

### SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIP NEWS ALERT

Are you currently completing Year 10?

Are you interested in completing a School Based Traineeship through Years 11 and 12 as part of your HSC?

If Yes is the answer to both questions, there are currently two School Based Traineeships available – one in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations) and one in Retail in a community pharmacy, commencing after completion of your School Certificate examination. For further information and a copy of the advertisements, please contact your Careers Adviser. Closing date for applications is 5 November, 2010.

### AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD VISION IMPAIRMENT REGISTER

Sue Silveira, Research Fellow Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children contacted the Regional Director, Carole McDiarmid about the Australian Childhood Vision Impairment Register.

This project is sponsored by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children, in partnership with children, families, eye health professionals, low vision service providers and children services. The Register aims to capture data on Australian children who live with vision impairment.

We currently have 220 children registered, including children who are blind and vision impaired.

Data from the Register is shared with researchers and in planning for better services for children.

However, children and their families are not identified in any way.

Parents are able to find out details about the Register, and register their child at the following website:

<http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/research/ozviskids.asp>.

### TERM 4 CALENDAR

11 October	Students return to school
12 October	Year 10 Trial School Certificate Examinations start
12 October	P&C Meeting
14 October	HSC Exams start

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

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Term 3 Week Ten

Tuesday 21 September 2010

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### **Congratulations**

The School congratulates Ellysia Oldsen for being selected and participating in the Schools Dance Spectacular in Sydney recently. Well done.

#### **NAPLAN**

The NAPLAN tests have been released recently and provide valuable information to schools on what students know and can do in literacy and numeracy. This information allows schools to plan and develop programs for student improvement. Parents or carers wishing to discuss this information are invited to make contact with the school to organise a time to discuss the results.

#### **Pedal Prix**

14 students travelled to Murray Bridge last weekend and participated in the 24 hour event, where 240 pedal prix cars competed from around Australia. Willyama's team clocked up 511 kilometres which was fantastic. As Principal the best thing I saw was the team work and the support they gave each other, even though they were suffering from lack of sleep. All students gave it their best and showed perseverance to achieve their personal best and I congratulate them. Thanks to Mr Harvey, Mrs Hicks and Ms Millsteed for keeping them on the track.

#### **Speak Well**

The school is concerned with the offensive language that students are using. Please be aware that it is not accepted in the general community and is not accepted at Willyama High School. Students need to make the effort to consider others.

#### **Uniform**

The school community supports the wearing of school uniform and the new style of uniform has been chosen by the students. As summer is fast approaching I encourage all students to wear the new uniform commencing next term to show they are proud to be Willyama High School students.

#### **Mobile Phones**

Just a reminder that mobile phones must be turned off in class so that learning is not interrupted. If students choose not to follow this rule, they will be directed to take their phone to the front office. It can be collected at the end of the day. If their phone has been handed in three times then the phone will be kept at school, until a parent comes to collect the phone from the Principal.

#### **Holidays**

School holidays commence 25 September and school resumes for term 4 on 11 October. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday.

S Ellis

Relieving Principal

### NUMERACY AND LITERACY WEEK

Following Book Week our school celebrated Literacy and Numeracy week from 29 August to 4 September 2010.

The week's celebration is an opportunity to recognise the achievements of students and the work of teachers, parents and members of the community who support them to develop stronger literacy and numeracy skills.

This year's theme was

*"Learning for Living". Students expressed their ideas artistically in the form of a literacy and numeracy mandala. Pictured to the right are: Jessica Theoharidis and Indiana Shamroze - Tumes*



### BOOK WEEK

This national celebration was held in the week of August 21 – 27 2010. Currently in its 65<sup>th</sup> year, Book Week not only showcases the wonderful books, the talented authors and illustrators we are privileged to have in Australia but highlights the importance of reading.

Every year the library runs a writing competition to showcase our school's talented writers and illustrators.

Pictured are the winners of the competition. Dylan Hoysted: book cover design, Catherine Beahl: poetry, Katelynn McInnes: short story, Emma Jaensch: book cover design.

I'd like to thank all the students who entered the competition and encourage others to do the same next year.

*Mrs Adams*

*Teacher Librarian*



### School Attendance Requirements

**Regular attendance is essential to assist students to maximise their potential.**

**Encouraging regular attendance at school is a core school responsibility.**

Under the Education Act (1990), Parents are required to:

- ensure that children attend school every day that instruction is provided; and
- provide an explanation for absences (including late arrivals) within seven school days of the absence.

The School has a duty of care, and will contact parents about unexplained absences by:

- sending an SMS or email message (usually on the day of the absence);
- giving students a SCHOOL REMINDER "Reason for absence note" to take home to parents (usually on the first school day following the absence);
- sending home an 'Absentee Notice' in the mail (at least seven days after the absence); or
- telephoning home (at any time, as required).

Please contact the school on 8088 1055 if you are concerned about your child's school attendance. School staff will work with you to address any issues and improve unsatisfactory attendance.

**Where school based interventions are unsuccessful, cases of chronic non-attendance will be referred to the regional Home School Liaison Program. The Department can undertake legal action in the case of parents who do not fulfil their obligations under the Education Act (1990) despite all reasonable measures being taken by school and regional staff to support them.**

### PASS EXCURSION

On Sunday 22 August fifteen students from Years 8 and 9 Physical Activity and Sports Studies classes embarked on an adventure to Adelaide to see the mighty Port Adelaide Power conquer the struggling Melbourne Demons. At 5.30am the bus departed Willyama High School with a very excited bunch of students and three teachers that were not quite at the same level. Two hours into the journey and the teachers were still waiting for the kids to fall back to sleep, so we stopped off for a quick break and an early kick of the footy in Yunta. With a full tank of diesel (well almost), we headed for Burra where disappointment rained on the parade as we found the bakery closed, however the local service station came to the rescue with hot chips and pasties for breakfast. After a quick driver change it was on to West Lakes. The weather was sensational, not too hot, not too cold which was unlike Mason Squire's sense of direction which ended with everyone completing 1.5 laps of the stadium just trying to find Bay 102. When we did it was straight to the boundary and waiting for the hooter to get play under way. Some high-lights during the next two hours included many boo's, many cheers, much banging on the boundary, and the potential 'mark of the year'. Other moments of random funniness



were brought to us by 'unfit overweight runners that walked', 'runners that run funny', people that commentate about the lack of commentary and the speed the Local Area Command could lap the inner ring. When the final hooter sounded it was time to say bye to Shelby and hello to Semaphore Beach. Not the ideal temperature to be swimming, but the beach was still a high-light with most dipping their toes in

quickly. At the next stop in Pooraka everyone enjoyed the delights of McDonalds. Ms Watts was peer-pressured into eating greasy and not from the healthy choices menu and where Mr Harvey estimated the fuel consumption of the bus to within 50¢! After dinner another driver change and we headed home. Mr Harvey and Mr Mortimer and Ms Watts could have been mistaken for roadie's of Taio Cruz and Justin Bieber and their ears may still not recover from the events that unfolded in the next 2 hours. Needless to say we will not be purchasing 'Dynamite' nor 'Baby' anytime soon. The bus finally quietened down as night fell and once Mason had howled to his friends out the window.

After a huge day the bus finally ended up where it first began at 11.15, some 18 hours later. A fantastic day was had by all and a big thanks goes out to Mr Mortimer, Mr Harvey and Ms Watts who made this adventure possible.

