



Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami.

Sadly, we had to postpone the athletics carnival as BMCC closed all grounds. As I drove to school it was pouring down and the weather forecast for next week is not promising. We are under time pressure due to the timing of the Zone carnival, but it will be disappointing if we have to cancel for the second year in a row. We are looking at moving the carnival on the calendar for next year to a time with less chance of rain.

I'm on a crusade to engage students in reading as a recreational activity and to spend less time on screens. This article from The Sydney Morning Herald is a sobering read for all of us.

https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/has-the-smartphone-killed-reading-20250502-p5lw0d.html

The SMH has a paywall but you can access the link if you haven't already used up your free allowance for the month.

Our staff and students do so many great things, please forward these emails to anyone in your contacts who would be interested. Too often we are judged by one student making bad choices in public.



Fundraising Efforts for World's Greatest Shave

Online: \$9,165 Cash on the day: \$612.10

Total \$9777

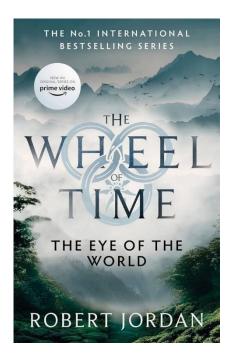
Great work Winmalee High!



What are you reading?

Ms Taylor is currently reading a series called 'The Wheel of Time' by **Robert Jordan:**

Spanning fourteen books, this fantasy series is a breathtaking deep dive into a rich and immersive literary world. The Dark One's prison has been breached, and he has tainted the male half of the One Power, causing men who wield it to go mad and destroy everything they hold dear. All seems lost but there is one, the Dragon Reborn, who can confront the Dark One and overcome its evil followers. The plot may sound cliched and tired, but at its core, this series is an exploration of the different kinds of evil that plague humanity and suggests that sometimes it isn't the big bad monster under our bed or an abstract devil that is our biggest threat, but rather our inhumanity. I have loved and reread these books since the 1990s! (yes I am that old) and have recently picked them up again. I love the complex characters and the detailed cultures that Jordan has created, as well as the intricate power systems, magical, political and moral, that drive his incredibly engaging saga.





Celebrating student success in the Penrith Youth Art Prize

We are delighted to share the outstanding achievements of two of our talented Visual Arts students in the 2025 Penrith Youth Art Prize.



Dupe by Abbie-Rose Whale Year 12

Abbie-Rose Whale (Year 12) has been announced as the winner of the 12–18 years category for her thought-provoking artwork 'Dupe'. This is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects Abbie-Rose's creativity, technical skill, and artistic vision.

We also congratulate Indy Fitzpatrick (Year 8), whose vibrant mixed media work 'Radiance' was selected as a finalist in the same category—an impressive achievement at such a young age.

Both artworks will be exhibited at the Penrith Regional Art Gallery from 24 May to 20 July, and we

encourage our school community to visit the gallery and support these young artists.

Radiance by Indy Fitzpatrick Year 8

We are incredibly proud of Abbie-Rose and Indy, and we look forward to seeing where their artistic journeys take them next!

DOIT WINTER STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

Do It For Dolly Day is an annual day of awareness and action to end bullying. At Winmalee we are recognising it on **Thursday 22nd May** with a Gold Coin donation Mufti Day. Staff and students are encouraged to go blue, spread kindness, and raise funds for bullying prevention programs via their gold coin donation. Let's all come together to make a difference in the lives of young people affected by bullying.



Winmalee High School Year 12 student **Hannah Gianatti** is not only tackling the HSC via Distance Education — she's also taking on the international cycling world.

As an elite cyclist competing on the European circuit, Hannah recently claimed an incredible



victory in the *Provinciaal Kampioenschap Vlaams-Brabant WJ - Road Race*, completing the 61km course in just 1 hour, 34 minutes, and 37 seconds.

Congratulations Hannah!



