It was greatly encouraging to see so many parents and community members attend the recent parent seminar focusing on suicide awareness. The evening was informative and very well attended. It was also excellent that a number of people attended from the local deaf community and we had the opportunity to engage with them.

One of the major points raised at this night was the importance of engaging and communicating with our children by encouraging them to articulate their thoughts and, importantly, their feelings with us. Doing this not only builds relationships but also helps our children process their thoughts and feelings more effectively. Spending time together as a family discussing the day’s events and debriefing any situation that may have arisen is also invaluable.

I would like to thank the wellbeing staff team who took the initiative to organise this series of three evenings focussing on some of the current issues facing us as parents, namely:

- The sexualisation of our society
- The impact of technology
- Suicide awareness

We hope you are enjoying our newly designed website and that it has helped improve communication and accessing information about the school. The website is always a work in progress as we add and develop different features. Any feedback is welcome as we seek to serve not only our current families, but also potential new families as they try to find a school, especially if they are moving into the area.

This week, Frank Crawford from Scotland will be spending a day with the executive and some of our board members. One of the areas that will be investigated is a mechanism to get instant feedback from our school community to enable us to plan ahead taking feedback into account. More about this later.

It was my pleasure to meet with two of our senior students and commend them for their acts of service in two separate situations where they went beyond the call of duty to care for some of our younger students on their way home from school. These are the characteristics we hope to develop in our students, looking out for the needs of others, even if it means going out of their way. It was so encouraging to see such mature young Christian people developing in our community.

Many staff and students are working hard at the moment as they rehearse for the upcoming school musical. For those families new to William Carey, the school musical is a fantastic community celebration. Stay tuned for more details regarding ticket sales and opportunities to assist as excitement mounts for Seussical.

Psalm 86:1-4

Hear me, LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. Bring joy to your servant, Lord, for I put my trust in you.
At this stage of the year all high school years will have been involved with half-yearly assessments. In a wide variety of subjects this will be in the form of formal examinations. For other subjects this will be in-class tests or tasks of a different nature. Formal examinations can be a daunting experience for many students as they test knowledge and skills that have been taught across a significant time period, and to recall and apply that knowledge can't be fudged; it comes only through good preparation. It is a BOSTES requirement that we assess how well students have achieved course outcomes, and it is this achievement that we seek to report to parents in the mid-year reporting process.

Some schools have reduced the formal examination process and don’t run half yearly exams. William Carey has retained them because we want to train our students in how to do them well and make them a “normal” part of schooling. This means that events like NAPLAN and the HSC aren’t too out of the ordinary and cause more stress than they might otherwise do. Parents may notice that not all subjects in all years have a half yearly examination. Exams are only one type of assessment strategy and BOSTES has indicated they don’t want us to over-assess our students. In more practical subjects particularly, other types of assessment are more valid as they try to assess a broader range of outcomes than can be tested in an examination.

Formal assessments are also not the only way teachers are gathering data on student achievement. Formative assessment is a less formal approach whereby information about student progress is determined and it is used to immediately inform a teacher about what to do next to effectively teach students at their point of need. Staff have been trained over the last two years and are actively utilising these techniques in their classes.

Teaching is only one side of the coin in this process of outcome assessment. Students often don’t see their role in the teaching and learning process. Each assessment task is an opportunity for staff to feed back to students what they are doing well and what they can work on to improve their areas of weakness. Too often, students look at the mark, but don’t act on the feedback provided to ensure future attempts have been modified based on that feedback to better display their knowledge or skills. This could include comments in the half yearly report or on the marked tasks that come back throughout the semester. In my Year 12 class, students are constantly called on to critically evaluate each other’s expression of ideas so they continually improve how well they can articulate concepts in Physics. We have tried to make it normal to not have a go at someone who can’t get an answer right, but to help them find the words to make it a better answer. As a teacher, it is really encouraging to watch students help each other with their learning.

It has also been encouraging to see students in Years 10-12 making good use of the Afternoon Study Centre and the tutors available for assistance. The resources and the help gives the opportunity to work on homework and assessment tasks in an environment conducive to learning when tackled in a focused way.

In His service,
Derek White.
Deputy Principal Senior Studies.
(On behalf of the High School Deputies)
It was lovely to see all of the mothers and grandmothers who came to the Mother’s Day Breakfasts held recently. I enjoy school community events such as these, spending time with children and their families. Thank you to Mrs Heard, Miss Heard and Mrs Katzberg who organised the breakfasts, and to Mrs Adams and Mrs Young in the canteen, for helping us with the preparations.

NAPLAN has been and gone for another year and the children do not seem to be too traumatised. The results are sent to the school usually around mid-September and will be forwarded to parents soon afterwards.

