Dear Parents, Staff and Students:

Attendance target 94% or better. Last week’s attendance rate was 94.5%. Let’s together make every day count and this includes every day right up until Easter. Thanks to Bundy Bowl and Leisure Complex for giving the school some awards to promote attendance each term this year (www.bundybowl.com.au).

**Easter Vacation**

It is hard to believe this term is almost over. Thank you for your support in ensuring this has been a successful one. On behalf of all the staff of Woongarra State School I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Easter. School recommences on Monday April 11.

**Keep a watch on our school these holidays**

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

**Anzac Day Ceremony**

We will commemorate Anzac Day at a special whole school parade on April 22, run by our school leaders. This parade will be at 11:30am in the hall. I encourage parents to join us at this service run by our students.

The school will once again march in the annual Anzac Day March held in the Bundaberg CBD Monday 25 April. Children in full school uniform, broad-brimmed hat and water bottle can meet Mr Irwin and some teachers on Bourbong Street adjacent to Target. Children are asked to meet Mr Irwin with the school leaders at 8:00am. The march commences at 8:30 and the service goes for approximately one hour. Children also march at the Dawn Service at Bargara. Children can meet at the Liberty Petrol Station at Bargara at 4:50am ready to march at 5:15am.

**Silver Savers for Chappies**

Next term we are encouraging students to bring in silver coins each Friday to support Chaplaincy in our school. We realise you cannot send coins every Friday but may be able to save some change from the week. The P&C has committed $1000 to chaplaincy whatever this raises. Please, if you value the chaplaincy service in our school, send along silver coins on a Friday!! Last year we raised just over $500.
Get Microsoft Office 2016 free of charge

Did you know your child can get Microsoft Office 2016 free of charge, just for being a student at Woongarra State School? All you need is your child’s school email address to sign in.

To help prepare your child for success this academic year, the Department of Education and Training has teamed up with Microsoft to provide free Office 2016 to every Queensland state school student. With Office 2016, your child will have access to the latest version of Word for writing, Excel for spreadsheets, PowerPoint for presentations, OneNote for organisation and notetaking, and much more.

You can install a complete version of the latest Microsoft Office on up to five compatible PCs and Macs, five tablets and five smartphones. Your Office subscription lasts for as long as your child is a state school student.

Ask your child to follow these simple steps to get Office:
For PC and Mac, visit portal.office.com, login using your school email address, click through to install and follow the onscreen process.
For tablets and smartphones, download from your app store and sign in with your school email address.

Help Your Child Learn to Love Reading

Young children have an enormous appetite for learning. Every new word is a wonder and the entire world is a classroom. As your child’s first teacher you can help them develop a life-long love of reading.

Some tips for parents and carers of younger students:
- Make time to read aloud to your child every day, even for a few minutes.
- Ensure reading is fun and exciting – read with excitement.
- Allow your child to choose the book sometimes as this helps them connect with reading.
- Help your child to join in by reading books with repetition or rhyme.
- Try to make time to read to children individually.
- Take your child to the local library and let them choose some books to borrow.
- Going shopping together? As well as the supermarket, go for a browse in a bookshop.
- Show the importance of reading in your daily life by reading aloud recipes, text messages, timetables or newspapers for example.

Point out and read common words in the daily environment such as STOP, Toilets and Exit.

Student of the Week

This section will appear every week in the Newsletter and provides the students with a chance to shine. Students are awarded a Student of the Week Certificate for displaying high achievement levels or efforts in the classroom and quality behaviour and positive attitudes.

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Quote: “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realise how close they were to success when they gave up.”
Thomas Edison

Jeff Irwin

Girls Soccer News

Congratulations to both Kylie B (5M) and Taylor S (6D) for being selected in this year’s Bundaberg Under 12 Schoolgirls representative soccer (football) team. These two girls have done especially well as they are both only eleven year olds and had to trial out against 12 year old girls.
This is also Taylor’s second year in this team as she made it last year as a 10 year old.
Both of these girls will now travel to Hervey Bay in early May to contest the Wide Bay Regional Trials for schoolgirl’s soccer. Well done ladies, and best of luck!
From The Guidance Officer - Family Squabbles

Parents often worry about brothers and sisters quarrelling. A certain amount of quarrelling is normal for children in families. It is one of the ways that they learn how to get on with other people. Quarrelling can be positive. Sometimes, however, you will need to step in when tempers become frayed and you can see that things are getting out of control.

What causes quarrelling?

Learning to get on with others
Arguments between brothers and sisters are one of the ways that children learn to respect other people’s belongings and feelings. It is one of the ways children learn to solve problems. Learning to argue fairly and without hurting each other will help them get on with others.

Parents’ attention
Children in families also fight about parents’ love and attention. To children love means time and attention. Young children do require more attention, but allocating time to an older child is just as important and will make for better relationships all round.

Health
When feeling unwell, resistance can be low for coping with adversity. We may be more sensitive to comments and less able to manage our own emotions.

What parents can do
Here are some steps you can take to help lessen quarrels.

- Protect the needs of each child, for example prevent older children’s activities from being interfered with by younger children and vice versa.
- Spend special time with each child on a regular basis.
- Allow each child to own some special things of their own that they don’t have to share. For younger children, see that there are more than one of the same toys, such as matchbox cars, so that they can play together without having to share. Two second hand bicycles are often better fun than one new one that has to be shared. If you have three children make sure that the same one is not left out every time.
- Invite other children over – children learn social skills through exposure and practise
- Children need their own bit of space which will not be interfered with by others, even if it is only a drawer.
- Try not to compare children with each other - this always leads to bad feelings.
- Be generous with hugs and affection to all your children –even the teenager that appears to pull away – deep down they love the contact.
- Make ground rules. Get your children to help you make some rules about what behaviour is not allowed in your home, for example name calling or hitting = being respectful. Then if you have to step in, you do so because someone has broken a rule, not to take sides.
- When you can see that children are feeling upset, help them to find ways to express their feelings by talking about feelings. For young children play that helps with feelings includes water play, painting and playdough. For older children and adolescents it may be something like going for a run or playing their music, and especially opportunity to talk and problem solve themselves. Maintain good health - Healthy, active children may exhibit greater tolerance / resilience and manage their emotions more appropriately when needed Children need adults to teach them how to solve problems, and while squabbles may be annoying and stressful they also may be the means of teaching resilience as well as developing skills for managing relationships throughout our lives.

Specials
Mini Pikelets $ 0.30
Lyn Dobbs
Convenor
(H) 4152 6381
(M) 0418 235 722

Table Tennis News
Friday March 18 Braydon C and Luke B participated in the Division 3 Bundaberg Table Tennis finals. Braydon and Luke played in a team of 3 and progressed through the competition undefeated, winning the trophy for that division. Congratulations boys great effort!

Overdue Swimming Money
All Year 4-6 swimming fees ($55) for this term are now overdue. We did ask for all fees to be paid up by Thursday 25 February 2016.

Please be aware that, for your child/ren to participate in the fun day at swimming on the last day of term (Thursday 24 March 2016), FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL.

NO PAYMENT IN FULL = NO FUN DAY for your child/ren