# NEWSLETTER

### March 2019



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Warrawong High has enjoyed a successful term 1, with students quickly forming successful patterns and routines in the rigours of school life.

To enable student success, Warrawong High School is currently prioritising student attendance, individual student learning plans and professional learning for teachers. Combining these priorities allows our students to connect, succeed and thrive within the school environment.

To maximise learning and student growth, attendance is a priority at our school. We are guided by the notion that every student is 'known, valued and cared for at Warrawong High School. As such you may have been contacted recently either by letter, text message or a phone call regarding your child's attendance at school. The purpose of this contact is to work with each family in providing a quality education for their child. To achieve this it is essential that our students attend school every day.

Our teaching and learning focuses on individualised and differentiated learning. We ensure that students are delivered learning skills and content that is significant to their learning stage and progress. We further enhance student learning by setting a high expectation of doing your personal best. This is supported with a study skills program that has been delivered to all students, a supportive learning and support team and the homework centre which supports student after school on Monday's and Tuesday's 3-4pm.

Like our students our teachers are continually refining their practices and skills to best deliver meaningful lessons to the students in their care. We prioritise 'knowing our students and how they learn'. To support this we provide Professional Learning for our teachers which is student centred and future focused. We are further supporting and consolidating our students learning by providing effective feedback to consolidate, sustain and enhance student growth.

This term has also been highlighted with some amazing student centred events including; the recent Harmony Day celebrations.

To listen, watch and enjoy our students playing instruments, public speaking, singing, dancing, cooking and participating in cultural activities truly makes Warrawong a unique and wonderful school.

Thank you to our parents who recently attended our Years 7 and 11 parent and teacher afternoon to receive feedback from their child's teacher. Research suggests many benefits in engaging and working with our families helps in achieving improved student learning outcomes, please see overleaf for some relevant and interesting information regarding this.

Finally can I congratulate two of our outstanding aspiring teacher leaders; Amanda Allnutt and Peter Fangupo who were recently successful in applying for a state-wide Department of Education leadership initiative program. This program involves both Amanda and Peter collaborating with a mentor and leading projects across our school that aim to improving outcomes for our students. Congratulations to both!

Brad Hughes Principal





Proudly supported by:



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www.warrawong-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

### Benefits of effective family and community engagement in student learning

Research from Australia and overseas has found that students achieve better outcomes from their education when schools, families and the community work together to support student learning.

### Benefits for schools

### Increased:

- respect from staff for families' strengths and efforts
- readiness of staff to involve all families in all aspects of the life of the school
- understanding of the students' strengths, needs and goals
- resources to support schools' learning programs
- attendance of families at school activities
- expectation of families and community to be involved in school programs and governance

#### Improved:

- connections with the community
- school image within the community
- family and community satisfaction with the school

### Benefits for students

### Increased:

- self esteem
- engagement in learning
- participation in more challenging subjects

### Improved:

- literacy and numeracy outcomes
- attendance
- completion of homework
- behaviour at home and school
- connection to school and learning
- school completion rates

### Benefits for families

#### Increased:

- understanding of their child's learning needs and progress
- · confidence in the school environment
- investment in their child's education
- feeling of support from school and other parents
- satisfaction with the work of the school

#### Improved:

- self esteem
- capacity to help their child do better at school
- · involvement in their own education
- · connection to the school
- links with community resources and services

### **DEPUTIES REPORT**

We certainly are not slowing down in the wind down to term 1. In this last few weeks of term there is a focus on NAPLAN preparation for Years 7 and 9 in all faculty areas. The Literacy Team, led by English Head Teacher Ms Brooke Truebody, has designed teaching and learning packs to support students in explicit instruction and guided practise of all areas of NAPLAN. Teachers will continue to work with these students in the lead up to the event to ensure they are well-prepared and confident heading into the test.

