Dear Students, Parents and Friends,

Welcome to another edition of the Winton State School Newsletter. It has been a busy and exciting fortnight for us here at Winton State School. It is fantastic to see student dedication to their academic studies continuously increasing and so many of our wonderful students being rewarded for outstanding achievements.

This afternoon we will welcome Robyn Kleinhans from Central Queensland University to our town. Robyn will be presenting to some of our high school students and their parents on the opportunities that CQ University has to offer. A little later in the term a group of our high school students will travel to Rockhampton to engage with an opportunity which will allow them to experience the learning environment of CQ University. If you have the opportunity to catch up with Robyn while she is about over the next couple of days please make her feel most welcome and thank her for this wonderful opportunity she and her university are able to extend to our children here at Winton.

The first few weeks of the school year are indeed a very busy time in schools. I think now that we are in week six it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the fine work of our wonderful teacher aides. While teachers are working tirelessly to ensure exceptional learning opportunities are being presented to all our students our dedicated and talented teacher aides are working alongside them every step of the way. They all work with the same level of determination and commitment to making a genuine difference in the life of every young person who attends our school. Thank you so much ladies for helping make our school a wonderful place work, learn and grow.

Can I ask that parents of students who might be bringing deodorant to school talk with their children about this in one of two ways. Firstly, you encourage the use of deodorant as a personal hygiene product and not something to waste by spraying on others. Or secondly, that you talk with your child and provide them with roll-on deodorant. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

I also need the assistance of all parents to ensure that your child or children attend school every day that they possibly can. Some concerning absence patterns are emerging with a small group of students within our school and staff will be contacting parents of these children shortly to discuss this. If your child is going to be away from school it would be a great help if you could phone the school or email me at the.principal@wintonss.eq.edu.au to inform why your child will be away. For children who miss an average of one day of school each fortnight this equates to missing an entire year of school over a ten year cycle. Put simply these children will be attempting Year 11 work having only completed the required amount of school days for the completion of Year 9. It is important we all start to talk about the fact that “every day counts”.

To end on a happy note I want to congratulate those students who have been working towards the development of academic learning goals. I cannot stress enough the importance of setting goals and targets for ourselves as a means to motivate, inspire and provide direction. The Year 4/5/6 class have been working hard at achieving
personal spelling goals over the last few weeks. I congratulate the 17 students from this class who this week achieved their short term goals in relation to their weekly spelling test. Fantastic work Year 4/5/6.

If I can be of any assistance please don’t hesitate to make contact.

Yours Sincerely

Mick Lawrance
Principal

P&C NEWS

P&C Levies
Attached to this newsletter are envelopes for payment of P&C levies. The cost is $10 per family per term. Payment can be made each term, each semester of one payment for the year of $40. The levies contribute towards purchasing up-to-date resources for the students at Winton State School.

Volunteer Form
A volunteer form is also attached to this week’s newsletter. Please complete and return to the office if there are parents, guardians and grandparents who can assist with school fundraising in any way.

SCHOOL NEWS

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK FOR WEEK FOUR & FIVE OF TERM ONE:

Bridget Brotherton   You’re an expert on fractions
Claye Kelly-Allman   For being responsible during library lessons
Hayley Window       For putting 100% into everything
David Crapp         For writing a fantastic “Who am I?”
Claudia Bowden       For working hard during science
Bradley Coupe       For excellent work ethic
Lauren Nutting       For consistently producing quality work
Carlin Ellis         For showing initiative in Agriculture
Noah Fogarty        For showing outstanding enthusiasm in science
Matilda Searle       For putting in effort and showing great enthusiasm in learning her sounds
Cordelia Britton   For helping her group members to do the right thing
Blake Mitchell      For always applying himself in class
Tara Jones          For showing leadership during science experiments
Dylan Oates         For fantastic improvement in water confidence
Jai Barnfield       For trying his best on the unseen text exam
Dylan Oates         For working hard to learn his number facts
Cody Richardson     For trying his best when using reading eggs

Hannah Tanks, Thomas Stout, Tayler Gale, Gavin Patterson, Tristan Coupe,
James Stout, Emelie Williams, Lachlan Murison, Mitch Fogarty and August Crapp
For 100% full school uniform
As Learners and Leaders:

✧ We are Safe
✧ We are Responsible
✧ We are Respectful

This is 'The Winton Way'!

POSITION VACANT – 1 x Teacher Aide Position – Identified Position
See flyer attached. If you have any queries please contact the principal, Mick Lawrance, on 46571 910.

OUR CLASSROOMS!

YEARN PREP/1

News from Prep/1
Howdy doody tooty frooty! The Prep/1 class is cruising along nicely, and the students are working hard as usual. In English we are still revising our letters and sounds, with some students getting really tricky and putting those sounds together to make whole words.

In maths, the students are fast becoming professional counters, and this is a great asset to them when they are counting. So far we have been counting heaps of things, including balloons, chickens, and of course, bugs!

In Science and SOSE, we have begun to plant our sunflowers and to monitor their progress. We have discussed what a sunflower needs to survive and are checking which environments are the best for them. There are sunflowers spot planted all over the Prep/1 grounds, so I will not be surprised in the least when they are sprouting up from all sorts of places. We are also looking at environments that other living things call home, including trees in our school and national parks.

With our Friends program, the students are looking at the way they react when they feel different things. We have also come up with some good ways to help ourselves feel better when we are angry or sad. When are beginning to "grow" our classroom garden, with our beautiful rainbow (for the "r" sound) flowers. Parents are welcome to come and check them out when they are up and running. Prep/1 parents are also invited into the classroom every Friday afternoon for the last ten minutes of the day to look at some of the photo moments from the past week, and of course, for the Friday Dance Off, where they will witnessing some out-of-sight shuffling and whacky dance moves.

