



# NEWSLETTER

"Educational Excellence in an Information Age"

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22 October 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



### THE WILLOWS STATE SCHOOL **'YEAR OF THE ACTIVE LEARNER'**

Dear parents and friends,

The win for the North Queensland Cowboys in this year's NRL grand final is something that has captured the imagination of north Queenslanders and set a tone of positivity throughout this part of the state. I think there are many lessons we can learn from their win and from the interviews that have continued to occur since.

In listening to many players talk about their experience of rugby league most of them have mentioned their time in the juniors with great affection. They talked about how their mums were on the canteen or were the footy team manager or how their dads ran the BBQs and sold raffle tickets for the club. The strong memories relating to the sport they love include how their families were part of their lives and made it all work.

The level of volunteering comes through quite strongly and it is a message of strong support and one of appreciation. Right throughout our community our different sporting clubs, service organisations and P&Cs run on the strength of the volunteers. We love our kids to enjoy what life can offer children but that often relies on volunteers to make it happen.

Our school has been very fortunate to have tremendous parent volunteers who have made the huge effort to support the activities at the school that the children love. The Fun Fair is a great example of how a small but very active group arranged set up, ran and pulled down a whole community activity which was enjoyed by everyone who came along. The following week they then ran the Fathers' Day stall as well. Fortunately we had some extra volunteers that week and the stall went off without a hitch. The children love to come and spend their money buying things for their family members and it does ease the pressure of going to the shops at that time of the year.

These events can only take place when we have volunteers and these days we seem to be getting so busy that we don't have the time to volunteer as much as we may have in the past. In 2016 I would ask you to strongly consider either being a part of the P&C or just volunteering at P&C events. The Fun Fair each year needs help setting up and pulling down and the stalls need people to run them. If we can get a few extra helpers it eases the load on the few and the 'many hands make light work' mantra comes into play. Your children will remember that you came along and supported them at these events by working for nothing. It's a strong and positive message.

One of the other messages I took from the grand final was the manner in which the team members supported each other. When JT missed the 2 pointer on full time, his team mates ran up and congratulated him on his effort. The pats on the head and shoulders, the 'thanks for trying let's keep going' attitude was a positive one to see. No one dropped their head. They remained focussed on their goal and despite the disappointment, they continued on their path and ultimately won the game. They were supportive of each other and for their agreed game plan and they trusted those around them to do their job and let them do theirs.

JT showed enormous resilience and composure when under pressure to perform and the lesson there for all of us is to keep going despite the setbacks. No one has an easy life and we all face setbacks and disappointments, however it's the mark of who we are when we face those obstacles with determination and focus and stay the course. It doesn't mean that we always have to be a winner or the best, it's more about being the best version of ourselves when the chips are down and things don't work out the way we wanted them to.

As a school we try to do similar things. We set out our goals and we make these goals ambitious but achievable. We work together and when something doesn't go as smoothly as it should we examine what we need to do and re-focus our energy on achieving our stated objectives. Our year level teams work to ensure that the learning for each child is accessible and relevant. The staff deconstruct the units to work out what children need to know and to be able to do to pass a subject and then focus on the 'A' and scaffold the learning for everyone.

Great state. Great opportunity.



Ultimately, when everyone is achieving to the best of their ability we also feel like we've won a grand final and our students are the winners.

**Have a great week.**

**Jeff**

## ASSEMBLY

The next assemblies are ....

- Senior Assembly (3-6) on Friday the 23rd of October
- Junior Assembly (P-2) on Friday the 30th of October
- Senior Assembly (3-6) on Friday the 6th of November
- Junior Assembly (P-2) on Friday the 13th of November

## YEAR 5 LEADERSHIP DAY

All year 5 students participated in the leadership day last week. Students did a number of activities based on teamwork, leadership, problem solving, persistence, goal setting and communication. Natalie Novosel and Richard Goodbody from the Townsville Fire Basketball team joined us and Natalie spoke at length about leading by example, being passionate about what you do and following your dream. Students were asked to set some goals for next year as our leaders for 2016. At the end of the day students were asked if they would like to nominate for any leadership positions for 2016. 80 students nominated and from those nominations we congratulate 38 year 5 students who were shortlisted and invited to participate in the application writing workshop. Our workshop participants continued their leadership journey and identified leadership qualities and attributes. They then looked at how they could provide evidence to support their chosen leadership roles in their applications. The selection panel look forward to reading their applications due 9am on Friday the 23rd of October. The next step will be shortlisting from the applications. Shortlisted students will be invited to interview for leadership positions and prepare a speech for their peers.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXPO

The Willows State School will be holding a Science & Technology Expo on Thursday 12th of November. At this expo we will be showcasing Science & Technology curriculum from all year levels. Please pencil it into your diary and more information will be coming out soon.

## TOWNSVILLE FIRE

A huge thank you to Natalie Novosel from the Townsville Fire Women's basketball team for giving up her time to come and talk to our year 5 students about leadership. We would like to show our appreciation by following Natalie and the team over the season. Congratulations on an amazing game last weekend where Townsville Fire won against the Canberra Capitals with a 44 point win. Their next game is against Adelaide at the Townsville RSL on the 24th of October. "Go FIRE".



## YEAR 6 SCHOOL PHOTOS

Year 6 school photos will be taken on Wednesday 4th November. Each year 6 student will receive a photo order envelope this week. Please make sure you return the order envelope with the correct money by school photo day. Please pay for the photos by cash or cheque (made out to Arch Fraley MSP NQ). No EFTPOS or credit card can be accepted.

## DAY FOR DANIEL

The annual "Day for Daniel" will be held on Friday 30th October. All children are encouraged to wear red clothing in support of this very worthwhile cause. A gold coin donation will be collected and all monies raised will be given to the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to assist them in continuing their great work in Keeping Kids Safe.

