

Name:

Year:

Issue 02

1 February 2017

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Dear Parents, Staff and Students:

Attendance target 95% or better (this is higher than in 2016). Last week's attendance rate was 96.5% - a great start! Let's together make every day count!! Thanks to Bundy Bowl and Leisure Complex for giving the school some awards each term to promote attendance.

Woongarra News

The Newsletter is commenced with **Dear Parents, Staff and Students** because the expectation is that **ALL** three groups will read the News. Not necessarily all of it, but the sections where the headline grabs your attention or it's a topic of interest or necessity to you.

For those who have been at Woongarra for several years, you may often take things for granted and believe that other parents and kids KNOW about our school's expectations and routines when they don't. Articles are often repeated in the Newsletter but they serve as reminders! Thanks for taking the time, every Wednesday, to read the Woongarra News. Ask your oldest child for your copy. Spare copies are available from the display stand in the school office foyer and are also uploaded to our webpage www.woongarrass.eq.edu.au and our school app (Skoolbag).

Absence from School

From last week our school along with every other State School in Queensland is implementing same day of absence notification. This means that we need to know about the absence of your child on the day they are away.

If, for any reason, your child is unable to attend school, a number of avenues are available for advising the school on the morning of the absence. Please provide student name, date of absence and reason for absence.

- **TEXT 0427 786 661 ~ Please note the change of number ~**
- phone Student Absence Line 4150 6366 (this number is also in the printed header on page 1 of the Newsletter)
- send notification through the Skoolbag app (this app will be discontinued in 2017 and replaced with QParents)
- absence notes are available in the office foyer
- written note from parent/guardian

When the parent/guardian has prior knowledge of a child being absent, a written note to the teacher beforehand is appreciated. Oral messages from pupils are not acceptable.

If we do not hear from you a text will be sent to a family contact around 10:30am informing you of the absence and seeking a response from you. Please be understanding as we are trialling this new absence program and so we may send you a text when you have already informed us of the absence.

This new policy is all about student protection that is, knowing where every child is!!

FEBRUARY

WEEK 2

Tues 31 Tuckshop begins
Wed 1 Newsletter
Student Banking begins
Thur 2 Tuckshop
Year 4-6 Swimming
P-3 Assembly
Fri 3 Year 4-6 Assembly
NO BREAKFAST

WEEK 3

Tues 7 Tuckshop
Wed 8 Newsletter
Student Banking
Book Club due
Thur 9 Tuckshop
Year 4-6 Swimming
P-3 Assembly
Fri 10 Breakfast
Year 4-6 Assembly

WEEK 4

Tues 14 Tuckshop
Wed 15 Newsletter
Student Banking
Thur 16 Tuckshop
Year 4-6 Swimming
P-3 Assembly
Fri 17 Breakfast
Year 4-6 Assembly
11.30 am Leaders' Badge
Ceremony

SCHOOL NEWS

Making Things Better

With approximately 300 families, 455 students and 60 staff at Woongarra, the chances of a perfect week, or day, or hour are not always possible! Therefore, it is important that each of us takes personal responsibility and plays a part in “making things better”.

There are lots of things that we can do to fix things up, just as there are lots of things that we can do to make things worse. Here are some things to avoid ...

1. **Talking about a concern to everybody else ...** except the person with whom you have the concern. If you can afford the time to talk to someone else, you can afford the time to talk to the person involved.
2. **Talking to others around the school or in the car park ...** The person to whom you are talking - are they able to fix/clarify the concern? If the answer is NO go to one person who might be able to.
3. **Talking on Facebook or other social media ...** If who you are communicating with can't help solve the issue why talk about it with them. Please do not use social media to complain or vent about the school or something that may have happened, as that is not the way to fix something.
4. While some issues can pass without seeking clarification, **the longer you leave it** the deeper the concern becomes. There is no time like the present to change your frown to a smile.

Student Success at School

Student success at school has a direct relationship to parental interest in school. Success for students occurs when families ...

- ✦ Expect their children to achieve
- ✦ Value education and tell their children this
- ✦ Discuss school positively at home
- ✦ Have routines
- ✦ Encourage children to have a range of interests

At Woongarra, I have observed how teachers are always trying to ‘raise the bar’ and promote excellence. I know parents support this too. Woongarra children come to school to learn, to be safe, to be supported, to be challenged and we need to do everything we can to support this.

The 5 Bs

The 5 Bs are five simple expectations we apply with all students at Woongarra State School. Each class will discuss how each of these rules applies to their particular age and year level.

This month we are concentrating particularly on ‘Being Respectful’. Children demonstrating this 5B outside in the playground will be recognised with a “Woonie”. All Woonies achieved gives the recipient a chance to win an ice block and bookmark at assembly each week.

