



# Wednesday Weekly

19 August  
2015

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## From the Principal

### SUNSMART POLICY

A reminder to all that commencing next month, **Tuesday 1 September**, students will be required to bring their hat and sunscreen to school. The first day of spring will be upon us next week and in keeping with our SunSmart Policy, students must wear their hat and apply sunscreen whilst outside during the months of September through to the end of April. A copy of our SunSmart Policy is available on the school's website.

### SchoolMate APP

The Department of Education and Training has released an App which is designed to help you better understand the curriculum we use to teach your children every day. The App, called **SchoolMate**, is available for free download now in the App Store for iPhones and iPads and in Google Play for Android phones and tablets. SchoolMate gives you a general overview of the Victorian curriculum in each subject at each year level and:

- Provides you with an overview of what your children are learning in each subject at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS).
- Provides you with tips regarding activities and things you can do at home to help your kids in each subject and year level.
- Suggests apps, books, events and activities related to each subject area and year level.

Our school, like all other government schools in Victoria, uses AusVELS as the basis for the learning programs we run at school every day. Our teachers adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of our students and community, for example, designing learning programs around what your children are interested in, or around days or celebrations that are important to our community.

SchoolMate is designed to give you an overview of what children are expected to learn in Victorian government schools across every subject from Prep to Year 10.

### STATE SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

We are proud and excited to have some of our students participating in the *2015 Victorian State Schools Spectacular: What's Your Story?* This year's Spectacular will be held at Hisense Arena on Saturday 12 September, with two shows at 1pm and 6:30pm. The three-hour Spectacular will be filmed for broadcast by Channel 7. For a fun, family entertainment experience, and to cheer on our students from the audience, be quick to secure tickets.

Talented young circus performers, skaters, musicians, dancers and singers will feature on stage, while many other students will work behind the scenes, gaining unique, on-the-job, professional experience.

This program, run by the Department of Education and Training, helps to develop each student's performance skills, discipline, perseverance, cooperation and confidence under the training of industry professionals. Tickets are available for purchase via Ticketek and for more information about the event and program, go to the Spectacular Facebook and website page:

<https://www.facebook.com/performingartsunit>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/Pages/spectacular.aspx>

### RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The state government has announced that it will introduce respectful relationships education into the school curriculum from next year to support students to learn how to build healthy relationships, understand global cultures, ethics and traditions, and to prevent family violence.

Respectful relationships education will be included in the curriculum from 2016 in Prep through to Year 10. It will focus on challenging negative attitudes such as prejudice, discrimination and harassment. The state-wide introduction of respectful relationships education follows a pilot program in 30 Victorian schools. Schools will receive training and guidance to deliver the curriculum content. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) will develop resources to support teachers.

*Principal's Report continued ....*

*Principal's report continued ....*

The Government is also recognising the importance of world histories, cultures, and ethics. These changes will help ensure Victoria remains a successful multicultural society and strengthen our diversity, one of our state's greatest assets. The capacity of our young people to understand others, including other world views, and to act with tolerance and respect, is an essential skill.

## **PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE CHALLENGES OF TOMORROW**

Today, students compete on a global stage and they need new skills to prepare them for further study and jobs – many of which have not yet been created. The rate of change in technology and in society is so rapid that to prepare young people to live, work and be successful in the 21st century, they will need the ability to think both creatively and critically, problem-solve and work collaboratively.

Skills such as researching, self-management, creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking are needed to tackle the challenges of tomorrow. Our challenge, as educators, will be to constantly adapt teaching and learning to new technologies and the demands of a global environment where knowledge and skills are the new global currency. When it comes to using technology in today's classrooms one point is very important to remember ...

*Tina King* (Principal)

## **QUALITY TEACHING MATTERS**

There are many benefits to using technology in classrooms such as improved digital literacy, increased engagement and improved student outcomes. However, on its own, it will not deliver an improved learning experience for students. Across the world it is well recognised that quality teaching is the single most influential factor on student learning. As technology advances further in the future it is important that the learning tool used by students, best fits the designed learning task to achieve a high level, optimum learning environment.

