Australia Day Legends

Our town’s recent Australia Day celebration was a great success with many of our school’s community being recognised and involved in the day’s events.

Kayden Porter needs to be congratulated on his outstanding achievement of being named the Australia Day Junior Sportsperson of the Year. What a fantastic result for a young bloke who works so hard at his sport.

Congratulations also to our newest Australian Citizen. Mr Girodat took the pledge on Australia Day to officially become an Australian Citizen.

Finally, thank you to Mrs Crapp and her choir for their contribution to the official service. You all sang beautifully.

Winton State School Makes the News!

What a fantastic start to the year to have had our school named in the Courier Mail as one of the top 20 most improved schools in the state.

Over the past two years Winton State School was audited on two occasions in an attempt to score the school’s curriculum, teaching and learning programs. The improvement from one audit to the next has seen our school listed as one of the top 20 most improved schools.

This fantastic step forward is the direct result of the hard work and dedication of all our school staff and indeed the diligence and dedication shown by Mrs Rebecca Crapp our school’s Head of Curriculum.

What a fantastic way to start the year. Congratulations everyone!
From The Principal

Dear Students, Parents and Friends.

Welcome to our first edition of the 2012 Winton State School Newsletter. For those that haven't met me yet my name is Mick Lawrance and I am the newly appointed Principal here at Winton State School. It has been fantastic to be able to walk into a school where there are so many wonderful people that are so welcoming.

My first impression of our school is that the students across all year levels want the very best for themselves. They want the best possible opportunities, education and by and large most have big plans for their futures. It is so pleasing to also have such a committed and caring staff. In my first weeks in Winton one true strength that revealed itself was just how much the teachers, teacher aides and support staff at our school care about the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of all the students who attend this school.

My intentions for the school's future direction have been made very clear to students, in all year levels.

- I expect that in every classroom every day students are learning to the best of their ability - I expect 100% effort, in every subject, every day!
- I expect a learning environment where students are free to take risks without ridicule or torment - I have a zero tolerance on bullying!
- I expect that our school staff are able to attend work each day and work in an environment where learners are respectful of each other and school staff.

This said, I also expect to be able to chat freely and openly with students about their ideas, thoughts and visions about how our school can become an even better place. I believe that the development of a strong culture for learning must be embraced by all. It is not something our school staff can create by themselves. I need your help as parents, guardians, students and community members to concentrate on the positive aspects of our school. I need your help to promote and value the opportunities that arise from hard work and honourable behaviours.

I recently had the opportunity to attend my first Winton Australia Day Ceremony. One resounding message which came from that event was that Winton is a town that gets behind those when they are down; that as a community we need to work together to build strong partnerships and opportunities. In reviewing the school's opinion survey data from last year I think most would agree the school is stepping into 2012 from a low place. This is a harsh reality but something which must be talked about and dealt with. I invite you all to call by the school to see me, send me an email, pop into a P&C meeting or grab me in the street to have a chat. I also warmly welcome your visions and future aspirations for our school. Finally, if you are in anyway able to offer your support and/or expertise to the students and staff at Winton State School it will always be welcomed.

I look forward to working with all of you over the coming years.

Yours Sincerely

Mick Lawrance
Principal
PERMISSION SLIPS – Attached to this newsletter are permission slips to be completed and signed for each of the students at the school in 2012. Could you please advise the school if you have new phone numbers or a change of address. Please return all slips to the school office. Thank you for your assistance.

P&C NEWS – The P&C is doing lunch on Friday for the inter-house school swimming carnival. We are looking for parents/guardians to either do 20/30 minutes of serving, donating sandwiches or cakes/sweets. Money raised goes back into helping our kids at school. You can give me a ring on 0427 765 819 for further information.

Sandwiches will cost $3.00 per round and cakes/slices/muffins will be 0.50 cents each.

The first P&C meeting for 2012 will be held on Wednesday February 15th in the school staffroom commencing at 5:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kylie Britton
P&C President

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS – There are shorts (sizes 6 & 10) & skorts (sizes 8 & 10) and adult school shirts (sizes 18, 20 & 3XL) available from Vickie Bowden for $5 each. There are also sunsmart shirts (sizes 6, 8, 10 & 12) available for $5.00. Vickie’s address is 15 Vindex Street or phone 4657 1134.

