Wycheproof P-12 College

A State school established in 1876

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www.wychep12.vic.edu.au

Newsletter 4 - Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Drug education

This year one of our key objectives has been to increase the amount of education (particularly with our senior students) about the dangers of drug use. Recently our local sporting clubs hosted guest speaker David Burt from SALT (Sport and Life Training) who spoke about the dangers of illicit drug use. Later this term, we will follow up with another workshop containing similar messages for our senior students. The workshop will be delivered by Jonny Shannon who has had many years of experience in helping students to understand decisions that can lead to drug and alcohol dependency. Students learn how addictions are formed and are then equipped to say no to peer pressure. Saying no to drugs, alcohol and vaping can sometimes be difficult, particularly if people are friends (or even family members), or if they are persistent. When multiple organisations are delivering the same health messages, these lessons are likely to have a stronger impact on our young ones. Long term drug use of any kind leads to poor quality health and life outcomes, which is why it is important that we teach our children about the dangers of addictive behaviours. Drugs clearly destroy lives. Our greatest wish is for all our children to have long, healthy and productive lives. We applaud all our young locals who speak up and say why they don't 'do drugs' and why protecting their friends is important to them. Positive role models are essential to have in the lives of young ones, and it is fabulous that we do have so many in our community. This enables children to learn strong values, early in life.

Christine McKersie
Principal

TERM 2 DIARY DATES

MAY

Wed	20-22	Yr 4/5/6 Urban Camp
Mon	25	House Cross Country
Wed	27	Guest speaker - Jonny Shannon
Fri	29	Quiz Night - Year 11 fundraiser

JUNE

Tues	2	LMR Cross Country @ St Arnaud
Wed	3	School Council Meeting
Fri	5	Pupil Free Day
Mon	8	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Thurs	11	VET Taster Day Yr 9 (no NCTTC for current VET students)
Tues	16	Pupil Free Day + GAT (except VCE unit 3/4 students doing GAT)
Mon-Fri	22-26	Year 10 and 11 Work Experience Week
Fri	26	Last day of Term 2 - 2.30pm finish

Golden Gingko Tree Planting

In recognition of our 150-year celebrations, WP12 students recently planted a golden gingko tree in the middle of our school. Pictured are (centre) School Captains Jessie and Angus with Vice Captains Libby and Ruby prior to planting. Continued inside...

WYCHEPROOF P12 COLLEGE
2026 HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

BROADWAY
VS
CALDER

Monday, May 25th
From 1.30pm at Saffin Oval
Spectators welcome!

QUIZ NIGHT

WYCHEPROOF P-12 COLLEGE

FRIDAY 29TH MAY

7:00PM SHARP

Wycheproof P-12 College
sports complex

Join us for an epic Quiz Night filled with challenging questions, laughs, and great prizes!
BYO food and drinks

Book a table at Wycheproof P-12: 54937409
8 people per table $10 pp

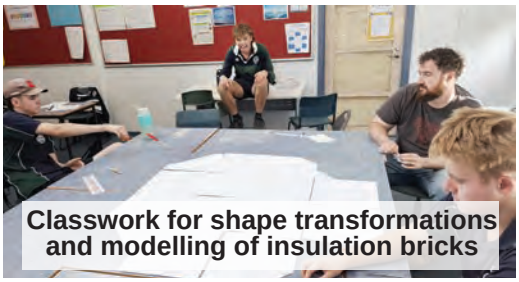
NO EFTPOS!

PRIZES TO WIN!

Raising funds for Year 11 Work experience

VCE VM pizza oven project

Dalyss, Mark, Darcy, Adele, Landon and Olivia ready to start placing bricks on the oven.



Classwork for shape transformations and modelling of insulation bricks

The VCE Vocational Major students have been busy applying their maths skills to build a wood-fired pizza oven for our school community. With assistance and guidance from Noel and Tony, the build is well underway. Stay tuned for more photos and announcements!