Students in all year groups are invited to undertake the *Tell Them From Me* survey over the next few weeks where they are able to voice their experiences at Warrawong HS in relation to various aspects of learning and wellbeing. The executive team utilise this data to make decisions around learning and wellbeing programs and to investigate ways we can engage with students and their families to further support productive educational experiences in our school.

Year 7, Year 9, and various students from the Support Unit are excited about the school camps on offer to them this year. School camps are a great way for students to bond and build lasting memories with their peers but they are also a chance for teachers to target areas for development with the group. Programs and activities that focus on resilience and positive behaviours can support young people through some of the social challenges that are common to their age group. Year Advisors have worked hard to identify and respond to the needs of their groups in organising their camps and Year 9, led by Miss Allnut, have taken the initiative to raise funds with a Krispy Kreme drive. This will not only support the funding of activities and events for the students to enjoy, but it will also build individual skills of responsibility, organisation, time management and social connection. Congratulations to all the students involved in this and I hope we see more of it in the future.

Our Aspire classes will have the chance to work with their parents/ carers this coming Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April when Mr Stanizzo and Mr Freeme host the study skills event. This is an exciting opportunity for students to start thinking about their future goals and to look at how they can start developing behaviours now that will support them in achieving their dreams in the future. Students and their families will leave the event with a better understanding of what is required of students in Stage 4 to set them up for success in their future schooling.

The Peer Support program involving all of Year 7 and select Year 10 mentors kicks off in Week 10 of this term. Year 10 mentors will be leading small groups of Year 7 students through a range of activities to develop social skills. We are hoping to see some great benefits from this program for our Year 7 students in their interactions with each other and we are also anticipating this will be great development for our leaders.

Thank you to all the fantastic students who display exemplary behaviour at school. Your efforts will continue to be recognised through our merit program and rewarded with incentive activities and prizes. Remember to submit your 'Gotcha' tickets so you can be in the chance to receive a prize at assembly.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday for the Term 1 break.

Mrs Goldspink and Mr Stanizzo

### 2019 WARRIOR DASH & COLOUR RUN

On Friday 29 March, we held our annual Warrior Dash & Colour Run.

The PDHPE set the students a fun yet challenging course but the highlight of the day was definitely the colour run.

Known as the Happiest Race on the Planet, the colour run is a unique race that celebrates healthiness, happiness, and individuality.

Here at Warrawong, we love a party and we especially love celebrating our cultural diversity.

To see more photos of this amazing day, please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages.









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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Tuesday March 26 Shaun Timmins u/13
   League Tackle
- Friday 29 March Cross Country/Warrior Dash
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April Art Express excursion
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April ASPIRE Parent Session 5.30pm
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April Australian Geography Competition
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April Easter Show Incentive excursion

### KNITTING FOR HARMONY

In our third year of knitting for harmony, many students from the High School and the IEC learned how to knit or helped other students learn the basics. Denise taught Stella how to knit and it has brought great delight to them both to have completed scarves since harmony day. There was a peaceful and productive hum in the knitting circle on harmony day. Thank you to Mrs Laidlaw and Ms Schettino, two of our key tutors.

Ms Benham Intensive English Centre

### 'TAKING CONTROL' YOUTH CONFERENCE

Students from the IEC recently had the opportunity to attend the 'Taking Control Youth Conference' at the Wollongong Youth Centre.

A fantastic day was had by all participants.









### LIVING CLASSROOM NEWS

On Friday 8th March, 7 Aspire had the opportunity to be the first class to spend the afternoon in our high school's amazing Living Classroom. They had a great time learning where their food came from, they built a garden bed, made and cooked their own pizzas, and had a tour of Green Connects sustainable farm. Over the course of the year, all year 7 and 8 classes will get this opportunity to enjoy this hands on learning experience.









### NEWS FROM MR MARC GUNNER

### HEAD TEACHER ADMINISTRATION

A big welcome back to those returning and an introductory welcome to those attending Warrawong High School for the first time in 2019. I hope you have all settled back into routine and are enjoying the school year thus far.