*\*Visit the link below for an in-depth description of how to effectively integrate technology.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3c0dVRzv3U>

**Jamie Jaquinta (Assistant Principal)**

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Tel: 9432 3213 24 hours

Greetings everyone!

We are very excited about this afternoon's session. We have our friends from "The Travelling Kitchen" coming to guide the children in making a gnocchi dish. The children absolutely love these sessions of which we have been offering once a term for the last couple of years. If you would like a copy of the recipe (egg free ricotta gnocchi), please let me know by email.

Unfortunately, my good intentions of completing the Birthday display board has not come to fruition. Either I am getting slower or time is travelling a lot faster lately! I'm almost there but have a few more collages to create and then with the children's help, we will create a 'masterpiece'. Wish me luck! Our worm farms are 'breeding' extremely well. We have had our first delivery of fertiliser and there appears to be a lot of movement under the lids of their little homes. With a bit of luck, there will be a lot more 'liquid' to come so that we can feed our plants successfully. If you have any suggestions on how we can achieve more success with our farmlets, please let us know. Call us if you would like any assistance with Cool Care. Have a super week!

Stay Cool ..... Jenny

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# Performing Arts News

## TERM 3 PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

We are ticking off our performing arts/music events at a rate of knots, but it's still a full calendar: **Thursday 3 September** – Year 3/4 Curriculum Concert at WNPS Hall; **Thursday, Friday and Saturday September 10, 11 and 12** – State Schools Spectacular final rehearsals and performance (Senior Choir). In Term 4, we have: **Tuesday 1 December** – Prep Concert at WNPS Hall; Performing Arts Concert at Montmorency SC auditorium (TBA) and Choir Tour **Friday 4 December** (plus one other date TBA). Don't forget the Twilight Night in December, either, featuring a lot of singing from **all** our students.

## YEAR 5 AND 6 BANDS NIGHT

Congratulations to all participants in last night's Bands Night at Loyola College – what a fun way to show off our Music program!

## YEAR 3 AND 4 CURRICULUM CONCERT THURSDAY NIGHT 3 SEPTEMBER

Notices for this event have been sent home to families – **please ensure your child gets a spare notice if you have not received one yet.** All Year 3 and 4 students will be involved in this showcase of the Music curriculum – also featuring the Intermediate Choir!

## CHOIR EVENTS

Congratulations to the Competition Choir for their performance in this week's **Waverley Eisteddfod** on **Monday 24 August**. This is a great opportunity to perform for (and listen to) choirs from other schools, in a competitive yet fun environment. Our competition was very tough this year. The 1<sup>st</sup> place getters gained a mark of 88%, while those who received an Honourable Mention all got 85%. This just shows the calibre of the school choirs involved, which was commented on by the adjudicator. Our choir received a mark of 78% - not too shabby!

The Senior Choir have had a **very** busy couple of weeks – straight after the Diamond Valley Choral Festival on **Tuesday 18 August**, they met early at

Watsonia railway station for a trip to the rehearsal at Melbourne Town Hall the **very next day**. This was for the State Schools Spectacular, which promises to be more entertaining than ever. Considering that within a week, they also performed at Monday's competition and Tuesday night's Bands Night – that is a pretty good effort from our senior choristers. Well done, all of you!

David Perry (Performing Arts Coordinator)



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## ICAS – Digital Technologies

Dear families of students who participated in the **ICAS Science** test. The certificates of achievement have arrived and will be handed out in assembly on **Monday 31 August**.

Thank you for your support.  
**Sarah Pollnitz**



## SAVE THE DATE

Dear families WNPS are holding our **Father's Day** stall in the library on: **Thursday 3 September/Friday 4 September ~ 9am to 11.30am**  
Please send \$5 with your child on these days if they would like to buy a gift.  
(all gifts are \$5 each☺) Enquiries 9435 1285





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