

### **Teenagers and their fathers/father figures**

The times when teenagers are the most rebellious, obnoxious and even hurtful are the times when they need the most love

Tell them you are there for them, no matter what happens, especially during tough times.

#### **Thoughts?**

Join the discussion on the website:

<http://www.thefatheringproject.org/?p=2949>

We love to hear from you too!

*The Fathering Project Team*

### **Managing Depression**

One in four kids over 12 has symptoms of depression. Would you know what to look for and how to help? Don't be afraid, ask your child how they are feeling and keep communicating with them.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children>

### **Financial Literacy**

Does your child need help with business and economics? Here's info on credit cards, how to be responsible spenders and savers, and make consumer choices.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/other-subjects-and-projects/business-and-economics/credit-cards>

### **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>

### **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.

### **THE FAST CENTRE**

The FAST centre is open for all Willyama students on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.00pm 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.



# **WILLYAMA WHISPERS**

Principal: Grant Shepherd (Relieving)

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Term 2 Week 2

Friday 10 May

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Welcome back to Term 2. I am looking forward to working with everyone as relieving Principal and am sure that it is going to be a very busy and productive term. Year 12 have completed their half-yearly examinations. I am already aware of some outstanding results. The HSC year is a very important one and students will need to continue to work very hard over the next few months to achieve their aspirations.

We welcome two new teachers this term with Ms Helen Leis replacing Miss Christianna Elliott in English and Miss Sarah Gillespie replacing Mrs Karen Vercoe in Special Education. Mr Ross Mackay is relieving Deputy Principal (Years 9, 10 and 12) and Mrs Lyndsay Kubiak is relieving Head Teacher Special Education.

The school was well represented in the ANZAC Day march during the holidays and I would like to particularly thank all students and teachers who attended on behalf of Willyama High School. We were very proud of our school captains Katelyn Rudd and Jayden Lee who both spoke very well at the ceremony.

We had three of our outstanding swimmers attend the NSW Combined High Schools carnival in Sydney at the end of last term. Congratulations to all these swimmers particularly Ellysia Oldsen who won a number of silver medals. Ellysia swam a personal best in the 100 metres butterfly. Ellysia is currently competing at the CHS All Schools Carnival and we wish her well.

NAPLAN testing is on 14-16 May for year 7 and 9 students. I encourage all students to do their best as NAPLAN provides us with valuable data to inform teaching and learning.

It has been wonderful to see so many school merit awards given to our students at their respective year meetings this week. I am looking forward to watching these students progress through our merit award system to achieve Principal's medallions and above. Check out how the merit system works on the next page.

Grant Shepherd  
Principal (Relieving)

## MERIT AWARD SCHEME

Willyama High School has a whole-school coordinated merit system that is designed to recognise and reward all students who try hard and achieve to the best of their ability.

In recognising students who have achieved excellence we acknowledge achievements in the academic, extra-curricular, cultural and service fields within our school community.

Willyama High School students can receive a merit award in three ways:

1. during the merit review period (held in Weeks 5 and 10 of each Term), where teachers reflect on students' academic application over the previous five weeks and award merit certificates based on student effort and achievement;
2. for participating in out of the ordinary events in academic, cultural, extra-curricular or service fields. Examples include participating in external competitions, performing in school concerts, representing the school in sport, or marching for the school on ANZAC Day; and
3. for displaying school values and/or citizenship. Students who consistently show respect, responsibility and cooperation (for example: being in the right place at the right time, respecting others' right to learn and treating everyone justly) will be recognised.

The School Merit System will be an ongoing system which will begin when the student first enrolls at Willyama High School and will continue until they officially sign out.

A **Merit Award** will be presented to students for positive participation in academic, cultural, extra curricular or service activities.

A **School Merit Award** will be presented to every student who gains 10 Merit Awards. These awards will be presented to the student at their year presentation assembly.

A **Certificate of Excellence** will be presented to any student who gains 3 School Merit Awards. This presentation will be made at the student's year presentation ceremony.

A **Principal's Award** is presented to any student who receives 6 School Merit Awards. This will be presented to eligible students at their year presentation ceremony.

A **Principal's Medallion** is presented to any student who receives 9 School

## Technology-savvy girls

We know our girls are just as techno-savvy as boys - so why do you think they're not pursuing careers in technology? Read how Silicon Valley is opening the gate for girls and making them consider technology studies.

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/opening-a-gateway-for-girls-to-enter-the-computer-field/?hp>

## Help with ratios

Homework is full of tricky maths questions. Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. This glossary gives straightforward explanations and illustrated examples.