- Mrs Beattie, Maths Teacher

Olivia & Adele

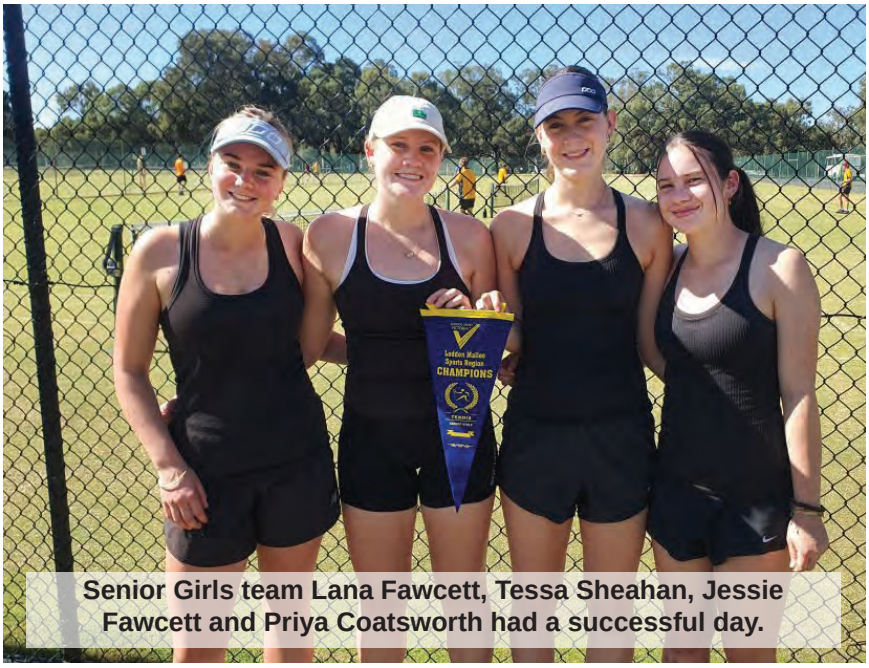
Jessie, Libby, Ruby and Angus

Lola & Frank

P/1s help with the finishing touches

Golden Gingko Tree Planting to mark 150 years

In recognition of our 150-year (sesquicentennial) celebrations this year, Wycheproof P12 College students planted a golden ginkgo tree, in the middle of our school. The colour associated with a 150-year celebration is gold, and as they are native to China (the language taught to primary students), this tree seemed a perfect fit for our college. The ginkgo tree is a unique species largely unchanged for over 200 million years, surviving the dinosaur extinction and ice ages. Cultivated for centuries by Chinese and Japanese monks, it was introduced to Europe in the 1700s and is now globally planted for its resilience, iconic fan-shaped leaves, and ability to thrive in tough conditions (perfect for the Mallee). The tree is reported to be slow growing, so by the time our Prep and Grade One students finish Year 12, it may be only slightly taller than they are. Hopefully, it will still be in the heart of the school, 150 years from now.



Senior Girls team Lana Fawcett, Tessa Sheahan, Jessie Fawcett and Priya Coatsworth had a successful day.

LMR Tennis Finals Report

For this year's Loddon Mallee Region Tennis Finals, WP12 combined with Birchip College under the 'Small Schools' rule which allows schools of our size to collaborate so as to make competitive teams for divisional finals. Thanks to our former WP12 maths teacher Steph Coffey, who now works in Birchip, we had four willing tennis guns eager to join us up in Mildura for our third representation of the North Central Division at this year's Loddon Mallee Region finals.

We fielded three teams: Intermediate Girls, Senior Girls and Senior Boys. The boys team of Max Fawcett, Mitchell Coatsworth, Dane Bartram and ring in Des Coffey played some tough opposition but had a great day, beating one of the schools they came up against. Unfortunately, they didn't progress to the next level.

