Winton is quickly developing a real super star. Young Kayden Porter has recently been selected to compete at the Qld School Swimming Championships in Brisbane.

On March 22nd Kayden will be travelling to Brisbane to compete in the 50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 50m Butterfly. At his recent success at the Regional Selection Carnival he has cemented himself as a real contender by qualifying for the three separate events.

For those who know Kayden you will know he is often slogging it out in the pool showing tremendous dedication and commitment to his sport.

Congratulations Kayden and know that all of Winton State School will be behind you when you swim for gold at the State Championships later this month.

Photos: Sophie Jackson - The Morning Bulletin

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**Coming Events**

- **26th March**: Bush Poetry Competition
- **27th March**: Bush Poetry Competition
- **28th March**: Last day term 1
- **28th March**: End of Term Attendance Raffle Drawn—You must be present to win!
- **15th April**: First Day Term 2
Dear Students, Parents and Friends

I am so proud to be the leader of Winton State School. Recently I had the pleasure of attending the State Principal Conference in Brisbane. Whilst listening to many case studies and sharing practice examples it was pleasing to sit and reflect on the many wonderful things we are doing at our school. Some quite new ideas like individual student action plans captured the interest and attention of some of the bigger more metropolitan schools in the South East Corner of our State.

Our school has demonstrated significant improvement this year in the area of student attendance. With attendance rates up approximately 10% from the same time last year I am both excited and very grateful for this improvement. Thank you to parents for assisting and getting your children to school. There are very clear links in research showing the relationship between high levels of student attendance (95% +), student achievement and post-schooling success. If you would like to know your child’s up to date attendance rate please don’t hesitate to ask me. It takes only a minute to generate this figure for you using our highly sophisticated attendance tracking tool.

Finally, it is without saying that a massive congratulations needs to be extended to Kayden Porter for his recent success in being selected for the State Swimming Championships later this month. Kayden, we are all very proud of your achievements and will be eagerly awaiting the results from your races.

Yours Sincerely
Mick Lawrance
Principal.
HOC SPOT

It's been six years since Robert took his first look around his kindergarten class and said, "Just how much more of this do I have to do?" He still thinks writing, spelling, math, science, and social studies are annoying, but most of all, Robert dislikes reading.

If you have a child who sounds like this, read them the riot act. Read them their rights, read them the directions, the ingredients, the computer manual, and the back of the cereal box. Read to, read on, read up, read around, read along, read with them and through them, but this holidays, get reading and your child together. It's good for your child and for you, too.

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body," said Joseph Addison, an early eighteenth century English poet, playwright, and essayist, and centuries later his words are still right on. Especially for beginning and reluctant readers who have more attitude than answers when it comes to this complex skill. Reading consistently and everywhere during any long breaks from school is critical for kids like this.

The following tactics will keep reluctant readers involved in books.

**Become a theatrical family.** This was one way families entertained themselves before television and computers took over. Engage in playacting when kids are reluctant to read. Make it a family production by assigning everyone parts of a play to read. Take it "on the road" by memorizing parts, dressing up, and putting on your play for a highly appreciative audience, like the grandparents. Get pointers by attending plays or children's theater presentations. After your child has seen several, he'll understand how expressive he can really be and learn some innovative ways to add to your simple one-act play.

**Make book brochures.** Primary-aged children and older artistic types might enjoy making a brochure about a book they just read. Use crayons, markers, computer clip art, or magazine clippings to design typical three-fold, travel-like pamphlets. Brainstorm which kind of illustrations, photos, graphics and short, engaging descriptions about the plot and characters would tempt someone else to read this book. Book brochures provide fodder for book reports later in the school year. And more importantly, they give kids early experience in writing persuasively -a big focus of writing in school English classes.

**Make book-based foods.** Make foods together that characters eat. For kindergarten through grade three readers, look for books that feature food as a main ingredient. Then, make the food together. Make chocolate cake with a secret ingredient like in Thunder Cake by Patricia Polacco, or make meatballs after you read Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judy Barrett. As you're sharing dinner with family or guests, have your child tell them the story.

Rebecca Crapp
Head of Curriculum

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### Winton After-School Activities

**Tuesday**

**Singing (any age) with Miss Jensen** Tune your voices and enjoy the art of singing with the lovely and very talented Miss Jensen

**Sewing (any age) with Rev. Anne.** (until 4:00pm)

Learn the skills of sewing with Rev. Anne.

**Thursday**

**Junior Dance (P-4) with Mrs Lawrance**

Learn Jazz dance with the talented Mrs Lawrance in the Dance Room.

**Geek Club (any age) with Mrs Martyr**

Enjoy each others company and play a range of online games in the computer lab.

