



WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

A Leader in Girls Education

NEWSLETTER

25 MAY 2018

Friday 8 June is Staff Development Day at Willoughby Girls High School - Students do not attend school on this day

Monday 11 June is the Queen's Birthday Holiday

June 2018 Calendar

Red typeface denotes the event is open to the public

Week 8B 18 June – 22 June

Monday 18	Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 19	Year 10 Work Experience P&C Meeting – 7.00pm in Staff Common Room
Wednesday 20	Year 10 Work Experience
Thursday 21	Year 10 Work Experience
Friday 22	Year 10 Work Experience Second Cross Country

Week 9A 25 June – 29 June

Monday 25	NAIDOC Week Assembly
Tuesday 26	Year 10 English incursion Peer Support
Wednesday 27	Year 9 and 10 Debating Year 10 History excursion
Thursday 28	Year 8 Wellbeing Day
Friday 29	Year 10 Western Sydney Careers Expo Year 7 Reptile incursion

Week 10B 2 July – 8 July

Monday 2	Silver Merit Assembly Year 8 Ski trip meeting
Tuesday 3	Year 10 and 11 Parent Teacher evening
Friday 6	Last day of Term 2

Winter Holidays

Monday 9 July – Friday 20 July 2018

From the Principal

It has been another busy fortnight at Willoughby Girls. I thoroughly enjoyed the performances of our students at the Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday night. The girls' singing was magnificent, as always, and it was clear from their enthusiastic performances that they enjoyed singing with The Idea of North. Congratulations to all girls who participated in this event and my thanks to Clem Burgmann and Caroline Jarvis for organising our students' involvement. I hope parents who attended also enjoyed the evening and I thank you for your ongoing support of the music program at our school.

I also enjoyed Riley Baker's tuba recital on Wednesday at the Zenith Theatre where she was a finalist in the Chatswood Rotary Club Gordon Waterhouse Memorial Scholarship. This is an annual event open to senior students from local high schools. Riley's performance was spectacular as she played two pieces, one of which (Oystein Baadvisk's *Fnugg*) was truly sensational – I have never heard such innovative notes and sounds from a single instrument.

On Tuesday night over 200 Year 12 parents and students attended an information evening organised by Careers Teacher, Ms Rana Morris. The evening included presentations from Erin Keech, from the Universities Admission Centre, and Ms Diane Fitzgerald, a clinical psychologist from the University of Technology. The purpose of this event was to provide accurate information on the different pathways to tertiary education and to dispel many of the myths surrounding the ATAR process. Ms Fitzgerald provided some helpful advice on minimising the stress which is often associated with the Higher School Certificate. Early feedback suggests this was a very useful and informative event.

Ms E Diprose
PRINCIPAL



WGHS P&C



facebook.com/wghspandc

Next P & C Meeting
Tuesday
19 June 2018



wghspandc@gmail.com

- ✓ Please **follow our Facebook page** to stay informed of interesting things happening in the parent community. You don't have to be a Facebook member to access the page.
- ✓ All **parents are welcome at P&C meetings**, held twice per term at 7.00pm in the staff common room. (Access via front door).
- ✓ Any queries or matters to be raised can be raised via the Secretary at the above email address at any time.

Deputy Principal' Report

Years 10 - 12

Late arrival on the day of an assessment task (in-class and hand-in tasks)

School records must show that students in Years 10, 11 and 12 attended a full day of school on the day of an assessment task, as per that student's regular timetable, including Home Room. This is to ensure that no student is advantaged by using school time to work on an assessment task. Failure to attend all classes on the day of an assessment task may result in a zero being given for the task.

Years 7 – 12

In-School Disability Provisions

In-school disability provisions can be provided to students under certain circumstances. If students require special assessment needs due to a recognised disability (as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act), the student can request in school disability provisions for in class assessments and/or examinations. Medical documentation is required by the school to support the recognised disability.

The coordinator of these requests is the Head Teacher Wellbeing, Mrs Parkin and Mrs Budd. The Head Teacher Wellbeing will be able to provide students with the In-School Disability Provisions Request Form and make a determination of the disability and the provision requirements. The school models NESA disability provisions requirements.

Parents are encouraged to contact the Head Teacher Wellbeing to provide information regarding their daughter's disability needs with any questions regarding the process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email the school or contact me. Thank you.

Ms J Atchison

Deputy Principal

Careers Focus – Year 10 Taster Week



As a part of Year 10 Taster week and Subject Selection to be held in Week 1 of Term 3, the school will be sending an invite to interested parents who may want to be part of a panel to discuss their own Schooling, Educational Training and/ or Business and Career experiences with Year 10 students.

Please keep this in mind if you are available and would be interested in helping out for that week. Please contact the Front office with your details and availability.

Ms R Morris
Careers Adviser



Reading Buddies in action

The Reading Buddies program pairs students from Year 2 at Willoughby Public School with Year 9 students who act as reading buddies. The program operates every Monday and Thursday before school.

Willoughby Public School have identified certain students who need extra assistance with reading skills. The parents of Year 2 students are very enthusiastic about this program as every year, the data shows that children in the program make significant gains in their reading age.

This year, 40 Year 2 and Year 9 students make up the program, a number bigger than ever before.

We wish both Year 2 and Year 9 a happy and fruitful time together.

Ms J Merkur
Teaching and Learning Support



Leadership Breakfast....work, women, wisdom and wi-fi

On Tuesday 15 May 15, four Year 12 SRC girls had the privilege of attending the Abbotsleigh Leadership Breakfast about Women, Work, Wisdom and Wi-Fi.

After a delicious breakfast, real estate specialist and CEO of Mirvac Group, Susan Lloyd-Hurwitz inspired us by giving incredible insights into her role as a female CEO in a male dominated industry and the struggles and successes she has had throughout her career.

