



The Whisper

August 2008

Calendar Events

August

Book Week	18
Story Telling	20
Beattie to Beijing Free Dress Day	21
All Schools Athletics	22
Border District Athletics	27
P & C Meeting	27
Yr 12 Drama Production	29

September

Yr 8D Ropes Course	1
Yr 12 QCS Test	2-3
Ag Show	2
Darling Downs Track & Field	4-5
Yr 8E Ropes Course	5
Yr 12 Exam Bloc	10-12
School Rodeo	12
Last Day of Term Three	19

Administration:

Mr Alan Smith
Mr Brett Hallett
Mrs Janelle Robb
Mrs Cathy Rolfe

This term has certainly started with a bang – Readers' Challenge, NAIDOC celebrations, Year 12 Safe Driving and Think the Drink programs, Arts Council performances, School Social, Parent-Teacher Evening, Rewards Trip to the Ekka, Year 8 Maths Challenge, Athletics Carnival, and filming of the movie "Shadows of the Past". This edition of "Whisper" details some of these activities. The remainder of this term will likely be equally as busy, particularly with upcoming events such as Year 12 QCS [Queensland Core Skills Test], Year 9 QCAT [Queensland Common Assessment Task], Book Week, All Schools and Border District Athletics carnivals, and a host of other activities. Of course, our prime focus will be quality teaching and learning at our school.

School Uniforms

Schools, especially one like Warwick State High School, located on busy thoroughfares and close to business centres rely on the quick identification of students. In accordance with sections 360-363 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Warwick State High School has developed a Dress Code which has been approved and supported by the Parents and Citizens Committee and school community. The main purpose of a uniform is that it clearly identifies the person as a member of our community. The possibility of outsiders walking into our grounds is high, and our school uniform ensures that these people are quickly and easily identified by staff and thus removed from the school site.

Student and staff safety is utmost in my priorities and I hope I have parent support in ensuring that all students arrive at school in uniform. Should you have any questions relating to this Dress Code please check your student's diary or contact the school. I hope that by working together we can get all students into full uniform in a short period of time.

Alan Smith, Acting Principal

Fruit and Vege Display - Brisbane Ekka

Warwick SHS competed in the Queensland Youth Fruit and Vegetable Display Competition at the Ekka again this year after our successful debut last year. This involved students designing, creating and assembling a scene made from over 1500 pieces of fresh produce.



A team of six Year 11 Art students (Grace Cutmore, Emma Guy, Jess Rock, Chrissie McPhee, Kirstin Payne and Simon Locke) took on the challenge as part of their Senior Art course. We received second place overall, as well as winning the Best Fruit and Vegetable Award in our class. The pavilion stewards were impressed by the students' hard work and commitment to the project, as were nearby stall holders who also donated fruit to our cause.

This year, rather than selling off the produce at the end of the Show, the school has chosen to donate it to Youngcare – the same group that the Agriculture Department supported through the sale of the steer "Top Dollar".

The Art Department would like to recognise all of the hard work put in by Mr John Barling and Mr Pat Flynn from the Agriculture Department and thank them for looking after us so well.

Culinary Creations

Year 10 Food Studies students will be challenging their culinary skills this term to create gourmet meals. They will be learning that attention to presentational detail, clever production techniques and the use of unusual ingredients can transform ordinary dishes into culinary masterpieces.





Attendance: It's not OK to be away!

How long would a person last in the workforce if he or she were to take 18 days a year off in "sickies"? Not long, that's for sure.

Well, 18 days per year is precisely the average number of days absent that our students have each year; a totally unacceptable preparation for life in the workforce besides severely impacting on their educational progress.

There is no doubt that the majority of parents do not role model these absence rates. Then why do your children do so? Is it because you allow them to miss school for shopping trips, looking after younger brothers/sisters etc?

The way to develop in our children a positive and appropriate work ethic is not only to role model it but also say NO absolutely to any absence other than genuine illness.

Should you require assistance in saying NO to your son/daughter with regard to unacceptable absence, please do not hesitate to contact his/her Year Level Coordinator.

Let's work together to make a difference to your student's future.

Be on Time, Be at School, That's the Rule!