Thank you to the parents who came along and supported the Cross Country Carnival. It was a great day, with beautiful weather. Congratulations to the children for the way in which they participated. A strong team will be heading to the State Cross Country on May 29th.

A reminder that sibling/family photos for surnames L-Z will be taken on the High School Photo Day, which is May 28th. Envelopes for these photos are available from the Primary Office. If you have a child in 2C or 2N, you will note that they are on an excursion during this time. Unfortunately, both events were booked months ago, and cannot be changed. If you still wish your child to be part of a family photo, please contact the Primary Office and we will see what can be worked out.

Winter IPSSO is finally starting, after wet weather delays earlier in the term. We are looking forward to some enjoyable competition, over the coming months. As always, parents are welcome to attend matches. Thank you to the parents who are giving up their time to assist with training some of our teams – it is greatly appreciated.

You might have noticed some small changes to the playground recently. There is strong research that promotes providing opportunities for children to explore and create, while playing. With that in mind, we are creating areas in which children can do exactly that. Currently, we have opened up the garden next to the water tank for children to dig and explore. Due to the number of insects they keep finding, and proudly showing me, I have affectionately named them “The Grub Club.” A team of teachers is investigating other options as well and would love to hear ideas from parents.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 21st May   Year 5 Minnamurra Excursion
Monday 25th May    Rescheduled Day for CSSA Girls’ Soccer Gala Day
                    Year 11 Business Studies Market Day – Years 3 to 6 involved
Tuesday 26th May   Prep Super Hero Mufti Day (1)
Wednesday 27th May IPSSO WCCS vs. St Marks (TBC)
Thursday 28th May  2C & 2N Wollondilly Heritage Centre Excursion
                    L-Z Family Photo Day
Friday 29th May    K-6 Assembly 2 pm in the hall
                    Prep Super Hero Mufti Day (2)
                    CSSA Cross Country Carnival
Tuesday 2nd June  Primary Athletics Carnival

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:14-15

In His service,
Robert Burgess
As we progressively approach the weeks into mid-term two, there are several interesting aspects that have been running and are yet to run in our school community at WCCS, including NAPLAN, Duke of Ed Training and exams.

Firstly, we trust the mums have had a lovely Mother’s Day, celebrating God’s marvellous creation of our kind, caring and compassionate mums.

As you may have been aware, Year 7 to 11 have recently been studying tirelessly for the half-yearly examinations. We continue to keep these students in constant prayer, as they anxiously face their exams, but we hope during this time that they may trust in God to give them all the strength and energy that they need to answer the questions to the best of their ability. (#wccsofficial - Instagram)

The Year 12 cohort enjoyed a fantastic evening, organised by their PC teachers and year advisers, Mr Robinson and Mrs Rawson. This social “Treasure Hunt and Movie Night” on Wednesday 13th May was very yummy because of the pizza and thoroughly enjoyable as it highlighted the strong relationships between the students and the staff.

Along with all the exams, term two also brings an amazing opportunity for school students of Years 7 to 11, to experience the thrills of being in the musical ‘Seussical.’ The musical is well under way, with weekly Tuesday and Wednesday practices and regular all-day Saturday rehearsals. Not even the bad weather can stop the hard working cast and teachers. It seems to be such a great show, so make sure you put the dates in your diaries.

Finally, we would like to leave you to consider a very encouraging verse for this week and beyond, found in Ephesians 3:16-17, where Paul writes “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

In Christ’s Service,
Bryce Hudson and Elise Bartlett
A large variety of food stalls and outside entertainment will be provided before the show and at intermission, so come early, have dinner or lunch and stay for the show. This makes for a great night or day out for all the family. This production is something unique and warrants an invitation to friends and grandparents as well. All food sales this year will go towards fundraising for our school.

The ticket order form is on the back page of this Newsletter.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. *Can I watch my child perform in the overture without buying a ticket?*

   Tickets must be purchased before entry into the Hall will be permitted. There will be NO STANDING at the back or side of the hall for any of the performances. The Primary Overture is part of the musical - tickets must be purchased to view any part of the production. You are encouraged to support our students by staying for the duration of the performance.

2. *Do I have to buy a ticket for my child who is in the Primary Overture or Primary Chorus?*

   If you intend to stay for the performance, then you should purchase an extra seat for your child who is performing in the Primary Overture or Primary Chorus.

3. *Are there family tickets?*

   Ticket prices are for individuals only - there are no family rates for this production.

