



President's Report – *A Year in Review*

Wendy Sinden

I have no doubt that this newsletter will see you busy, if not frantic with the many tasks yet to be completed before one is allowed to go on holidays! Despite the temptation not to, I encourage you to take some time to celebrate your personal achievements this year and appreciate all that you do with passion and enthusiasm. The young adolescents that you serve in the middle years appreciate your efforts.

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This year the committee has worked hard to ensure that your needs have been addressed and your projects supported and celebrated. This last newsletter for the year gives me the opportunity to celebrate all that has been on offer this year for our members and I offer the following summary.

- Thanks to **David Hunter** and his colleagues at **Penrhos College** for hosting a most enjoyable time at the "Meet the Committee" **Sundowner** held in Term 1. It was a pleasure to meet our members and share some valuable and often amusing stories and well done to the two winners of the \$100 dinner vouchers at the very popular Spaghi's Restaurant, South Perth.
- Thanks to **Leigh Cottrill**, Principal of **Ellenbrook Secondary College**, for hosting a wonderful tour of this most exciting new school as part of our professional development program in Term 2. An article in this newsletter gives you an insight into this "state of the art" College for Year 7 - 10 students located in Ellenbrook, one of Western Australia's fastest growing places.
- Thanks to **Phil McNamara** and the presenters in the Darwin Inclusion Learning Team - Natasha Cheater, Louise Lamothe, Georgina Meeham, Nicci Booth, Jacqui Davis and Angela Luvera from **Warnbro Community High School**. Their excellent presentation in Term 3 helped members gain an insight to their work on inclusivity in the curriculum.

President's Report continued...

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- It was a pleasure to attend our Term 4 showcase - Maximising Mathematics in the Middle Years presented by **Christine Lee**. With references to Heinemann Maths Zone for Western Australia - A Middle Years' Approach, the workshop addressed a variety of topics. Our thanks are extended to Heinemann and **Mt Lawley SHS** and **Wesley College** for hosting the presentations.



Bev Clasohm (Manager WATSA) and Christine O'Connell (Educational Consultant with Heinemann) with Christine Lee (Author), Wendy Sinden (President MSAWA) and Simon Purdue (Middle Years Coordinator for Mathematics at Wesley College)

"The key to excellence in Middle Schooling is that it is developmentally respectful, socially conscious and academically stimulating."
Dr Nancy Doda

- The MSAWA website is in the process of being rebuilt by **Darren Wee** and **Lachlan Groom**, two Year 8 boys from **Wesley College**. With this new website, we hope to provide you with the support you need to achieve excellence in Middle Schooling wherever you are.
- It was an honour to represent the MSAWA at the fifth **MYSA** (Middle Years of Schooling Association) **International Conference** that was held on the Gold Coast, Queensland on 17-19 May. A summary of the Conference keynote addresses and theme papers that were delivered to over 775 delegates is available at www.mysa.org.au/conferences. It gives me great pleasure to pass on to you confirmation from presenters from around the world, that schools in Western Australia are well on their way to excellence when it comes to focusing on the key principles for success in Middle Schooling education. We enjoy a strong relationship with this organisation and look forward to continuing that association in 2008. To close, a thought from the MYSA Conference by Dr Nancy Doda (National-Louis University). "The key to excellence in Middle Schooling is that it is developmentally respectful, socially conscious and academically stimulating." Good luck this term and remember to focus on the quality of your relationships.

“The world of the future will demand capacities that, until now, have been mere options. Have you begun developing these capacities - in yourself and others?”
Howard Gardner

- It was also a pleasure to attend **Howard Gardner's** keynote address at the recent **World Conference on Science and Technology Education** that was held in Perth on the 11th July. His thoughts on the “Five Minds for the Future” defines the cognitive abilities that will command a premium in the years ahead. He concerns himself, “with the kinds of minds that people will need if they – if we – are to thrive in the world during the eras to come” (Gardner, H. Five Minds for the Future).

With this being our last event for 2007, I encourage you to continue to support our professional learning opportunities and events and recommend that you to put the **AGM and Sundowner from 4pm on the 27th November at St Marks Anglican College** in your diary.

If you haven't already received your **membership renewal** invoice, keep your eye on the mail or email as it should be arriving soon. Our new website in 2008 will be offering you to opportunity to pay online which should simplify things for everyone.

Also in 2008 we are planning to hold a **Middle School Retreat** where the goal will be to establish a support network for those working with young adolescents and middle schooling. We are currently seeking expressions of interest in the retreat and topics that you would like to discuss or share best practice in. Please contact Maria Camilleri via email mcamilleri.msawa@gmail.com



Finally to those who have served on the committee this year : Geoff Kay, Maria Camilleri, David Hunter, Gary Dixon, Phil McNamara, Pam Kershaw, Shaun Tate and Liz Smith, I thank you for your dedication to keeping the pot boiling for Middle Schooling.

Wendy Sinden

Wendy Sinden
 President MSAWA



FEATURE SCHOOL

Ellenbrook Secondary College

Opened in 2007, Ellenbrook Secondary College is a world class educational facility, situated in the one of the fastest growing suburbs in the Perth Metropolitan area and currently caters for Year 7 & 8 students. The school will continue to grow each year as students progress through each year level. The first stage building program is complete, and will accommodate existing and new enrolments through to Year 10.

Year 7 & 8 students work in Learning Communities with a team of teachers based on a specialist approach. Curriculum is presented in a holistic fashion, and is designed to be challenging and relevant for students. Learning Communities are led by Team Leaders who are responsible to provide educational leadership to a core team of teachers from various subject areas to support student learning. The structure of the College aims to address the emotional, social and intellectual needs specific to young teenagers. The approach taken involves placing high expectations on all students while fostering a sense of self worth, respect and confidence.

