

West News

A Journal of Westfields Sports

From the Principal

8th February, 2008

I would like begin by extending a very warm welcome to all our new students, especially Year 7 and their parents. It is great to have you join the Westfields Sports family. I look forward to getting to know you all as the year progresses. I believe very strongly in the importance of developing strong home-school partnerships so that we can work together to ensure that your sons and daughters achieve to the best of their ability in all aspects of school life. An early reminder that our first Parents and Citizens Meeting for the year is on Wednesday 27 February at 7.00 pm in the Administration Block. All parents, but especially our new Year 7 parents, are invited to come along and support our school.

Our students not only excel on the sporting field, the 2007 HSC results were also outstanding. Our dux was **Erica Sorn** with a UAI of 99.75 and there were two other students with UAI's above 99. In addition, Erica and **Samantha Lee** both received the distinguished Premier's Award for achieving Band 6 results (above 90%) in five of their subjects. They are among a very select group of students from across the state who managed to achieve this result. In addition twenty of our subjects achieved results which were at or above state average which was again an exceptional performance. Well done to all our staff and students. I challenge this year's HSC students to out perform last year's results.

I would also like to welcome to our school a number of new staff. **Marcella Ayas** Head Teacher Languages, **Jason Gerke** in English, **Leanne Solomons** in Social Science (Leanne is also our new Softball Convenor), **Michelle Chidzey** and **John Mazzatelli** in Home Economics, **Mohammed Safiq** in Maths and **Suzanne Walker** in Visual Art. By the time this Westnews arrives home we should also have a new Head Teacher Science. Our new staff are all extremely capable and I look forward to working closely with them and all members of staff in continuing to provide a quality education for all students at Westfields Sports.

At this week's assemblies, I stressed to students the importance of being at school on time and attending all lessons, and I would like to reinforce this with the parents. When students arrive late, not only are they missing out on valuable work, they also disrupt the rest of the class who are already working, and that is not fair on the other students or the teacher. It is even more important that students attend school all the time. Frequent absences affect the continuity of learning and means that students often miss out on valuable knowledge and skills that are a prerequisite for further learning to occur. I would ask that you support us by ensuring that your sons and daughters are at school on time every day. I have also reinforced the importance of being in full school uniform and wearing the uniform with pride. This means having shirts tucked in and ties done up. Once again I would encourage parents to ensure that your sons and daughters are correctly attired before they leave for school.

I have included a copy of the fee and contribution schedule in this Westnews. I cannot stress how important it is that all subject fees and school contributions are paid. Without this ongoing support, we will not be able to continue to provide the high quality education which the community has become used to. Subject contributions need to be paid immediately as they are required to buy the consumables and resources which your sons and daughters use to complete their course. Eg. Timber in woodwork and food in home economics. The school contribution enables the school to purchase computers, TVs, software, textbooks and other essential resources. I would like all outstanding school contributions paid by the end of the term. If there are extenuating circumstances, I would ask parents to contact me so that we can arrange for these contributions to be paid off in instalments throughout the year.

Mr Roger Davis
Principal

IMPORTANT EVENTS

11/2/08

School ID & HSC
Photos

18/02/08

Swimming Carnival
(Competitors only)

26/02/08

Year 7 Vaccinations

27/2/08

P & C Meeting

21/3/08

Good Friday - Public
Holiday no school

24/3/08

Easter Monday - Public
Holiday no school

From The Deputy Principal – Helen Wilson

We commence 2008 with excellent results for our HSC class of 2007. In addition to our distinguished achievers, over 65 Year 12 students gained entry to University courses including Physiotherapy, Law, Medical Sciences, Teaching, Engineering, Accountancy, Finance and Nursing. We congratulate the effort and excellent achievement.

There is always a clear correlation between attendance and strong results. Students are wise to develop habits of punctuality and commitment.

For the HSC class of 2008, we begin a very short three term journey to final HSC exams (16 Oct – 11 Nov). Assessment information books have been issued, outlining schedules and procedures for tasks which make up 50% of the final HSC result. It is very important that senior students follow correct procedures to ensure maximum results.

Westfields Sports has a tradition of offering Saturday School tutorials in English and Mathematics. These classes will commence on 9 February. Tuition fees are \$160.00 per semester. Application forms are available in my office. Some of our most successful graduates gained their confidence and competence from attending Saturday classes.

During weeks 2 & 3 of Term 1, all Year 10, 11 & 12 students will be confirming their courses of study with the Board of Studies. Year 11 students must complete 12 units of study (6 subjects) for their Preliminary Course. Year 12 students must successfully complete 1- units or 5 subjects – with English being compulsory. We look forward to another very successful year for all students.

*The P & C meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held in the Admin or “A” block, commencing at 7:00 pm. The P & C, led by President **Grace Turnbull**, invite all new parents to join us for our first meeting – February 27 – which includes a tour of the school and light supper.*

The school canteen provides a very healthy menu at excellent prices. While we have parent support to assist in the canteen, we can maintain this standard. Volunteers are needed now. Parents can negotiate days to assist. Please contact our Canteen Manager on 96043333. Our current price list is attached with this edition of Westnews.

The Welfare committee supports the progress of all students and maintains contact with parents to celebrate success or to advise of concerns.

Helen Wilson
Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Rod Cherry

Our building project has reached a stalemate with the onset of heavy rains. In the original plan the car park and buildings were supposed to be completed by the end of last term. Unfortunately, the wet weather has caused delays as the heavy machinery could not operate on the site.

