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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **August**

10<sup>th</sup> - Gippsland Winter Sport

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> VCAL camp - CANCELLED

Parents' Club future meeting dates

- Sept 1<sup>st</sup>
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup>
- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>

Next School council meeting:

For your information the following are the remainder dates for School Council Meetings:

- 25<sup>th</sup> August (not the 18<sup>th</sup> August as stated on the Minutes)
- 20<sup>th</sup> October
- 17<sup>th</sup> November

School Council Dinner date to be notified at a later date.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Late last week a local family lost their house and all their belongings in a tragic fire. The Davison family were left with only the clothes they were wearing on the day of the fire. I have contacted Greg to offer our support, and he indicated that they would appreciate our support. The family now have accommodation in Newry, but are in dire need of linen and towels, cooking utensils and clothes. To give you some idea of sizes, there are 4 children in the Davison family, a 10 year old boy, and three girls aged 12, 16 and 17. Any items you wish to donate to the Davison family may be taken to the Middle Years building before school and given to Angi Thomas.

The College will be having a gold coin donation Casual day to raise money to help the family get back on their feet. Please feel free to donate more if you are able. I thank you in anticipation of the support I know our community can offer.

### **SCHOOL REVIEW**

In the School Review that was recently completed. The following is a snippet from the executive summary.

The following key improvement strategies are recommended for inclusion in the college's Strategic Plan:

*Student Teaching and Learning*

- *Improving teachers' capacity in understanding the principles of teaching and learning*
- *Improving students' understanding of their learning*

- *Pathways and Transition*
- *Raising the level of staff expectations of student learning outcomes*

*Wellbeing and Engagement*

- *Improving student engagement especially with reference to attendance*

Maffra SC is ready to take some significant steps forward provided teacher capacity in pedagogy is improved. The reviewer was impressed by the plans that are already in place to improve student outcomes. The Network initiative involving a university consultant will be an important component. The survey data supports the contention that strong and visionary leadership together with improved teacher capacity and greater student resilience are the foundations on which the college will build its future success.

From here the college will form a Strategic Plan writing committee to work through the process of encapsulating our directions for the next 4 years. There will be opportunities for community and parental involvement along the way.

### **ART SHOW**

The Art show was a great success, with many visitors passing our doors to view a wide range of high quality art work. With many talented artists around the judges had an extremely difficult task to select the winners in each category. A huge thanks to our wonderful art teacher, Angi Thomas, who coordinated the whole affair. She worked tirelessly in the days before the show to collect and display the art work. Thank you to all the helpers Angi enlisted to assist her with the Art show. Thanks also to the members of the parents club, who gave up many hours of their weekend to make sure the event went smoothly. Next year I look forward to the Art show being held in our new Music/Multimedia building. Congratulations to Mr Van and the Swing band, who entertained our visitors on both Friday evening and on Sunday afternoon, with some very snappy numbers. I would also like to thank Craig Ingram, Darren Chester and Darren McCubbin for fitting a visit to our Art Show into their busy schedules.

### **COURSE COUNSELLING**

Over the last week students in year 9, 10 and 11 have had an opportunity to discuss subject selections with a staff member. It was reaffirming to see so many parents attending these sessions, showing a pleasing willingness to be involved. If you have further questions in regard to subject selections please don't hesitate to contact the College. A big thanks to the staff members who have been working around the clock to fit all the interviews in.

*Andrew McIntosh*  
Principal

## MIDDLE YEARS

### STEP TO THE FUTURE

At 6.00am Monday morning, 46 Maffra Students left the school to go to Step to the Future. Step to the Future was held at The Melbourne Exhibition Centre. As well as us, there were about 400 other students from schools across Victoria. We listened to 4 inspirational speakers. First to speak was Armondo Hurley, a humorous performer who sings, acts and song writes. He has toured with Tina Turner, Diana Ross and Jimmy Barnes. As well as singing, he's been in quite a few ads- Bounty Chocolate, Big Ben's Pies, Coca Cola AFL and more. The second speaker was David Brown, Australia's leading meteorologist-weather presenter. In February 1998, David introduced the groundbreaking seven-day forecast on Seven Nightly News. After a bit of talking, he showed us how the green-screen works. It looked quite confusing but a few kids went up on stage and gave it a try. Allana Corbin spoke third. Allana's a very courageous woman who has beaten the impossible. Before 1990, Allana was a flying enthusiast. But while she and 5 others were on a search and rescue mission, their plane tragically crashed. Whilst trapped in the wreckage she saw 4 of her friends die and after 3 excruciating hours, help finally came. Allana's injuries were horrific, the worst- a broken back. The doctors said she would never walk again, but after 12 long months of intensive rehabilitation, she proved them wrong. Allana's now able to walk with the aid of callipers on her legs and two walking sticks. She also became the first woman to circumnavigate the mainland of Australia solo, in 1997- after her accident.