The College boasts exceptional facilities including: an integrated Information Communication & Technology (ICT) network linking students to the world, three general learning communities complete with Science labs, Seminar Rooms, Studio areas, computer banks, and a Cafe and undercover meals area.

"The College focuses on establishing strong partnerships with parents, students, and other community organisations including the City of Swan and the Ellenbrook Cultural Foundation," Mr Cottrill said. The school has a Community Library that is shared with the City of Swan and Arts Facilities, including a Performing Arts Theatre shared with the Ellenbrook Cultural Foundation.

A major priority of the College is the establishment of a safe and productive learning environment. In recognition of the advancements the College has made in this area, the College was nominated as one of only two Government Secondary Schools to represent WA in the 2007 Safe Schools Conference in QLD. A strong focus on values such as respect underpins this initiative and it provides a rich basis for the management of the anti bullying approach taken in the College.



"The approach taken involves placing high expectations on all students while fostering a sense of self worth, respect and confidence."



LtoR: Geoff Kay (Vice President MSAWA), Leigh Cottrill (Principal Ellenbrook College), Wendy Sinden (President MSAWA) and Phil McNamara (MSAWA Committee Member)

FEATURE SCHOOL

Warnbro Community High School & Warnbro Community High School Education Support Centre



Warnbro Community High
School Education Support
Centre



Warnbro Community High
School

Inclusion

What is inclusion?

- Based on the philosophy that schools should, without question, provide for the needs of all the children in their communities, whatever the level of their ability or disability
- Central question: "How will we provide for the needs of this student?"

Language about disability

- Language has a strong effect on the way we think about things
- A common problem is the use of language that suggests that all people with a disability are similar to each other
- Expressions such as 'the disabled', 'the handicapped', 'epileptics', 'spastics' all imply that we are describing homogeneous groups. The people who are in the groups referred to by these words will be very different from each other
- The preferred use of language to avoid these problems follows the principle of *people first, disabilities second*. It is preferable to talk about *a person with a disability*, rather than a disabled person.

(Foreman, P. (2005) *Inclusion in Action*. Nelson: Australia)

Darwin Learning Team

Structure

- six year 8 students from the ESC into 8.3 with 19 mainstream year 8s
- six year 9 students from the ESC into 9.3 with 19 mainstream year 9s
- Students from the ESC are fully integrated for all of their subjects
 - MESS subjects (Maths, English, S&E and Science) with mainstream teacher, Ed Support teacher and Education Assistant
 - Option classes (The Arts, T&E, PE) with mainstream teacher and Education Assistant
 - LOTE – small group of students are withdrawn for intensive language and literacy lesson with Ed Support teacher and Education Assistant

Attendance and Reporting

• Students from the Ed Support Centre are recorded on SIS through the Education Support Centre Individual Education Plans are developed for students as required. The students from the Education Support Centre also receive a mainstream subject award at the end of each semester.

MSAWA News - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The **MSAWA Sundowner** was held at Penrhos College earlier in the year. The photos share a common story; people who share the same passions enjoying some time together.



Shaun Tate (St Mark's Anglican Community School), Christine Lee (Past President MSAWA) Kylie Burke and Peter Sharrett (Mt Lawley SHS)



Host David Hunter serves Patricia Kershaw from ECU and Bev Burnside (Associate Principal at Mt Lawley SHS)



\$100 Dinner voucher winner Greg Wheeler (Penrhos College) is congratulated by Andrew Manley (Wesley College) and Phil McNamara (Warnboro Community High School)



Shaun Tate (St Mark's Anglican Community School) with MSAWA President Wendy Sinden and Phil Mc Namara (Warnboro Community High)

We are seeking articles for our inaugural **MSAWA Journal**. If you have something you wish to share please contact Maria Camilleri via email mcamilleri.msawa@gmail.com

Christmas Sundowner & AGM – This year the AGM and Christmas Sundowner will be held together at St Mark's Anglican Community School. Drinks commence at 4.00pm followed by a brief AGM at 4.45. Following the AGM will be a walk and talk showcase of St Mark's Anglican Community School's new Middle School commencing in 2008. Please join us and support your fellow Middle Schoolers!

2008 Events -

Middle Schooling Retreat. Given the success achieved in developing a strong and supportive community of educators by other WA Educational Associations, we plan to offer our Middle Schooling members an opportunity to relax and share some ideas next year at a popular location. Keep an eye out for news on this special event in 2008.

Mathematics in the Middle Years



MIDDLE SCHOOLING ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

To register as a member, please complete the following form, include payment and mail to:

The Middle Schooling Association of WA (Inc)

ABN:94 250 851 782

David Hunter, Treasurer

Penrhos College

Locked Bag 690

COMO WA 6952

Phone: 9368 9562 Fax: 9368 9598

NAME/CONTACT PERSON: _____

(If organizational membership, please include name of contact person)

SCHOOL/ORGANISATION: _____

WORK ADDRESS: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

PHONE (WORK): _____ (HOME): _____

HOME EMAIL: _____

WORK EMAIL: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Individual \$30.00

Organisation \$250.00

Student Free

However, please the following details must be completed:

Lecturer's name: _____

Lecturer's Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Institution: _____

REGISTRATION PAYMENT INCLUDED

YES

NO

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU PREFER TO BE CONTACTED AT WORK

or AT HOME

