XSTRATA COAL VISIT

Yesterday morning John Anderson, the Apprentice Training Co-ordinator from Xstrata Coal, came to the school to talk to the high school students about current trade opportunities in the mining industry. Students heard about the numerous options available both in underground and open cut mines in the booming coal industry of the Bowen Basin as well as some of Xstrata's other mining related operations, including the coal loading terminal at Abbott's Point. John explained in detail the level of commitment the company gives to training their apprentices in expertise mining skills as well as skills transferrable and relevant to other industries.

John stated that Xstrata’s focus for their tradespeople is on producing multi-skilled graduates that can perform a multitude of tasks whilst on the job. So extensive is the training Xstrata provides that when graduating from the course, graduates only need to complete 2 competencies to hold dual qualifications.

Of course as with any talk about mining, it was the conversations concerning dollars that students found the most astonishing. From the $35000 for a new truck tyre to the amount an electrical graduate can earn. A number of our students felt confident that mining was a path well worth exploring when considering future pathway options.

A thank you must go to Dallas Scott from Youth Invest for organising the trip and to John Anderson for taking the time to talk to the students.

Jai Yong Gee
Senior Coordinator
Dear Students, Parents and Friends

Welcome to the second term two edition of The Winton Way. In this edition I wish to outline our school priorities.

Put simply we plan over the next 18 months to transition from being a good school to a great school. Part of this process involves making it clear to everyone the school’s priorities. Over the next 18 months we will be focusing our attention on improving student learning in the area of reading comprehension and numeracy.

In working with the area of reading comprehension our Primary School has worked hard over the last few weeks to streamline our guided reading program. This involves a common primary school wide approach to reading, inclusive of a common time and common pedagogical framework. The teachers and teacher aides supporting this program have done an amazing job getting it off the ground.

Further to this, I am happy to report that yesterday I ordered approximately $13 000.00 worth of new guided reading books. The Springboard into Comprehension texts will assist with the systematic development of student comprehension skills and strategies.

Many of our teaching staff have been working this year with key regional support personnel to further develop their capacity. Mr Michael Girodat, our secondary maths teacher, recently had the opportunity to work with a Principal Education Advisor for the Australian Curriculum for Central Queensland Region. This advisor’s feedback to me, as principal, on Mr Girodat’s planning was that it was one of the best examples of catering for individual difference she has seen. The advisor was so impressed she has suggested using Mr Girodat’s work to support and guide other teachers in the region. It takes a great commitment to achieve such outstanding work so thank you Mr Girodat for your commitment to the students at Winton State School.

Finally, can I remind everyone that EVERY DAY COUNTS. Our recently announced attendance raffle has already produced great improvements in our attendance data. In the three weeks prior to the announcement of our raffle our school had an average attendance rate of approximately 77%. In the first two weeks of the raffle, attendance rates have risen to an average of approximately 92%. Congratulations everyone on making such a big effort to come to school every day.

Yours Sincerely
Mick Lawrance
Principal

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### Attendance Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Ending</th>
<th>Attendance %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23rd 2012</td>
<td>78.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30th 2012</td>
<td>74.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20th 2012</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27th 2012</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4th 2012</td>
<td>90.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The shaded green cells indicate the running attendance raffle.

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### Positions Vacant

1 x Teacher Position (0.4) working Monday to Thursday. The position will be working with the school’s Learning Support Team and is for 18 months commencing June 4th 2012.

1 x Teacher Aide Position working with the school’s support team. The position is to run Monday to Friday for 2 hours each morning (10 hours / week). The position will run from July 9th — December 7th and will be reviewed at this time with a view to continuation throughout 2013.

These positions form part of our school’s strategic plan and are linked to National Partnership Funding.

To register your interest for either of these position please email the.principal@wintonss.eq.edu.au by May 21st 2012

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### Minor Works

Please be aware that over the next few weeks our school will be undergoing some minor works. The most significant of these works is data cabling. This work is to the tune of approximately $75 000.00 and will:

- provide internet connectivity to the P-1 classroom,
- allow up to 14 student computers to be installed in P-1,
- allow up to 8 student computers to be installed in 4/5/6,
- allow another 10 computers to be installed in the mini lab,
- provide a new phone system, EFTPOS service and student absence line.
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 May, students will undertake the 2012 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children.