CLASS INFORMATION SESSIONS
Information sessions will be held next Wednesday, 8th February 2012. These sessions are provided to allow parents and guardians the opportunity to hear about the exciting learning opportunities planned for children this year in each class. It is a chance to hear first-hand from your child’s teacher the expectations they have around behaviour, homework and assessment work. It is also a great chance to ask any questions you might have.

Sessions times will be as follows:
- P-1: 5:00 – 5:20pm
- 2-3: 5:25 – 5:45pm
- 4-6: 5:50 – 6:20pm
- Secondary: 6:25 - 7:00pm

A sausage sizzle will be run from 5:30pm - 6:30pm for those wanting to come along and have a chat.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SPACE
On February 20th at 1:00pm our school will be visited by Senator John Hogg who will officially open the school’s new building. Everyone is welcome to attend this event and it will be followed by a short afternoon tea. Please keep an eye out next week for your official invitation and return slip. Your assistance in letting us know if you can attend this event or not will be of great assistance for catering purposes.

CHILD HEALTH NURSE – The Child Health Nurses will be at our school from Tuesday 14th February for sight and hearing screening.

Prep and Year 1’s not seen in Prep – The Child Health Nurse will target all Prep and Year 1 students not seen in Prep. The tests being performed are explained on the consent form which your child will receive. Consent forms will be sent home towards the end of this week.

If you wish your child to be screened, please complete the consent form and return to the school ASAP.
YEARS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 - Any parent or teacher for Years 1-7 wishing to make a referral to the Child Health Nurse may do so by obtaining a referral consent form from the school and returning the completed form by the above date. **IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE A SIGNED CONSENT FORM, HE/SHE CANNOT BE SEEN. YOUR REASON OR REASONS FOR THE HEALTH CHECK ALSO NEED TO BE STATED.** Should you require further assistance or information, please do not hesitate to contact the Child Health Nurse at the school or telephone 46525500 between the hours 8.30am - 5.00pm.

**IMMUNISATIONS** - On Tuesday 14th February the Child Health Nurses will be conducting an Immunisation clinic for Year 8 girls (Hep B 1 & HPV 1), Year 8 boys (Hep B 1 & Varicella) and Year 10 boys and girls (Tetanus, Diptheria and Whooping Cough). Permission slips will be sent home prior to this date.

**As Learners and Leaders:**

- **We are Safe**
- **We are Responsible**
- **We are Respectful**

*This is 'The Winton Way!'*

**OUR CLASSROOMS!**

**YEAR PREP/1**

News from Prep/1
Hello!! I'm Miss Sunny! You all mostly know me, but I'd still like to introduce myself again, just in case. I'm so, so, soooooo lucky to be working with the wonderful Prep/1 class this year, and with the help of my fantastic Teacher Aides (and my awesome parents), I am looking forward to an interesting and hard-working year.

Congratulations to the Preps in my class, who have been doing so well in their first week of school, and also to my Year 1s who have been setting a great example!

We have hit the ground running, and are already learning our new sounds. Our class is also practising their counting and number formation. We have wrangled up some naughty pirates to literally “pull them into line”, and with the help of my apprentice pirates, have created a number line.
This term we have a strong focus on the environment in both SOSE and Science, so we will be exploring our school environment for living things that are hiding within it, and using all of our senses (like all good scientists should) to observe them. Watch this space for upcoming photos from our nature walk!

We are also looking at our emotions, in Art, English and the new FRIENDS program. We are learning how emotions are shown in stories, and within ourselves.

Parents! Also watch out, as soon we will be asking you to come in (probably on Fridays) to view the events of the week, as the students show you some of the work they have done. This won't be able to happen this week because of the swimming but we hope to kick it off next week. Come prepared! We're going to have a dance off!!!!!!

If anyone has any old yoghurt containers, we would love to acquire them, as they come in so handy within the classroom for both construction, and for storage!! Cheers!

Miss Sunny
Prep/1

Shave for a Cure!!!

