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We are searching for NSW's best high school teachers to be part of an exciting new project that will change the face of teaching resources.

To nominate your teacher fill out the entry form at www.nswteacheroftheyear.com.au and answer in 100 words or less why you believe your teacher should win the title of NSW Teacher of the Year.

Competition closes: Friday 19 June 2015 at 23:59 AEST. Our ABN: 261 939 077 91.
Full terms and conditions can be found at www.nswteacheroftheyear.com.au/competition-tcs



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
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 2 Week 7

2 June 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Well done to all students who recently participated in the school cross country, in particular our age champions. See inside for more details. A number of our students went on to compete in the West Darling cross country held at Memorial Oval last week and met with great success. These results will be in the next Whispers.

Eleven HSC students have travelled to Dubbo this week with Mr Hughes and Miss Chennell to attend HSC enrichment seminars. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to access additional expertise and support in the lead up to their HSC exams. I am sure it will be a very worthwhile experience.

We are all looking forward to the Term 2 concert which will be held at the Broken Hill Civic Centre on 24 June. This is always a fantastic night where our students have the opportunity to showcase their wonderful talents in music and dance. Get your tickets early.

The parent and student portals were launched last week enabling parents and students to access attendance details, timetables, newsletters, individual champ ticket tallies and the school calendar. More will be added as time goes on. Please contact the school if you have any queries in relation to this new initiative.

Teachers are currently busy completing half-yearly reports. These will be posted out prior to the end of term and a parent/teacher afternoon will be held for years 7-11 parents on 21 July from 4-6 pm.

A reminder that the School Development Day, originally gazetted for 20 April, will be held on 22 June. Students do not attend school on this day. Letters have been posted home to all parents with further details.

Important upcoming dates:

10 June	P&C meeting
16 June	Term 2 Rewards Day
16 June	Year 12 Parent/Teacher afternoon
22 June	School Development Day
24 June	Term 2 Concert

Grant Shepherd
Principal

Mental Health First Aid Training

Everybody's heard of First Aid Training and most of us are familiar with the mnemonic for remembering what to do – DRSABC. In reality however, as teachers, parents, friends and workmates, we are far more likely to need to apply Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) in our daily life.

Who of us at some point hasn't been in contact with a person suffering from anxiety, depression, or some other form of mental health distress? It's often hard to know what to say or where to take them.

In response to this need, all teaching staff from Willyama High School are participating in Youth MHFA training in 2015. Every teacher and teacher's aide is out of the school for 2 days, in groups of about 5, where we learn the ALGEE protocol for dealing with students who present in mental health distress. This training has been developed by a group of Australian mental health practitioners and is now being taught in dozens of countries around the world. Just like with physical first aid, it gives a protocol for assessing the severity and urgency of the person's need and gives a framework for referring them to the appropriate professional. Regular first aid training doesn't turn us into paramedics nor does youth MHFA aim to turn school staff into counsellors or psychologists. However, we are confident that this initiative will equip us to better serve your children at their times of need.

Special thanks to Alison Jones for organising the program, Liz Martin (mental health nurse) for delivering the teaching, and Rob Devoy for managing the resulting teacher shortage at the school.



Go to www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org or <https://mhfa.com.au> for more information including a description of ALGEE.

Alison Jones and Liz Martin at the University Department of Rural Health, where the training takes place.

NSW Combined High Schools Soccer State Carnival

This year was the first time that the West Darling School Sports Association entered a team in the NSWCHS Soccer State Carnival. Special congratulations to Cooper Murray, Samuel Harrap and Campbell Symes for making the team that represented the West darling. The boys ended up finishing in 11th place. It was a great experience, as they came up against some of the best players in the state. Despite being on the wrong end of a few score lines, their effort never faltered and they have been welcomed to compete in the tournament next year. Congratulations to all the representatives, they have done the West Darling Region proud. A special thanks to Jon Carrett and Paul Gauci (BHHS) who coached and managed the team.

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE - LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th Century novelist wrote : “ the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but having new eyes” . Volunteer to host an international high school student arriving into Australia in July 2015 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one term , one semester or two semesters from France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark. They will attend a local High School, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive health insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. To enquire about becoming a volunteer host family visit us at www.scce.com.au email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Kind Regards,
Robert Lindsay
National Director

YEAR 9 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Students have harvested the fresh corn grown throughout this semester and prepared a chicken corn and noodle soup during a practical lesson. They are looking forward to the other vegetables currently growing, to produce further healthy dishes.

N Harper



Term 2 Concert at the Civic Centre.

A reminder that the Term 2 Concert is being held at the Civic Centre in Week 10, Wednesday 24 June 2015, so put this date in your diary. It will showcase the amazing talent of Willyama High School students from Years 7-12 and include both musical and dance items. The cost will be \$8.80. We look forward to seeing you there.



Year 7 Food Technology

Year 7 Food Technology class had to design and produce a healthy style pie for one. The students all did an amazing job completing the design brief and producing their pies in the practical lesson.



CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS 2015



AGE CHAMPIONS

AGE	BOYS	GIRLS
12	FLETCHER KOLINAC	ELLIE SIMMONS
13	QUINN PARKER	MAIGHAN MASHFORD
14	ZACHARY MURRAY	ANGEL SIMMONS
15		GEORGIE KUERSCHNER
16	BAILEY SHEPHERD	GEORGIA TRELOAR
Open		JESSICA PRYOR

HOUSE POINTSCORE

KYARA	61 points
HEXHAM	54 points
YANCOWINNA	44 points

Congratulations to all competitors and age champions on a fantastic effort at the recent School Cross Country Carnival. Particular mention must go to Quinn Parker and Maighan Mashford who, at the tender age of 13, managed to outlast all competitors to finish first and second respectively. Successful athletes competed for Willyama High in the West Darling Carnival on 29 May 2015 at the Memorial Oval.



Year 8 Mandatory Art

As part of the Archibald Prize exhibition at the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, gallery staff are conducting portrait workshops for school students. Students in Mrs A Jones' class were lucky to have the opportunity to learn about

portraiture and make several portraits in a variety of media, including graphite, pen, texta and crayon. They even tried drawing with their less dominant hand, producing some surprising results! The students would like to thank Ian Howarth and Kathy Graham from the gallery.

- Students working on a portrait
- Brendan McAvaney and Tyler Mew
- Back- Tayla McDonald, Dakota McKenzie-Gilby; Front- Katelyn Polak, Tylah McNamara



Running Group Race Dates for 2015

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July – The Gold Coast Airport Marathon
 Sunday 20 September – The Adelaide City to Bay

All family members are welcome to join us; there are 5Km, 10Km and 21Km running and walking races for all fitness levels.

Training is every Tuesday and Thursday from the front ramp at school – 7am start, returning by 8am.