Consequently, we have been informed that the car park will not be completed until at least early in Term 2. This is a great disappointment to everyone in the school, and obviously causes much disruption to a wide range of people. We will have to make do with our temporary arrangements for some time to come.

When the car park is finally completed, we will then proceed with constructing a bus depot for our mini-buses, but this will not cause disruption to the school. We will be re-locating our industrial waste bins away from the front of the school to a site near the weights room, and we will then install traffic barriers to restrict public vehicle access to parts of the school.

Rod Cherry
Deputy Principal

From The Deputy Principal – Andrew Rogers

The uniform requirements of the school are quite clear. If, for whatever reason, a student is unable to wear the correct uniform please send a note. Ensure, however, that every possible effort has been made to have the student attend school in full uniform. The students know they have to come and see me before school to get a uniform pass. I will often call home to check that the note is authentic, as some students have been found to forge these notes.

A reminder about footwear. Fully enclosed, polishable black shoes are needed for all students, every day. No part of the top of the foot can be exposed.

*Presentation night saw the induction of the 2008 Student Representative Council (SRC). This group of students acts as a link between the students and the staff. They are actively involved in many fundraising initiatives such as Jeans for Genes day and Shave for a Cure. Other fundraising efforts raise money that the SRC uses to improve the school environment. Our School Captains for 2008 are **Loredana Ontivero** and **Daniel Scardinale**. These students will prove to be outstanding leaders and role-models for the entire student population. Under their leadership and guidance the SRC will continue to be a vocal and powerful body to promote student and community interests throughout the school.*

The Year Advisers have had a very busy start to the year. These people are the first point of contact for administration, class lists and the general welfare of the students in their year group. They are a very approachable group and please encourage your child to seek out their year adviser if they have an issue of concern.

*Year 7 Adviser
Year 8 Adviser
Year 9 Adviser
Year 10 Adviser
Year 11 Adviser
Year 12 Adviser*

***Ms Berios
Mr Jones
Ms Bennett
Ms Gibbs
Ms Healy
Ms Cameron***

***Andrew Rogers
Deputy Principal***

The bright and crazy lights of New York city was our next stop, staying close to Times Square meant we were very central to all the action NYC had to offer. We braved the extremely cold weather daily on sightseeing adventures and dance experiences. The girls took dance & acting workshops at Alvin Ailey Dance Centre and Ripley Grier Studios in contemporary and Broadway dance styles.

NYC had so much to offer and when not dancing we visited The Statue of Liberty, Empire State Building, Central Park, The Brooklyn Bridge, Tiffany's 5th Avenue and had a very emotional stop at Ground Zero. We managed to sneak into two Broadway shows; Mary Poppins (we even got to go back stage) and the very popular Hairspray. Oh and did I mention we did all this in 3 days!

USA Dance Tour 2008



During the Christmas holidays 21 excited dancers, 3 teachers and 4 parents embarked on the trip of a lifetime. The destination was the United States and the tour lived up to everyone's expectations. Over 17 days the girls literally danced their way across America, performing at Disneyworld and to a standing ovation on Royal Caribbean's cruise liner, Sovereign of the Seas, The Bahamas.



LA was our last destination and the first thing we noticed was the traffic. At the Edge Performing Arts Centre the girls took Hip Hop and Jazz classes, a few recognising that Lexi from Laguna Beach was in the back row. The afternoon was spent sightseeing and star stalking, with most getting photos with Sophie Monk, Robert from Every body Loves Raymond & Grissam from CSI.

A special thank you to Mrs Ulbrand, Mrs Biddlecombe, Mrs Plimmer & Mr Knowles for all their help on the tour. We hope you all had a fantastic time and look forward to showcasing all we learnt at Evening of Dance later this year.

Miss Cameron, Miss Ireland & Ms Holden

From The Sports Desk

Congratulations:

- **Andrew Neville (2), Kurt Jenner, Kristy Dingwall** – National Schools Athletics Championships Gold Medalists
- **Eliza Barton** – National Schools Athletics Championships Silver Medalist
- **Kristy Dingwall, Nathan McRae, James Johnson, John Robert Bowskill, Tapa Lemi, Chelsea Sutherland Valeni** - National Schools Athletics Championships Bronze Medalists
- **Senior Girls Athletics** – National Athletics Knockout Silver Medalists
- **Senior Boys Athletics** – National Athletics Knockout Bronze Medalists
- **Girls Hockey** – Quikstix Canberra Schools Cup U16 Champions
- **Boys Hockey** - Quikstix Canberra Schools Cup U18 3rd Place
- **Bree Agliaro** - Quikstix Canberra Schools Cup U16 Player of the Tournament
- **Marc Collie** - Quikstix Canberra Schools Cup U18 Player of the Tournament
- **Nathan Brain, Dale Breckenridge, Dean Bush, Ken Butcher, Damien Carroll, Joshua Clinghan, Corey Evans, Jacob McCann, Luke Miner, Ben Smith** – SSW Cricket Representatives
- **Nerida Gregory & Kate Waetford** – SSW Cricket Representatives
- **Karla Davidson, Tayla Campbell, Ashlea Abbott, Aimee Palmer, Jessie Troy** – SSW Softball Representatives

Ms J Kenny
Director of Sport

Uniform Shop

Open Thursday Mornings

8:30 Am - 1:00 Pm

Transport Passes

Transport passes have arrived and are available for pick up at Front Reception. Before school, recess and lunch

Parking

The parking situation on the Westfields site is highly restricted.

*Under **no** circumstances should students park on school property.*

This includes the parking bays inside the rear entrance to the school.



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