

# WILLYAMA WHISPERS – Term 1, Week 7, 9 March 2016

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Front Cover completed by Year 10 students, Jessica Groves, Kelsey Graham, Ruby Galpin, and Shaylan Kingdon. The artwork was completed for the music performance area.

## From the Principal's Desk

It has certainly been great weather for swimming carnivals with the current heatwave continuing into this week. Our school carnival was held last Friday in quite warm conditions and we were impressed with the participation and behaviour of all involved. There will be more details on the carnival in the next Whispers. Thank you to Mr Jon Carrett and the PDHPE staff for their organisation of the carnival. We wish our swimmers well as they participate in the West Darling carnival this Friday.

Our Student Leadership Induction Ceremony was also held last week and we were proud to induct our new captains, vice captains, SRC executive and members as well as house captains. Congratulations to our school captains Adam Galea and Georgia Treloar and our vice captains Michael Gusling and Shannon Graham. Congratulations are also due to Sophie Morrison our SRC president and all other student leaders recognised on the day. We look forward to working with you to improve student learning in our school.

Well done to our Year 7 students and Year 10 peer support leaders who participated in the wellbeing day held at the racecourse recently. Photos and more details inside this Whispers.

Good luck to our robotics team who head to Sydney next week to compete in the FIRST Robotics competition after building our robot here at school earlier this term. We know that you will do us all proud.

Term planners can be found on the school website page at <http://www.willyama-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/> If you go to the third green box along the top and click on calendar it will take you to a page that says 'to access our school calendar click here.' After clicking on the link you can then choose which term to look at from the top right hand side of the page. This calendar is constantly updated.

Another form of communication we use with parents/students is the school Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Willyama-High-School-564463436898578/> Simply like' the page to be kept up to date with school happenings.

Willyama High School has a proud tradition of participating in the YMCA's Living Desert Dash Fun Run. Don a red shirt and come along and join us to run or walk the

3, 5 or 10km courses this Sunday 13 March. Enter at the YMCA in Chloride Street before 12noon on Saturday.

Grant Shepherd

Principal

## The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at:

<http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by **Monday 21 February**. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

## Year 7 Race Course Day

On Thursday 25 February, Willyama High School Year 7 students and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders joined with Broken Hill High School students to attend a wellbeing information day at the Race Course. Students participated in activities with several community organisations focusing on leadership, team work, wellbeing and problem solving. It was a successful day and the students were praised by organisers for their participation and excellent behaviour.



Students building a 'support network'



Maari Ma Youth Health



Learning to navigate



Students cooled off by throwing wet sponges at their peer support leaders at the Maari Ma Youth Health Tent

# Year 7 Peer Support

During Week 2 of peer support lessons, students explored the idea of how they view themselves and their challenges, can affect the outcomes of these situations. Students discussed helpful ways to view challenges. They considered keeping things in perspective, separating emotions and ascertaining facts to accurately identify the problem to be addressed.

Your child may, at times, feel overwhelmed by the expectations of secondary school. Encourage them to make a list or write a plan to help identify smaller tasks to make a large workload more manageable. It is important they feel supported while being encouraged to independently prioritise their responsibilities.

Understanding how influential our thoughts are in responding to challenges is crucial. During Week 3 of peer support lessons students recognised the choice to respond with open or limiting thoughts. A difficult or new situation may require hard work, perseverance, courage or support from others.

Open thoughts allow us to make the most of any situation feeling optimistic about the possible outcomes.

Limiting thoughts still allow us to work through challenges. However, they prevent us from stretching our abilities and exploring positive outcomes to bring about change.

Visit [www.mindsetonline.com](http://www.mindsetonline.com) for examples of praise that will encourage your child to adopt open thoughts in all areas of their life.

## P&C dates for 2016

March 9, May 11, June 8, August 10, September 7, October 12, November 9

# Staff Profiles



**Name:** Jason Kok

**Where are you from?** Born and bred Sydney but my parents are from Malaysia and Indonesia while my grandparents are from China.

**What do you teach?** Music

**What's your favourite food?** Malaysian Chicken Laksa

**Chocolate or Vanilla?** Vanilla

**Favourite thing about Broken Hill?** The super dry humidity. I can't stand humid weather especially when it's hot.

**If you had to travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?** Mongolia. I've always been fascinated by its rich history and I think it'd be cool to sleep in a yurt.

**What sport code do you follow-which team do you follow?** Rugby UNION. GO WALLABIES.

**An interesting fact about you:** At the start of term I adopted a rescue ex-racer Greyhound named Storm.



**Name:** Anthony Yates

**Where are you from?** Newcastle

**What do you teach?** Special Education

**What's your favourite food?** Whatever happens to be in front of me at the time!

**Chocolate or Vanilla?** If it's ice-cream you're talking about, I'm probably going to need more options than

that.

**Favourite thing about Broken Hill?** The stars!!

**If you had to travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?** Anywhere is fine, as long as the people are kind, and the food is good.

**What sport code do you follow-which team do you follow?** NRL. The mighty Newcastle Knights, of course!

**An interesting fact about yourself:** I have a wicked table tennis serve.

## Reminder – Collection of Shoes

Miss Harper has asked that all students who have left their shoes from last year, purchased for practical lessons, to come and collect from her ASAP or they will be taken to St Vinnies or the Salvation Army.

