

Comment from Principal – 4th March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

The long weekend beckons which I hope will be an opportunity for some re-creation as the term reaches its midpoint.

Camp at Metricup

Recreation too for our students in Years 7 and 8 (with some from Year 9) as they head off to Margaret River and the camp based at Metricup. Thank you for responding to our pleas to get the forms completed which will allow the camp to proceed free from worries about the paperwork. I hope the departure on the public holiday might be forgiven when I say that we had to go with this week as the only one available. We will try to obtain an alternative date for next year but as we are using the facilities of another school (St. Mary's Anglican School for Girls) we, quite rightly, have to give them priority. Abseiling, caving, kayaking, rock-climbing, bush-walking, orienteering, sea-kayaking and raft building are all on the menu for what should be a great week. Thanks to Mr, Clark, Mr Grobler, Mr Olsder, Ms Gregory and Miss Welsh for their commitment as leaders.

Forthcoming Events

The Calendar on the website, SEQTA and *Skoolbag* is kept up-to-date on a regular basis but just to highlight some events in the next week or so:

Monday 7th March Public holiday – School closed

Tuesday 8th March OLNA testing (written paper) – students involved have been notified

1515-1615 OLNA Tutorial for numeracy

Wed 9th March 1515-1615 OLNA Tutorial for literacy

Friday 11th March School represented at Wagin Woolorama (and Saturday 12th)

Monday 14th March Staff professional development seminar on feedback to students

Wed 16th March School Council Strategy Meeting (all day)

Thursday 17th 1050 Year 8 needles

Chapel

It was good to see Jackman House taking the lead in organising and running our Chapel service this morning. Their theme of individuals being able to make a difference in finding

solutions to some of the problems we face in the world today was neatly supported by a rap number from the *Black Eyed Peas* and appropriate prayers. It was good, too, having students from all year groups involved in the service. Goldsworthy and Wood will have the opportunity to take Chapel in the next half of term.

Sport

Some 30 students enjoyed a training opportunity in volleyball on Thursday. This will support the preparation of our team for Country Week; other teams have also been training and parents of students involved have been contacted about the Week. I will endeavour to keep you apprised of the training sessions each week as they arise.

Music

I am pleased to see the Band growing with some 35 students involved, contributing this morning in leading our hymn singing in Chapel. Mrs Saunders is forming a new Junior band and hopes to establish a Stage Band as well. We also have our strings group and many students taking individual lessons. A choir is the next step!

Year 7s and 8s – Lockers and Organisation

As I alluded last week not all of our students find organisation comes naturally. Mrs Walter and Ms Salomone have been working with the Year 7s and 8s to try and help: they conducted a locker check a week or so ago and also checked student stationery and equipment. Teaching staff also carry out checks in class. We will continue to try and help students develop their organisational skills to become more independent and self-reliant.

I wish all of you a great weekend and safe travels to all moving beyond Esperance.

With my warm wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Kerr

P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles Principal