



NEWSLETTER

"Educational Excellence in an Information Age"

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8 October 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



THE WILLOWS STATE SCHOOL YEAR OF THE ACTIVE LEARNER

Dear parents and friends,

Welcome back for Term 4 which is always a fast paced, event filled term.

Dates for activities this term include;

Year 5 Leadership Day - 7th October

Performer's Gala Night - 21st October

123 Magic sessions for parents 22nd October & 29th October

Instrumental music recruitment concerts 27th October

Swimming (Years 1-4) weeks 6-9

School leader applicant's speeches 6th November

Prep Open Day 17th & 18th November

Music recruiting information night 18th November

2016 school leaders announced 20th November

Academic Excellence Transition (KSHS) 23rd & 24th November

Year 6 transition to secondary school 2nd December

Christmas Concert 2nd December

Handover ceremony 4th December

Report cards distributed 7th December

Year 6 Fun Day 8th December

Year 6 Graduation ceremony and dinner/dance 9th December

Final day of the 2015 school year- 11th December

As you can tell there's quite a bit going on and there are certainly more events than is noted above. Your child's teacher will contact you further with any specific class activities as the term progresses.

During the last week of last term I visited Kirwan SHS to discuss their academic excellence programs that begin in Year 7. As a feeder school for KSHS, it's important that we identify areas for growth for our students so they are given the best opportunity to access the excellence programs at the secondary school. By creating stronger links between the two schools, we can value add to our student's chances of gaining entry into these

programs which ultimately result in higher levels of achievement.

Once again as the term begins, I would like to remind parents about the road safety around our school at pick up time. I would like to thank the vast majority of parents who use the Stop, Drop and Go section and car parks appropriately. This is keeping our students safe and modelling road safety in the best possible way. Our children look to us at all times for their behaviour cues and when we do the right thing they will ultimately follow the example we set.

As a parent the test of the impact of your modelling, is always how your child behaves when they visit friend's homes or when they go to extra curricula activities. I'm sure many of you experience the positive feedback from other parents or team coaches who say "Your child is so well behaved and well mannered". In the meantime you're probably thinking, well I hope so because I'm always onto them about using their manners. As a father of five, I know that whilst my children didn't always meet the standard at home and were constantly having to be reminded, they knew what was expected of them when in public or visiting others. This means that deep down, the children were listening, they were following the modelling and when it was the time to put it all together - they could.

If you ever wanted to be a super model - you can be - be one for your kids!

Have a great week.

Jeff

ASSEMBLY

The next assemblies are

- Senior Assembly (3-6) on Friday the 9th of October
- Junior Assembly (P-2) on Friday the 16th of October
- Senior Assembly (3-6) on Friday the 23rd of October
- Junior Assembly (P-2) on Friday the 30th of October

YEAR 5 LEADERSHIP DAY

On Wednesday the 7th of October our year 5 students participated in our Leadership Day. The students participated in several activities designed to build leadership skills, teamwork, participation and communication. Teachers were looking out for students who showed leadership potential and guest speakers

Great state. Great opportunity.



came to talk about their roles as leaders. Students who are interested in nominating for leadership positions were able to submit a form at the end of the day. We will shortlist applicants and those students will participate in a writer's workshop in preparation for their leadership application.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION EVENTS

All year 6 students will be receiving a letter this week outlining the following graduation events occurring this term. Please return the permission forms as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS – GRADUATION AND FUN DAY

Tuesday 8th of December, 2015

What: Year 6 Celebration Day

Where: Riverway/King Pin

When: 9am – 2.45pm sharp

What to bring: School bag, water bottle, hat, sun safe free dress, spare clothes, towel, togs and swim shirt for swimming, closed in shoes, socks for bowling, white soled shoes (optional), spending money for King Pin.

Transportation must be provided by parents to Riverway and from King Pin. A pizza lunch will be provided for the students at Riverway and is included in the overall cost. Students will walk from Riverway to King Pin around 11.15am

Wednesday 9th of December, 2015

What: Year 6 Graduation Ceremony/Morning Tea

Where: The Carol Buchanan Centre (TCBC)

When: 9.00am sharp – 11.30am approximately

Please Note: Students **MUST** wear correct school uniform, shoes and appropriate jewellery and hair accessories.

Students plus **2 guests** are invited to attend this special occasion. Morning tea and cutting of the cakes will occur at the end of the ceremony and will be eaten at morning tea. Photos will be taken of the students receiving their certificates and copies will be available for purchase that evening from the library. Students may leave with their parents after morning tea.

Wednesday 9th of December, 2015

What: Formal Dancing/Disco

Where: The Carol Buchanan Centre (TCBC)

When: 5.30pm – 8.30pm sharp

Students will dance for their parents and attending staff of The Willows State School. At the end of the formal dancing, parents will leave and the disco celebrations will commence. Supper and drinks are provided for the students and are included in the overall cost.

