

School Link Coordinator/Program Summary for School Newsletters

School Link is a collaborative initiative between the Department of Education and Training and NSW Health. The aim of School Link is to improve the mental health of children and young people in NSW.

Key functions of the School Link Coordinator include: Improving pathways to mental health care for school students. Facilitating and coordinating training for both Education and Health staff aimed at improving identification and management of students with mental health problems. Assisting in strengthening collaboration between local service providers involved in the identification and management of students experiencing mental health, emotional and behavioural problems.

The School Link Coordinator for Willyama and Broken Hill High Schools is Lisa Hunter. Lisa has a background in nursing and health management. A School Link initiative being developed for 2011 is monthly seminars where specialists in their field will deliver talks about issues faced by school age children and youth. The seminars will be open to parents, teachers, students and the wider community. The seminars will be a great way for parents to learn about what their children may be

Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA)

What is ESSA?

ESSA is a statewide Science assessment program based on the NSW Science Years 7-10 Syllabus, which mandates the teaching of science in contexts that assist students to see the relevance of science and to make meaning of scientific knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes. The ESSA test is for students who have completed two years of secondary schooling and learning in science. It is mandatory for all Year 8 students in NSW government schools.

Tuesday 23 November.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The following link will connect you to our online school calendar for up to date information including term dates, school events, excursions etc.

<http://web1.willyama-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/webcal/calendar/1>

FREE AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING CENTRE (FAST)

We have decided to change the name of the School Homework Centre to the **Free After School Tutoring Centre**, so both students and parents are aware of what the school is offering, and students are not put off by the "Homework" title.

The FAST is open for all Willyama students on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.30pm and provides a great opportunity for students who may be having difficulty with assessment tasks or class work to receive extra assistance and tuition in any subject in a relaxed and resourceful environment.

If you have any queries about the centre, please contact the school on 8088 1055.
We really hope that students use the valuable tuition that is being offered to them.



WILLYAMA WHISPERS

Principal: Tony Hicks
PO Box 708
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880
Phone: 08 8088 1055
Email: willyama-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
<http://www.willyama-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Term Four Week Six

Friday 18 November 2010

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

With only four weeks of the year remaining students are still very busy with learning. Reports are being written on student progress and some extra curricula activities have been organised. Year 8 students attended the movies to see Mao's Last Dance as part of their English studies. Next week a group of Year 10 & 11 students will travel to Lithgow for the Outdoor Recreation Camp where they will live in the bush for 10 days learning skills that contribute to the attainment of Certificate 11 in Outdoor Recreation as part of their HSC.

Congratulations to Year 10 students on completion of their exams last week. School continues as normal till 10 December when Year 10 students will receive their School Certificates. It will be great to see parents and carers for this special Presentation Ceremony to be held in the School at 12.00 pm. They will resume school on 7 February as Year 11 students.

Parents and Community are invited to Presentation Night on 13 December in the Entertainment Centre. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate the success of students' work and achievements from 2010.

It is pleasing to see many students wearing their uniform with pride. This term has been a transition time and it is expected that students commence wearing full school uniform in the new school year. It consists of grey shorts or skirt and white polo shirt for juniors. For PE and sport students will change for hygiene reasons into the red polo shirt and black shorts. Seniors wear black shorts and/or grey skirt and polo shirt.

Congratulations to Ellysia Oldsen who will be in Sydney next week as part of Dance Spectacular. She has attended a number of training sessions over the year and we are very proud a Willyama High School student is part of the state dance Troupe. I am excited about the introduction of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) into Willyama High School. This is a great medium to improve and encourage student achievement within the school. The team is very busy building the foundations for 2011 that focus on the core values of Respect, Responsibility and Co-operation. The National Partnership team have been busy planning for 2011 and have identified strategies that will support the learning of all students in 2011. Teaching and Learning will focus on improving attendance and engagement of students and opportunities will be developed to support students with literacy and numeracy. More information about these changes will be provided early in 2011.