## P&C UPDATE (Don't forget to like us on Facebook Willows State School P&C)

### HELP NEEDED URGENTLY!!!!!! POSITION VACANT!!!!!!

Our hard working Treasurer of two years has given her resignation in order to take up a position in the Tuckshop. Katrina Barker has done a fantastic job behind the scenes in all our fundraising events. She will continue to assist the committee, and can heavily support a new Treasurer, but we will need to replace this position immediately. If you have a bookkeeping background and enjoy number crunching we would love to hear from you! Please email me at kardkallison@bigpond.com or pop in to see Katrina B in the Tuckshop.

The last meeting saw a lot of discussion about the need to build numbers on the Committee. **All of the current fundraising activities and P&C involvement will need to be scaled back next year unless our numbers can grow.** We have

approximately 750 families at this school and our committee is made up of only 8/9 parents. Our numbers have dropped due to transfers and will continue to drop as children move on to High School. Your commitment doesn't have to involve a lot of time, but we do need the commitment of more parents to come along and take some time to put back into the school for all of our children.

Our last meeting for the year will be held on **Tuesday 10 November**. We would dearly love to welcome in some new faces, 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 pack notes have been distributed to all children. 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. Orders need to be returned to the school office by **Friday 6th November**. Payment plans are available, so check out what supplies your child has not used up, place your order and reduce the stress of back to school these holidays!!!

Don't forget, these forms will need to be used to pay for levies such as sunscreen, and the family contribution if a book pack is not ordered.

Thank you for your continued support for this term

**Regards the 2015 P&C Committee**

## BOOK CLUB

Book club brochures were handed out last week. If you have not received your brochures please check with your child's teacher.

**This will be the last Book Club issued to the students for 2015.**

**If you would like to order Christmas Gifts and not have them delivered to your child, please attach a separate note to the order form with your name and a daytime contact number so we can contact you when your purchases arrive to arrange collection.**

To place an order, please complete the following steps:

- place orders in a sealed envelope clearly labelled **Book Club**
- write your child's name and class on the envelope and on each order form
- place envelope in the money slot in the Front Office before due date.
- payment can be made by cash (correct money please), cheque made payable to Scholastic or by credit card via online ordering at [www.scholastic.com.au](http://www.scholastic.com.au) .

Book Club orders close next **Monday 26th October**.  
**No late orders will be accepted.**

Thank you

**Michelle Wooster**  
**Book Club Coordinator**

## CHAPPY CHAT

It has been lovely seeing lots of families walk through the school with the young children as they look forward to starting prep in just a few months. It reminds me there is limited time with our Grade 6s left and of course many students moving away at the end of the year. I hope to use these last 7 weeks to encourage you all and wish you the best of luck.

### Garage Sale Trail

This Saturday, October 24th is National Garage Sale Trail day which promotes reducing waste and promotes local garage sales. I will be having a garage sale at my house to help raise money for the chaplaincy program here. Please see this link if you are interested in coming along or would like to see a general list of what I will be selling. <https://garagesaletrail.com.au/sale/supporting-school-chappies> . There will also be some spare school furniture there. On the other hand, if you have some items you would like to donate to me to sell that would be much appreciated. Feel free to drop anything into my room in G Pod.

### Willows Shopping Centre Christmas Parade - 19th November

I, along with the Student Council, are organising a group of students who would like to be a part of the annual Christmas parade. Our theme will be 'It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air' – W. T. Ellis. Permission letters will be distributed next week. There is a \$500 Willows Shopping Centre gift voucher to be won so the more people and more enthusiasm the better! Stay tuned!

### Local Chaplaincy Committee

Just a reminder that the LCC is on this Friday morning. Everyone is welcome if you would like to support or have a say about the chaplaincy service here. The next meeting will be held at Willows Presbyterian Church, Carthew St at 8am, opposite Willows Shops.

**Thanks,**  
**Chappy Libbie.**

## 2016 PREP

We are currently taking enrolments for Prep for 2016. If you have not made an interview time please contact the office as soon as possible.

## DEFENCE AND MOBILE FAMILIES

Hello to All Families,

We have many of our lovely families moving on to new adventures at the end of Term and we are pleased to offer the KidSMART



Relocation program once again. Students who are on our posting list will have received a registration form last week. Please get them in as soon as you can.

The KidSMART Relocation Program will begin Tuesday 27th October for four consecutive weeks. The program will be held from 3.15pm at L Pod. Please read the flyer below for more details. Registration forms are attached or you can pick them up from L Pod. Any queries give your DSTA a call.

### THE WILLOWS DRAWING COMPETITION-

WOW!! What amazing entries we had from talented students across the school. It was certainly very difficult to choose just one winner from each age group. The winners will be announced at parade.

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

This competition was so popular it may become a regular event! Keep drawing and we will get those beautiful art works on display.

### Have Fun Drawing



## KIDS CLUB

Kids Club is held every Monday and Tuesday during **FIRST** break on the verandah of the Outside School Care building. This term we have been creative with paper folding and believe it or not we will soon begin Christmas craft!!

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

We are hoping to have a visit from gardening experts at Bunnings in the coming weeks, so look out for some changes to our gardening space.

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](http://www.dva.gov.au/vvcs)

DFA Defence Families of Australia – 1800 100 509

[www.dfa.org.au](http://www.dfa.org.au)

National Delegate for Northern Queensland -

[nth.qld@dfa.org.au](mailto: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 or via e-mail - Louise on [lwhit325@eq.edu.au](mailto:lwhit325@eq.edu.au) or Correna Wheeler [cwhee36@eq.edu.au](mailto:cwhee36@eq.edu.au)

***Kind Regards***

***Louise White and Correna Wheeler***