Guidelines

The Principal of Werrimull P-12 School can:

- ban anything illegal, dangerous or likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the school, including student mobile phones.

Further actions that should be taken by students when using mobile phones are described below.

Students should:

- have their mobile phones switched off and out of sight during classes
- only use their mobile phones before or after school, not at recess and lunch time
- use the school telephone to make calls as required between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm
- display courtesy, consideration and respect for others when using a mobile phone
- ensure that mobile phones are always stored in a safe and secure place.

Note: Students can have access to a mobile phone or the school telephone where there is a need to contact parents/guardians in an emergency.

The School will:

- discourage the use of mobile phones in the classroom unless they are appropriately incorporated into the learning program
- inform students and parents that mobile phones are used at their owners’ risk
- take appropriate action against any student who:
  - photographs or films other individuals without their consent or who sends harassing or threatening messages
  - is caught using a mobile phone in exams or assessments