Dear Westall Secondary College Community,

We are now well underway with 2016 classes and when you include the week or two of headstart prior to Summer holidays, most classes have now been running for around a month. Prior to the end of February all teachers are being asked to gather data or conduct an assessment to determine the learning level of every student in every subject. This is an essential element of our core work as teachers and one of the most important things we do to ensure we are supporting and challenging every student at the appropriate level.

I talked about the “wobble zone” in our last newsletter and this is the basis of the data gathering and assessments taking place. It is about finding each student’s “wobble zone”, the place where the work is not too easy, not too hard, but in a place where the student will grow, learn, develop and be challenged. It is also known as the zone of proximal development, made famous by well renowned psychologist and researcher Lev Vygotsky. If you get a chance, google his name, and you will see the basis of his work which informs our work here at Westall.

This is all tied in to knowing each student as a person firstly and then as a learner. The basis of our new sub school model is built around this. Meeting the needs of our students and personalising our programs is what we stand for and what we know can bring about improved results for every student. To this end, planning for 2017 subjects is already occurring and the premise of any changes for next year will be on the needs and wants of our students. A focus on Literacy and English/EAL and a greater choice of subjects are two things clearly coming through. Rest assured that our students come first at Westall and I am really confident that some initiatives occurring both this year and in planning for next year will result in students at Westall being both highly engaged and achieving outstanding results.

We would love to have more parents/carers involved in this growth and development taking place at Westall. Our first College Council meeting for 2016 will take place on Wednesday 24th February, at 6.30pm in the Conference Room at school, right next to the front office. This is the last meeting before new members join the Council in late March. I would encourage anyone thinking of getting involved in School Council to come along to this meeting to see how things run. As part of the standard process around the appointment/election of new members to School Council each year, we are now calling for parent/carer nominations to join our school council. The self-nomination form is included with the newsletter along with a form if you would like to nominate someone else. There are also copies of these nomination forms at the front office. The closing date for nominations is Friday 26th February. If you would like to discuss this further or have any questions please contact me at the College. Otherwise please complete the nomination form and leave the form at the front office and we will then contact you. The research shows the more involved parents/carers are in their child’s education, the better results children achieve. This is a fantastic way to be involved in the planning and direction of your child’s school and I encourage you to get involved.

Have a great weekend.

Tristan Lanarus
Congratulations to our College Captains, Leelee and Simon, for their participation at the 2016 Lions Youth of the Year Quest. On Wednesday the 17th of February, Simon and Leelee did an outstanding job at the annual event organised by The Lions Club of Moorabbin. They received much praise from the Quest judges and also the members of the Lions Club who were present. This was the first time that Westall Secondary College participated in this event and we would like to thank Mr David Blyth (President) and the Lions Club of Moorabbin for their invitation and generosity.

College Photo Day: 22nd of February
Parents and students please remember that: all students are required to wear their Summer Uniform on Monday the 22nd of February, when we will be having our College Photos taken. We would encourage all boys to also wear their school tie on this day, although the tie is not a compulsory uniform item for the summer months. If students have a school Blazer, they are asked to wear it on the day. Envelopes with instructions regarding ordering photos were distributed to students and the envelopes must be given directly to the photographers on Monday. All students are required to have their individually coded School Photo envelope, regardless of wishing to purchase photos or not. Family/sibling photos will be taken during the lunch break. Separate envelopes for the family photos are available at the front office.

Senior School Information Evening: 25th of February
Families of students enrolled in VCE or the VCAL program are invited to attend the Information session we will be holding on Thursday the 25th of February at 6.30pm. We look forward to seeing all families of our VCE and VCAL students represented at this important event.
International Student Program
To celebrate the Chinese/Vietnamese New Year and to welcome our International students back to school, Mrs Po Sim Ngian and Mrs Khampheuy Maniphet, recently organised a delicious lunch for all international students, their teachers and homestay providers. There was delicious food and birthday cakes that were shared as we celebrated the birthday of six students who were born in February. Also the Red packets with money and good wishes put a big smile on everyone’s face. Happy New Year, the Year of the Monkey!

