

Western Alliance



The Western Alliance (WA) has continued to grow from strength to strength, and this year has been no different. With staff, Home Tutors and students alike starting out with another super busy semester in 2018! We introduced five new staff, A Head of Teaching and Learning, Mandy McDonald, three WA teachers, Amelia Machray, Frank Taylor and David Yang, as well as a new French LOTE teacher later into the semester, Ben Ryan, and loads of new students and families across the three schools.

Welcome aboard the best school in the country everyone ☺. Once underway, members of the WA participated in Study Environment and Skills Preparation programs, Home Tutor Kickstart / Workshops, new Certificate courses, the biggest Multischool yet, all on top of normal classes and catching up with friends. So many wonderful things have happened the teachers wanted to add a little summary of what they have been doing and

what they have seen **so far in 2018...**

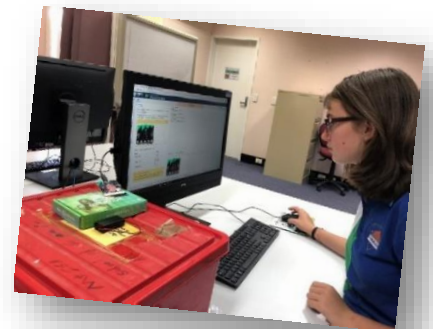


Year 7 Maths working hard.

- (Mrs O) My 7B Maths students have written the following this morning: "Our 7B Maths class is diverse and can be a little odd like an improper fraction but we are a co-operative group where everyone cares about each other and ensures everyone is equal. One day we will be the greatest mathematicians alive. Our lessons are fun and great to attend." What more can I add to that!!!

- (Mr Ryan) Bonjour! (Hello!) In French Groupes Bleu and Orange, we are already getting to know each other quite well! Sounding out the alphabet with songs, alongside the numbers 1-20 have enabled us to introduce ourselves and our family members. Can't wait to share more information about ourselves! Bonne continuation! (Keep it up!)

- (Ms Dollery) 9 Geo Students have been working to suggest improvements to a multinational company of their choice. Some of the inquiries are into companies such as The Body Shop, Garnier, Cadbury, Douwe Egbert Coffee, Shell Oil, Toyota, Caterpillar bulldozers, Coca Cola and more. Students have used research and sought information from the general public about what they know about the product and multinational corporation. Finding out more about these products has been very interesting – great work Y9.



Year 9 DDT

- (Mrs Anderssen) Interacting with our WA students through scheduled subject lessons, contact lessons and Go2 sessions as well as Multischool has enabled us to get to know the person on the other end of the phone and web conferencing. We have a delightfully diverse group of young people enrolled in the three SDE schools that form the Western Alliance Schools of Distance Education. After some discussion with my Maths classes, we have introduced 'colour runs' into our online class room for our one minute brain breaks. Students move away from their desks to find certain coloured household objects and share these via web conferencing. Dylan William says, 'short burst of physical exercise ... will do wonders for students' alertness and motivation'. A change of pace; change of topic; movement; increased blood flow to the brain; then back to the task at hand.



Year 8 Experience Design Tech.

- (Miss Cochrane) Year 7 English: In year 7 English this year, we initially focused on the art of persuasion, a topic that most students seem to be masters in. More recently, we have been digging deep in our search for courageous individuals. These tasks have been enjoyed by many and have been particularly enjoyable and educational for the teacher. This is because the students have been able to teach me a thing or two, about numerous inspiring individuals that they have selected to research and then write a biography on. + Year 7 Art: Whilst there was initially lack of self-confidence, our year 7's have shown that they are rather talented artists. Our focus for the semester long unit has been sculpture, which has allowed students to discover how practising artists go about making their artwork and also become masters of sculpture themselves. For their final task students have chosen to carve timber, weld metal and manipulate fabric, just to name a few.



Maddison's art comes to life!

- (Mr Foster) In year 8 Science, we have been looking at putting fabric on a pool chair (chemistry), and rocks (geology).



Year 8 Chat with a Geologist.

Year 8 was fortunate to have Solena Wood, a geologist with Mount Isa Mines, come and talk to the year 8 Science students. Solena talked with the students about a variety of topics from classifying rocks, to underground geology, to how a geologist might interact with other types of geologists or scientists. Everyone involved had a great time.

Multischool One

This year was BIG in more ways than one ☺ not only did we see the largest attendance of any Multischool so far,

from both Students but also teachers as well, as we see the WA family grow! (We even had a visit from an Old friend and her growing family... ☺) It also saw a big change of venue and experience as students got a chance to see what it was like to board and attend a campus of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges for a week, as well as all the other great programs and learning of a normal WA Multischool.

Longreach Pastoral College was the venue and building an inclusive identity was the theme for the week.

Students got a chance to see the connections between where they are now and where they could go in the future, with Horse work with John Arnold, TASTE programs with the college, which introduced all the possibilities the college offers and a short presentation on Josh Arnold, from "Small Town Culture." Josh, who will be attending Multischool Two, is set to create a 'Western Alliance Song and Video' with the students and staff, to build on the identity of the WA and give students and families a sense of belonging to both their base school, but also the wonderful family that is the Western Alliance, HOW EXCITING! Teachers as always got loads out of the week with the students, particularly meeting the new students, catching up with familiar faces and teaching new ideas to fantastically behaved and engaged students from across the western corridor.

The next Multischool will be held in Term 4, week 2 in Longreach at the Ag College again, where we will have the opportunity to create lasting memories and a video/song to boot, and lots more!



WHAT'S ON

IN SEMESTER 2:

TIMETABLE CHANGES

(this means a new Timetable, so look out in your inbox):

All year levels, History and Geography subjects switch. (Year 7 & 9 to History, 8 & 10 to Geography)

Year 7 & 8 Elective Introduction subjects change... (DDT, The Arts, Ag Science and HPE)

The 2018 Western Alliance CAMP (Week 10 Term 3) – Interactive Learning on the Gold Coast!!!

Multischool 2 (Week 2 Term 4) – Longreach Agricultural College for Fun, Learning and Music Video!!!



The Western Alliance continues to encourage and empower our students through education, development, fun and friendships. Helping to recognise student potential and realise their 'Infinite Future!'

(Encourage, Educate, Empower!)

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