



WILLYAMA WHISPERS

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Term 2 Week 8

Friday 26 March 2010

PRINCIPALS REPORT

In the role of a Principal, I have the unique opportunity to talk with many mums and dads about a wide range of topics. Most of the conversations are really positive and relate to some of the excellent things that our students are involved in. However some conversations revolve around issues that are of great concern to me personally, and I am sure would also be of concern to the greater Willyama High School and indeed Broken Hill Communities.

The issue that is of most concern is that of alcohol. I am constantly amazed and, to be quite truthful, shocked by some of the stories that I hear about the availability of alcohol to children as young as 13 and 14. In some instances, drinking by children under the age of 18 is actually condoned.

The school often deals with issues related to weekend binge drinking. The consequences of binge drinking are not pleasant. A student's ability to perform well at school is also impaired if they are regular drinkers. This is particularly true of our senior students.

A significant number of parents have also expressed their concern about the pressure that is placed on them by their sons and daughters to be able to drink alcohol or to be able to attend parties where alcohol is present. The perception is that most parents allow their children to drink, when clearly this is not the case.

Recent studies have shown the extremely negative effects that even small amounts of alcohol can have on the developing brain. Health professionals now encourage young people to abstain totally from alcohol for as long as they possibly can so that the brain can develop to its full potential. I believe that we all need to take this message on board.

We, as a school community, must look after our young people - it is all of our responsibility.

Tony Hicks

WORK READINESS PROGRAM

On 3 March Year 10 students were given the option to complete either their First Aid Certificate or OH&S course. Pictured are the 40 students who completed their OH&S course which was presented by Mr Harvey and Mr Reilly.



Year 10 have spent Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week on work experience and will continue to attend each Day 8 until the end of term 2. Congratulations to all students who have worked well in the work readiness program. Tracy Hicks.

A NEW NATIVE GARDEN



Mrs A. Jones' Day 8 Native Garden class are preparing to plant a large garden full of native plants in the area next to the COLA. The preparation is hard and dirty, but the results should be fantastic. Students will pour a concrete slab for a rainwater tank, and install an irrigation system to water the variety of grasses, shrubs and groundcovers that will be planted next term. We hope to place paths through the area, and provide areas with benches for students to sit on. The garden will bring an attractive spot to a once barren area of the school and encourage birds and other wildlife to frequent the area.

PRACTICAL PROJECTS IN TAS

Year 7 students use a variety of tools to develop their three dimensional key ring holder in wood with their teacher, Mr Ramsay.



A newly returned teacher said recently to her class “that if you know how to use a sewing machine you can learn to drive a car”. If this is the case the Special Unit TAS class recently demonstrated that they will be excellent drivers. David is one of the many students to show their skills in this area (right).



Jared helps Mr Reilly complete one of the signs for the school grounds (left).



WEST DARLING SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the WHS Swimming Team for a fantastic effort at the West Darling Swimming Carnival on 5 March. The School was well represented and Ellysia Oldsen, Amber Grose and Bailey Stubing deserve a special mention for being Age Champions on the day - Well Done All!

THE LOTE STORY



Bonjour! Je m'appelle



Ah! a role play



Amanda and Ben with
Henri acquainting
themselves with their new
work schedule.



Zut! How does
this work?

SAINTS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Saints Rugby League club will be holding a BBQ and Junior registration day at the Lamb Oval on Sunday 21 March at Midday. All old and new players are invited to attend. New players are asked to bring proof of age (birth certificate, passport etc.)

Training will commence on Tuesday 23 March at the Lamb Oval at 4.30pm. The Saints Club would like to invite interested parents, coaches, or managers to attend a junior league meeting at the Robinson College Broken Hill.

Broken Hill High School P & C will be holding a Market Day on Thursday 25 March at 2.30pm.

The Market Day will include crafts, activities, rides, stalls, games, plants and vegetables, drinks, raffle, icecreams and a BBQ.

Anyone interested in being a part of the Market Day, please ring 8088 1522 and leave your name and contact phone number.

HELP OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBOURS!

The Broken Hill HACC service is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to frail aged people, people with a disability and their carers.

Do you have a few hours to spare? Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. A small reimbursement is provided towards petrol costs.

Please call 8080 3044, or visit Room 1 at the HACC Centre, cnr Wills & Gypsum Streets and speak with Service Coordinator, Leesa McInnes.