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Students with a disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s result to discuss progress with teachers.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about the feelings that they may experience on the test days and help their children to understand that these feelings are normal. A good breakfast will help students perform at their best on these days, as will making sure the morning is a relaxed and positive experience before arriving at school.

More information is available at www.nap.edu.au

I wish all of our Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students all the very best as they undertake the testing next week.

Rebecca Crapp
Head of Curriculum
Classroom Updates.

**News from Prep/1**

Whoa! Week 4 already! Time is going so quickly! Lucky the students in Prep/1 are hard at work. In English, we are enjoying the changes to Guided Reading, with all of the students putting in their best effort. We are looking at the structure of a narrative and how it is broken into a beginning, problem and solution. We have read some very interesting books! The students are also getting stuck into learning their sight words to improve their reading.

In maths, we have been looking at giving directions, and have sent each other on treasure hunts! It was interesting to see where the groups hid their treasure. We have also revisited 2D and 3D shapes and are looking at ordering numbers to 20.

In science we are still constantly observing the skies. We have also begun looking at the difference in landscapes, whether they are natural, built or a lot of built and managed landscapes.

In SOSE we are looking at changes in family life over the years. The students have come up with some interesting questions to ask themselves and their families about what it was like growing up. Soon, they will be coming home to investigate these questions, so parents, get ready!

Our Friends program has seen us start to distinguish between red and green thoughts. With some students even noticing when book characters begin to have red thoughts.

Art this term will start getting crazy! We have begun doing ‘different’ art work which involves flicking paint and using sand! Things could get interesting!

Miss Sunny
Prep/1

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**Year 2/3**

While Mrs Howkins has been away I have been particularly impressed with the year 2/3 class and the efforts they have been putting into their learning. The manners, hard work and dedication shown by the class is to be commended and I thank each and every student for striving for their personal best.

I particularly want to thank Lesley P. for his hard work this morning while working with Miss Helen and David, Blair, Mason and Lesley for allowing me to play soccer with them at lunch yesterday.

Keep working hard.
Mr Lawrance
Year 4/5/6 News

Last week in the Year 4/5/6 class we started our persuasive text assessment. We are persuading our readers that they should or should not eat Lab Burgers. Interesting? Absolutely! The students have come up with a multitude of reasons that support their argument. We are working on these in Week 4 and publishing them in Week 5.

I am ecstatic to report our spelling is improving as a whole class. 53% of students in our class last week reached their spelling target. Congratulations to Stacie and Lauren for getting all of their spelling words correct. Most improved this week was Chanz Rice improving his spelling score by 700%. Well Done Chanz!

Homework is still being brought in which is great to see. The dedication our students are showing to their academics is something to be proud of!

Thank you to the 7 parents that came to our open classroom on Wednesday night. It was great to catch up with you all so early in the term.

On Wednesday night we discussed the school camp. This year grades 4/5/6 will be going to Camp Fairbairn for our school excursion. As we know camp can be an expensive trip to go on but with some fundraising I am sure the parents of year 4/5/6 will be able to minimise the cost of camp 2012. Fundraising ideas were discussed at the open classroom and I can’t wait to see how much money our parents can raise.

Last week we have had 4 new students enrol in our class. I’d like to welcome Adela, Tiani, Hayden and Cody to our classroom. I hope they enjoy learning in our class as much as I have enjoyed teaching them.

Mrs Girodat

English Communication

Students are undertaking a unit on Teenage Fiction. Students have now finished reading their book ‘Tomorrow when the war began’ and will begin writing their book reviews. These will be finalized over the next couple of weeks. We are looking forward to our budding writers producing some great work!

Michael Gabriel

Year 7/8 English

For the next two weeks, students are working on their assessment item – a persuasive text about the topic ‘the world is awesome’. Next week the year 7s will be participating in NAPLAN tests while the year 8s are going to complete a reading task of their own. There will be no spelling during this time, as students are expected to work on their persuasive item at home as well.