BOOK WEEK

Book Week celebrated at The Willows on the 16th of September was a great success. The students and teachers put a great deal of effort into their costumes and performances. The theme this year was "Books light up our world" and our students and staff definitely showed how amazing literature is as they highlighted the importance of reading. The presentations were enhanced by the great work of Mr Schimke

and the rock band, 4JOY and 4CHR who did a flash mob, and the individual contributions of our wonderful readers and writers. Our junior book week parade contributors were Lillie W, Emil B, Charlotte G and Minahil N and our senior book week parade contributors were Emma B, Zach S, Riley B and Jack V. These students read many stories including their own written works. A huge thank you to Paula Prideaux our master teacher, Jane Boden our IT guru and Trevor Schimke who organised the event.



MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental Recruiting for 2016

If your child is interested in learning an instrument in 2016, please go to "The Pitch" newsletter to find out more info. The application form is attached to this newsletter also. If you require further information, please come and see us in the music room.

PREP 2016

Was your child born between 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011?

Prep Enrolments due now! Book a Prep Interview to be held from 12 – 29 October!

We are very excited at The Willows State School to be holding our Prep Enrolment Interviews for 2016 students. If you have not already enrolled your child and wish to, please contact our office on 47 991 333 to organise enrolment paperwork and an interview time.

We looking forward to meeting with you and your child.

Miss Kylie Dibnah

Acting Deputy Principal

Prep Open Days

When:

Tuesday 17th November 12.00 pm – 1.10 pm or
Wednesday 18th November 1.50 pm – 3.00 pm

1, 2, 3 MAGIC AND EMOTION COACHING PARENT COURSE

When: Thursday 15, 22 and 29 October (6 hours for the total course)

Time: 9am – 11am

Where: TWSS Conference Room

Registration Fee: The course costs \$10

Contact: Jodie Gausden on 47 991 333 or email jgaus1@eq.edu.au by 15 October

ATTENDANCE

Coming to school on time every day prepared to learn maximises the chances a student has to reach their potential. We really believe in the every minute counts mantra and remind families that learning begins at 8:45am.

Our current attendance rate across the school sits at 92.9% - our target for this year is 95%. There are **553** students in our school who are currently meeting this target - well done to these students and their families!

Over the next two weeks, students who have an attendance rate of 95% or above will be presented with a Perfect Attendance wristband as recognition for their efforts.

The table below shows the attendance rate per year level for the whole year so far up until the end of Term 3.

Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
93.1%	92.3%	92.4%	93.3%	93.3%	92.1%	93.7%

DEFENCE AND MOBILE FAMILIES

Hello to All Families,

We hope all our families had an enjoyable holiday break. Term 4 is shaping up to be extremely busy with lots of students posting to a new locale. Please ensure you let your Teacher and Defence Aides know if you are expecting to post or if you expect to leave before the end of term. We like to fully support students at this time as it can be both exciting and daunting. Leaving students all receive a Farewell Pack including a lovely signature bear as well as a fun group party during Term 4.

Additionally, if you need support or information regarding your new locale please give Correna or Louise a call and we can point you in the right direction.



THE WILLOWS DRAWING COMPETITION

Do you like to draw? Then you must be part of this competition. The competition is open to all students. Each year has a theme as follows:

- PREP: Creative (own choice)
- YEAR 1: Family
- YEAR 2: Under the Sea
- YEAR 3: Collage
- YEAR 4: Cartoon characters
- YEAR 5: Paradise/Fantasy
- YEAR 6: Super heroes and villains

Get your entries in the box outside L Pod by October 16th – Term 4 Week 2

Have Fun Drawing

KIDS CLUB

Kids Club is held every Monday and Tuesday during **FIRST** break on the verandah of the Outside School Hours Care building. Last term we had some fabulous fun with sensory

play. Students enjoyed creating lots of bubbles and making some very imaginative concoctions with play dough.

Kids Club is a great way for children to get to know each other in a friendly, supervised environment. Please remind students of the change and encourage them to come along and have some fun.



GARDEN CLUB

Our garden is coming along and almost looks like it used to. We have a myriad of butternut pumpkins, rockmelons and watermelons. The peas and corn are also growing nicely. Passionfruits are not very far away. We hope the birds don't get them! Some pots are inundated with Basil, so if you would like some please feel free to stop by for a few leaves. There have been some ideas to plant flowers and create a fairy garden. If you have some rocks or wood offcuts that could help with construction it would be appreciated. This is open for grades 4 to 6. Permission notes are required and are available at L Pod.

DEPLOYMENTS AND ABSENCES

Please make sure you let your Teacher, the Office and DSTA know if you have a member away. We like to ensure all students are supported during what can be a challenging time and allow them the chance to share their experiences with other students going through similar events. Additionally, if you are having difficulties or would like a chat, come in and see us or contact us via phone or email.