Hi! This is just a quick message to announce that I will be shaving my head in the hope of raising funds for the Leukaemia Foundation. I aim to do it in the last weekend of the April school holidays. I will be setting up some funds collection boxes in the offer. I would REALLY appreciate it if you would kindly sponsor me!! There will be more events and activities throughout my campaign. I might just leave it as a secret for now...☺

Miss Sunny
Prep/1

YEARS 2/3

It has been very busy in the 2/3 classroom. In English we have been looking at nouns, verbs and adjectives to make our sentences more interesting. Students have also been looking at stereotypes in fairytales and persuasive language in newspaper articles. In maths we have been revising skip counting, reading the time, seasons and months of the year. In science students have been looking in our school grounds for living and non living things.

Just a friendly remember that students do need to bring a library bag to borrow books during library lessons and that all of the items off the booklist are required.

This past two weeks we have also welcomed Miss Krystal Stanley into our classroom. She is completing her fourth year of Bachelor of Education at James Cook University. Krystal will be back in the 2/3 classroom in April and July to complete her final prac. Krystal has taught a variety of educating and exciting lessons including constructing a tree of learners which is on display in our classroom.
YEARS 4/5/6

The year brought the pleasant surprise of finding out that we would have extra friends in our class this year! 4/5/6 has had a fantastic start to the year jumping straight into all our units. We have made avatars of ourselves to greet us each morning. As we work hard and make great choices throughout the day, we collect pieces of bling to decorate our avatar. When we get 10 pieces of bling - we get to pick a prize apple from our reward tree.

In English we are using Roald Dahl’s “The Twits” to explore how authors deliberately use language elements to engage the reader and to develop characters and plot. Our homework for English is directly related to the concepts we are covering in this unit.

In Maths we have been learning how to read REALLY big numbers, as well as investigating time. We will continue this unit until the end of week 5.

For our science and technology unit, we are studying packaging in a unit called “Package it Better”. We will be compiling a design portfolio and will finish up by designing a package which would safely see an ANZAC biscuit make it to the troops serving overseas.

SOSE this term is very exciting with links to our local community. We have already lined up a number of exciting excursions and guest speakers to help us with our “Winton Past and Present” unit.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at the Information Evening in our classroom next Wednesday night.

Until next time, Mrs C, Mrs Girodat and the 4/5/6 class

EARLY CHILDHOOD

This year in Early Childhood, we will be visiting the Little Swaggies Day Care Centre and the Prep/Year 1 room at our school to observe various procedures and lessons. The students will also be teaching small lessons in these groups from time to time. If you have any concerns about this, please come and see me. The first assignment will be handed out in Week 5.

Mandy Smith

LIBRARY

This year I will be taking library lessons for the Primary students once a week. Students will be able to start borrowing this week. Please ensure that all books from last year have been returned and that students have a book bag to put their borrowed books in.

Mandy Smith

SCIENCE

This week, the Year 7/8 students have received their Bunsen Burner licences and are ready to tackle the world of experimentation. They will soon be experimenting with solids, liquids and gases and looking at the particle theory in detail. Students will eventually be designing a laboratory coat made from material researched to be the most appropriate.
In Year 9/10, students have identified genetic traits they possess and have started examining which parent these traits were passed down from. They have created a pretend family using genetics consisting of a mother, father and three children. This taught students how dominant and recessive genes work and the difference between genotype (genetic makeup) and phenotype (appearance).

**THE ARTS**

Throughout the arts in 9/10 students have attempted landscape pictures using pastels along with abstract art using pastels. Students have shown such potential in art and are looking forward to sketching lessons.

**MATHEMATICS**

Students are off to a flying start to the year, adding and multiplying at exponential rates! Mr. Michael Girodat is currently teaching year 7 and 8 mathematics, year 9 and 10 mathematics and Maths B. Mr. Leigh Holmes is teaching Maths A. The Maths department at Winton State School is more than thrilled to help students outside of school hours upon request.

Curriculum into the classroom has found its way into the classroom for both years 7 and 8 and years 9 and 10. Students are expected to be working through their work booklets on a weekly basis. Please ask your students to show them all their wonderful stamps they have received for a great job. Parents and guardians are encouraged to create goals with their student(s) and any positive criticism is welcome in the parents'/guardians' comments section.

Students are expected to complete work booklets on a weekly basis, or according to their curriculum plan. Students are encouraged to keep their work booklets on a leash so their work doesn't get lost.

Some students (and parents/guardians) have requested that they spice up their curriculum with extension or catch up work by choice. Extra work and 'Ketchup' work is available upon request, and some students have already started on their preferred tomato sauce.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at Winton State School via phone 0746571910.