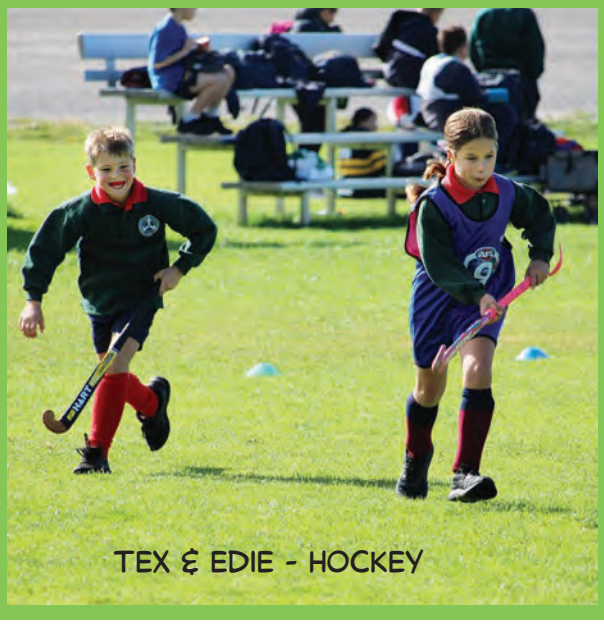
Jenna and Kelly Hogan teamed up with three Birchip students and qualified for the State Finals.

Intermediate girls included three Birchip girls and Kelly and Jenna Hogan. It came down to the final round where our girls had to win and do so in a commanding fashion to be any chance of the overall win on a countback. They claimed the narrowest of victories winning the tournament by one single set and a game. Fantastic effort and now they are off to the State Finals on Friday the 15th of May down in Melbourne. What a great way to start our partnership with Birchip.

The Senior girls won this tournament last year and went onto Melbourne where they gained some invaluable experience against the best in the State. They had an easy first game when Kyabram didn't turn up. The games versus Swan Hill and BSSC went our way so our team consisting of Jessie Fawcett, Tessa Sheahan, Lana Fawcett and Priya Coatsworth will get another chance to see if they can win a State Tennis Championship on Monday the 18th of May.

Stay tuned for the State Tennis Championship report in the next newsletter.

- Mr Duffy



Brain warm ups to

Paddy

ESSIE - NETBALL

CALDER WINTER SPORTS AT BOORT

YEAR 3-6 STUDENTS TRAVELLED TO BOORT ON THURSDAY, MAY 7TH TO PARTICIPATE IN CALDER WINTER SPORTS.
STUDENTS CHOSE TO PLAY AFL, HOCKEY, NETBALL, NEWCOMBE, SOCCER OR TEE BALL AND WERE TEAMED UP WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT. THIS ANNUAL SPORTS DAY ALLOWS STUDENTS TO SOCIALISE WITH PEERS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS, EXPERIENCE NEW SPORTS AND ENCOURAGES GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.
WELL DONE TO OUR VET SPORT, AQUATICS AND REC STUDENTS ZEKE HARRISON, ADELE MCNAUGHTON AND DESMOND POLZIN WHO ASSISTED WITH SCORING, UMPRIRING AND COACHING ON THE DAY.