Subject Fees & Charges
Payments can be made by cheque, cash, EFTPOS, Bpay and credit card. Please note, Diners Club and American Express are not accepted.
School Council Elections
Schedule 5A: Self-nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Name:

Residential address:

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of , who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school

Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

• an undischarged bankrupt

• of unsound mind

• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence; or

• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate ................................................................. Date, / /

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominees (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on .................................................................

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.
School Council Elections
Schedule 5B: Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate ..........................................................., for an elected position as a parent member on the ........................................................... school council.

CANDIDATE'S DETAILS

Name
Residential address ............................................................

Contact phone (mobile or landline) ...........................................
Email .................................................................
I am the parent/guardian of ..........................................................., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.
The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of ..........................................................., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.
The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school.
Yes / No (please circle)
Name of Nominator .............................................................

Signature of Nominator ................................................................., Date ....................... / ............. / ............

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:
• an undischarged bankrupt
• of unsound mind
• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence
• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate ................................................................., Date ....................... / ............. / ............

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate and to nominate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on .................................................................

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.
Mount Morton Adventure Day
On Thursday the 11th February our new year 7 students attended their first excursion to Mount Morton Lodge in Belgrave Heights.

The day was filled with lots of fun activities including, archery, ropes course, flying fox, giant swing, rock climbing, trampolining and more. Students and staff gained new skills, challenged themselves and built relationships throughout the day. Students loved the food and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A very big thank you to the staff who supported the day – Mr Lanarus, Mrs Temple, Mrs Coetzee, Ms Luong, Mrs Grey, Ms Formoso and Ms Roche.

Celebration Evening
All Year 7 parents are asked to join the year 7 staff and students on Thursday 17th March at 6.30pm in Balook Learning Centre for a Celebration Evening to congratulate this group on a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary. Primary teachers, Parents and current teachers will be there. This event is to be followed by a light supper.

Invitations will be sent out shortly so please RSVP with number of guests required for catering purposes to rtr@westallsc.vic.edu by the 7th March.

Thank you
Mrs Travitz
Year 7 Coordinator
Chinese New Year Incursion

Chinese New Year celebrations have begun!! Our school invited two experts of Traditional Arts to run workshops about tearing paper, a special way of making paper cuts and calligraphy on the 9th of February.

Mr Zhang Jie is a well-known artist from China. He displayed his amazing skill of tearing paper into characters, animals and pictures. Mr Chen, the President of Australia Chinese Cultural Association, and other visitors also came to support the incursion. Many Year 7 and 8 students had a good time of learning this unique traditional art work.

Happy Chinese New Year and Gong Xi Fa Cai!!

2015 Earn and Learn Program

Westall students have already begun using the Sports equipment that we received as part of the Earn & Learn program. Late last year Westall Secondary College participated in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. Staff & students collected stickers that went towards getting free Sports equipment for our school. We were able to get enough reward points to purchase 17 multi purpose tennis bats that will come in extremely useful on College camps and as part of our Sports program. I would like to thank all of the staff & students who contributed to this project.

Thanks

Mr Scott Newton
Health & Physical Education Coordinator
Year 7-10 Health and Physical Education

As part of the Year 7-10 Health & Physical Education Curriculum, students have been undergoing fitness tests in the components of Flexibility, Endurance, Power, Agility, Speed & Strength. Throughout the year students will do Circuit Training and other fitness activities and modified games to work on all physical aspects in order to improve on any areas that need attention. Results are tabled in their booklets and all students will be re tested again in term 4 to gauge areas of improvement and provide a clear indication of the fitness components that need working on.

In their Health classes students will be focusing on the components of Health that contribute to higher levels of confidence and self esteem as well as developing the resilience needed to successfully negotiate life’s hurdles. The aim of the Physical Education & Health programs at Westall is to facilitate the improvement of both the physical & mental components of general well being and healthy living.

Mr Scott Newton.  
Health & Physical Education Coordinator.