Jumpers and Jazz in July



Band performing at Jumpers and Jazz

Students in our school's Instrumental Music Band Program participated in a number of performances as part of the Jumpers and Jazz in July Festival. Both the Stage Band and the Big Band performed a lunch time concert outside

the Warwick Town Hall, entertaining crowds of shoppers and interested passers-by with their renditions of jazz tunes and well-known melodies. The Big Band and the Stage Band then entertained a very large crowd at the Jazz In the Park event on Sunday 27th July in Leslie Park. Members of visiting professional music ensembles were very impressed by the high standard of performance given by both of our school's bands.

Instrumental Music students also recently went on a 3-Day Tour with performances in Brisbane's Queen Street Mall and the Urban Upbeat Music Festival at the Brisbane Ekka. They also attended a workshop at QUT with music staff. For more information about our school's very successful Instrumental Music Program, please contact Ian Follett – HOD The Arts at Warwick SHS.

Ekka Report 2008

At this year's Ekka, we had seven steers and six Droughtmaster animals under our control. Our students, Lachlan Miller, Sally Whitton, Tim Eastwell, Lydia Watt, John Doyle, and Natasha Gaiter, together with Ashleigh Grayson from Killarney, put in a great deal of time to have all the animals ready.

Our team entered in the Schools' Competitions with every parader being put into the frontline. Lydia Watt and Steven Maher (working with another fitting service) were placed 6th out of a class of 117!

In the judging, our team of Callum Miller (came up to Brisbane just for the day), Lachlan Miller and Steven Maher were placed 4th in a group of 35 schools. A very commendable performance in this elite competition.

In the open steer competition, with over 270 cattle entered, the steers we were leading placed 3rd, 4th and 7th in various weight classes. Sincere thanks go to Mr Sandy Miller and Mr Pat Flynn who ensured our steers looked their best as they entered the ring.

This year the Ekka had special significance with the charity steer 'Top

Dollar' ending his career for the sake of Youngcare, an organisation that provides accommodation for young people who are no longer able to care for themselves.



Top Dollar's auction was the centre of attention. Plenty of bets were won and lost on whether the Wickham's truck would fit into the ring, and only with some artful driving did it provide the backdrop for the auction. Top Dollar wore his rug displaying the many sponsors who had helped provide feed, transport entries and auctioneers for this process. In the end, Top Dollar was "knocked down" for \$5000 to George and Fuhrmann Warwick Manager Matthew Grayson. With sale of hay and other sponsors donations \$15000 was raised for Youngcare.

Top Dollar's fundraising story was the focus of ABC TV's Landline program. Our school's successful agricultural program was showcased, together with this very worthy activity for charity.

Owners of several Droughmasters, Suzan and Fred Rowe were on hand to see their animals be judged. They commended Warwick State High School on their efforts in exhibiting these animals. Yacktoon Alexia (donated) and her calf Warwick SHS Dana put on a great performance with Tim and John parading, but unfortunately did not receive a ribbon.

However, Rowe's cattle from Southern Cross stud received the broad ribbon for Junior Champion female with Greenacres Penny and three other seconds in a team of five. They were very pleased and thanked us for our continued effort.

The Sheep and Goat team followed with Mr Pat Flynn and Miss Amanda Cox to further enhance our Ekka effort. These students did a fantastic job working together as a team and coming away with a swag of ribbons including first in the inter-breeds against all other exhibits and most successful school overall. Congratulations to David Drewett, who gained a third place in the junior judging Angora goat section. A great effort by Shontelle Harvey, Kristi Brown, Michael Beddow, David Drewett and Courtney Weidman has resulted in yet another successful Ekka.

The students were exemplary. All contributed to a very successful Ekka. This team was by far the youngest I have taken to the Ekka, but that did not mean their commitment and work ethic was in any way diminished. In fact, I received more comments and compliments about their efforts than ever before. Through Landline, the whole of Australia now knows the professionalism and commitment they display every time they handle their animals.

Finally, I must thank Ms Tracey Pope, Mrs Janelle Robb and Mr Alan Smith, for providing support to the team while in Brisbane. Well done everybody! (John Barling)

NRA BULL & BRONC HIGH SCHOOL RODEO



Find your boots and your biggest hat - it is Rodeo time. This year the rodeo starts at 3.30pm on Friday 12th September. Come along and finish off the term with your family and friends at the Warwick State High School Rodeo.