The FAST centre is still running in the afternoon and I encourage students who need help with understanding and strengthening their knowledge of concepts or complete homework to attend. This will continue next year so please use this wonderful service.

Shirley Ellis

Welcome to Year 12!

Charles Sturt University (CSU) would like to welcome all Year 11 students to their final year of study and to let you know about a great resource to help you through Year 12. Developed as part of the survival guide for students and parents, NSW HSC Online is an educational resource that has been helping students since 2001. It provides study materials for over 50 HSC subjects as well as study tips and forums. Have a browse at www.hsc.csu.edu.au

Explore life on campus now!

If you're in your final years of school, it's never too early to start looking at university campuses. Charles Sturt University (CSU) has an **open day every day** scheme which means you can book a tour at any of their five regional campuses when it suits you. A tour with an experienced student ambassador will help you acquaint yourself with the campus and its facilities. You can also organise to talk to staff members or lecturers about courses of interest and find out what it's really like to study at CSU. Tours are available Monday to Friday and bookings are essential at least three business days before the time you require. Find out more at <http://www.csu.edu.au/campustour.htm> or call 1800 334 733.

Language

Four students from Willyama High School recently participated in the Australian Languages Certificate Exams. The students were examined on their French reading and writing skills. Hugh Davies achieved a High Distinction in the Listening and Reading French Certificate 2. Ben Mills and Alan Davies achieved Distinctions, and Amanda Keast achieved a credit in the French 1 Certificate.



All of the students are to be congratulated on these excellent results.

Oasis Web Library

The library's computer system has been upgraded to Oasis Web Library. This new version offers a more comprehensive and user friendly library catalogue with links to websites for each KLA and curriculum stage. The benefits of using this system are many. All online resources have been reviewed by the Curriculum Directorate and filtered and are safe for use. All students can access the catalogue and web tools from any school computer on the school's intranet. We are in the process of making Oasis Web library accessible to students from home. The inclusion of web 2.0 tools provides an opportunity for students to integrate ICT skills in their learning. The information skills tools assist students with research skills, bibliography writing, essay writing etc. The Reference tools provide online encyclopaedias, dictionaries, thesaurus and other useful reference material. Students can utilise websites to learn how to use presentational tools, create videos from images, podcasts, movies and educational games. These are some of the benefits of Oasis Web Library and I encourage all students to use this innovative Library upgrade.

Nikki Adams Teacher Librarian

PBL is coming to Willyama

PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) is a broad range of strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviour. It aims to maximize student achievement by promoting the learning environment of the classroom and the school. Students are taught how to behave in accordance with the expectations of the school and have their positive behaviours acknowledged. These expectations have been linked to the Willyama High School values of Respect, Responsibility and Co-operation that were developed through staff, student and community consultation during 2009. These systems aim to reduce unnecessary discipline and promote a climate of greater productivity, safety and learning.

Term 4, 2010 is a very exciting and important part of the WHS, PBL journey. So far we have:

- formed the PBL Team
- conducted audits of current processes and systems
- undertaken training and developed the "Champion" rewards system

The Team is currently working on a range of projects to ensure the smooth implementation of PBL in 2011. Some tasks include how the team is going to communicate the ideals of PBL with students, staff and parents, data collection and analysis, a whole school matrix, training for staff and students about the strategies of PBL, and seeking community support in regards to 'Champion' reward prizes.

Throughout the 2011 school year lessons will be delivered in all classes that focus on the expected behaviours for students when they are at school. The lessons will explicitly teach students the values and expectations of WHS and this positive environment will assist in their personal endeavors to achieve at WHS.

Keep your eyes open to find out more over the coming weeks and if you are interested in becoming involved as a parent or community representative on the PBL team please contact the school on 8088 1055 or call in and see us.

Positive Behaviour for Learning Team

Are you a Champion?



PBL is for Champions.

Positive Behaviour for Learning is coming to Willyama.

Champions, keep watching for information on how to win rewards and competitions.

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you would like the Willyama Whisper emailed to you, please let the Front Office know and we will put you on our email distribution list.