Week 1 winners were (from Prep to Year 6): Harry W, Arliyah P, Layla C, Ava M, Lara L, Rosalie L, Caleb G.

Car Parking

The car park is a **DANGEROUS** place, particularly in the afternoon pick up time. To ease congestion we invite early arriving Prep parents (without older siblings) to depart at 2:50 pm; hopefully freeing up some parks for the 3:00pm rush.



Two road safety issues are of particular concern.

1. **Escorting children from the car park into admin car park across entering and exiting lanes of traffic.** This reinforces (with children) that this is a safe and acceptable entry point *and it is most definitely not safe*. The **ONLY** safe entry point is across the raised footpath crossing. Adults should model the safe entry and exit procedure.
 2. **Parking in no standing areas close to the “lollipop crossing” endangers the lives of children.** Police have been invited to attend the rush hour to see if they can convince drivers of the dangers of parking in this area.
 3. **Drop and Go Area** is for exactly that; *drop and go*. When dropping off or collecting children you may not leave your vehicle if parked in this area defined with a yellow line. If the drop and go parks in front of you are free then move forward so more cars can fit in here.
 4. **Parking or dropping off in the bus zone.** There are some vehicles in this area but they are either Childcare minibuses or family day-care vehicles. No other vehicles should drop off or collect in this area.
- Let's all be considerate of others and follow the rules. It certainly makes the area much safer for all our kids! **If you can wait until 3:20pm to collect your kids**, especially if they are older, that will assist relieving the congestion too and the car park is less busy then!!
5. **Parking in the administration area and disability car park.** The visitor car park in the administration car park is not there for parents to drop off students. It is for visiting workers/staff etc. Please only park in the marked disabled car parks if you have the appropriate sticker on your car!!

The Woonie Way

You may have noticed the new sign we added to the front of the school last year. This sign promotes what we like to call ‘The Woonie Way’. For new families we love to call ourselves Woonies ... that is students, staff and parents of Woongarra SS. We do have our way about doing things. This definitely includes our 5 Bs.

As a staff we wanted to help define ‘The Woonie Way’ a bit more so we came up with three elements of this ‘vision’: *Making a difference, Valuing Learning and Together*. These three elements drive our passion and love of this school. As our moto says ... *Onward and Upwards*.



SCHOOL NEWS

Every Day Counts

Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support the State Government initiative to improve student attendance.

The program – *Every Day Counts* – has four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day;
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools;
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community;
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there are a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education. Going shopping, a birthday, visiting family, staying up late and being tired are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

Last year we had a target of 94% attendance and our year rate was 93.8%, but was at 95% at the end of Term 1. So our big aim is to try and keep an attendance rate, across the school, at 95% every day for every child.

Think of it this way; if a child's attendance is only 90% they miss approximately 20 days of school in a year...that is 4 weeks of school. Over 10 years of schooling that is a whole year. No child can afford that much time off!! Support your child and the school...Every Day Counts.

Playground Equipment

All playgrounds (Year 1 at front of school, Prep in Prep area, the wooden playground on the big oval and the playground on the junior oval) are not to be used before or after school as they are not supervised by school staff at these times. Please remind your children of this.

Insurance Cover for Students

Some school activities, especially sport, involve some inherent risk of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education does not have student accident insurance. If your child is injured at school or at a school activity as the result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs, are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

It is up to parents what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child.

Quote: *"You are happiest, be you king or commoner, if peace is found in your home."*

Jeff Irwin

Scholastic Book Club

- closing 3pm Wednesday 8 February -

Book Club catalogues have been distributed to students. All catalogues are available to be viewed on the Scholastic Book Club web site scholastic.com.au. Additional catalogues are available at the Library.



A reminder that payment can be made via the LOOP app (all instructions are on the back of the catalogue) or by credit card over the phone. Alternatively, orders and payment are to be handed in to the school office by 3.00pm **Wednesday 8 February**.

Student Banking

Don't forget that WEDNESDAY is School Banking day!



Keep saving for a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland

This year, School Banking is running a Future Savers Grand Prize competition that will take one lucky school banker all the way to Tokyo, Japan. The winner gets an unforgettable family trip, for up to two adults and three children, where they'll explore Tokyo Disneyland with its amazing attractions, including the futuristic Tomorrowland, plus enjoy the fun rides at Tokyo DisneySea. This prize includes:

- Five nights' accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Return economy airfares from the winner's nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AU\$1000 spending money.

How to enter

Simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017 and you'll automatically receive an entry into the competition for a chance to win.