As many of you would be aware, we have made significant changes to our Attendance Procedures for 2019 and we have been pleased with the overwhelming response from our school community. It has been fantastic to see increases in student attendance over the last four weeks. As a school, we value every child's education and recognise the importance of positive attendance so that they can achieve whatever goals they set for themselves.

Each term there will be a reward for fantastic attendance at school. For term 1, we will be holding a BBQ, movie and games afternoon for the year group with the best attendance record. The year group standings so far are below:

Year 7 - Equal 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Year 8 - Equal 5<sup>th</sup> place

Year 9 - 4th place

Year 10 - 1st place

Year 11 - Equal 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Year 12 - Equal 5th place

As the end of term draws near, the competition will be on for all students to encourage each other to be at school so that their year group can be the winning group!

A reminder for when your child is absent or late to school, it is required that a written or verbal explanation be provided to the school. Please refer to the table below for what constitutes a justified absence.

### JUSTIFIED ABSENCE

- Being unwell, sick, having an infectious disease -Doctor's certificate required.
- 2. Having an unavoidable medical appointment evidence is required.
- 3. Attending a recognised religious holiday.
- Exceptional or urgent family circumstances eg.
   Funeral
- 5. Interview with school personnel
- 6. Bus delayed

### **UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCE**

- 1. Sleeping in
- Missed the bus
- Traffic or road works
- 4. Minding a sibling or helping a parent
- 5. Shopping
- 6. Birthday
- 7. Haircut



### **WELLBEING NEWS**

The Wellbeing team has had a busy start to the year!

On Friday of Week 1, we had Elevate Study Skills come into the school for the entire day, delivering relevant study skills to each year group to enhance their revision, memorisation and note taking skills. The feedback we received from the students show it was a well-received day for all the year groups.

We also held a Student Induction Day for Years 8-11, reminding students of Warrawong High School's expectations around policies and procedures. But we also had some fun activities throughout the day such as Initiative Games to build team work.

Year 9 also had the opportunity to engage in the Youth Aware of Mental Health program. This program was delivered for 2 periods over 3 weeks, encouraging student dialogue around mental health issues which affect young people, as well as supplying the students with strategies to help their friends as well as themselves when feeling down.

Our awesome Year Advisors are also busy organising Year 7 and Year 9 camps; stay tuned for more on this at a later date.

Warrawong High School is also excited to announce that this year we are providing students, parents/carers and the community the opportunity to engage with a private psychologist based within the school. This service is called onPsych, and we are the third school in NSW to offer this exemplary service to our student and community body! If you would like to know more, please contact Amanda Daenell, relieving Head Teacher of Wellbeing.

### **MARINE STUDIES NEWS!**

Term 1 has seen a flurry of activity for the Marine Studies classes at Warrawong High. Year 9 have enjoyed their Introduction to their new elective course, spending their time constructing aquariums to breed Yabbies and Red Cherry Shrimp. They have also been learning surf survival skills at Port Kembla Beach. The Year students 10 have started strong, diving straight into their introduction to snorkelling topic, extending on their swimming skills and ocean skills from last year.

Mr Joe Gander Marine Studies Teacher











### MEET THE TEACHER: MRS CASSANDRA NAPIER HEAD TEACHER SECONDARY STUDIES

I am an enthusiastic, driven and proactive teacher and facilitator who is excited about my ability and the opportunity to widen my skillset, continuing to contribute positively to the Public Education System here at Warrawong High School. Within my teaching practice, I strive to ensure Equity and Engagement, making certain of high expectations and that all students strive to achieve their best. I promote tolerance, respect and equality, and embrace all students irrespective of gender, ethnicity and socio-economic background. My focus is on the whole person and providing opportunities for students to develop themselves within diverse areas, increasing self-belief to ensure their readiness to take on the world.

Within my position of Head Teacher Secondary Studies I will work alongside the NSW Education Standards Authority to ensure parents, students and teachers are knowledgeable and adhering to the expectations of our schooling system. This will be achieved through Learning and Engagement opportunities for students and teachers through the activities and Professional Development I provide, aiming to improve the teaching experience of educators and enhance student learning outcomes.

