



# NEWSLETTER

"Educational Excellence in an Information Age"

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5 November 2015

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



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

Dear parents and friends,

Recently it has become apparent that we are working slightly longer contact hours than the education award stipulates. The current situation in our school is that we are working 5 minutes longer than the industrial agreement allows and we need to reduce the day by that much. The P&C has already been informed about this. **From Week 6 onwards our school day will finish at 2:55pm.** The reason for ending earlier and not starting later is because the school has put a great deal of effort into spreading the word that learning starts at 8:45am.

There may be suggestions to lengthen one of the breaks by 5 minutes to keep things the same, but the Local Consultative Committee has shied away from this as the breaks are already 40 minutes in length. In fact discussion has been had around shortening the second break to 30 minutes and shortening the school day by a further 10 minutes (but we're not doing that any time soon).

This week the Education Minister Kate Jones announced that in 2016, January 25th will be a Pupil Free Day, meaning that the **first day for students in 2016 will be Wednesday 27th of January.** This is a slight change from all previously printed information about the beginning of the school year but makes sense as there is a public holiday on the Tuesday and experience has proven that student numbers across the state are considerably down when the first day of school is immediately followed by a public holiday. Teachers will begin work in the week prior to this and will be at work on the 25th January.

We have a number of our families who require the use of the disabled carpark to access our school. Recently the disabled space has been occupied by vehicles that are not displaying the disabled logo and I would ask that our community be

ever mindful of those who genuinely require access to those spaces. While we're on the subject of parking I would like to thank the vast majority of Willows parents who use our car parks appropriately. I regularly field complaints from community members about those who don't and I can honestly say that the number of people doing the right thing has increased. This makes our school a safer place.

We are doing a bit of a makeover to the school entrance in Sandstone Drive. We expect that this will occur soon and be completed in time for the wet season (fingers crossed that we get a decent one). The entrance will be much wider and ultimately be similar to the main entrance in Bilberry Street with seating and shade for people to sit at and under while waiting for their children.

The Day for Daniel last Friday was a success with many children turning up in red and Constable Tania attending the Junior School assembly to reinforce the safety messages that we all want our children to know and understand. With summer approaching and days being longer it's important our children know when they are supposed to be home and how they are getting there. As a parent I know that when a child doesn't get home on time that we immediately begin to get worried. Having strong routines around coming home and back up plans that everyone in the family knows if emergencies occur all help keep our children safe. Being out and about with our kids helps them learn through our modelling how to be safe in our community.

Whilst I'm not a fan of the ever increasing commercialisation of events in our community I was very impressed on the weekend with the numbers of adults I saw walking with children of all ages whilst they engaged in that most American of traditions, trick or treating. Someone once said to me that the essence of good parenting is vigilance, and as much as some parents may not have enjoyed wandering the streets on a Saturday evening with a bunch of ghosts, skeletons and witches, it's that display of parental responsibility that keeps our kids safe and teaches them to be socially appropriate and have fun at the same time.

We are about to move into the process of placing students into classes for 2016. As in the past if you have a request based on educational grounds or circumstances you feel the need for the school to consider, please put them in writing and send through to the office by Friday 13th of November.

***Have a great week.***  
***Jeff***

**Great state. Great opportunity.**



## ASSEMBLY

The next assemblies are ....

- Senior Assembly (3-6) on Friday the 6th of November
- Junior Assembly (P-2) on Friday the 13th of November
- Senior Assembly (3-6) on Friday the 20th of November
- Junior Assembly (P-2) on Friday the 27th of November

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS FOR 2016



49 written applications for student leadership positions for 2016 were received following the application writing workshop. All applications were high quality and from these applications students were shortlisted for Interviews for School Captain, Student

Council, Student Services, Publicity and Environment Officer positions. Our budding School Captains completed their interviews on Monday the 2nd of November. Interviews for other positions were also held on Tuesday the 3rd of November. Students going for Music Captain presented their speeches to our music students for voting. Sports Captain speeches will also be held this week. Our student leaders for 2016 will be announced at Senior Assembly on the 20th of November.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EXPO

The Willows State School will be holding a Science & Technology Expo on Thursday the 12th of November. At this expo we will be showcasing Science & Technology curriculum from all year levels. This event will be held in the TCBC and starts at 5.30pm.



## YEAR 6 CAMP FOR 2016

Letters have gone out to all Year 5 students about our Year 6 Camp to Echo Creek in 2016. Students will be away for 2 nights and 3 days and will participate in the following activities: low ropes and team building, laser tag, freshwater snorkelling, challenge course, under the stars movie night and damper by the fire. All of these activities are run by camp staff and our teachers will also do the team building and goal setting activities. Students will travel by bus and they will be housed in bunk style accommodation with meals included.

This camp will be in Term 2 2016. There will be two groups going.

- Group 1 – Leave 2nd of May return 4th of May 2016.
- Group 2 – Leave 4th of May return 6th of May 2016.

The cost of the camp is \$240 and we must reserve final numbers with the venue before the end of this year. To assist with payment we are offering the following payment plan method.

- An initial non-refundable deposit of \$50 by the 4th of December 2015 (This will secure your child's place).
- A second payment of \$100 by the 15th of February 2016.
- A final payment of \$90 by the 23rd of March 2016.

This initial payment due on the 4th of December must be made to secure your student's place on the camp as we must commit to numbers at this time. This payment is also stating your commitment to the other payments prior to leaving. If you have any queries you can contact Mrs Winter in the office.

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

**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. Invitations and RSVP information will be sent out soon.

## SCHOOL REPORTS FOR 2016



Reporting is part of communicating with parents and building the school-parent

partnership to improve student learning. School reports provide information regarding

learning expectations for all students, student achievement against expected standards, how well students are engaging in learning and how student may be able to improve their results. Our end of year reports will be given out the week beginning the 7th of December.

