Dear Parents, Staff and Students:

Our School Image
Whenever our students are wearing their Woongarra school uniform, they are “walking advertisements” of our school’s values and expectations. Participating in school excursions, being with mum at the shopping centre after school, public performances, inter-school sport, and simply walking or riding a bicycle to school are just a few of the ways that people not associated with our school gain perceptions and make judgements. (Yes Mr Irwin does insist on students having their shirts tucked in!!!) How Woongarra kids speak to their parents in public, how they walk/ride home, what they do while waiting for mum/dad to pick them up after school, and their personal appearance, are just as influential as our choirs/orchestras performing at Eisteddfods or the behaviour of our students at inter-school sport.

I look forward to receiving positive phone calls about great choices our students make in and out of school. Mr Shears discussed the positive response our kids received from the visiting table tennis development officer in a previous newsletter….this is just one example of our children doing what is right!!

We All Have a Role to Play in Enhancing Woongarra State School’s Values And Expectations … The “team approach” (home and school) ensures our children get the same message.

Bullying Behaviour … Part 1

Bullying behaviour is unacceptable at Woongarra State School.

There will always be some minor and major instances of bullying behaviour which occur at schools, and any Principal who says, “Bullying does not occur at his/her school”, is not telling the truth.

It is the manner in which bullying behaviour is highlighted and responded to, that is the hallmark of an effective anti-bullying program. It is the quality of prevention and the speed, certainty and appropriateness of the reaction that is critical.

Bullying is not a taboo topic at Woongarra. It is spoken about openly and often with parents, staff and kids. There is no doubt society is much less tolerant of bullying than it used to be.

Definition of Bullying: Bullying is the repeated and targeted psychological or physical oppression of a less powerful person by a more powerful person or group of persons. (This is the definition in our school behaviour policy.)

I will discuss in the newsletter over the next few weeks in more detail, some strategies used to reduce incidents of bullying.
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. If your child is away, you need to let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school.

We are aiming to have an attendance rate, across the school, above 94% 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!!

Last week’s attendance rate was 94%.

School Leaders

Congratulations to all our school leaders and house captains for 2016. This is never an easy decision to make. These children I am sure will be worthy representatives of our school.

School Leaders: Christian L-K, Abbey S, Ruby M, Bill M.

Hinkler House Leaders: Trent B, Holly C, Lucy H, Ryder M.


Burnett House Leaders: Scott B, Abbey M, Jasmin B, Annalea V.

Our school captains attend a Leadership Conference at Bundaberg Brothers Club next week. Student leaders from all over the Bundaberg District will participate.

Our badge ceremony is this Friday at parade 11:30am.

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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<td>Rebecca Z</td>
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<td>Emily M</td>
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<td>Ezekial G</td>
<td>Nathaniel D</td>
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<td>Freddy J</td>
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<td>Erica M</td>
<td>Lachlan S</td>
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Quote: “No person can be a great leader unless they take genuine joy in the successes of those under them.”

Jeff Irwin

Instrumental Music

Please ensure forms have been handed in at the office and fees paid so that your student can start lessons immediately. Students also need to have everything listed on their equipment list.

Before school band rehearsals will start next week. Our weekly rehearsals will be on Monday's, at 8.10am. Students involved are:


Band students playing on assembly

Make sure you bring your instrument to play on assembly this Friday and start setting up in the hall straight after morning tea.

Lisa Palmer

AFL Footy News

Congratulations to Trent B (6V) for being the first Woonie in 2016 to be selected in a Bundaberg District Schools representative sporting team. Trent has been selected in the Under 12 schoolboy AFL team. Trent made this team last year as an 11 year old. Trent will now travel to Gympie at the end of March for Wide Bay trials. Well done Trent and best of luck!
A word From Chaplain Paula

In Hawaii the word aloha means a lot more than just hello and good-bye. It also means love. Hawaii is called The Aloha State. Hawaiians show aloha to one another. Things can be done in the spirit of aloha. Literally translated, aloha means "breath of God be upon you." It's kind of like saying, "May God bless you" It means you do something kind without expecting something in return. There are lots of ways for us to show aloha (love) to others. We can send notes to cheer them up. We can bring a meal or a special treat to someone who is sick. We can clean someone's house or do yard work. Showing aloha to our neighbours is what Jesus taught us to do.

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

At this time each year we invite parents to consider nominating their children in Years 3-6 to compete in ICAS. The competitions form the largest independent assessment program for schools available in Australia, Asia and the Pacific region.

All competing students receive a certificate and result sheet. These certificates, result sheets and test booklets are distributed to individual students when results are returned to the school. Each competition costs $8.00.

Science: Tuesday 31 May
English: Tuesday 2 August
Mathematics: Tuesday 16 August

Parents interested in registering students are asked to forward money in an envelope with competitions clearly indicated and your child’s name and class. Nominations will be accepted until Friday 24 March.

Don’t forget
Gismos
Gadgets and
Machines
Tuesday 1
March
Prep - Year 6
$5.00

SPIN OFF - SPIN BIKE
CHALLENGE
"A CHAPPY FUNDRAISER"
10 people / 1 x Bike / 30 minutes
Saturday March 12 3:00 - 6:00pm
YMCA

- Primary section year 5 & 6
- High School section
- Open Section
$10 registration for this fun event with DJ!

Please see Paula Dalrymple for more information