Tracy Balto (School Banking Co-ordinator)

Instrumental Music

- Woodwind / Brass / Percussion

Lessons for Woodwind, Brass & Percussion students with Ms Palmer will be on **Mondays** this year with lessons commencing in Week 2. To ensure students can begin lessons immediately, please ensure enrolment forms have been handed in and fees paid by this date.



Ms Palmer

Instrumental Music - Strings

Strings with Mrs C will be on **Tuesdays** this year with lessons commencing in Week 2. To ensure students can begin lessons immediately, please ensure enrolment forms have been handed in and fees paid by this date.



SCHOOL NEWS

P&C News

The P&C meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the staffroom. The Annual General Meeting is held in March of each year. Our first meeting for 2017 will be held on Tuesday 14 February. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join us on Facebook

Search for *Woongarra State School P&C Association* and click the *join group* tab. We are trialling this as a way to keep up-to-date with P&C meetings and general school information.

Amart All Sports Community Kick Back Program

Woongarra School P&C is registered with the Amart AllSports Community Kick Back Program. Join the Team Amart program and nominate Woongarra State School on your account. Every time a purchase is made and the card is swiped, credits are awarded to Woongarra's account. When members have spent a collective \$2000 in any 12 month period, the school receives 5% store credit.

The Athletes Foot School Rewards Program

Woongarra State School is registered with The Athletes Foot School Rewards Program in the Hinkler Store. When any shoe is purchased at Hinkler store and you mention Woongarra State School, the school receives a \$5 credit. This is not just shoes for students, it applies to anyone making the purchase and mentioning the school.

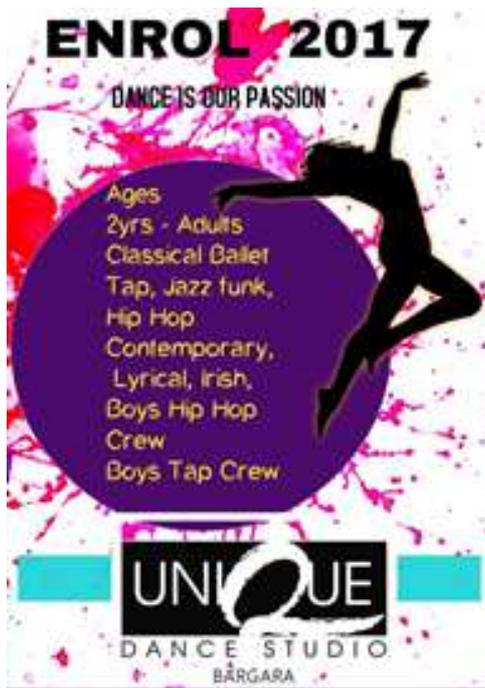
Jane Barratt, P&C



A word From Chaplain Paula

WELLBEING TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Enjoy every day by setting something to achieve.
 Don't be too serious, laugh at yourself and enjoy life.
 Drink water before, during and after exercise.
 Eat plenty of green leafy vegetables.
 Always be SunSmart; wear a broad-brimmed hat, sunscreen and protective clothing.
 Participate in and contribute to community events.
 When travelling, stretch your arm and leg muscles every ten minutes.
 Wash the family car for exercise, polish it if you want a real workout.
 Aim to read about a happy and successful person each month.
 Aim to make someone's day every day by saying something encouraging to them.



Principal: Ms Tammy Gill
 danceunique@hotmail.com
 0438 735 162



PLAY TOUCH FOOTBALL
 www.bundytouch.com

Sign up today!

- Touch football is a fun game providing a great social environment for both boys and girls
- Competitions for all ages and skill levels
- Touch Football is a great, minimal contact sport to get kids active and meet new friends
- Mid-week and after hours games will leave your weekends free
- Join the NRL family - develop skills that support other sporting interests
- Representative pathways that lead to club, state or even national honours
- Catering for individuals or as a team
- a place on the field for everyone!



TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Thursday 2 February

Tracy Balto
 Belinda Loeskow
 Kalina French
 Leisha Bartholomai
 (9.00 - 11.00)

Tuesday 7 February

Natalie Miller
 Fiona Ames

Thursday 9 February

Tracy Balto
 Suhaila Hodgkinson
 Haylee Gough
 Leisha Bartholomai

Thank you all for your support.

HELP WANTED IN TUCKSHOP

Please contact me or leave your name and number at the office. Thank you.

Lyn Dobbs
 Convenor
 (H) 4152 6381
 (M) 0418 235 722



Would you like to learn to play the piano?

PIANO / KEYBOARD
 lessons available

... also Theory

Telephone Anne
 41556411
 or 0416 226 411