Try Sudoku!

~A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new. (Albert Einstein)

As the school year begins one of the first things we will focus on as a school is correct school uniform. As part of our Phase Leader Role this year, we will be enforcing the wearing of correct school uniform. We will be phoning parents if your child/children do not have the correct school uniform. You may have already heard from one of us regarding uniform (Mandy Smith - Prep-6; Ebonny Rogers - 7-10; Jai Yong Gee - 11/12).

Correct school uniform is:

Blue Shorts/Skorts (Maroon shorts are also acceptable)

Winton SS Polo Shirt
Sneakers
Maroon or Blue bucket hat
Searle’s Outback Store has skorts and shorts in stock that cover most sizes and can be ordered and here within a week if necessary. The State School Shirts should now be in stock or will be this week sometime.
If you have any questions regarding uniform, please do not hesitate to see your child’s Phase Leader.

Mandy Smith, Ebonny Rogers and Jai Yong Gee

FRIENDS PROGRAM

This week, the friends program has kicked off for all Year Levels. This program is designed to help students with their social and emotional learning. Each class will have one scheduled lesson each Monday and this program will initially run over the first Semester. Each student has a workbook to work from at school and will also have a homework booklet with some activities to complete at home. If you have any questions regarding this program, please see you child’s classroom teacher or one of the Phase Leaders.

Mandy Smith, Ebonny Rogers and Jai Yong Gee

RVPP 2012

Due to a reallocation of funds beyond the school’s control and a restructure of the certificate program at the Australian Agricultural College, the RVPP program will not be offered to this year’s current year 9 & 10 students. Students in year 11 that are currently completing their Certificate II will continue in their course of study and it is anticipated the course will be fast tracked. The first week of onsite experience at the Longreach campus will be in week 7 of term 1. This is the week beginning the 5th of March, 2012.

9-10 HOME EC

We are currently working on the unit ‘Print Star’. The major project is designing and making a printed t-shirt; students are asked to pay $4 towards their materials. Students who do not pay the levy will still participate in the task however products made will remain the property of the school. Looking forward to seeing what the students come up with!

Pammy Collett-Dyer

CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURE STUDIES

The seniors taking building and construction studies and Agriculture studies will have plenty of hands on experience this term. The students are painting the senior room and building a table and chair set that will be located beneath shady trees in the playground. Students studying Agriculture studies are growing grass from seeds and runners. Certain members of the community have been contacted and agreed to have students analyse their grass growing techniques. Students will cultivate a section of soil and grow grass for the duration of the term.

Thanks to the people participating in the curriculum support.

Mr Holmes
Subject Teacher

INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This Friday the 3rd of February is the inter-house swimming carnival where Flynn take on Paterson in the pool. This carnival is an important school event and showcases the talent and sportsmanship of our students. This carnival will begin at 9.00am sharp and it is requested that students begin arriving at the pool by 8.30am ready to go. There will be sandwiches and cakes provided by the P&C for lunch. Friday is a normal school day and it is expected that students attend, participate and take pride in their house. We hope to see as many parents and friends cheering on our budding swimmers!
**CW SWIMMING TRIALS**

The Central West swimming carnival is coming up soon and our school carnival will provide times to qualify for the district trials. Please keep an ear out for more information regarding this in the coming week.

**CW RUGBY LEAGUE**

Once again Winton State School will be hosting the Central West Secondary Rugby League trials. These trials are next Friday afternoon beginning at 4.30pm down at the Eric Lenton Memorial field on Vindex St. Students from across the district will be coming to vie for selection in the Central West side to compete at the regional carnival. Be sure to come down for a look to check out some fantastic football talent.

**YR 9/10 HPE SWIMMING**

This is a reminder to all students in year 9/10 that we are doing an aquatics unit as part of the HPE program this term. Students will be required to bring their swimming clothes every Wednesday. If a student is unable to swim, a note is required as an explanation. All students who do not participate in the pool will be doing other work to ensure they are still learning. Can parents please remind students about the need to participate fully in this subject.

Michael Gabriel  
Subject Teacher

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**JUNIOR TENNIS** – Tennis with Joanne starts this Friday at 3.45pm. Everyone is welcome. For any further enquiries please phone 4657 1249.

Joanne Warren

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