

WHAT'S ON

SEPTEMBER

- Thursday 11th P&C Meeting
- Weipa Parent Interviews 15th—19th

OCTOBER

- Thursday 9th P&C Meeting
- SFD 20th
- College swimming carnival
- Mapoon Dare to be deadly transition trip to Cairns 27th-31st

NOVEMBER

- Weipa Senior Presentation evening 12th
- Thursday 13th P&C Meeting
- Senior Formal 21st
- Last day Yr 12 21st
- Mapoon Yr 6 Graduation
- Yr 10/11 Work experience 24th-28th
- Last day Yr 10 & 11 28th
- Reports issued 28th Yr 10 & 11's

DECEMBER

- Thursday 4th Weipa P&C Meeting
- Reports Issued 4th Prep-9

TERMS DATES:

- Term 1: Jan 29 - Apr 4
- Term 2: Apr 15 - Jun 27
- Term 3: Jul 15 - Sep 19
- Term 4: Oct 6 - Dec 5

STUDENT FREE DAYS

- OCT: Mon 20th

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL

- Mon: 3.00-4.00pm Active After School
- Thur: 3.00-4.00pm Active After School
- Meet in front of PE shed at High School.

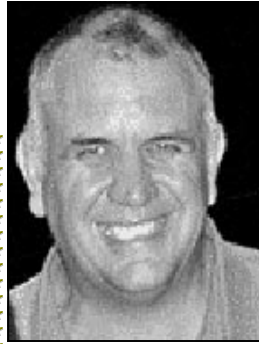
Don't forget Hats, Water Bottles and Permission Slips if you are new to the program.

Students already registered don't need to worry.

Thursdays will be run by instructors from the Weipa Junior Golf Club which is new and exciting!

SEE YOU THERE!

Contact: Mrs Schneid (40906478)



FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

As another Term draws to a close we reflect upon the achievements and the successes of the College. Term 3 has been marked with some significant student successes and some considerable gains in regard to new facilities for the College in 2009.

Plans are currently being signed off and work on a new Administration Building will commence in October with work on a new Performing Arts Complex, Special Education Unit, Home Economics and Carpark commencing shortly after.

These facilities will not only allow us to prepare for the expected growth of the College it will allow us to offer our students access to state of the art facilities conducive to the best student outcomes.

With Term 4 quickly approaching we will soon start actively focussing on student transitions. Students will move up to the next level of their schooling and our Year 12 students will transition into employment, further training or higher education, as part of the Service Guarantee Initiative.

Third Quarter Community Reports will also be delivered in Term 4 and these will be appearing in the College Newsletter in brief format and now available on our College website for full review.

On behalf of the College I extend my gratitude to all of our Teachers, Staff, Parents and Community Members who spend their time ensuring our students across all our Campuses achieved their personal best in Term 3 and look forward to seeing you all again in Term 4.

To find out more please visit our website at www.westerncapecollege.com.

Regards,

Ian Mackie

Director Western Cape College

Indigenous Educators Conference to be launched in Cape York

An inaugural conference addressing the real issues of Indigenous Education will be held in Weipa, Cape York Peninsula in October.

The two day, three night conference will be held on 23 – 25 October at the Western Cape College, Weipa Campus and will provide opportunities for participants to engage in forums, groups discussions and key note speaker addresses as well as unique Cape York cultural festivities.

Hosted by the Centre of Leadership and Teaching Excellence (CLTE) and Indigenous Schooling Support Unit (ISSU), the conference will give participants the opportunity to engage and work with presenters such as Chris Sarra and Peter O'Beirne.

Other guest presenters include Jeff McMullen, former 60 Minutes reporter, author and currently a presenter on the ABC Difference of Opinion program as well as Professor Steven Dinham, Research Director for Teaching Learning and Leadership at the Australian Council for Educational Research.

For full conference programs, speakers biographies and registrations forms please visit www.clte.com.au. Registration is currently being taken and will close on 17th September.

What is an Overall Position (OP) and what is it used for?

At this time of the year when the Year 12 students have finished their studies, the question of, What is an OP? is frequently asked by parents and the wider community. Overall Positions, or OPs, provide a statewide rank order of students (on a 1 to 25 scale, 1 being the highest) based on students' achievement in Authority subjects studied for the Queensland Senior Certificate. A student's OP shows how well that student has performed in their senior studies when compared with the performances of all other OP-eligible students in Queensland.

OPs are used in the selection of students for tertiary education courses. They are used by tertiary education institutions as one basis for selecting applicants for a course when there are more eligible applicants than quota places for that course.

Will 5 (or more) VHAs and an "A" on the QCS Test result in an OP1?

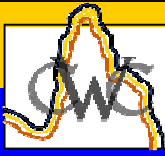
The OPs of students with similar levels of achievement in different subjects also may not be the same at all. Some students may be at the top of the VHA range, rather than doing just well enough to get a VHA. Other students do well enough to get VHAs but are only just ahead of competition that is not very strong. These students tend not to get OP1s.

There are many more students with five VHAs than there are OP1s. A student with all VHAs is not necessarily in the top 2 per cent of all students in Queensland, which is where you need to be if you want an OP1. Lets hope that all the Year 12 students from Western Cape College will achieve the OP they need to gain their first preference for Tertiary Entrance.

PAFT Update

"Parents as First Teachers" have had a huge Term and would like to say a very big thank you to the families, service providers and the community of Napranum as a whole for the support and friendship we have been shown. We love working and yarning with the many families involved in the project. So until next term be safe, have a relaxing break and we will see you when Term 4 commences, Take care Yvette and Letitia.