## MUSIC NEWS

Please refer to The Pitch newsletter attached for information regarding the instrumental program for 2016.

## 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.

## SWIMMING LESSONS Years 1-4

All students in years 1-4 should have received a timetable this week listing days and times for swimming. Please see attached timetable for swimming lessons, which commence in week 6 – next week!

## CHAPPY CHAT

Congratulations! As a school we collected enough donations and money to send 108 shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child Project. Next year, I hope to have details of where one of our shoeboxes has gone, to learn its impact on a young life.

This term I am looking forward to the Willows Shopping Centre Christmas Parade and preparations are underway for our school's group. Hope you can come along and be part of our school group or cheer us as we walk down Thuringowa Drive spreading Christmas cheer.

I will also be undertaking a staff survey on their thoughts about the chaplaincy service and what they would like to see in 2016 and what improvements could be made. If you have any thoughts to share about this please approach me or email me at lkutu0@eq.edu.au.

J-Squad (years 5-6) and SUPA (Scripture Union Primary Age, Yr3-4) Club are both doing well with lots of fun, great stories and encouraging times for everyone. If your child may be interested in attending please come along, ask Chappy for a permission note. J-Squad is on Fridays at 1st break and SUPA Club is Tuesdays at 2nd break.

**Thank you**  
**Chappy Libbie**

## P&C UPDATE

**Don't forget to like us on Facebook: Willows State School P&C**

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

Calling all parents/ grandparents!!! Our P&C is in real need of a Treasurer. We do have a paid bookkeeper who maintains the accounts, prepares reports and processes the pays. The treasurers' job would also be heavily supported by Katrina B, our outgoing treasurer, so the commitment required is **greatly** reduced, but essential to the operation of the P&C. 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.

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. It is essential for our numbers to rebuild in order to have a broad representation from across the school and an injection of energy to meet the challenges of years to come!!!

## Book Pack Orders Due Tomorrow!

All book pack orders need to be returned to the school office by tomorrow, **Friday 6th November**. Payment plans are available, with a 25% deposit due with your order and final payments due by **27th November**. The school will receive resources from our supplier if minimum order levels are reached and any profits will go back into the school.

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 through the P&C.

Thank you for your continued support for this term

**Regards**  
**The 2015 P&C Committee**

## TUCKSHOP NEWS

What a flying start to term 4. Thank you very much for the continued support we receive from our awesome volunteers.

This Friday 6th November we are going to have a special breakfast available to purchase. We will be selling Sausage and Egg Muffins for \$3.00ea. Be sure to get in quick, as once we sell out, you'll miss out.

We also have a new menu item, Chicken Pasta Bake \$4.00, which is available every day.

**Cheers**  
**The Tuckshop Ladies**

## BUY A BALE

The student council is supporting the farmers by running a Buy a Bale fundraiser. Students can buy a bale for \$2, colour it in and display it on the library window. Bales are on sale first break Monday, Wednesday and Friday outside the office.

## DEFENCE AND MOBILE FAMILIES

Hello to All Families,

Party season is upon us as we get ready to say goodbye to some of our wonderful Defence families. Our first get together will be for Defence parents and caregivers on Wednesday 18th November at L pod from 9am. Please read the attached flyer for details.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our annual ceremony will be held from 10.20am Wednesday 11th November in the TCBC. Family and friends of The Willows are invited to commemorate this special day with us. We will also have on display the Mobile Museum from Lavarack Barracks. Poppies will be available to purchase on the day.

## POPPY MERCHANDISE

Poppy merchandise will be available to buy during break times from Monday 9th November until first break Wednesday 11th November. Prices for poppies will range from \$1 - \$5.

## EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS WORKSHOP

Book now for Saturday 7th November 10am – 3pm.



## GONE TROPPO

Here is the link to the Defence Community Organisation's (NQ) quarterly Gone Troppo newsletter: [www.defence.gov.au/DCO/QLD.htm](http://www.defence.gov.au/DCO/QLD.htm) . You will need to select the Townsville or Cairns North Queensland tab along the row of Qld towns/cities to access the Townsville and Cairns newsletter.

If you know of any other Defence members or their families that would be interested in registering for the DCO North Queensland mailing list, please contact us by phone or by email to: [dco.townsville@defence.gov.au](mailto:dco.townsville@defence.gov.au)

Feel free to forward this email address to your next of kin, family or anyone you think may benefit from its content.

## KIDS CLUB

Kids club is held every Monday and Tuesday during **FIRST** break on the verandah of the Outside School Hours Care building. Kids Club was closed this week as we were on a professional development course. Next week we begin our Christmas activities until the end of the year.

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

Unfortunately last week we had some damage done to the corn stalks and pumpkins by students out of bounds after school. Luckily it was only minor damage and no plants died as a result, although it has still affected our crop yield. We are still hoping to have a visit from gardening experts at Bunnings in the coming weeks, so look out for some changes to our gardening space.

We have a myriad of butternut pumpkins and watermelons. The peas and corn were also growing nicely, however the heat is getting to them. We need **RAIN!** 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**

## FOR SALE

Enrico Violin (1/2 size) - excellent condition, comes with case and accessories.

\$120 phone 47887332

## FIRE SET FOR ROAD DOUBLE

Hi Fire fans,

After three rounds at home, the JCU Townsville Fire will fly out to Melbourne this morning for a tough double-header in Victoria.

The reigning Wattle Valley WNBL champions will face Dandenong at 5.30pm (QLD time) on Saturday night before backing up at 6.30pm (QLD time) on Monday night against the Melbourne Boomers.

The latter fixture will be live streamed by Basketball Australia.

FireUpTownsville and Go Nat.

