Welcome to our first newsletter of 2013. The term is already well underway and again we seem to have begun the new school year with a rush.

Firstly, welcome to our new members of staff—Emily Ivans and Melanie O’Nion in the English Faculty; Jemma Pixton in PD/H/PE Faculty; Mr Adawale Kareem joins the Mathematics Faculty and Mrs Tammy Nugent joins the TAS Faculty. Also welcome to Ms Letiah Hampstead, who is relieving Mrs Willie whilst she is on 2 weeks long service leave.

All our new staff have settled in well to Wellington High School and students are well and truly underway with the studies.

Again in this issue you will read about the extensive activities and success our students have been enjoying so far this year, the swearing-in of our SRC representatives and House Captains and activities in the Science Faculty and we will be reporting on the Science and Engineering Challenge which took place on 6th March and the number of sporting achievements and the ever-increasing number of students displaying the musical talents at our assemblies.

I would, however, like to bring your attention to two issues and seek your assistance with them.

Firstly, I remain concerned at the number of unexplained absences some of our students are having. It is a requirement that all students attend school up until the age of 17 or if they have completed Year 10, until they have employment or are enrolled in an approved education course. Their attendance must be at least 85%, which is no more than 3 days absence per term. If your son or daughter is away at all, could you please provide a note to the school, or ring to explain why they are away.

In many instances students can be granted exemption from attendance for periods if they are involved in sporting events, family holidays etc. If you think this might apply to your particular circumstance, again please contact the school to discuss the matter. Your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated, as attendance at school is not only a legal requirement, but also the best way to ensure your child has the best start to life.

The second matter is that of school uniform and it is very pleasing to see our students in uniform as they are. We are able to supply most items of uniform from our front office if required. Part of our school uniform is also the wearing of black, enclosed shoes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Unfortunately a number of students are wearing fluro shoes and canvas slip-ons, both of which are not permitted. Canvas shoes, in particular, are a work health and safety issue and banned in schools. On Wednesday, sports day, students are able to wear their joggers during the course of the day. I would ask you to please keep in mind that black shoes are our uniform when next buying school shoes for your student.

Finally, congratulations to our 2012 Year 12 students, who have now gone on to pursue life after school in a variety of pathways. Particularly pleasing was the fact that 15 university offers were made to our students and a further seven students gained early entry to their chosen courses.

We wish all of our 2012 Year 12 students all the best with their future.
School Uniform

Girls/Ladies—white shirt with piping on collar and emblem
Plain white shirts with pin-tuck front
$10 each

Plain light blue shirts with pin-tuck front
$10 each

Girls/Ladies—A-line skirts
$10 each
Skirts—pleated front and back

Unisex jacket with school emblem were $70 now
$40

We also have navy bucket hats for sale along with plain and zip-front hoodies to try on and order.

FOR SALE
3 x white senior girls' blouses
Size 12 - $20 each

Phone: Monica 68467285
Term 1 Assessment Tasks
Year 12 Half Yearly Exams commence on Tuesday 2nd April 2013 and continue the following week

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Some photos from the Annual Swimming Carnival
NSW Public Schools
Going to a Public School

Attendance and absences
Parents or caregivers of children from Kindergarten through to Year 12 are responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day. This means all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age are legally required to attend school. All students must complete Year 10. After Year 10 and until they turn 17, students must be:

- in school, or registered for home schooling, or
- in approved education or training (eg TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
- in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours/week) or
- in a combination of work, education and/or training.

Absentee information
When children miss out on school they miss out on vital information, their learning routine is broken, they can lose confidence and they miss out on building up friendships.

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please either tell your child’s teacher or the administrative assistant at the school, or explain the reason by phone, email, SMS or written note as soon as possible, or within seven days.

Once children are enrolled parents are legally required to send them to school every day that the school is open for instruction or participation in school activities, such as sports days. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- has to go to special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school, or has an infectious illness.

Failure to explain an absence within this time will be recorded as an unjustified absence on a student’s record. Schools will inform parents if a student is absent from school without explanation.

What should I do if our family is going on holiday in school time?
Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations. If they can only be arranged during school time, you should contact the school principal in advance to discuss the matter.

When to get help
The department has implemented a number of attendance programs to support parents in ensuring their children attend school regularly. If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you might like to talk to the school principal or the school counsellor.

Leave passes
All secondary students who wish to leave school during normal school hours must carry a special leave pass issued by the school. This leave pass helps policy and home school liaison personnel to identify students who are absent from school without good reason.

About the Schoolkids Bonus

What is the Schoolkids Bonus?
The Schoolkids Bonus is a payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies.

When does the Schoolkids Bonus start?
The Schoolkids Bonus starts from January 2013.

Who is eligible?
You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school, or you are a primary or secondary student, and you receive one of the following payments:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Youth Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Education allowances under the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation
- Vocational Education and Training Scheme.

Children in preschool are not eligible.