**Visual Arts with Miss Sunny and Miss Martin (any age)**

Enjoy the company of friends while creating wonderful visual arts projects.

**AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ARE FOR WINTON STATE SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY**

Thank you to the teachers and staff above who have VOLUNTEERED their time to support the students at Winton State School.
Hi All!

We have been very busy since our last newsletter and with the Easter holidays only a few weeks away, we are even busier while we complete our units and prepare for the Poetry Festival in the last week of school.

**English**

Last week we began our unit on Poetry to tie in with Winton’s Annual Poetry Competition. We will be reciting a group poem at the competition and each student is also learning an individual poem. While we will be practising both poems at school, it would be very helpful if students could practice their individual poems at home each night as part of homework. Poems were sent home last week. If you have lost your copy, please see me to get another. We are also learning how to write poetry. This can be quite tricky to do, but we are becoming really good at creating rhymes!

As part of our Fine Motor Program for the Preps, last week, we took to our playground with spray bottles filled with coloured water. We were teaching our hands to be strong by using the bottles, and we made our area very pretty!

**Maths**

Last week, the Year 1’s learnt all about measuring length. We began by comparing things as shorter or longer or the same. By the end of the week, we were so good at measuring, we measured anything and everything we could find in the classroom using a lot of different things like paddle pop sticks, Lego, pencils and string.

Our Preps have been working hard learning all about numbers to 5. We have counted and counted and counted some more!
Years 4/5/6 Legends - Class News

Love my little cherubs! What a beautiful class I have had once again. We have all been working so hard to become more knowledgeable!

We have just completed our maths unit on Chance and Data and are about to move on to measurement. We have also been practising our times-tables old-school style; “Sit up straight, knees and ankles together, now repeat after me!” The kids are sick of me saying…”If you don’t know your times-tables, you don’t know your division. If you don’t know your division, you won’t know your fractions. If you don’t know your fractions, you won’t know your decimals and percentages!”

We have been incorporating daily exercises into our routine. Starting the day with a run around the obstacle course, then completing stretches when we need a quick brain break has made us feel more energised and ready to learn.

The 4-5-6 Legends are an amazing group of students, and I look forward to another great fortnight.

Mrs Lawrance

Year 4/5/6 Technology

Up until last week the junior technology class have been looking at bird habitats and the importance of birds in the urban areas. The class have been patiently working through theory and have made birdhouse prototypes from paper and are now in the workshop making the real thing. Two of the class members have in fact rescued bird eggs from around the neighbourhood and are hoping to complete their projects before the end of the term.

The young woodworkers have remembered many skills from the previous year and were off and eager to use new hand tools such as a hand plane.

The school has also purchased wood working aprons for each student to protect their uniforms from wear.

Mr Leigh Holmes

7/8 & 9/10 English

This week, the 7/8s have been focusing on music of social commentary. We have watched and analysed the lyrics of PSY’s Gangnam Style and Imagine by John Lennon. We have a few more songs to examine as we start to question whether making social comments using music is effective.

Last week the year 9/10s attempted to follow poetic genres and use poetic devices while creating a poem about a social issue, so this week they are revising persuasive devices so that they can incorporate their poetry into a persuasive speech.

All students continue to have spelling and have started learning their group poem for the poetry festival – please check their diaries every week for details.

Mrs Collett-Dyer
Year 7/8 Technology

The middle school technology class have been issued with their sustainability assignments. Their assignment is to make a product from something that would be normally thrown out. The class will begin this project in week 8. In the meantime, the class is making a knick knack basket from a roll of out of date telephone wire. This idea came from a product that was produced in South Africa where the locals were so happy with their baskets that they started up-earthed working telephone lines to source the materials.

Ask your sons/daughters what they intend to make and where they’re going to source their materials.

Mr Leigh Holmes

Ancient History

This term students have begun their study of Ancient History by exploring the exciting and ever vibrant world of archaeology. Disappointed that the study of archaeology this term wasn’t simply endless hours of watching Indiana Jones movies, the class has moved on to looking at the techniques and strategies archaeologists around the world use to inform us of the past. Students have studied famous archaeological finds, famous archaeologists and where Shakespeare did his washing. As well as the topics for the term, students have also been developing the essential skills required to become successful historians. One of these skills is looking at historical significance. This is where students select the information that is of most importance but ignoring content that is not.

Mr. Jai Yong Gee

Hospitality

Thomas and Hannah have been completing the workbooks from the Outback College of Hospitality – which goes towards a Certificate II in Hospitality.

They have weekly pracs on Wednesday afternoons! This week they made chocolate rough slices. What a great way to spend a birthday!

