Hello and welcome back everybody. I hope your holiday break was enjoyable and that all the students relaxed and are ready for another exciting term.

Term 2 was an eventful term for Woniora Road, with plenty of academic achievements, the addition of more Youth Services to our roster, and the continued running of engagement programs like community radio, volunteering, and music. One of the highlights of the term was the Walking Project with Shopfront Theatre, which received community acclaim. One student was even asked to perform at another Kogarah Council Community event. A full student report can be found in this newsletter.

This term, there is a focus on vocational education, with several students embarking on work experience, attending TAFE tasters, Trade Challenge Days, and Career Expos. Also, Morgan from MTC Work Solutions will be visiting the students every Thursday to talk about work expectations and career planning.

We are also enhancing our welfare programs, and have initiated a ‘Face Group Program’ for the girls run by Aftercare and Youth Services, focusing on addressing sleep and stress issues. There are also a number of other changes and upcoming events, such as the NAPLAN. For more information, please turn to Page 3, where they are described in detail.

I would also like to officially welcome our new students and their families, and look forward to working closely with you all.

Craig Smith
Principal

Headspace Workshops

This term, we will be working with Headspace, also known as the National Youth Mental Health Foundation. They will be visiting the school to conduct workshops on managing stress, and in particular, stress caused by exams and school assessments.

Headspace has centres all around Australia which provide counselling and other support services.

For more information, visit [http://www.headspace.org.au/](http://www.headspace.org.au/)
Sydney Distance Education High School Awards—Term 1

HSIE:
Jasper, Emi, Spike, Derek, Michael M, Michael H x4, Georgia x3, Angela x2, Marlon x4, Taryn

English:
Taryn, Michael H x2, Amy, Owen, Georgia, Marlon, Derek, Jasper, John

Maths:
Spike, Michael M. x4, Georgia, Karly x4, Taryn, Derek x3, Marlon x2

Modern History:
Cristian, Jasper

PDHPE:
Spike, Michael.M, Angela, Derek

Science:
Riley, Maddie, Georgia, Marlon x2, Angela x5, Jayden, Derek x3,

Visual Arts:
Emi, Georgia x4,

Retail Services:
Riley x2, Jayden, Fiona

Commerce:
Angela x3

Building Const:
Michael.M, Derek

Biology:
Amy

Food Tech:
Angela x2, Taryn x2,

VET Construction:
Jayden

SLR:
Owen, Jackson, Andrew

Bronze Award:
Georgia

Bunnings Construction Cup: Billy Cart Race

Thanks to the generosity of Bunnings Warehouse Kirawee, our school was again able to hold the always-enjoyable Construction Cup.

Students were placed into two teams, each with the goal of constructing a billy cart that could make the journey down the school’s driveway at competitive speeds. After two construction sessions with Rosie and Peter from Bunnings, who kindly donated their time to help Stacie manage the two teams and ensure that construction took place safely, the carts were ready for the races.

On the second-last day of term, a small crowd gathered in the school carpark as the track was prepared and teams lined up their rosters of drivers. One by one, the racers were lined up next to each other at the starting line and given their starting push that would lead the carts down the driveway and across the finish line.

It was a close battle, but ultimately the red team was victorious. Some claim that this was due to sabotage, but the evidence is circumstantial and inconclusive. After the races, we were treated to a wonderful sausage sizzle prepared by Kathy and Michelle.

We would again like to thank Bunnings Warehouse Kirawee for the generosity they have shown towards the school.
The whole-school Food Technology program will no longer be running. Please remember to provide lunch for students on Thursdays. Students who are studying the Food Technology elective will still be catered for.

In order to minimize disruption to students, the Australian Curriculum State Training Day that most schools took at the beginning of Term 2 has been rescheduled and will now take place towards the end of the term. More information about the day will be made available when we receive it from Sydney Distance Education High School.

The 2012 Annual School Report can be found on our school website, under the 'Documentation' tab.

The NAPLAN for Years 7 and 9 will be held at the school from May 14-16. If your child is in Year 7 or 9, please ensure that they attend school on those dates.