4. *I have a child with a pram - what do I do?*

   For WH&S reasons, there will be no space for prams in the hall during any performances. Pram parking will be available under the N Block verandah adjacent to the hall.
This is a wonderful night for students in the string ensemble, junior band and concert band to perform. You will also hear from solo instrumentalists, the flute ensemble and the wonderful Harrowsmith String Ensemble. We look forward to seeing you there.

6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
20 minute intermission
Soup and snacks available

Please pre-order your **FREE** tickets from the Uniform Shop to assist with catering.
During this term, Primary have been exploring our four new school rules. These are some of the things Primary have been learning during morning assemblies:

**Be Respectful:** In our words, actions and attitudes, we need to show respect to others. Before we speak or act, we need to think about what we are going to say or do, and make wise choices. Our attitude affects everything!

**Be Responsible:** We need to be responsible for our learning and our behaviour. We need to be in the right places, at the right times with the right gear.

**Be Safe:** We all have the right to feel safe and we all have a responsibility to act safely. We need to make safe choices at home, on the playground, in the classroom and out in the community. In our play and in our choices we need to be safe. We also need to make sure we are in safe places.

**Be A Learner:** The purpose of school is to learn. Our teachers spend time preparing lessons for us and we need to choose to be engaged and involved in the learning that is happening in every lesson.

We were reminded that value and worth is not based on our academic achievements- we are valuable because we are made in the image of God and we can use our gifts and abilities that God gave us to serve Him and others. Learners ‘have a go’ at new and challenging tasks. Learners seek help from their teachers when they are not sure about their work. Learners help others to be learners.

It has been exciting to hear the students using these words in the classrooms and on the playground as they become familiar with our new rules. The teachers are excited by the student’s attempts to be responsible, be safe, be respectful and be a learner.
Last Thursday, on an almost cloudless day, Prep, Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 participated in a full 60 minutes of continuous movement to increase fitness, enjoy outdoors and raise funds for Maphutseng and school equipment.

The event had great support from parents and grandparents. Students particularly enjoyed the opportunity to picnic with family on the oval at recess or lunch.

Thank you to CCS for supplying ice blocks for the students as a refreshing end to the activities and to the canteen and uniform shop for helping the day run smoothly.

Well done, all students for participating with enthusiasm and good sportsmanship in all activities.

Mrs Shaw
K-2 Coordinator
Primary Music

If you pass by W block on a Wednesday you may hear some of our primary students heartily singing, playing percussion instruments or practising their new glockenspiel repertoire. This is part of a new program put in place to further support the musical development of our primary students at William Carey.

Together with music specialist, Mrs Shenouda, classes 2N, 2L and 2C have been enjoying moving to music, singing and learning a new instrument as part of their regular music lessons.

Beyond the immediate musical skills gained, learning a musical instrument has further reaching benefits. Extensive research, conducted by James J. Hudziak, MD et al highlights the links between learning an instrument and the development of the brain. The study concluded that learning an instrument can help children to control their emotions, reduce anxiety and boost attention. His research highlights that “along with parents, teachers and friends, learning a musical instrument has a vital role to play in children’s psychological health”. It also noted that “children who study the piano or violin might also find it easier to control their emotions, focus their attention and reduce their anxiety.”

If you are interested in pursuing instrument tuition further, please contact Sally Reece, our music tutor and ensemble coordinator, listed below. Music tutors are available to train your child on a range of instruments, and there are also many ensembles available for your child to participate in. Additionally, the school has instruments available for hire, for a nominal, term based fee.

Stay posted for some musical performances by Year 2 later in the year!

Contact: Miss Sally Reece: reeces@wccs.nsw.edu.au
The holidays seem like such a long time ago! This is a glimpse of what some of the children in KS did in their fun holidays before coming back to school. See if you can spot your child’s drawing!

I watched the movie in the night time.
– Cyril

My family and I went to the Easter Show.
– Andile

I went to see my cousin in Adelaide.
– Yaron

I went to the cinema to watch Cinderella.
– Tashna

I went to the movies and I watched Cinderella and I ate popcorn and I was the first one to get a seat in the movies.
– Ollie

I watched the movie in the night time.
– Cyril

I went to the pool and I swam in the pool and it was freezing.
– Sienna

I went to the pool and I swam in the pool and it was freezing.
– Sienna

I went to the pool and I swam in the pool and it was freezing.
– Sienna

I went to the pool and I swam in the pool and it was freezing.
– Sienna
I think I swam in the pool.
– Angela

I went swimming and I saw the beautiful sun.
– Ariyan

I went to Hong Kong on a plane.
– Samantha

My aunty and my friends and I all toasted marshmallows on the fire.
– Eva-Rose

I played with my transformers.
– Rohan
In 2N we are participating in activities that help us learn about what it was like to live as a child 50 to 100 years ago. Each one of us interviewed an older person we knew to find out about toys and games, housing, clothing, food and transport they had as a child. Here is some of what we learned and our thoughts about it.