Mrs Collett-Dyer

Agriculture

The senior agriculture class have almost completed the theory work required to prepare the ground and successfully grow a crop. Elders have directed a phone call to an agronomist in the area; as a result Elders have kindly donated a bag of oat seed to the school. The class hopes to produce oat seed for human consumption and collect the hay for Makayla’s animals. The class will mark out an area of approximately 100m², add gypsum and other soil improvers and plant the oat seed early next week.

Mr Leigh Holmes
7/8 SEL
In the 7/8 Social and Emotional Learning unit, the students have been focused on giving compliments in order to fill each other’s buckets. We have a tally going to see who is handing out the most bucket filling notes to making the others in their class feel good. We have done a compliments circle, where you catch a ball from someone in the class, pick a sticker, and give that person a compliment.

7/8 THE ARTS
During this fortnight the students have taken the opportunity to show off their creative flair by entering posters into the Shockwave Poster Competition. The theme or inspiration for the competition was “Don’t tell it, YELL IT!” The students worked well and we have our fingers crossed for the results. From here, we have continued with our assessment piece. The students have created contour, tonal and colour pictures of a chosen item. It is great to see students who try their hardest.

9/10 THE ARTS
The 9/10 art class have entered into the Shockwave Competition, placing an emphasis of including inspiration from things that are unique to them. After this, they have got straight back into their sculpture unit, focusing on texture and clay techniques. The students have been experimenting with clay and wire, and finding which medium will suit their vision best. We have been doing a lot of preparation in the lead up to creating our work because once we start working with the clay, it will be extremely difficult to keep it from drying.

11/12 Social and Community Studies
In Social and Community Studies, the students have been looking at the Key Milestones for Women over the years and how those important events have helped to shape our society today. The students had to collect their information and put it into a timeline, and justify why they thought the events were important. The next topic they are looking at is androgyny in our society, and they will be doing a film review on a popular “non-stereotypical” movie.

9/10 Technology
This time round, the students are exploring the country of Japan. As a class, we have researched information about the country, finding out some very interesting facts. Did you know that Japan experiences over 1000 earth tremors a year? The students have also had their first attempt at cooking. We made Japanese Golden Curry, with some excellent results. We are looking forward to the next dish, Korean Chicken. Yum!!

7/8 Japanese and Naplan Nailers
For Japanese, the students have been learning how to include important elements to their introduction. Knowing how to say and write words like “family” (kazoku), “school” (gakko) and “friend” (tomadachi) come in handy when initiating conversation with a new person. Keep up the good work!! At the same time, the Naplan Nailers have been focused on extending their vocabulary by using interesting words, and clues to help them work out new/tricky words in a text. They have become pros at creating (and completing) find-a-words and crosswords to try and stump each other.
**NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS**

NAIDOC Celebrations at Winton State School will happen from the week beginning the June 3rd 2013. This year, we have joining us the celebrated aboriginal artist Arthur Conlon, from the Wakka Wakka / Kullilla people. His experience and expertise will be shared with the students in what will be our best NAIDOC week yet!!!

Thank you to the wonderful staff and students who attended our first NAIDOC meeting. Here, we made a list of ideas that will help make our week of celebrations a great experience. Some ideas we came up with included:

- Boomerang decorating
- Boomerang throwing
- Learning Aboriginal dance
- Making ochre
- Retelling Dreamtimes around the campfire
- A BBQ to taste traditional meats like kangaroo and goanna
- Learn to make fire
- Basket weaving
- Making tradition head pieces
- Body painting
- Learning to play traditional instruments
- And of course – a great feast for the whole community!

Our next meeting will me on Wednesday April 15th at 3pm in the common room. We would love to see you there!

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**JUNIOR BUSH POETREY FESTIVAL**

Tuesday 26th March & 27th March 2013

We have a lot of fun practising our poems to perform, don’t we? And so do our families, hearing you at home!!! Tuesday is the big day for younger children. Wednesday is mostly Years 6 to 12. It’s all good fun.

All the kids from other schools are doing the same as you are. You may make some new friends – and win a prize!!

Good luck. See you at the door.

Mrs O’Connell  
(Bush Poetry Committee)

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**Primary Music**

The P/1 class have been looking at music being soft and loud. They have listened to different examples of music, and how the difference in loudness/softness, can change the mood of a piece.

In music, this past fortnight, the students in the 2/3 class have been exploring the musical concepts of “piano” (soft) and “forte” (loud). They have been listening for it in music, and creating their own music using these concepts.

Our year 4/5/6 class has pushed themselves even further with the inclusion of “diminuendo” (gradually getting softer) and “crescendo” (gradually getting louder). Soon we will be learning how to read music, so that we can decode the music to “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” which will be the song we are practising.