7/8 AND 9/10 SOSE

This term students in years 7/8 are building their research skills in history by studying the Middle Ages. Some of the more popular topics chosen by students include castles, knights, food and fashion with some students diving into the gruesome subjects of torture and punishment. Students will use their findings for their assessment piece this term, which will be delivered in a presentation format of their choice.

In the 9/10 class students are currently studying a brief history of the USA and major events on the country’s timeline. This will provide students with a level of base knowledge for further discussions during the term on the country’s role as a world superpower. Students have been practicing their research skills in preparation for their assignments later in the term and the implementation of the history element of the national curriculum in 2013.
Classroom Updates

Sports Update!

Inter-house Athletics
Our annual inter-house athletics day will be held on Friday the 1st June (week 7) here on our beautifully manicured oval. This event is a great opportunity for students to try their hand at the running, jumping and throwing events in both competitive and non-competitive environments. Plans are being finalised for this carnival and students will be called to compete in pre-carnival events in the weeks leading up to the big day. Who will reign victors in 2012? Will the fabulous flying Flynn team make it their 5th year in a row or will the pumped passionate Paterson team claim the win? Stay tuned!

North West Sports Education tour 2012
The North West Sports Education tour will again be visiting our school on the Tuesday the 29th May (week 7). This tour provides students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports in a fun and safe environment. These sports include Netball, Hockey, Rugby League, Cricket and Athletics being confirmed and we are waiting on Baseball to confirm. This has been a priceless day of sport in the past and we look forward to this opportunity for our students.

Michael Gabriel
HPE Teacher/Sports Coordinator

6, 7 & 8 Japanese
Check out the photos! We have a weekly online conference with our Japanese Teacher, Mrs Curtin who is in Brisbane. Lately we have been working on our assignment, a poster that introduces ourselves, our family members and our pets.
Last week’s theme was ‘Sea’, and the children had a great time. It was such beautiful weather that we spent most of our time out in the gated playground. With mums and babies sitting in the shade of the tree, the toddlers had fun in the sandpit and playing on the equipment. We eventually came inside to make a Jellyfish artwork with Dom, then read a sea story with Em.

We also sang Happy Birthday to Jazzy who brought along a cake to share. Soon, we will have a big order of new storybooks arriving, which we will gift-wrap and give to each child on their birthday. We have been very lucky to be sponsored by Winton State School – we have just received a huge delivery of crafts and toys to keep the children busy for some time!

Playgroup is definitely a great highlight in our week, and a lovely way to get ready for the weekend! Please remember that playgroup is not just for mums. Dads, Grandparents, Aunties or Nannies are also welcome to come and enjoy the great activities and great company!

Emily
**Girls on a mission** – Is a program which helps young women develop self worth, a positive identity and change the worrying trends of bullying, poor body image, family conflict and teenage stress. Last year a number of girls participated in Girls with a Purpose at the Youth Centre. This year we are changing it up and running *’Girls on a Mission’ at the school on Wednesdays during first break in the Senior Room.* The first workshop was today and will continue to run every Wednesday. Myself and Karrissa from Isa Skills Longreach will be running the program with guest speakers coming in some weeks. Girls are welcome to bring in lunch during these workshops. A permission form will need to be filled out by parents/guardians in order for your child to attend. Permission forms were handed out today and need to be brought back next Wednesday. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on 4657 2666 or 0427 860 874.

**Shockwave** – is on again in Blackall, May 25th-27th. I will be taking a bus of eight over, permission and medical consent forms can be picked up from the ladies in the office. As there are only eight seats available, the young people who get their forms in first will be going. You must be turning 13 this year to come on the bus. If you would like to attend but are not turning 13 this year, a parent or guardian can take you over. Please feel free to contact me on 4657 2666 if you would like more information.

Sheree Miller
Youth Development Officer

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**Winton State School**

**As learners and leaders:**

*We are Safe*

*We are Responsible*

*We are Respectful*

*This is “The Winton Way”*
HONOUR BOARD FOR TERM 2

These students have received 60 Honour Cards for following our three school expectations.

As Learners and Leaders

WE ARE SAFE    WE ARE RESPONSIBLE    WE ARE RESPECTFUL
Honour Board