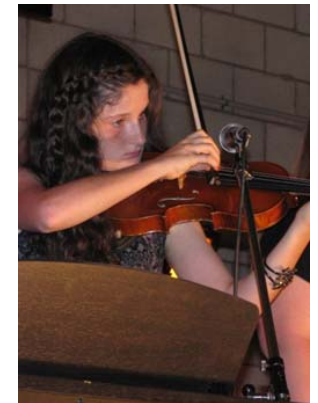
Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/maths/maths-a-to-z>



Emmie Stenhouse



Abbey Johns



Estelle Winders



Georgia Treloar

### RUNNING GROUP

- Please support the Running Group in our fundraising efforts.
- Come buy a sausage at our Woolworths Sausage Sizzle at the Plaza on Saturday 18 May starting at 10 am.
- We are having a cake stall at News World News Agency on Sunday 26 May starting 8 am.
- And most importantly there will be a Mufti Day on Friday 31 May.
- A gold coin donation will be greatly appreciated and we will be selling hot chips from the canteen at lunchtime. So save your pennies and support us!
- *Thank you*

### MUSIC CONCERT IMAGES FROM TERM 1



Codie Whitehead & Myles Burt



Caitlin and Jayden Lee



Estelle Winders, Renae Gaiter,  
Bryan Mullard & Airlie Barraclough



Liam Graham

Merit Awards. This will be presented at the school's annual presentation night.

A **Bronze Plaque** is presented to any student who receives 12 School Merit Awards, across the four merit categories. This will be presented at the school's annual presentation night.

A **Silver Plaque** is presented to any student who receives 15 School Merit Awards, across the four merit categories. This will be presented at the school's annual presentation night.

A **Gold Plaque** is presented to any student who receives 18 School Merit Awards, across the four merit categories. This will be presented at the school's annual presentation night.

Any student who surpasses this level during their schooling will receive a further Gold Plaque, with a Bar title explaining their level (eg. Gold Plaque – 1<sup>st</sup> Bar)

The plaques will be small and individual, but Gold Plaque recipient names will also be added to the school honour board and engraved on a large Plaque that is displayed in the school's foyer.



### REWARDS DAY



Last term, Willyama students enjoyed a Rewards Day in Patton Park. It was a beautiful day with the sun shining. Leaving from school at lunch time around 70 students hopped on a bus and had a fun afternoon in the sun. Mr Vigar, Mr Harris and Mrs Nairn took turns manning the barbecue and there were competitions of tug-of-war, Frisbee and footy. The Bell's milkshakes went down a treat with all students having a drink and a snack. Everyone was so well behaved and courteous. All teachers were proud to say that our students were from Willyama and true champions! This term our reward will be a trip to the cinema so stay tuned to see what you need to do to qualify for this great treat. Don't forget to keep showing respect, responsibility and cooperation, collecting those champ tickets, working hard in class and keeping up your attendance!



## SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Seasons for Growth is an innovative education program which explores the effects of change, loss and grief. We will be running the program at the school in term two at the beginning of Week 5. If you are interested in your child participating in the program or would like further information please contact

Kylie Wilson.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The 2013 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge has commenced at Willyama with all Year 7 classes as well as students in Years 8 and 9 taking part. The reading challenge is not a competition but rather a means of exposing students to a wide selection of quality literature and encouraging them to enjoy reading.

Last year 235,000 students across NSW schools from Kindergarten to Year 9 took part in the challenge. The reading journey starts in March and finishes early September at which time students are expected to have read a minimum of 20 books, 15 to be selected from the PRC booklist and 5 of personal choice. All students who take part and finish this reading journey will receive an official Premier's Reading Challenge certificate and their names will appear on the PRC Honour Roll.

For further information please visit the following website  
<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Any encouragement from home is very much appreciated.

*Nikki Adams*  
*Teacher Librarian*  
*PRC Co-ordinator*

*Haylee Dawson, Kaitlyn Hocking- Year 7*



## LIBRARY PROGRAM

At the beginning of Term 1, all Year 7 students commenced a Library program. This involved students working with me in the library one day per week instead of attending their timetabled English/Science class.

At the end of the term all Year 7 students completed the program and have acquired knowledge and skills in the following areas;

- The location of the Library, the services it provides and the role of the staff.
- How to use OASIS Web Library to access the Library catalogue, web 2 tools, recommended KLA resources and to locate resources according to the Dewey Decimal System.
- Parts of a book.
- The information skills process and how it is used to complete assignments successfully.
- Note taking and note making skills.
- Concept mapping / brainstorming.
- How to use different search engines to get the best from the internet.
- How to use the electronic databases "Worldbook online" and "Bigchalk library".
- How to write a bibliography for various media.

One period a week, for one term is not enough for all Year 7 students to be efficient in all these areas, however their knowledge and skills will be developed as students are assisted by the Teacher Librarian and Classroom Teacher when researching in the Library.

Students will be bringing their Library workbook home as it showcases their work but also contains user names/passwords for electronic databases available to them 24/7 to assist with their assignments and how to write a bibliography for various media.

I thank the English and Science departments for accommodating this valuable program and encourage you to discuss the information contained in their Library book.

*Thank You Nikki Adams Teacher Librarian*

*Lachlan McIntosh*

