



Website: [wcc.weipa.biz](http://wcc.weipa.biz)

Friday 19th March, 2004

Term 1 Week 8



Australasian Schools Science Competition - Tuesday May 4th  
Australasian Schools English Competition - Wednesday May 19th  
Australasian Schools Mathematics Competition - Wednesday June 16th

## **DIRECTOR'S DESK**

### **Middle Phase of Learning**

Western Cape College use the terms Junior, Middle and Senior stages of schooling rather than Primary and Secondary. This reflects more than a rebadging. There are significant implications especially for Middle Schooling.

Why is the Middle phase of Learning significant?

We know from recent research that the Middle Phase is a time when:

- Many students lose their enthusiasm for learning, disengage from classroom activities, and become more likely to leave school early.
- Overall, students are making the least progress in learning.
- The gap between low and high achievers increases significantly.

This is a formative period in which some students make choices that have an enduring impact on their future. Between Years 4 and 9 most students typically move through early adolescence. Physical, emotional and intellectual development creates needs for students in this phase that are significantly different from the needs of younger children or older adolescents.

In addition, profound changes in society mean that students in the Middle Phase are engaging with diverse cultures and technologies and a far more complex and uncertain world outside school than previously.

In the Middle Phase of Learning young people begin to think more about the larger world beyond home and school. They begin to think abstractly about important ideas and start to investigate the world around them.

They need to develop as autonomous learners. Most classrooms today include students with considerably different backgrounds, knowledge, skills and talents. In particular, classes in the Middle Phase of Learning have students at the broadest range of stages of physical, social, emotional and intellectual development.

Research tells us that, while a supportive environment is essential, students in the Middle Phase of Learning need to be challenged to remain engaged. Schools must connect school activities to the real students' experience and enable individuals to engage at a deeper level with issues and areas they value.

Given that these personal, educational and social factors impact simultaneously during early adolescence, it is now well recognised that a special focus on the Middle Phase of Learning is needed.

Our New Basics curriculum framework with Years 3, 6 and 9 as the juncture years, is designed to address this research.

Don Anderson  
Director Western Cape College

## **Artist of the Week**

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: Trent De Brueys 7.2 :  
.....

The artist of the week will be a regular feature in the newsletter. It is designed to showcase the work of students in Visual Arts from Years 7 to 12, who have been excelling within their individual class groups.



### **Artist Statement**

I made my artwork to fit into the "Pigs can Fly" unit that we are studying. It is a lino print and is 15 cm x 15 cm in size. My original design was more detailed but I had to simplify it because the carving wasn't as easy as I thought it would be. My design had to have a pig in it, but to make it more original, I added a sun and wave shape patterns in the background.

# HEAD OF WEIPA CAMPUS REPORT

## Badge Presentation

This week the new Student Leaders for 2004 were inducted at a full school assembly.  
Congratulations to:

College Captains- Chrisden Russ and Shannon Clements  
College Vice Captain- Kate Rutherford  
Middle School Leaders- Stephen de Bruyn, Jessie Penton, Annie Stapleton, Kirstie Buchholz  
Evans House Captains- Jai Christie, John Buchholz, Tegan Maynard, Shaun Davey  
Flinders House Captains- Chrisden Russ, Eamon Finn, Ada Davui  
Duyfken House Captains- Rohan Bechly, Angela Haynes, Kelly Levi, Lisa Love

## Visitors Pass

All visitors to the Weipa Campus must sign in and out at either the Western or Eastern Office. A visitors badge must be worn at all times acknowledging approval to be on site. Any visitors omitting to do this will be redirected to one of the offices to follow process. The exception to this rule will be when students are being dropped off or collected from classes by parents or guardians. If a parent is planning to work in a class for a part of the day then the process will need to be followed.

## ***Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)***

**The National Voice of Parents of Children in Australia's Public Schools and their School Communities**

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### **MINISTER'S INVITATION TO PARENTS & SCHOOL COMMUNITIES -**

### **HAVE YOUR SAY ON ISSUES AFFECTING NATIONAL SCHOOL EDUCATION POLICIES**

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On Thursday 11 March 2004 the Australian Government launched a nation-wide consultation process with parents and school communities, inviting your comments and suggestions on a range of education issues.

This consultation and discussion process is based on an Information Kit called "Taking Schools to the Next Level: The National Education Framework for Schools". This is being sent out by Federal Education Minister the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP to all schools over the next few days.

At the same time, this information is being made available electronically on CD ROM, and through a national Website which can be accessed at: **[www.dest.gov.au/nef/schools](http://www.dest.gov.au/nef/schools)**.

The Kit and Website include a survey which puts a range of questions for community response.

While you do not necessarily have to respond to every question, there is opportunity to put your views on those matters of importance to you and your community. And if you are concerned about your privacy you do not need to provide personal information on your form: at minimum just your postcode.

Parents and interested members and groups in school communities everywhere are being asked to respond to questions related to the following issues:

- Ensuring national consistency in schooling
- Giving schools autonomy to meet the real needs of their community
- Ensuring that all schools are performing well

- Providing meaningful information to parents that supports more effective learning and development
- Developing the core skills of literacy and numeracy - and other life skills
- Focusing on the values that young people need as responsible citizens
- Creating safe school environments
- Accelerating Indigenous education outcomes
- Better meeting the needs of boys
- Supporting the professional standing of teachers and attracting the best people to teaching
- Assisting transitions from school to work or to further education options.

You can respond electronically through the website - or download the response form to complete and fax or post back to the address shown on the form. Or you can photocopy the response from "Have Your Say" which is included in the information kit being sent to your school.

It will assist if you can manage to get responses back by 30 April 2004 - or as soon as possible after that date.