The HSC examination timetable is now available on the Board of Studies website, which can be located at: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/

Friendly Reminder: If any families have changed their contacts details, student medication, emergency contacts etc., please contact the school so we can update our information. Thank you.
Shopfront Walking Project

Shopfront ran weekly workshops in and out of school where students invented, crafted, created, performed and recorded for the Walking Project. On the 27th of March 2013, students of Woniora Road School and guests attended the Walking Project.

It started at 12:15pm with a delicious pizza lunch and conversation with everybody. Then we went to the demountable to receive our ‘goodie’ bags and get our ‘fruit reading’ told. This was followed by an introduction to the day and using the mp3 players. We all eagerly listened to the audio track’s directions to leave our school and head out into the streets.

When we walked our way to the street lights, close to the salmon-coloured building, we looked through a telescope to see students in masks dancing! At the train station, we found our train tickets on posters and blew bubbles. It was a lot of fun blowing bubbles together! Afterwards, we hopped on the train to Carlton.

At Carlton station, all of us watched a video of some students performing a role play. Happily, students were treated to delectable sweets from the local Lebanese bakery. My favourite was the pastry laden with dates. At the mechanic’s shop, we were given instructions to polish the cars using the cloth provided in our ‘goodie’ bag. We continued to walk to Shopfront and listen to the audio tracks with smiles on our faces. After all that walking, we finally arrived at Shopfront and were shown the light display, which was actually washing detergent drawn on the walls! Overall, it was a wonderful day with plenty of fun activities and great weather.

By Angela Shi
This workshop is for parents and carers of high school students with additional needs.

**EVENING ONE** discusses:
- future planning tools and support agencies
- information on training, employment, accommodation, and income support

**EVENING TWO** discusses:
- strategies to support families and individuals
- information on recreation, relationships, and carer support
- how to get support when health needs change

**Date:** Thursday 13 & 20 June, 2013  
**Time:** 6.00pm-9.00pm  
**Venue:** Learning Links Penshurst- 10 Railway Parade, Penshurst 2222  
**Cost:** FREE*  
**Suitable for:** Parents and Carers ONLY

For enquiries and bookings please phone Dana on 8568 8200.

* This workshop is funded by the Department of Education and Communities.
**Student’s Short Story**

As I scan my close-to-empty apartment, a feeling of anxiousness seeps into me, entering my bloodstream and taking over my mind. I see a kitchen table, a TV on the wooden floor boards, and the mattress I have planted myself on. The bright computer screen illuminates my face. A blank word document stands upright on the screen. The fluttering of the cursor haunts me. I wish for nothing more than to have the page filled with my words—mine!

A car beep flutters up to my apartment and trickles into my ears. My eyes dart downwards to find the culprit. I’m so far up that the cars look like toys and the people ants. I love looking out this window; floor to ceiling it stands. This wall is a window and it’s perfect. A skyline of lights brightens the dark apartment. I lit candles two hours ago and they’re still burning; their little flames reflect and dance across my walls. I dial the most familiar number in my contacts. Ring, ring, ring... silence.

“H—hello?” My voice is soft.

“Oh, hey, Fyn!” His voice I have known and loved for four strong years.

“I can’t write.” My voice begins to fall beneath me; it lands on the floor and slides away. Tears are welling in my eyes, turning the ice blue they hold in liquid.

“I wish you hadn’t moved. I could come over and make sure you’re okay...” Innocent, pure. I remain silent. My voice won’t hold, I know it.

“You’re talented, Fyn.” His voice flies strongly and sits in the best part of my mind. “Write about long distance and how much it sucks,” he chuckles.

“Okay. I’m sorry for calling so late. I love you.” I don’t want to bring him down. I don’t.

“Hmm, okay. I love you too.” Innocent, pure.

I sigh, I breathe, I think about him, Michael. His voice, his way. My finger lifts and taps one key, “I.” Tap...tap, tap, tap, tap. My fingers fly over the keys as if they’ve been put into fast-forward. Tears finally run down my cheek until they firmly land onto the laptop that sits upright on my legs. I’m alone, but no longer feel lonely. A blonde strand of hair falls flat over my eye; I won’t stop writing though. Michael will be here with me as long as I keep writing. I am engulfed by these words, they carry me. I’m okay.