MILEY - NETBALL

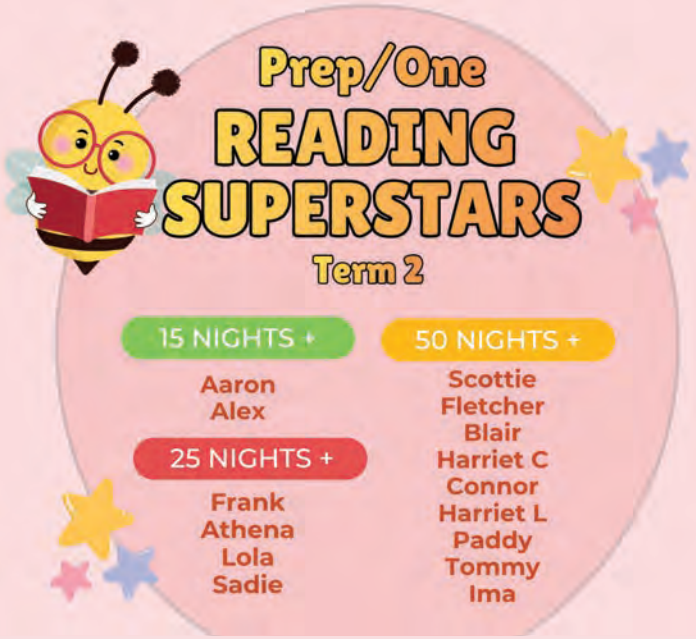
WILLA - HOCKEY

start the day in Prep/1

Frank

Harriet L

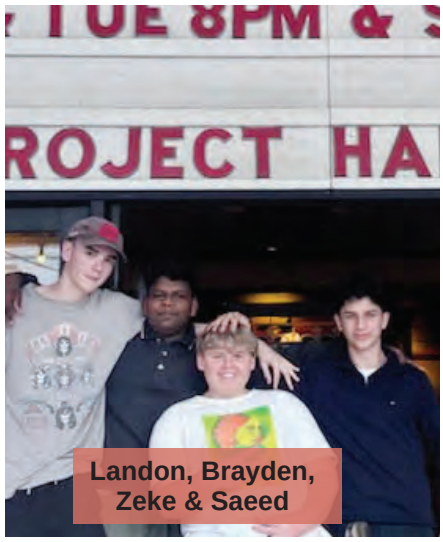
Prep/One students have been enjoying a range of hands-on activities and sensory play as part of their morning routine with Mrs Coatsworth. Activities such as these help prepare our brains for learning, while supporting fine motor development and emotional regulation. Most importantly, they're fun!



MATES and mentors enjoy movie day at The Rex

WP12 MATES mentoring group travelled to Charlton on Sunday, May 3rd for their Term 2 activity - an afternoon at The Rex cinema. The group enjoyed the screening of Project Hail Mary, a sci-fi/adventure film based on the best-selling novel by Andy Weir. MATES coordinator Wendy Pollard thanked students and mentors for joining the fun afternoon.

Wendy, Dalyss, Grace, Brayden, Landon, Saeed, Zeke, Morgan & Paddy



Landon, Brayden, Zeke & Saeed

Dalyss, Morgan, Grace & Ms McKersie

Mitchell

Ever

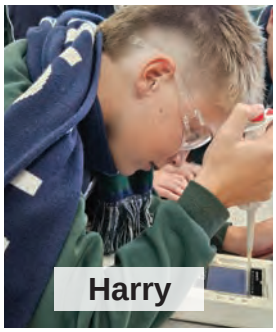
Students conduct forensic investigations

Last Friday, Year 9/10 Science students immersed themselves in the fascinating world of forensic science during an excursion to the Gene Technology Access Centre in Melbourne.
Working alongside real scientists and STEM coaches, students investigated a crime scenario based on real events, gaining valuable hands-on experience with modern forensic techniques. Throughout the day, they explored DNA analysis, fingerprint identification and blood testing. Everyone agreed it was a fascinating day and a great insight into how science is applied in real-world criminal investigations.

Students with GTAC mycologist Marcus

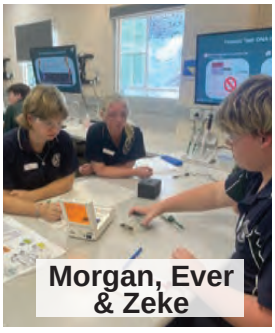
Logan

Priya



Harry

Desmond



Morgan, Ever & Zeke

Harlan

NEW STUDENTS

Wycheproof P12 College warmly welcomes new students Ali-Jane Thompson and Ima Sankar.

Ali-Jane (Year 9)

Ima (Prep)

MOTHER'S DAY MASTERPIECES

The Year 2/3 class made paper mache vases and flowers in art with Mrs Aurisch for Mother's Day earlier this term. Pictured are Adeline, Ivy, Willa, Tex and Jem with their colourful creations.

Adeline's vase

Year 2/3 class

Willa's vase

SUPERVISED HOURS

Wycheproof P12 College's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.35am until 3.20pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students unless special arrangements have been made with school staff. Students and families are encouraged to regularly read our school policies found on our school website. We thank all our School Council members who spend many hours regularly reviewing our school policies. We invite and welcome feedback relating to these policies and other school procedures.