I didn’t know they had marbles, Monopoly, O and Xs and Tic Tac Toe. I like to play these games too. Laycie

My grandpa walked 7 km to school. I’d like to try that. Taonashe

I liked when he told me he had no mobile phone. I was surprised that all he used was a house phone. Richard

They wore clothing which was made by their mum. I would not like that. Arav

I learned about what transport they had, like carts and horses. I like the transportation that we have now. Justin K

I learnt that we should love our toys. We should be really careful with our toys. Anastrianna

They only had a little bit of toys. I feel they had awesome games. Adam

I learnt that my grandma didn’t have a TV or a computer. I think she would be bored. She only had homework. Adrian

There were not many toys and they made up games. I think it would be hard to make up games. Michael

What was interesting to me was the food they ate. Some food was Pasulj which is bean stew. I would not eat Pasulj. Lily

I learnt from my grandfather that the mode of transportation has evolved a lot from his time. This has helped us to travel from one place to another in much less time and with more comfort. Milan.

I did not know that they had an abacus. I learnt that getting the cane hurts. I would react by being scared. Jade

In the olden days they did not have as many toys as me. I think it is better now because we get to play more. Luke

The toys he played with had batteries?? But they were big. Liam M

I learnt that school was very different because they had canes, little lunch, a bottle of milk and a chalkboard. I think little lunch is a bit weird. Liam C

I have learnt that at school they drank milk that had been in the sun. When you got in trouble you would get the cane. I think that would hurt. Amelia

I learned that school was very different back then. I did not know there were no air conditioners, fans or heaters. What I found interesting was the he walked to and from school every day. And if I got smacked with a ruler on the hand, I would get sad. Shivon

My aunty had only one bus and one bike. I would not like that. Justin M

I’ve learnt that toys and games were not as much fun as they are now. It was interesting how they played soccer. I think it was weird. Kudzai

I have learnt that at school they drank milk that had been in the sun. When you got in trouble you would get the cane. I think that would hurt. Amelia

He didn’t have any electronic equipment. I found that interesting because we have it. Ishaana

I think having a few toys is weird. Kanyi

My grandmother didn’t have TV or radio. I wouldn’t want that. Rocco
Thursday 21/5: Year 5 excursion
   Year 12 Chemistry excursion
Friday 22/5:  Year 11 Ancient History excursion
   Year 3 Primary Pals afternoon
Musical 23/5: Musical rehearsal
Monday 25/5: Year 12 Biology and Senior Science excursion
Tuesday 26/5: Year 11 Modern History excursion
Thursday 28/5: High School photo day
Friday 29/5:  K-6 Assembly - 2:00 pm
Monday 1/6:  High School Athletics Carnival
Tuesday 2/6: Primary Athletics Carnival

INDEPENDENT ADVERTISING

Mental Health and Young People
Depression, Anxiety and Self Harm

With speaker: COLLETT SMART, Founder of Family Smart

- Communicating with a young person you are worried about
- Types of self-harming behaviours, including digital self-harm
- Why youth self-harm - The pressures faced by teenagers
- Signs of anxiety or depression in young people
- Recognising the triggers - Practical strategies for offering support

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015 7:30pm, Fusion Western Sydney - Youth and Community Centre, 12 Carsons Lane St Marys
$15 pp or $12 group of 10 - Bookings fusionwesternsydney.org.au

Collett Smart is the Founder of Family Smart, psychologist, qualified teacher, lecturer, writer and regular media commentator on parenting and youth mental health.
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www.sandysgifts.com.au
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SAM ASGARI
0423 231 909
DIANA GORDON
0438 982 335
Ticket Order Form

*Tickets on sale Monday 1st June!*

**Ticket Prices**

- **Adult:** $20.00
- **Student/Concession:** $10.00
- **Pre-Schooler:** $5.00

Please fill in the number of tickets you require. Please also tick the Wheelchair and "Unable to climb stairs" boxes, if they apply to you.

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**Total Cost = $**

Wheelchair: [ ]  Unable to climb stairs: [ ]

Please note there can be no prams in the hall. Pram parking will be available under the N Block verandah adjacent to the hall.

**Payment options:** Cash, Cheque (payable to WCCS), or Credit Card (in person or phone 9608 2277, Uniform Shop) *No Amex or Diner's*

Please return this form in an envelope to the **Uniform Shop** (open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

Please see page 5 of this Newsletter for more information and frequently asked questions.