How much will I receive?
If you are eligible, you will receive:

- $400 for each child in primary school (paid in two instalments of $200)
- $600 for each child in secondary school (paid in two instalments of $300)

If you share the care of your children and receive a percentage of Family Tax Benefit Part A or an education allowance, you will receive the same percentage of the Schoolkids Bonus.

When will I receive it?
Payments are made in January and July every year. You must be receiving one of the eligible payments on 1 January to be eligible for the January payment. Similarly, you must be receiving one of the eligible payments on 30 June to receive the July payment.

If you claim Family Tax Benefit Part A as a lump sum at the end of the financial year, you will receive the Schoolkids Bonus then.

What do I need to do to get it?
It’s easy. You don’t have to fill out any forms, keep receipts, or claim the Schoolkids Bonus on your tax return.

You just need to let Centrelink know:

- when you or your child starts primary school or starts receiving the payment and
- when you or your child moves from primary to secondary school or starts receiving the secondary school amount.

Has the Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund?
The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund, which means you no longer need to keep receipts and claim it through your tax return.

Is the Schoolkids Bonus less than the Education Tax Refund?
No – the Schoolkids Bonus is $400 a year for each primary student and $600 for each secondary student, compared to a maximum of $1087 for a primary student and $1744 for a secondary student under the previous Education Tax Refund. In addition, most families were not claiming their full entitlement under the Education Tax Refund because they didn’t have the receipts when they did their tax returns or forgot to claim the payment. Schoolkids Bonus is paid automatically and no receipts are required.

Where can I go for more information?
To learn more about the Schoolkids Bonus, visit australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus
Science

Students in the O class have been developing their skills in designing fair and reliable investigations. Their skills at recording and displaying data are improving. As are their skills in working together in groups. Kelsey Gibson is pictured investigating which colour can absorb the most radiation.

Mrs Madan
Teacher—Science

Tea Bag Rocket

Students in the learning support classes had the opportunity to learn about how hot air balloons work. They made some tea bags rockets to understand the concept that the hotter the air gets the lighter it becomes, and it makes tea bags rise up.

Mrs Madan
Teacher—Science
New Book Lists for 2013

**Fiction**
- The Romeo and Juliet *Code by Phoebe Stone*
- Torn *by David Massey*
- Irina The Wolf Queen *by Leah Swan*
- The Boy Who Grew Into a Tree *by Gary Crew And Ross Watkins*
- Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes *by Eleanor Coerr*
- Burning Blue *by Paul Griffin*
- The Voyage of the Unquiet Ice *by Andrew McGahan*
- Every Day *by David Levithan*

**Young Adult**
- Creepy & Maud *by Dianne Touchell*
- The Convent *by Maureen McCarthy*
- The Diviners *by Libba Bray*
- Black Spring *by Alison Croggon*

**Non-Fiction**
- Inside Out & Back Again *by Thanhha Lai*

**Teacher Resources**
- Issues In Society *edited by Justin Healey*
  - Volume 345 - Forest Conservation
  - Volume 346 - Welfare Reform Debate
  - Volume 347 - Human Trafficking and Slavery
  - Volume 348 - Australia’s Mining Boom
  - Volume 349 - Risk Taking and Personal Safety

NSW Board of Studies Syllabus Year 7 – 10 English Vol 2
NSW Board of Studies Syllabus Year 7 – 10 Maths Vol 2

Mrs Sayers
Teacher-Librarian

A Reminder to Parents to Notify the School about your Child’s Health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should
be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the Principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and well being.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Soccer

Wellington Junior Soccer will be holding registration days on 23rd March 2013 and 6th April 2013.

Registration fees have remained at $60.00 and these fees must be paid before you play your first game. The first game will be on 27th April 2013.

NSW SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based vaccination program.

In 2013 the following vaccines will be offered:

- Hepatitis B vaccine for all Year 7 students who have never received a course of hepatitis B vaccine when they were a baby.
- Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for all Year 7 students who have not previously received varicella vaccine or had chickenpox disease.
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to Year 7 male and female students, and to Year 5 male students, as a 3-dose course over a six-month period.
- dTpa (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough)) for all Year 7 students (booster dose).

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to read all the information provided, complete the Consent Form and return it to their child’s school. Please ensure that your child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the Consent Form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and, for female students only, link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Laugh Love Learn are currently taking enrolments for 2013. We cater for ages 0-5 years with a comprehensive preschool program based on the NSW school Syllabus document. We have a new director named Jo Clark, who has a wealth of experience in early childhood education. All new enrolments are entitled to four weeks free care. From February we will be offering FREE pick-up and delivery service on our new centre bus. For all enquiries please call 6845 4187

Wellington Playgroup

FOR: Parents and their children (ages 0-5yrs)
WHERE: Wellington Public Pre-School
WHEN: Friday 8 February 2013 fortnightly during School Term
TIME: 10:00am to 12:30pm

A Healthy Morning Tea will be provided

For any further information please call Raelene on 6845 2164 or call/text 0400 767 550
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