Loud Shirt Day is happening this Friday, 19th September to help raise funds for hearing impairment and deafness. Send your children to school wearing their loudest and brightest shirt, tie or socks and a gold coin donation to help a great cause.



Western Cape College Students Participate in NASCA Challenge

Students from Western Cape College competed in the North Queensland NASCA Challenge in Townsville on the 16 August.

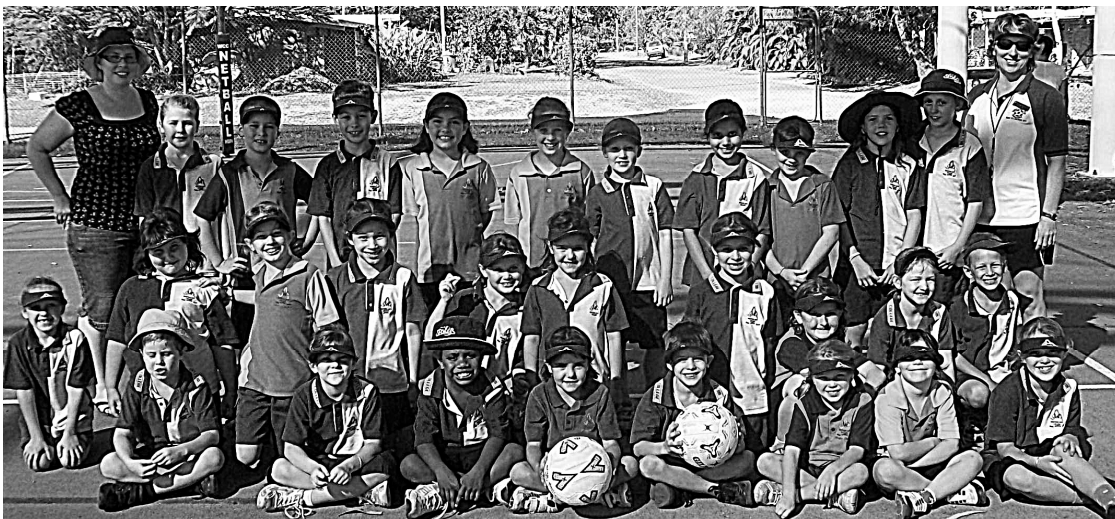
The Cape York Team was narrowly defeated by the winners Torres Strait in the Semi Finals. During the Challenge the students had the opportunity to meet North Queensland Cowboy Players.



Netball at Weipa Campus

This year Weipa campus has been running netball skills sessions to all year levels as an after school activity. Approximately 60 children from years 1-6 have been attending these sessions on a Wednesday afternoon. The children have had fun being active and meeting new friends, as well as learning the basic skills and rules of netball, working towards playing a modified version of the game. Another 20 enthusiastic students ranging from years 7 to 12 have also been attending coaching sessions and playing 'competitive' games on Thursday afternoons. Next term will see Heather McLaren from Netball Queensland visit the school to take students for some netball clinics during and after school time. She is also going to run a Foundation Coaching Course (tentatively on Wednesday 22nd October) which will take approximately 4 hours. She requires 10 people minimum to do this course – so if you are interested and over 14 please contact me at the school. Due to the growing interest in this sport this term, it is envisaged that in 2009, we will send 2 teams of students to represent Weipa College to compete at both primary and secondary school netball carnivals.

Netball Coordinator- Kathy Stokes



Western Cape College Weipa Students get involved in Netball

Aurukun Update

Aurukun Koolkan Campus can claim great success across many areas of education participation throughout the 2008 school year. Our student focus for 2008 has delivered the support and resources necessary to develop every child to their potential.

Students have worked very hard at improving their attendance, behaviour and academic skills so that they can access secondary schooling and positive post secondary pathways to employment. Our focus on student futures has developed education transitions for 36 students between grades 8 – 12. The students accessed exciting academic, sporting, cultural and social opportunities at hostels and boarding schools across Queensland. The Koolkan Campus Youth Strategy, a partnership between the school, TAFE and Aurukun Local Partnerships Projects has begun Work Readiness training and Certificate II in Community Art for students aged 14 – 17.

Staff have dedicated their efforts to ensuring that students have been supported and scaffolded to become independent learners. Classrooms are buzzing with energetic teaching and learning with active participation and progressive skills development as a result of challenging and meaningful curriculum, planning and assessment.



Year 2 Students at Aurukun Koolkan Campus

Snapped around College!

Year 4 Weipa Students get in to Science Week



COLLEGE MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE Years 4-9

Years four through to nine are developmentally the most critical in a student's life at school. It's a time when friends and peers become increasingly influential in a young persons life. At Western Cape College we strive to ensure this exciting and challenging time is navigated smoothly and successfully.

As students progress through the Middle School years they are introduced to a wide variety of subjects and experiences, all of which are intended to allow students to make informed choices of subjects and interests when they enter the Senior Phase of Schooling.

The staff in the middle school sector are some of the best practitioners available and they are co-ordinated brilliantly by David Foxover and Mary Fagan.

Communication is a priority for our sector and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all parents of Middle School students to contact myself, Mr Foxover, Mrs Fagan or any of the teachers of your children, if you have any concerns or questions regarding their life here at school. You can make an appointment with any of our staff through the office on 40906468.

In conclusion I would like to thank parents for your support of the uniform and behaviour policies it is greatly appreciated.