From the Nurses Office

My name is Christalia Formoso and I am a registered nurse employed by the Department of Education and Training. The Secondary School Nursing Program (SSNP) aims to reduce risk to young people and promote better health in the wider community.

I am available at Westall Secondary College on Thursdays & Fridays and my office is located in B16.

Ways the program can help you and your child include:

- supporting the school community in addressing health and social issues facing young people and their families.
- offering appropriate primary health care through professional clinical nursing, including assessment, care, referral and support.
- playing a key role in reducing negative health issues and risk taking behaviours among young people, including drug and alcohol abuse, tobacco smoking, eating disorders, obesity, depression, suicide and injuries.
- focusing on prevention of ill health and problem behaviours by making sure there is coordination between the school and community health and support services.

For any enquires please contact me on 95463233.

Regards,

Christalia Formoso  
Registered Nurse/Secondary School Nursing Program
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:
• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.
• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.

3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname

First name

Address

Town/suburb State Postcode

Contact number

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

□ □ □ □ - □ □ □ □ - □ □ □ □ OR

□ Foster parent* OR □ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

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<th>Child’s surname</th>
<th>Child’s first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
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<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

• DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

• If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child’s school.

Signature of applicant ____________________________ Date __________
World Education Program (WEP) Australia is now accepting applications from students who wish to participate in 2016/17 exchange programs for a summer, semester or year. Students can choose to study in a country of their choice and experience life with a carefully selected host family.

Exchange students return to Australia with maturity, confidence, and in many cases, proficiency in another language. If learning another language is not a priority, excellent programs to the USA, Canada, the UK and Ireland are also available.

“I have learned more about the world in three months than I ever thought possible. I know more about myself than ever before, and I have become so much more independent. I can now view the world from a new perspective!”

Austin, China, Semester

“Exchange programs are important to fostering understanding around the world. We are proud of Sophie for taking part in this!”

Parents of Sophie, Belgium, Short Term

FIND OUT MORE!
Attend one of WEP’s online or group information sessions. Visit www.wep.org.au to find out more.

BECOME A WEP HOST FAMILY!
Experience the joys of hosting an exchange student and gaining an international family member.

WEP.ORG.AU
Do you have a spare bedroom?
Could you provide a caring, safe and supportive environment for an international student?
Do you speak English at home?

Westall Secondary College’s International Program is looking for English speaking families who can provide a welcoming family environment for international students for both short and long term stays. Families will receive payment for providing this valuable service.

For further information please contact:
Po Sim Ngian, International Student Coordinator
Phone: 95463233, Email: png@westallsc.vic.edu.au

College Blazer—$110.00—buy direct from the General Office

LOOK GREAT IN 2016!
The College Blazer can be purchased from the College for only $110.
Students are encouraged to wear their Blazer to and from School every day.

Community News

MORDIALLOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
We are currently taking enrolments for our NEW and exciting workshops:

FACE PAINTING:
Thursday, Feb 25
12.00 - 3.00pm

POPULAR CRAFTS:
Monday, Feb 15
10.00am – 1.00pm

FLOWER ARRANGING:
Tuesday, Feb 23
1.00 – 3.00pm

PRINTING:
Weds, March 2
9.30 – 11.30am

BOOK CLUB
Do you enjoy reading and discussing books over a cuppa?
Then why not join the Mordialloc Neighbourhood House Book Club.
The group meets the second Monday evening of each month.
Books are chosen by member rotation.
Come and join the fun.

For further information, or to make a booking, please phone: Mordialloc Neighbourhood House on 9587 4534

MORDIALLOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

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MORDIALLOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

MORDIALLOC NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
A social support program for young people aged 14 – 18 who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, gender diverse or questioning.

Pride & Diversity

Working out who you are?

Looking for a supportive and confidential space?

Want to meet new people?

Contact Monash Youth and Family Services on 9518 3900 or email yrcr@monash.vic.gov.au for more information or to register your interest.

Check out www.myfs.org.au for further free and confidential support services.