Your Defence Aides are located in L Pod behind the Outside School Building and families are most welcome to drop by any time for a chat. The lovely ladies at the office can direct you or give us a call if you would like our assistance. Again, please make contact as we are here to help in any way we can.

TUTORING

Education Allowance Scheme – Remember it's never too early to begin tutoring, you have 18 months from your posting date to take advantage of the Education Assistance. Don't leave it until it's too late. **Tutoring can begin at any time of the year for students so be sure to take advantage of this scheme before your 18 months ends.**

Well done to all those students who have got straight into tutoring, we know you will be well rewarded for all your hard work. Remember to get tutoring started soon so you do not miss out on entitlements. This assistance is very valuable for your children. Most children find it builds confidence and they enjoy it very much. This scheme is aimed at minimising the disruption to a child's schooling, caused as a result of a defence posting. Reimbursement can be provided for tuition for primary and secondary students within the first 18 months of enrolment at the new school. The entitlement is 14 weeks at 1 hour per week per subject. Forms are available online or from the DSTA here at school. There is a list of teachers available

for tutoring before and after school. Please ask your teacher or email your DSTA for further details.

Spouse Pass to Lavarack Barracks-

Spouses wishing to access require a pass to enter. If you would like a pass please download the attached form and:

- Complete Form (DSTA has copies)
- Contact the pass office on 4411 8812 to make a booking
- Contact Geckos on 4411 1741 to arrange for them to meet you at the gate. NB: the front gate is temporarily relocated closer to the hospital end due to road works)

CONTACTS

Defence Community Organisation is available to all Defence members and their families. Contact can be made on 1800 624 608 24 hours.

Veterans and Veterans Families – 1800 011 046
www.dva.gov.au/vvcs

DFA Defence Families of Australia – 1800 100 509
www.dfa.org.au

National Delegate for Northern Queensland -
nth.qld@dfa.org.au

Remember Louise and Correna are available morning and afternoon. Parents and students are very welcome to stop by L Pod or contact us via email or phone as listed below.

The Office on 47 991 333 ext 323 via e-mail - Louise on lwhit325@eq.edu.au or Correna Wheeler cwhee36@eq.edu.au

Kind Regards,
Louise White and Correna Wheeler

CHAPPY CHAT

Here we go! Term four! I hope you had a relaxing break time.

Welcome to any new families this term, I hope to meet you all soon.

All the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are packed and ready to go. Throughout the school we have collected enough money to send 71 shoeboxes! This is an amazing outcome. We do have 37 more boxes that need money to be sent so if you would like to donate for those boxes you are welcome to do so. To those families who wished to fill a box on their own, the drop off point is 99.9 Live FM on Dearness St, Garbutt.

I am starting to plan the Christmas celebrations also and I am looking forward to what the end of the year brings with class parties, Year 6 students graduating and Year 5 students attending leadership days.

Any member of the school community is welcome to come along to the Local Chaplaincy Committee meeting to have a say on the role of school chaplains and if you have any feedback for me, I would be happy to have a chat. I am part of the Kirwan Combined Committee which involves the school chappies at Kirwan SS and Kirwan SHS. The next meeting will be held

at Willows Presbyterian, Carthew St at 8am on Friday 23rd October. All welcome!

Stay tuned for upcoming chappy events.

Thanks,
Chappy Libbie

P&C UPDATE... GO COWBOYS!!!!

Welcome back for Term Four, we hope you all had a great holiday. Our last two meetings for the year will be held on Tuesday 13 October and Tuesday 10 November. We would dearly love to welcome in some new faces over the coming months, so why not come along and bring a friend and find out what happens behind the scenes!!! Meetings are held in the OSHC building starting at 7pm, and are usually finished around 8:30pm.

Book Packs

Book packs will be distributed this week to all children. If you have a child starting prep next year, these lists will be available at the interviews or from the office. We have contracted a new supplier this year, so there will be some changes. We have negotiated very low prices for all items, with some price drops from previous years. Payment plans will still be available, so check out what supplies your child has not used up and be ready to place your order and save the stress these holidays.

Tuckshop News

Robyn Eves, a long serving member of our Tuckshop Team has resigned from her position as a Tuckshop Assistant. We would like to thank Robyn for her service to The Willows State School Community and wish her all the very best for the future.

The following ad was placed online with Career One to advertise this position.

The Willows State School P&C seeks a Tuckshop Assistant

Casual Position (Mon-Fri Part time hours) for Term 4 with the possibility of a Permanent Part Time in 2016.

Duties: food prep, filling orders, cleaning & tasks as assigned by the Convenor.

Requirements: Experience not essential. Working with children - Blue Card.

- Ability to work unsupervised and as a member of a team
- Good communication Skills
- Understanding of WPH&S & Hygiene Standards relating to Food Prep.

Forward resume to kardkallison@bigpond.com or leave at school Admin. **Attention: Kylie.** Applications close 4pm, Thursday 15th October

Thank you for your continued support for this term.

Regards
2015 P&C Committee