Ms Lloyd Hurwitz also taught us about the constantly changing job market and the impacts that rapid advances in technology are having on jobs and the type of jobs that will be available when young people enter the workforce, even in 5-10 years time! She also talked to us about the need for gender equality and diversity in the workplaces as “diverse teams make the best decisions”.

Ms Lloyd-Hurwitz also explained the need for quotas and targets in order to meet gender diversity and gender equality goals, allowing women fair access to promotions, leadership opportunities and pay as their male counterparts are receiving. She also mentioned the positive impacts that pro-gender equity organisations such as Role Model Organisation and Male Champions of Change are having, and the impact this is having on other corporate businesses.

Ms Lloyd-Hurwitz also shared some interesting data with us about shopping centres (that Mirvac own) and reminded us to always read the terms and conditions before we click ‘accept’ to join public Wi-Fi!

Overall, the morning was very enjoyable and inspiring and allowed Willoughby Girls students to network with other passionate young women.

Georgie Bryden
Year 12 SRC



SRC Afternoon Tea – ice breakers and pizza !

On 21 May, the Student Representative Council hosted an SRC Afternoon Tea to which we invited many schools. The purpose of the afternoon tea was to meet SRC leaders from other schools and gain insight into various activities, programs and fundraising that are being conducted by these leaders in their schools and communities.

During this afternoon tea we played games that allowed us to get to know other leaders better. Some games that were played were trivia, speed dating and the grid game. After these ice-breakers, we discussed initiatives conducted by each SRC and how these helped their community and school. Of course all of this was accompanied by pizza and cakes to keep us energised throughout the afternoon.

It was a great experience and meeting leaders from other schools was truly incredible and fun. A shout out to Ms Macintyre who helped set up this afternoon tea and stayed with us the whole time to ensure everything was running smoothly.

Dishita Gupta
Year 12 SRC

The Sustainability Garden

For the past term at Willoughby Girls High School we have been looking after our school garden which is located outside the PE House. It consists of a variety of interesting things such as a worm farm to break up food scraps, rainwater tanks which collect water over time, and plots of garden beds for each Year 8 class. We have a mango tree, lemon tree, and two fig trees along with lots of vegetables such as lettuce, potatoes, basil and broad beans.

All the Year 8 students have their allocated jobs in small groups so the garden is well looked after. Our jobs include weeding and taking out all the old plants, watering to make sure the environment is well hydrated, sweeping and cleaning the pathways and the rest of the garden, checking the food for the worm farm and sorting the garden waste.

These activities teach us how and what plants need in order to grow. For example, they need sunlight, lots of water, nutrients, good soil and of course patience to watch as the plants and trees grow. We really enjoy our garden lessons once a fortnight because it's a great experience to learn through different ways and not just in a classroom.

Samara D'Souza & Rianna Bhat
Year 8



In Concert Combined Choir

On Tuesday 22 May, 34 Willoughby Girls High School joined 700 students from around NSW as part of a Combined Secondary Choir at the Sydney Town Hall. Singing with the internationally acclaimed *a cappella* group 'The Idea of North', and accompanied by the NSW Public Schools Symphony Orchestra, the massed choir performed seven pieces ranging from Handel's "Hallelujah" Chorus through to a modern Australian setting of Grimm's Fairy Tales.

One of the many highlights was hearing 700 teenagers imitate Year 1 kids in "Edgar's Essay". This is a great piece using lyrics written by a six-year-old boy called Edgar reflecting philosophically on life, which we sang alongside The Idea of North. Another highlight was seeing one of the world's best vocal percussionists, Kaichiro Kitamura, in action – there wasn't a beat or sound effect he couldn't replicate!

Not only did WGHS make up one of the largest contingents in the Combined Choir, we also had a number of students represented in the various State Ensembles on show. Hebe Williams (Year 12) and Yasmin Lee (Year 11) performed in the NSW Public Schools Symphonic Wind Ensemble; Georgie Bryden sang in the NSW Public Schools Singers; and Anika Chan (Year 10) performed in the NSW Public Schools Symphony Orchestra. These are all very prestigious groups, which students from all over NSW aspire to join.

Willoughby was well represented on the staff front too, with our own conductor Jason Isaac on stage directing the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, and WGHS "old girl" Liz Propsting (Year 12, 2010) involved in both the Combined Choir and the Public Schools Singers.

All in all, it was a very successful evening showcasing our wonderful musicians, and their hard work throughout the semester certainly paid off impressively. Many thanks to the parents who supported this event, and congratulations to all of the students involved. We will do it all again next year!

Mr C Burgmann
Music Teacher



African Beat



On Monday 21 May, Year 8 had the pleasure of meeting Pepsi and Touse from 'African Beat'. We learnt how to sing a chant and dance to their rhythms. That wasn't all. We also played the djembe which is a small traditional drum originating from West Africa.

They taught us how to make different sounds through simple hand movements, and showed us other traditional instruments from their culture including the shekere.

Pepsi taught us her cultural dance and explained how she performed in The Lion King. She wore ankle shakers providing a beat to her African dance.

Overall, it was an amazing experience and we hope to see them perform again.

Cate, Alifya and Abbey (Year 8)



Is this the future Willoughby City you want in 2028?



Dear Parents

Over the past 6 months we've heard thousands of thoughts and ideas from people across our city and brought them together to create 'Our Future Willoughby 2028'. Now we want to know if we got it right.

Go to www.haveyoursaywilloughby.com.au so we can make sure that your family's long-term vision and priorities for Willoughby City in 2028 have been captured.

Kind regards,
The Willoughby City Council Engagement Team