## If a student is sick

- If student is unwell during class he/she must tell teacher they are unwell.
- Teacher fills an OUT OF CLASS PASS.
- If student is unwell during recess or lunch they must go to their last or next period teacher to get a pass to come to Front Office.
- Students are **NOT** allowed to phone/text parent/carer to pick them up. This must be done by the Front Office.
- Student comes to Front Office to be entered in the Sick Bay Register.
- Depending on the severity of the illness the student will either be, sent home, if the Front Office can get in contact with parent/carer, rest in sick bay or given treatment by the First Aid Officer and sent back to class with an OUT OF CLASS PASS.

## Broken Hill YMCA Desert Dash

The Broken Hill YMCA is holding the annual **Desert Dash Fun Run** on **Sunday 13 March 2016**. There are 5km and 10km walking and running events that are open for participation. Students do not need to be part of the regular running group to participate in the Desert Dash which is a fun way to enjoy the outback and be part of the Broken Hill community.

If you are interested please see Miss Kelly for more information.

## Newsletter

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

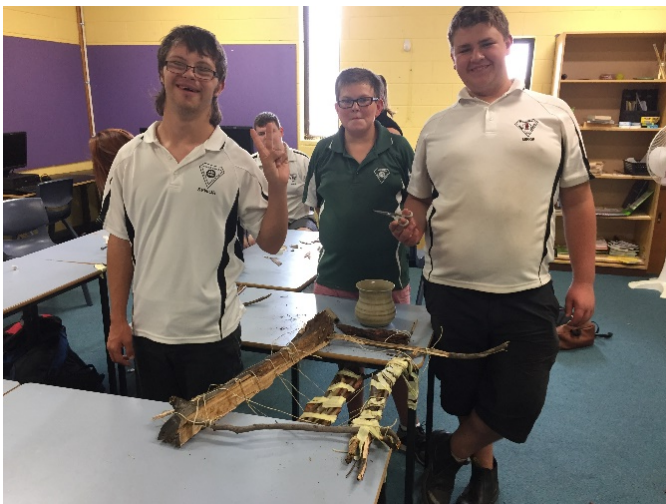
# Support Unit – Design and Technology



This term in D & T within the support unit, students in Years 9 and 12 have been working on a unit researching and designing bridges. They were given the challenge of building a suspension bridge using only natural materials found in the playground along with string or masking tape. All bridges met

the challenge of holding the weight of a vase. Each bridge was then tested using books and bag weighing up to 10kg. Some bridges were even able to hold some of our amazing teachers! Below are pictures of the students with their fantastic creations.

Pictured above James Howe and Chantel Francis



Eric Degoumois, Harry Morgan & Eric Tumes



Daniel O'Neill & Tyler Mew

# Questacon

On Wed 2 March 2016 QUESTACON engineering trainers Cian and Maeli visited Willyama High School to teach students from Years 8, 9 and 10 how to construct hovercrafts and gliders to withstand wind tunnels. Along with construction skills the students were also encouraged to improve their team work and problem solving abilities and were taught concepts such as upthrust, drag and lift in relation to moving objects.

On behalf of all the passionate scientists and engineers at Willyama, we would like to wish Mr Mann and his Year 11 Computer Software and Design class the best of luck in Sydney later this month when they compete in the USA-FIRST Robotics international competition.



Nikita Mundy, Georgie Gageler,  
Caitlin Cameron and Grace O'Neill



Joeben White



Morgan Rolton



Year 10 Science and Engineering team get pointers for this year's Cobar competition

# Questacon Teacher Workshop

On Monday 22 Feb 2016 QUESTACON teacher mentors Cindy and Broderick travelled from Canberra to train Science, Maths and TAS teachers from Willyama High School, Broken Hill High School and Menindee Central School how to teach STEM pedagogy through interactive problem solving and team building. STEM stands for **Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics** and the staff of Willyama are working hard to bring this skills based philosophy to the Broken Hill region.



Miss Garland and Miss Harper



Mr Dyson, Mr Dart & Mr Cawley



Miss Kelly & Miss Hough



Miss R Millstead & Mrs Paull



Mr Mann & Mr Vigar

## Lifeline Broken Hill

Lifeline Broken Hill and Central Football Club Quiz Night Fundraiser Saturday 12 March Doors open at 6pm, Quiz starts at 7pm. Full bar facilities. \$20p/p including supper by '1891 at the Tydvil'. Tickets available from Lifeline Broken Hill 194 Argent Street or by calling 8087 7525.

## Partial Absences

Partial absences from school are recorded as legal absences and must be explained by parents/carers in the same way as full day absences.

## Late Arrival

All students who arrive after 9.00am require a note of explanation. Students who arrive after the official roll call period ends at 9.10am must sign in at the front office, where they will be issued with a late arrival slip and will then proceed to class.

Students who arrive late to school without explanation three times will be required to attend a detention with the Deputy Principal. They will be notified to report to the Deputy Principal immediately after being released from class on Tuesday afternoon and will be released from detention at 3.28pm. Parents will be notified by letter prior to the detention date, and will need to make alternative travel arrangements if their child usually travels home by bus.

Roll Call Teachers will contact the parents of students whose partial absences from school are an ongoing concern.

## Early Leaver

All early leavers must provide a note of explanation to the front office on the morning of the absence at the latest. Students will be issued with an early leaver slip to allow them to leave class at the organised time, and must sign out of the front office when leaving the school.

Students returning to school after a partial absence must sign back in at the front office, where they will be issued with a late arrival slip and will then proceed to class.