The involvement of the Community will be at the forefront of my focus, aiming to provide the platform needed to inform you of the expectations of you, your students and our school as a whole with an emphasis on student success. I am looking forward to immersing myself within the Warrawong High School community and working alongside you all to continue to develop and build the opportunities available to our students and their families.



Mrs Cassandra Napier Head Teacher Secondary Studies

## FROM THE HEAD TEACHER TEACHING AND LEARNING

Dear parents and caregivers I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning here at Warrawong HS. This is my second year undertaking this role and my 5<sup>th</sup> year at Warrawong HS. My role is to coordinate and deliver professional learning across our school to support our teachers in the delivery of their learning content. For example I oversee new staff inductions, support beginning teachers, provide strategic support in the implementation of teaching strategies and approaches to improve Literacy and Numeracy outcomes for our students, oversee pre-service teachers and the accreditation process for all teaching staff. I look forward to providing you with further updates as the year progresses.

Mrs Emma Wilkins Head Teacher Teaching & Learning

## MEET THE TEACHER: MISS BROOKE TRUEBODY HEAD TEACHER ENGLISH

As the Newly Appointed Head Teacher English, I am excited to lead an innovative and inspiring team of teachers who have evidenced strong connections to students, their school and their community in the short time I have been at Warrawong High School. The English Faculty at Warrawong High School are passionate about our students, fostering development of active 21st Century Learners in an inclusive supportive environment. We pride ourselves in establishing positive relationships with students and acknowledge the powerful role teachers play in the development of young people. Our curriculum is designed purposely and judiciously, utilising the latest educational philosophies and research, knowledge of our students and our school context.

Together, with our students, we are life-long learners, passionate about our subject and the impact our voices have on our community.

We have constructed learning spaces catered to visible learning and to the seemless integration of technology into our curriculum. In 2019 we will be continuing to develop our learning spaces with the implementation of another visible learning classroom. The English Faculty have worked diligently this term, augmenting our assessment tasks and implementing new and engaging procedures for providing students with constructive feedback that provides our students with the best opportunities for success in education and to thrive in their lives beyond their schooling. With everything that has been achieved in the Warrawong High School English Faculty this term- from the success of the ASPIRE classes in Stage 4, the backward mapped curriculum and the future focussed learning strategies implement, we are all excited about what can be achieved for our students looking forward.

Please jump on to YouTube and see what the English Faculty has been up to yourself:

Welcome to the WHS English Faculty- Meet the Students:

https://youtu.be/dYdi971w5Hc

Welcome to the WHS English Faculty- Meet the Staff:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p399QGp7jEg

I'm looking forward to getting to know the Warrawong High School community.

Miss Brooke Truebody

Head Teacher English



### MEET THE TEACHER: MRS JANELLE COLLINS -HEAD TEACHER MATHEMATICS

I am the new Head Teacher Mathematics at Warrawong High School. In the past, I have taught Mathematics and Science at Ulladulla High School. I held the position of Head Teacher Teaching & Learning 10-12 at Ulladulla High School before moving to Warrawong High School. I am committed to developing fluent numeracy and literacy skills in my students as well as 21st Century skills such as collaboration and communication. To achieve this, I utilise many different strategies including Problem-solving and Project Based Learning Activities. I look forward to wonderful and mathematically challenging year.

Mrs Janelle Collins Head Teacher Mathematics

### HARMONY DAY AT WARRAWONG

Harmony Day celebrations took place on Wednesday 20 March at Warrawong High School. Students took part in various activities set up around the school. The highlights were our incredibly talented students. We thank our Koori boys for sharing their culture with us. We thank our choir for singing our national anthem in traditional language and we thank our drumming group for their thumping rythyms. It was a wonderful day celebrating cultural diversity and all that is good. A special mention to Kung Fu Southern Crane for their fabulous display of the Chinese Lion Dance.