And also you can forward any comments, suggestions or issues to [letters@acsso.org.au](mailto:letters@acsso.org.au) at any time. Your views will be recorded and sent on promptly to the Department and the Minister.

ACSSO Administration  
[admin@acsso.org.au](mailto:admin@acsso.org.au)  
Ph: 02 6282 5150  
Fax: 02 6285 1351

Tony Fuller  
Head of Weipa Campus

# Mapoon Campus News

## New Head of Campus



I'd just like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Brett Gripske. I have been appointed the new acting head of campus at the Mapoon Campus of the Western Cape College. I have come from teaching at Thursday Island State School. The Torres Strait experience was a memorable and totally enjoyable one.

It is hoped that I will be able to continue the great things that are happening at Mapoon Campus. Together with my wife Tanya, we are both very keen to learn and grow together in knowledge with both the children and the Mapoon community. I believe that with the support of the parents we can provide a high quality, well-rounded education for each and every child at the Mapoon Campus.

Please feel free to come and see me at any time about anything; even just to say hello.

**Brett Gripske**  
Acting Head of Campus

## *Family Fun Day*



On Saturday 13th March, 2004 we had a Family fun day at the Mapoon School. The community wanted all the families to play games together for fun. We had a BBQ, ice cups, drinks and cakes. I liked playing games like soccer, bat and ball. I loved the BBQ.

Written by Kiana Gane.



## AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOLS ENGLISH COMPETITION (Years 3-12 Only)

Entries Close: Friday 26th March 2004

Cost: \$6.00

Competition Date: Wednesday 19th May

Entry Forms available from your child's teacher or the office

Any other queries please see Sue Fuller

**Congratulations to  
this weeks'  
winner of the**

**W.A.G. Card— (Weipa Adults are Great)**

**Miss O'Malley (3OM)**

**For doing good work**

**Junior School  
You Can Do It!  
Award**

**Congratulations to  
this week's winner**

**Diquin Hall (1W)**

**For persistence when doing school work**

## **SCHOOL-BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS**

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SAT's) allow students to work for an employer and undertake training towards a recognised qualification, while completing their Secondary school studies. Not only will they receive their Senior Certificate at the end of year 12, they will have also trained towards a qualification in their chosen career and been paid for time spent working. Training takes place while they are at work, at school or at a training provider. There are hundreds of SAT's to choose from.

In 2003, Western Cape College had 11 SAT's. The following students went into fulltime employment to complete their traineeship or apprenticeship:

Melissa Douthat and Telitha Namai  
Brent Booth  
Tyrone Billy  
Thala Wallis

Comalco  
Blanco Painters & Decorators  
Goodline  
Albatross Hotel & Resort

Congratulations to those past students and to their employers.

Western Cape College is seeking employers who are interested in employing school-based apprentices or trainees. A growing number of employers are taking on school-based apprentices and trainees to:

- § Improve their training culture
- § Give young people a chance
- § Train future employees
- § Develop loyal and motivated staff

There are incentive payments from the Commonwealth Government to assist employers in the training of SAT's. Making them a viable option to part-time or casual employees. The future benefit for your business is an employee that has already demonstrated their commitment and aptitude for the job. For the student, they can look forward to a smooth transition from learning to earning (School to Workforce).

To find out more give the team a call today

Lance Jarrett  
Head of Senior Schooling – 4090 6474

Carrie Sanderson SAT's Coordinator or Pricilla Blanco on 4090 6469

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

### ***Congratulations to these students from Middle School***

**You Can Do It Award:** Hannah Holmes in 5K for showing Organisation skills in the work area.

**You Can Do It Award:** Charlie Miskin in 5K for showing Organisation skills.

Congratulations to Jessie Penton, Stephen De Bruyn, Kirstie Buchholz and Annie Stapleton who received their Middle School Leaders badges on Monday. The Middle School leaders will work closely with the School Captains to improve the learning environment for all students on the campus and across the college. A large majority of students are wearing their uniforms to school everyday. There are still some students thinking that they can wear board shorts and thongs to school. With the wet season slowly coming to an end, the excuse of 'my shoes are wet' won't wear for much longer. If a student is not wearing their shoes they spend most of the day missing lessons, as they cannot enter the work labs unless they have proper protection. Western Cape College 'bucket' hats are available from the main office on the Western Campus for \$10. These hats are excellent and I'm encouraging all parents to buy a hat for their son or daughter so that they have proper sun protection when in the outdoor areas of the campus.

### **Years 7 - 9**

Semester 1 Assessment Schedules have been forwarded to Middle School students, Years 7 to 9. These should be placed in a position where students can refer to it for upcoming assignments. Please encourage your son/daughter to refer to the Assessment Schedule regularly.



### **STUDY TECHNIQUES For Year 7 Students**

The Year 7s will be participating in an Improving Homework and Study Techniques course, beginning next week. This course will take approximately two hours to complete. A half hour session will be allocated to the completion of this, each week until the end of Term 1. As part of these sessions, students will assess their current homework and study techniques, as well as other activities that they participate in outside of school. This will allow them to assess commitments and to learn how to maximise their time. Students will be bringing home a small booklet, parents may be interested to see these and encourage their students to put some of the new techniques in place for Term 2.

### **Cross Country -Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

How quickly is the year progressing? Term 1 is nearly over which means the cross-country is on again. Students have been training hard on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:50pm. We will continue these training sessions up to the day. Remember to get the best benefit from training you should be training at least three times a week. Final details for the cross-country will be published next week so keep an eye out for it.

Jeremy Anderson

### **Please Note!!**

Departmental Policy requires shoes to be worn by all students from all campuses. Students without shoes will not be allowed to run.