Open Girls Knockout Volleyball Monday 12 May

The end of the campaign for our Girls Knockout Volleyball team. Our first Girls Volleyball team for more than two decades - possibly more - we are extremely proud of their underdog run. They were able to make the Regional Quarter Finals and forced James Ruse to a narrow 2 sets 1 tiebreaker. They've shown significant resilience and determination despite adversity and are fantastic representatives of Winmalee High School.





Congratulations to Addy Down, Anna Stretton, Jane Sullivan, Tess Morris, Ella Zaccazan, and Abbey Gibbs (Year 12).

Thank you to Referees, Scorers, Linesmen:

Tom Grodzicki, Will Taylor, Frano Hirst, Jack Reynolds, Felix Mann, and Zack Fitzgerald (Year 12)

Our **Wombat basketball teams** put on a fantastic display at the recent Basketball NSW Regional Tournament in Penrith!

The Division 2 team played solidly throughout the day, narrowly missing out on a spot in the semi-finals. The Division 3 Boys team impressed with their teamwork and determination, finishing top of their pool before securing a hard-fought win in the final





against a strong Rooty Hill High School side. Our Division 3 Girls team also shone, showing great spirit and skill to make it all the way to the finals, going down by just 3 points in a thrilling finish.

A huge congratulations to all our players for their effort, sportsmanship and pride in representing the Wombats. We now wish our Division 3 Boys the very best as they head to the State Championships later this month!



Year 7 Food Technology students participated in their first practical lesson, making a delicious banana and berry smoothie. Yum!









Sydney West CHS Knockout Puma Cup - Open Boys Knockout Soccer



On Wednesday 14th May, the school's Open Boys Soccer Team travelled to Penrith High School in the quarter finals of the Sydney West CHS Knockout Puma Cup. After a cracking early goal from 30 metres out by Winmalee's Frano Hirst, the game tightened. A goal midway through the second half from Penrith saw the game end 1-1 and headed for golden goal. In front of a partisan Penrith HS crowd, the first half of golden goal ended goalless with both teams visibly tiring. Angus Weir – one of the youngest members of the squad, stepped up to seal victory for Winmalee with a well taken low range effort to silence the parochial Penrith spectators. A fine game played in a competitive, fair manner with all players contributing to the victory.

The team now travels to either The Ponds HS or Crestwood HS for what will be a tricky semi-final. We go again! Well done to Frano Hirst, William Weir, Hamish Weir, Max Campaner, Jeremy Taylor, James Croucher, Harrison Stevens, Felix Mann, Lachlan Todd, Angus Weir, Julian Munro, Fletcher Bryant, Aadyn Hoare, Will Ford, Koby Morgan, and Tom Grodzicki (on standby).

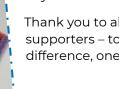


The **Crochet Club** has been busy stitching kindness into every loop! We're proud to share that we've made over 70 cozy beanies to donate to the Penrith Community Kitchen, continuing our tradition of giving for the third year in a row. These handmade beanies will be delivered in just two weeks to help bring warmth and comfort to those in need this winter.



Want to join the effort? If you crochet or knit, we'd love your help! You're

welcome to drop off a beanie donation by May 26th and be part of this heartfelt cause.



Thank you to all our talented students and supporters – together, we're making a difference, one chain at a time!







Thank you to William Weir, Jeremy Taylor (Year 12) and Jimmy Bowman (Year 8) who very generously helped ref a KO tournament with Ellison PS and Faulconbridge PS on Tuesday.

William and Jimmy's brothers are in the Ellison team.

UNIFORM SHOP – BACK TO NORMAL HOURS!

From next Monday 19 May, our Uniform Shop is resuming its previous operating hours, **Mondays and Thursdays 8.00am to 11.00am.**





Netball NSW Penrith Regional Gala Day Wrap-Up

On Tuesday, 13th May, 53 students represented the school at the Netball NSW Penrith Regional Gala Day. The school entered a total of five teams, including three Year 7/8 Girls teams, a Year 9/10 Girls team, and a Year 9/10 Boys team.

The Year 7/8 Girls competitive team performed particularly well, securing three wins out of five games against strong opposition. All students displayed excellent sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the day.