General Assembly

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING 8:50AM - 9:05AM PARENTS WELCOME

Arriving Late/ Leaving Early

Students who arrive late to school or plan on leaving early MUST have a signed note (in their diary/ XUNO absence notification), and must sign in or out in the office.

Silkworm success in Year 2/3 Science

Year 2/3 Science students have successfully hatched silkworms from eggs. The eggs, called "Keggos," are the tiny white spots shown in the photograph (right). The green lumps are chow, which is the food silkworms eat when they are very young.

As the silkworms grow, they begin eating mulberry leaves. The silkworms are currently approximately 21 days old and will hopefully start building their cocoons soon.

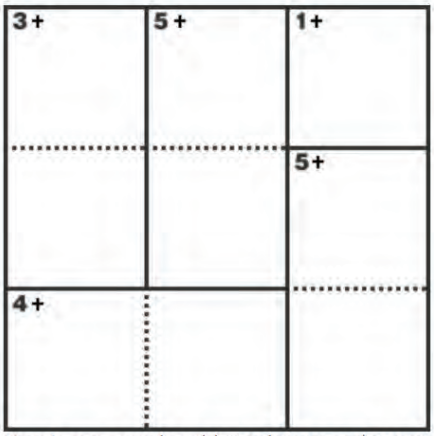
One fun fact the students have learned is that silkworm poo is called frass! After the cocoon stage, the silkworms will turn into moths. If you look carefully you can see the worms in the photograph (far right).

Above: Keggos aka silkworm eggs.
Right: recently hatched silkworms!

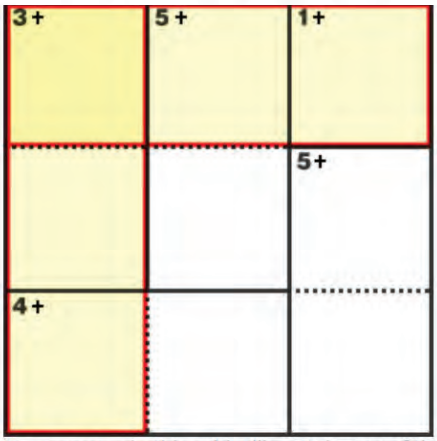
MATHS CORNER

MATHS MASTERS (SNEAK PEEK!)

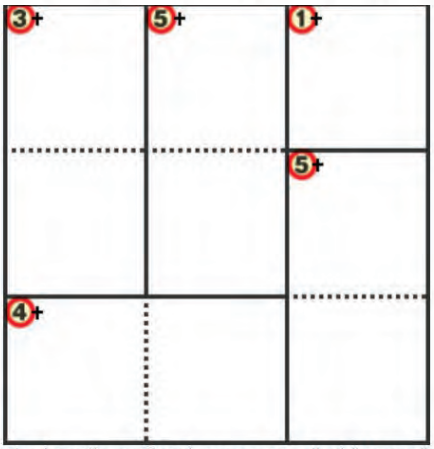
The 2026 Maths Masters Competition starts soon and this year it will be based around Ken Ken puzzles.
New to Ken Ken? Don't be scared - there are simple techniques to help you solve the easier puzzles.
Here a few simple step-by-step instructions to get you started from Mrs Coles!
Visit www.kenkenpuzzle.com/howto_simple for more!



Here's our sample grid: 3 columns and 3 rows.



Every square in this grid will contain one of the numbers 1, 2, or 3. A number cannot be repeated within any row or column.



The heavily-outlined areas are called "cages." The small number in the upper-left corner of each cage is our "target number." The math symbol next to the target number tells us which operation we'll be using in that cage. This puzzle uses only addition.