Miss Sunny
Prep/1
This week we have started our new units for maths and English. In English we are looking at poetry in particular bush poetry. In maths we will be focusing on chance and data. We will also be focusing on practising for NAPLAN. In our SOSE unit we have been learning about how bread and paper is made. We even got to make damper and paper lanterns. Finally, in class we have been talking about setting learning goals. I encourage all parents to discuss this matter with their children. Once the students have set their goals we will be making a classroom display and celebrating when we have achieved them. Finally, congratulations to the 2/3 class for receiving class of the week.
YEAR 4/5/6

The weeks are flying quickly in years 4/5 and 6. Our year 6’s have started Japanese and are enjoying learning this through online learning under the guidance of Mrs Collett-Dyer. Friday saw us winding up the first of our English and maths units. On Monday we started our new units and these are proving to be very interesting indeed. In English we have picked our poem to perform at this year’s Bush Poetry festival and are investigating ways of making poems humorous. Yesterday we analysed two Spike Milligan poems – “On the Ning, Nang, Nong” and “The Land of the Bumbly Boo”. These poems introduced us to the terms “Onomatopoeia” and “Alliteration”. We also investigated Spike’s use of nonsense words to make us laugh.

In maths some of us have been exploring division and the numerous ways of representing this. We used Mathletics to pretest our knowledge and then to learn some new concepts. Others have been exploring positive and negative integers. We were able to identify a number of real life contexts in which negative integers are used. All of us were given a spare card with our Mathletics user name and password on it, so now we can access this great learning resource at home as well as at school.

In science and technology, we are starting to put together the results of our investigations in order to create our packaging for our ANZAC biscuit. Yesterday we devised a list of questions to ask a guest speaker who has handled a lot of different types of packaging over the years. We aim to find out which types of packaging seem to protect their contents from impact most successfully.

Whilst on the topic of guest speakers, check out our photos from the Australian Age of Dinosaurs visitor. George came as part of our SOSE unit investigating Winton’s Past and Present. The Age of Dinosaurs brings the two together in a really interesting way. Be sure to ask us what we learnt about from this awesome visit!

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

PRIMARY SWIMMING

Congratulations to all those students who have remembered their swimming togs every lesson this term. I am pleased to announce that all students are improving dramatically in the pool and gaining water confidence. A special mention to a couple of students who have conquered their fear of the water and now are swimming with style: Dylan Oates, Matilda Searle and Tyrone Clifford.

Keep it up! You are developing a skill that you will use for the rest of your life.

Ebony Rogers
Primary Swimming Teacher
THE PRIMARY ARTS

In the Primary Arts we are learning about Drama and how to use our bodies and speech to act. The Prep/1 students really enjoyed trying to save the princess from the dragon last week!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our Student Council is a keen and enthusiastic group of students. We have been meeting weekly and have come up with a list of great ideas to put into place throughout the year, including themed dress up days! It’s going to be an exciting year.

Mr Girodat and Mrs Collett-Dyer

SECONDARY SCIENCE

The last couple of weeks have been busy in our science lab. 7/8 students have already sat their first exam for the year, after learning about the particle theory, states of matter and melting and boiling points of substances. This week students also investigated chemical changes occurring through a demonstration whereby they experienced changes in light, sound, colour, temperature and a gas being produced. The 7/8’s are chemical change experts now and know what they’re looking for!

9/10 students have been busy studying individual genes and gene modifications. This week we looked at a species of goat called the spider goat, a DNA enhanced web-flinging nanny goat. Scientists successfully implanted the silk-making genes from a golden orb spider into a goat, which now produces silk milk. The silk is filtered out from the milk and wound onto a roller. The silk is one of the strongest fibres known and possible uses considered include: fishing line, ligament replacement and possibly bullet proof items.
SPORTS UPDATE

CW Secondary Netball
There is a small but enthusiastic bunch of girls heading over to Barcaldine this Friday afternoon to participate in the under 15's Central West netball trials. We wish these girls all the very best at these trials.

NW Secondary Rugby League Trials
This Friday afternoon the North West secondary Rugby League trials are being held here in Winton down at the Eric Lenton Memorial field. These trials allow students from all over the region to come together to trial for selection in the North West invitational teams for the 15 and 18 years age groups which will then go on to compete at the State Championships. Players are coming from as far as Blackall, Alpha, Mt Isa, Hughenden and Mornington Island in the Gulf. This carnival will showcase some great rugby league talent. We also have some local talent on show so please head down and cheer on the boys. The Winton Junior Rugby League will be catering in the evening with some delicious food so please come and support them as well.

Under 12 Development Cup
Next Friday the annual Development Cup for rugby league and netball for the under 12 age group will be held in Barcaldine. This event is a great opportunity for beginners to trial these sports. Winton State School will be combining with St. Patrick's to put Netball and Rugby League teams together to play over in Barcaldine next Friday. Transport is currently being sorted out and a letter will be sent home before the end of the week. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Michael Gabriel

COMMUNITY NEWS

2/3/2012       NW Secondary Rugby League Trials at Winton
               CW Secondary Netball Trials
9/3/2012       NW Secondary Touch Trials
               Development Cup Rugby League & Netball (Primary)
10/3/2012      CW Rugby League & Netball Trials (Saturday)
23/3/2012      NW Netball Trials Primary & Secondary (Hughenden)
26/3/2012 - 30/3/2012     Year 10 CQ Uni Visit
30/3/2012      Last day of term
16/4/2012      First school day of term 2

Check out the Winton State School website at: www.wintonss.eq.edu.au