# PAGE 14 A NEW CROP OF STUDENTS

A new crop of students from the WIEC have been busy at work in the WHS Permaculture garden this term. After weeding out the garden they have started to plant seedlings for a new crop of vegetables. Students at the WIEC spend one year at WHS before going on to different high schools and usually work two terms in the garden. Coming from many different countries including Sri Lanka, Sudan, Eritrea, China, Papua New Guinea, Iraq, Syria, Vietnam, Thailand, The Philippines, Birundi, Malawi, Indonesia, Cambodia, Congo (DRC) and Lebanon, they bring many skills and stories about gardening and food from their countries and make a valuable contribution to the maintenance and upkeep of the garden. This term Classes 1H, 1KDH, 2R and 3L have been working hard weeding, mulching paths, making "No Dig Beds" planting seedlings, making compost, doing general cleaning and maintenance of the school garden and most importantly

















### FROM THE KITCHEN

We've had an exciting start to the year. Year 12 Hospitality have been busy preparing evidence for their portfolios (see pavlova & Caesar Salad below) and their café lessons are up and running again. Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning and every Thursday at Break 1, you can find these awesome students in the café, honing their Barista skills, selling their drinks to staff and students. This is a valuable learning opportunity and we thank the staff and students who support this initiative. Year 11 also been busy in the kitchen, learning precision cuts with Bruschetta.

Ms Bridgette Evitt Head Teacher TASAM











### ALL STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN TO SWIM

Swimming is one of the most important things you should learn in Australia because most of the people live on the coast. I believe all students should learn to swim because swimming can keep everyone safe, swimming is fun, and swimming can keep you fit.

Firstly, swimming can keep everyone safe. You could save yourself from drowning and if you keep on swimming you will feel more confident when you're in the water. If you learn how to swim, you could teach others how to swim and maybe save others from drowning.

Secondly, swimming is fun. You can relax or cool down when it's a hot day. You could also join a swimming club or enter a competition and win some prizes. While swimming at a pool or the beach, you could meet some friends or make some new ones.

Lastly, swimming can keep you fit. While you're swimming you use a lot of muscle power which can be good exercise. Swimming can also help you have a strong heart and strong bones so that you can grow taller. Doctors tell us if you have asthma, swimming could help your lungs be stronger.

Therefore, all students should learn to swim for many reasons but mainly swimming can keep everyone safe, swimming is fun, and it can keep you fit. Enjoy swimming and enjoy life to the full!



















# ILLAWARRA SCHOOLS CAREERS EXPO

ASSISTING YOU IN MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK, FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING.

DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS FIND YOUR CARFFR FIT KFFP ON LEARNING PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Gain info and friendly advice from Employers, Industry, Universities, HSC, Colleges, TAFE NSW, Apprenticeships, Training organisations, Disability support, Overseas exchange, Volunteering and GAP year experts.

SCHOOL SESSIONS: TUESDAY 7 MAY - 8:45AM TO 3:00PM

> WEDNESDAY 8 MAY - 8:45AM TO 12:45PM See your Career Advisor for details

PARENT/CARER SESSION: TUESDAY 7 MAY - 2:00PM to 4:00PM

Incorporating SKILLS & THRILLS SHOWCASE – 3:00PM to 3:30PM (limited seats)

Pre-book tickets to this session at: https://www.trybooking.com/471084

ENTRY \$5 NEW VENUE: Illawarra Sports Stadium, Hooka Creek Road, Berkeley

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### **HEAD LICE**

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers

We suspect that nits/head lice are present in the hair of some students at our school.

Please check your child's hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health (http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx).

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended.