A special thank you to the student umpires and coaches for their leadership and support.



Netball Development Program Reminder

Ms. Doyle will be running a Netball Development Program on Wednesday afternoons from 2:55 pm to 4:00 pm, starting **Wednesday, May 28th.** Interested students should see Ms. Doyle in the library for a permission note.



Blue Mountains Bike Fix and Fun Day this Saturday 17 May, 10.00am to 2.00pm at Buttenshaw Park, Springwood - Official Opening by Mayor Mark Greenhill

Come and celebrate the official opening of the new pump track at Buttenshaw Park with a fun-filled day of free community activities!



Whether you ride, skate, or scooter - or just love a great local event, there's something for everyone.

Activities include:

- 1. Bike riding and skateboarding sessions
- 2. Kids' riding skills sessions (bookings required)
- 3. Free bike testing and tuning (bookings required)
- 4. Free bike recycling
- 5. Sausage sizzle and coffee cart
- 6. You can also drop off your old bike to be recycled to give your wheels a whole new life.

Ticketed Sessions - Bookings essential

- ★ Ride Blue Mountains Kids' Skills Sessions and
- ★ Test and Tune Free Bike Tune-Ups

See flyer at end of Newsletter for booking information.



To Year 10, 11 and 12 Parents and Carers:

Our Senior Parent-Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, 10 June 2025 from 3.30pm - 7.30pm in the school hall. Please save the date in your calendars.

This year, the **online booking system** will again be through the **Sentral Parent Portal**. If you haven't yet registered for access to the portal, we encourage you to register and activate your account prior to interview bookings opening.

Please contact the school via phone or email if you require an activation key for the portal: 02 4754 2822 or winmalee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Interview bookings will be open from 4.00pm on Monday, 26 May until 4.00pm on Monday, 9 June 2025.

We will release detailed information about booking Parent-Teacher Interviews shortly before bookings open.



COMING UP SOON - Saturday 24 May

Winmalee High School's Jazz Band and Year 12 Music students will be performing in the annual *Music Amongst* the Autumn Leaves event on Saturday 24 May – details below.

Feel like winding down for a few hours?

Come and experience a fabulous afternoon of music set in park-like gardens. The aspiring musicians from four Blue Mountains High schools will display some impressive performances of instrumental, band, solo and choral items throughout the afternoon.

Bring your friends and your refreshments, sit back and relax and take time to wander around the gardens at their Autumn best.

Cost is \$10 per person, with proceeds raised being donated to the music departments of the schools involved.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday 24th May. Performances commence at 12.00.

Music Amongst the Autumn Leaves

12-4pm Saturday May 24th 2025 The Old Farm, 35 Purvines Road, Yellow Rock

Come and enjoy performances by talented local students from Blue Mountains schools.

Wander the gardens and enjoy the colours of Autumn.

Entry \$10pp. Proceeds donated to the music departments of performing schools.

Proudly supported by the



Best wishes,

BLUE MOUNTAINS BIKE FIX AND FUNDAY

BUTTENSHAW PARK, SPRINGWOOD



SATURDAY 17 MAY 10AM - 2PM

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW PUMP TRACK

Free bike tune-ups

Kids' riding sessions

Sausage sizzle

Recycle your old bicycle. Donate your old bike to Revolve Recycling and it will be given a new lease on life. Drop off from 10am to 2pm.

Don't forget your helmets!

Book now for ticketed sessions

Ride Blue Mountains Kids' Skills Sessions Test & Tune
Free Bike Check-up

For more info and to book sessions

















Benefits of Reading

STRENGTHENS YOUR BRAIN



Builds the pathways and connections in your brain



Improves your memory and recall



Improves your concentration and ability to focus

Helps you fall asleep

IMPROVES YOUR HEALTH



Reduces stress



Improves your mental health and makes you feel more positive

HELPS IN REAL LIFE



Helps you understand new words and improve your writing



Makes you more likely to try new things



Makes it easier to relate to others and understand their emotions