Admission: Adults - \$8-00, Students/Pensioners \$5-00
Family (2 adults, 2 children) \$22-00

Subject Selection

It was pleasing to see so many students and parents attend our school's recent Subject Selection Evening. The comprehensive range of subjects offered at WSHS were on display, guest speakers from TAFE and SDIEA provided information about various education and training pathways available to students, while teachers were on hand to give subject advice for 2009. A reminder, now, that completed Subject Selection Forms are required to be returned to the school office on/before 29th August.

QCS

Our Year 12 students have nearly concluded their preparation for the all important QCS Test that will be conducted on 2nd and 3rd September. This is a vital test for our Year 12 students who are aspiring to go to university. **The test requires Year 12 students to pour significant energy into doing the best they can** as a good result will certainly optimise the possible OP at the end of this year.

School Opinion Surveys

School Opinion Surveys were recently posted home to a randomly selected group of parents. Information gleaned from the surveys will help our school, and Education Queensland, with its planning for future years. In addition to parents, randomly selected students in Years 9 and 11 have also been asked to complete the survey, as has the school staff. Thank you in anticipation of your support in completing and returning the surveys as soon as possible.

P & C Association

A special general meeting of our P & C will be held on Wednesday, 27th August to adopt the new constitution. This will be followed immediately by a regular meeting of the P & C. Both meetings will be held in our newly refurbished Library commencing at 7.00pm. All welcome.

Student Absences

Just a reminder of the facility available for when students will be away. We have a student absent line, where parents/carers can ring, leaving a message regarding student absences. This information will then be used to update student records. Please ring 46669266.

Mathematics Tutorials

Due to popular request – Maths Tutorials are now held on Thursdays – second break in Q103. If your student has missed school lessons due to sporting commitments or sickness, or just needs the confidence of attempting homework with teacher supervision, encourage them to attend tutorials. Regular attendance also counts towards Principal Awards. See the Maths Department in Q block if you have any queries.

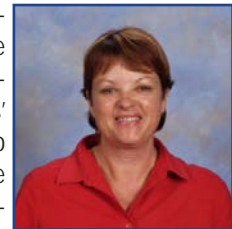
Lost Property

The Textbook Office has a large quantity of unnamed lost property at the moment. It is imperative that all personal items, especially school jumpers, long pants, phones & USB devices are named so that if found they can be returned to the correct owners. Due to a shortage of room, any unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each term. If named items are found, they are stored inside the Textbook Office until the end of the year. If not claimed by then, they are also donated to charity.

From the School Nurse

Medicare Teen Dental Plan

On 1 July 2008, the Australian Government introduced the Medicare Teen Dental Plan to provide financial assistance of up to \$150 to eligible families to help assess the health of their teenagers' teeth, and to introduce preventative strategies to encourage lifetime good oral health habits. The program will be administered by Medicare Australia using a voucher system.



Who is eligible for a preventative dental check?

To be eligible for a preventative dental check under the Medicare Teen Dental Plan, a teenager must have been issued with a voucher by Medicare Australia. To be issued with a voucher, a teenager must, for at least some part of the calendar year:

- be aged between 12 and 17 years; and
- satisfy the means test for the program (ie the teenager must be receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy, or the teenager's family/carer must be receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A).

What does the voucher cover?

The voucher covers one annual preventative dental check consisting of an oral examination and, if required, x-rays, a scale and clean, fluoride treatment, oral hygiene instruction, dietary advice and/or fissure sealing. Not all of these services may be required each year.

Who can provide the preventative dental check?

The preventative dental check can be provided by a dentist. A dental hygienist or dental therapist may also provide services under the supervision or oversight of a dentist.

Where can a voucher be used?

You can use the voucher at any private dental surgery if the dentist is registered with Medicare Australia (most dentists are). You should contact your dentist to ensure they are participating in the Medicare Teen Dental Plan.

You may also be able to use the voucher at a public dental clinic (including a school-based clinic). You will need to present the voucher when you have your dental check.

How will a teenager/family know if they are eligible?

Medicare Australia will automatically send eligible families and teenagers a voucher for a preventative dental check each calendar year, using client information provided by Centrelink. Most people will receive their voucher in July or August for 2008. From 2009, most people will receive their voucher in January or February.

Where can I get more information?

If you need more information about the Medicare Teen Dental Plan, call 132 011 or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au or any Medicare office.