MATHS PATHWAY

Term 2, 2026

UPDATE

MATHS PATHWAY

CLASS GROWTH			HIGHEST GROWTH PAST FORTNIGHT		HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL AVERAGE	
YEAR LEVEL	AVERAGE %	CURRENT %	STUDENT	GROWTH	STUDENT	GROWTH
5	73%	93 %	Archie Harrison	133%	Archie Harrison	93%
6	83%	111%	Ryder H & Miley B	167%	Ryder Harrison	139%
7	140 %	154 %	Arnav Uttoly Ranjith	367 %	Arnav Uttoly Ranjith	350 %
8	99 %	147 %	Danny Fitzpatrick	200 %	Finbar Polzin	133 %
9	80 %	144 %	Harry Humpheys	267%	Ever H & Harry H	87 %
10	58%	63%	Harlan, Jenna, Logan	100%	Mitchell Coatsworth	94%

Support for Your Mental Health

NDCH

Counselling Services Available Across Our Region

At Northern District Community Health, we understand that life can be challenging at times. Our professional counselling team is here to provide support for your mental health, wellbeing, and personal growth.

We offer confidential, safe, and non-judgemental counselling services, including:

- **Generalist/Mental Health Support** - talk though stress, anxiety, depression, or life changes, or develop practical tools to help manage daily challenges with wellbeing and coping strategies
- **Alcohol & Other Drug (AOD) Support** - guidance and strategies to help manage alcohol or drug use.

Our services are available in:

- **Gannawarra**
- **Pyramid Hill**
- **Wycheproof**
- **Boort**
- **Birchip**
- **Charlton/Donald**

For more information speak to our friendly team!

03 5451 0200 **referrals@ndch.org.au**

Student of the Week

WEEK 2

Leeah Crawford
Year 4/5/6
Always putting in 100% effort and being a great role model

Mina Aerbboon
Year 2/3
Excellent growth in reading

Fletcher Pardella
Prep/One
Segmenting and blending words

Miley Barton
Year 4/5/6
Showing interest and questioning different states of matter in Science

WEEK 4

Henry Pardella
Year 4/5/6
Giving everything his best effort

Alex Tischler
Prep/One
Great enthusiasm and inquisitiveness in all PE and STEM classes

Connor Harrison
Prep/One
Giving things a go even when they get tricky

Willa Lord
Year 2/3
Great recall when discussing our learning

home economics

Delicious fried rice was on the menu in Year 7/8 Home Eco class recently. Pictured are Arnav, Finbar and Chevy tasting their cooking.

Year 7/8 students Daniel and Jewels undertake a practical test on cake making.

SUPER SWEET SCIENCE EXPERIMENT FOR YR 4/5/6!

The Year 4/5/6 class have been looking at States of Matter in Science this term. In this experiment they focused on changing cream from a liquid into a solid to make ice cream. A few spoonfuls of sugar and some vanilla essence were added for a little flavour. Students added salt to the bag of ice to speed up the process of freezing and then shook the bag constantly for 5 minutes. They talked about how the kinetic energy of the particles slowed as the liquid began to freeze. A tasty way to end the day!

NCD Cross Country

WP12's long distance runners had a fantastic day at NCD Cross Country finals in St Arnaud on May 8th, claiming the Standardised Pennant for the 17th year in a row. Stay tuned for the full report from Mr Duffy and photos in the next newsletter. Pictured above with the shield are School Captains Angus and Jessie and below are Lana and Jenna.

MINDFUL MAY

Mindfulness is...

- Being aware – of your thoughts and surroundings
- Being kind – to yourself and others
- Being purposeful – paying attention

The mindful effect

A few practical benefits of mindfulness include:

- Improved focus
- Better sleep
- Assist with anxiety and stress management
- Increased feelings of happiness

How to be mindful

- Take a break from your devices
- Go for a walk outside and take notice what surrounds you
- Eat slower and enjoy the taste of your food
- Breathe. Take long and deep breaths. Slow down.

CALM YOURSELF WITH A

5 FINGER BREATHING

BRAIN BREAK

Slowly trace the outside of the hand with the index finger, breathing in when you trace up a finger and breathing out when you trace down.
You can also do this breathing exercise using your own hand.

Health Promotion

EAST WIMMERA HEALTH SERVICE