Further information on head lice is available on the NSW Health website (details above) or through the Department's website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php.

family ADVOCACY

A WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CURRENTLY ATTENDING OR APPROACHING THE SCHOOL YEARS

### One of the Kids







Thursday 4 April 2019 Wollongong

LEARN ABOUT INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, HEAR STORIES OF SUCCESS FROM A PARENT GUEST SPEAKER AND SEE HOW INCLUSION WORKS IN THE REGULAR CLASSROOM

1800 620 588

www.family-advocacy.com

April 2019 ONE OF THE KIDS WORKSHOP

Wollongong **Thursday 4 April** 

Wollongong Diggers Club,

Crn Church & Burelli Streets, Wollongong

Refreshments available on arrival with lunch and a resource pack provided.

REGISTRATION Online or via www.family- advocacy.com

CALL US 1800 620 588 or (02) 9869 0866

**EMAIL US**  $\underline{advocacy} \underline{andleadership@family-advocacy.com}$ 

The workshop will cover:

How the school years can lead to a meaningful life—A brief history of disability education

How inclusion can look in the classroom—Evidence and support for inclusive education

Education policies and supports that exist within schools—Advocacy tools and strategies for families

### Hear from a family whose child is learning in a regular classroom

Family Advocacy is an independent and impartial advocacy organisation that works with families across NSW to promote and defend the rights and interests of people who have developmental disability\*

The organisation is managed and staffed by parents and allies of people with disability who recognise the issues families face and who can assist in strengthening the advocacy of families

\*Developmental disability is a disability that occurs in the developmental period of a person's life (in the period from conception to adulthood) and includes intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, autism, and any combination of physical, intellectual or sensory disability.



### A DANCE SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE





JAZZ **BALLET HIP HOP BOYZONE HIP HOP TAP CONTEMPORARY ACROBATICS** MUSICAL THEATRE

SINGING

DRAMA **CREATIVE TALENT AGENCY** 

Woonona & Shellharbour enquiries@theprojectbyebonyaustin.com www.theprojectbyebonyaustin.com

### **TERM 1 FISHING NEWS**

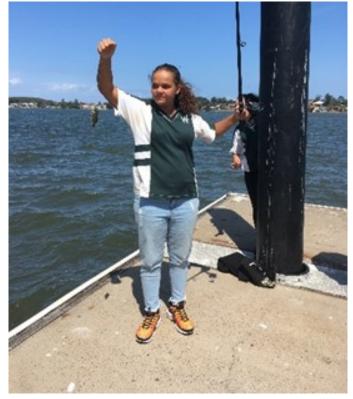
On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March we had the first fish of the day for the term that made it home. Caught by Don, it was 28cm in length. What an exciting afternoon!! On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February Noah caught the first fish for that afternoon. The first octopus was caught by Damien at Lake llawarra and Jack caught a bream. Courtney caught her first bite and how proud was she?















# **Community News:**



### Girls AFL 15 years and under trials **Greater Sydney Region**

Students will play a scratch match to determine selection

AFL appropriate gear, boots and mouth guards are required for all girls trialling. Students are asked to the nomination form and return prior to

Selected players will play in the Greater Northern vs Greater Sydney Trial to be held at Central Coast Regional Sporting & Recreation Complex, 20 Lake Rd, Tuggerah NSW on 1 May 2019





https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/









#### Who

The trial is for U15 girls (girls can be 15 but not turning 16 this year)

#### When

10 April 2019

10am – 2pm

### Where

Blacktown International Sports Park Eastern Road Rooty Hill

### Cost

For further information contact Michael Strappazzon michael.strappazzon @det.nsw.edu.au RSVP 5 April 2019



Please join us for an afternoon of elegant service, fine finger food, pleasant surroundings, light entertainment, raffle and shopping.

Where: Warilla Surf Club When: Sunday 5th May 2019

Time: 2pm to 5pm Cost: \$25.00

Ticket includes: Glass of bubbly on arrival, tea, coffee, food & lucky

door prize.

All enquiries please contact Claire: 0431 727307 Skye: 0401 242678







### Our Supporters:









WHS: 127 Cowper Street, Warrawong. PO Box 105 Warrawong NSW 2502