Denise Dixon – School Youth Health Nurse

State Orienteering

Three students from Warwick High - Hugh Hoyte (below left) and Lilian Burrill (Below Right) and Naomi Mauch, were members of the Darling Downs Orienteering Team which competed at the Qld School Sport Orienteering State Championships, held on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd August.

The students all participated in three events over the two days, a relay held at Bunyville State Forest, a sprint event at "Old Petrie Town", and an individual Cross Country event at "Murrenbong" Scout Camp, Kurwongbah.

Lilian Burrill was very successful, gaining selection in the Qld team to compete at the Australian School Orienteering championships and the National Orienteering Carnival to be held in Maryborough, Queensland from 20th - 28th September.



AFL – Brisbane Lions Cup

On Thursday 7th August, our open boys AFL team travelled to Toowoomba for their first round match in this year's competition. The team, coached by Mr Nathan Rogers, had a convincing win against Toowoomba SHS, the reigning 2007 premiers. They won 6 - 6 - 42 to 1 - 5 - 13. We look forward to some high standard games in their remaining fixtures.

Futsal Champions!

Champion of Champions – Warwick High's 15 Boys Futsal Team won the Southern Queensland Schools' "Champion of Champions" competition, where the best of the best are invited to compete in a one day elite event. Teams that have been winners or runners-up in Regional competitions from around Queensland battle it out to call themselves the number one team.

Warwick's team lead by Mark Ferdinand defeated Beaudesert High in the final 2 – 1. The boys played an exceptional final game at the end of a long day, consisting of 8 games of Futsal. A fantastic defensive effort secured the win. Nick Kemp, Fraser Noble and Mark Ferdinand were dynamic in defence denying Beaudesert a goal in the second half of the final. Mitchell Siebenhausen, Mark Steketee & Matthew Carey held the front court and put Beaudesert under pressure on many occasions. The win was a fantastic team effort, making the boys our most successful futsal team to date. The team now looks forward to the challenge of the Australian Schools' Champion of Champions competition in October.



Rear L-R: Matthew Carey, Nick Kemp, Mark Ferdinand, Mitchell Siebenhausen, Peter Ferdinand (Coach) Front: Mark Steketee & Fraser Noble. Absent – Harrison Noble

Inter – House Athletics

This carnival was held on Friday 1st August, with some very good team and individual performances, including three new records, to Jake Reid (13yrs Javelin), Samuel Warrener (17yrs Shot Put), & Anthony McIntosh (14yrs Hurdles). Hamilton House once again won the day:

Pictured Right: Hamilton House Captains Ashley Symonds and Jason Steketee pictured after the presentations with one of their trophies. They won the Overall Champion House as well as the relay trophy.



MATRON THRUPP TROPHY OVERALL POINTS	PAUL HUTTON TROPHY RELAYS	INDIVIDUAL TROPHIES
1. Hamilton – 1432.5pts	1. Hamilton 146 pts	Boys 1500m Open: Ricky Sinkins (H)
2. Barnes - 1195pts	2. Barnes 118 pts	
3. Leslie – 1078.5pts	3. Leslie 88 pts	Most Outstanding Athlete Wendy Frost (C) – 87pts
4. Cunningham - 993pts	4. Cunningham 82 pts	

AGE CHAMPIONS -- BOYS	AGE CHAMPIONS - GIRLS
17 years & over Champion Samuel Warrener (H) 75 pts Runner-up Ricky Sinkins (H) 50 pts	17 years & over Champion Wendy Frost (C) 87pts Runner-up Kia Sowden (H) 63pts
16 years Champion Sam Olsen (L) 83pts Runner-up Jessie Burton (B) 61.5pts	16 years Champion Rebecca Hoffman (C) 46pts Runner-up Shari Hirling (H) 30pts
15 years Champion Jeremy Jerome (C) 75pts Runner-up Matthew Carey (B) 74pts	15 years Champion Steph O'Brien (L) 67.5pts Runner-up Amanda Politch (L) 53pts
14 years Champion Anthony McIntosh (L) 72pts Runner-up Mark Steketee (H) 45pts	14 years Champion Teila Smith (H) 46pts Runner-up Carissa Wrigley (L) 42pts
13 years & under Champion Bill Sullivan (H) 62pts Runner-up Jakob Hoffman (C) 55pts	13 years & under Champion Denby Watt (H) 62pts Runner-up Leanne Brown (L) 51pts