The last person to speak was Sam Cawthorn. By the time Sam was 23, he had pursued his dream as a musician and sales executive and travelling from state to state and overseas. He was also a fantastic Hip Hop (Choreographer) and Music/singing teacher performer. Then in October 2006, Sam was involved in a terrible car accident. He suffered an amputated right arm above the elbow, major chest injury and multiple broken bones in his right leg. It was a miracle that he survived the 200km head on with a semi trailer. His recovery was miraculous, surprising his doctors and surgeons.

Their stories were a true inspiration to all there. I recommend going, to anyone lucky enough to be chosen.

*Keysa Gahan-Rhodes*

## CASUAL DAY

There will be a casual day held on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August** to raise money for the Davison family who tragically lost their home last week in a fire. Students who wear casual clothes on the day are asked to bring a gold coin to donate to the family. REMEMBER that ALL students must wear closed toe shoes, which means NO thongs or sandals!!! Students wearing the

wrong shoes will be given another pair of shoes to wear for the day or be sent home!!

## MUSIC NOTES

Hi all. Firstly, congratulations to the Maffra Secondary College Swing Band for two excellent performances at the art show in the Middle Years Precinct on Friday and Sunday. The students have worked especially hard during rehearsals and this has paid off with many favourable comments from the audience which included Darren McCubbin the Mayor of Sale, our local parliamentarians Craig Ingram and Darren Chester. A great start to what I hope are many more impressive performances to come. Big thanks to Megan McDonald and Daniel Pearton for their professional playing on those days and ongoing support.

Please let your instrumental teacher know if you are not continuing lessons. Just not turning up is not the correct procedure and the department will have no choice but to continue to charge fees to parents.

Remember that practising at home is the only way to improve your instrumental skills and performing in ensembles is the only way to improve your music making skills!

One last thing. If music fees have not yet been paid please make payment to the office as soon as possible.

*Paul Van Eekelen.*

## PARENTS' CLUB

### ART & CRAFT SHOW

Parents Club would like to Thank Angi Thomas on a wonderful Art Exhibition and for donating proceeds from her art work to the school. Also for the etching she made of the front of the school and the donation of the 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the raffle. Also to Matt Thomas, Marg Booth and Mick Coggan for helping on the day to set up, and the many students who lent a hand. The art and craft was displayed professionally. A big thank you the Paul Van Eekelen and the College Swing Band for their delightful music over the weekend. To Tanya McIntosh who fed the band. To the Teacher and Students for entering their art work, we have a lot of talented artists at the school and it was very difficult to judge, but here are the Winners:

### Maffra Secondary Awards

Junior 7-8	Tom Crosbie Year 7
Middle Years	Breanna Mackenzie Year 9
Middle Years	Ann Lu Year 9
Senior 11-12	Lauren Baker Year 12
Ceramics	Daniel Muir Year 10
Graphics	Lauren Nicholson Year 10
Printmaking	Emilyn Dowdell Year 11

Grade 5/6 Primary School Competition "living in Gippsland"

1<sup>st</sup> Olivia Pearce - Maffra Primary School

2<sup>nd</sup> - Rebecca Morgan - Airly Primary School

3<sup>rd</sup>- Robbie Cook, Stratford Primary School

Best Overall School Awarded to Stratford Primary -  
Winners of Art Raffle are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize Original Art work Donated by Angi Thomas  
- Tanya McIntosh  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Wine and Cheese Hamper - G. Gallatly  
Newry  
3<sup>rd</sup> Art & Craft Tub - Claire Couling

We would also like to thank the sponsors, who provided the fine wine and cheese for the evening and provided the prizes for the raffle. Maffra Cheese, Murray Goulburn Cheeses, Avon Wines, Glenmaggie Wines, Greg Cook Wines.

Also special Mention to Dawn Stubbs who provided us with an original crystal figurine which was sold by silent auction for a grand total of \$215.

Last but not least the members of Parents Club who work tirelessly for the school and your students to provide better facilities for all.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

WSNN Inc. Wellington Special Needs Network Inc.  
WSNN Inc. Wellington Special Needs Network Inc. is a group of carers and families of people with special needs

We cover a general range of disabilities and do not specialize in one particular special need

We offer support , social get-togethers, and information to families who may be interested

We have a newsletter usually once a month and invite consumers to send information they may wish to share.

We have guest speakers of interest when we can.

We support and seek out information for families/carers/service providers which may be of interest to folks.

Next meeting:

**Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Annual General Meeting**

Schedule is commence @ 6:30pm @ Legends for dinner followed by guest speaker, Deb Brown, who will be speaking about Challenging Behaviours.

For more information contact Anita on Ph: 51 444 408 or email [bennell@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:bennell@vic.australis.com.au)