DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 19 Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Speeches - Environment Captains - 11:30am Lone Pine Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 19 Feb</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher afternoon - 3:00 - 4:00pm in your child's classroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 20 Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Speeches - House Captains - 2:00pm - Venue TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 Feb</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 23 Feb</td>
<td>Assembly Years 3-6 - 2:20pm Lone Pine Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 March</td>
<td>Assembly Years P-2 - 2:20pm Lone Pine Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 10 Mar</td>
<td>Student Leader Induction Ceremony - 9:30am Lone Pine Hall</td>
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It’s hard to believe, but did you know that we’ve nearly completed four weeks of school already and only have five weeks of this term left? I would like to congratulate staff, students and parents for getting 2015 off to a great start. Our children have settled quickly into classroom routines and it is encouraging to see them hard at work in their subject areas.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families and trust that they have settled into the Windaroo community. A reminder to all parents to please discuss any issues that may arise concerning your child with the classroom teacher. I would rather an issue be dealt with immediately than have it turn into an unpleasant experience.

Complaints and Concerns - A Positive Approach

Concerns arise at schools for a variety of reasons. Schools are very busy places – there are lots of things that happen and there are many decisions made every day. At the same time, the school community is quite diverse, with many individuals or groups having vastly different opinions on how things should be done.

It is inevitable therefore, that times will arise when some parents agree with the school’s actions while others disagree and wish to discuss the matter and seek clarification with the school. We welcome such discussions and encourage parents to raise issues so that they can be dealt with speedily and resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Raising concerns or seeking clarification is not a negative experience if everyone focuses on it being a solution-focussed experience by valuing everyone’s opinions. The following process for presenting and managing parental concerns has been developed by our school. It works well and it is the way we manage all concerns at our school.

Agreed Complaints Procedure:

The following procedures are to be used to resolve complaints or concerns at our school.

STEP 1: Try and find out the facts before contacting the school. Many concerns are quickly resolved once the parent is aware of all the facts.

STEP 2: Let the school know via letter, telephone or in person that you have a concern, providing details of the issue.

STEP 3: The school WILL investigate the concern and the most appropriate person will contact you to discuss the matter or organise a meeting. Almost 100% of problems are resolved at this point.

STEP 4: If however, the matter remains unresolved, make a formal appointment to discuss the issue with the your year level Deputy Principal or Principal.

STEP 5: The Regional Office can be contacted to help solve problems. The Principal can provide contact details.

Points To Remember:

- Problems are best resolved by a positive attitude. Anger is counter productive to solving problems.
- People need time to investigate and resolve many problems; a quick fix is not always possible or desirable.
- Schools are large and complex – very few decisions will suit everybody.
• There are always at least 2 sides to every story – with students there are often as many stories as there are children.
• Not all disagreements can be resolved – sometimes we simply have to agree to disagree.
• Opinions vary widely – disagreement is a natural part of life.
• Everybody aims to achieve the best possible outcome for all involved in the school community.
• Win-Win is always the desired outcome to any issue.

“The important thing about a problem is not its solution, but the strength we gain in finding the solution.” Unknown

Meet the Teacher (Parent Information Afternoon)

Parents in our school will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher to gain insight into class expectations as well as homework policies etc. The date to mark on your calendar is:

**Date:** Thursday 19 February  
**Time:** 3-4pm  
**Venue:** Your child's classroom

Year 6 Camp Thank You

Our Year 6 students have just returned from a fabulous 3 days at Camp Goodenough. The reports from the children have all been fantastic; it was a very successful camp.

I would like to publicly thank the staff involved in the camp - Tracy Shaab, Cara Nabbs, Stephen Hearn, John Waller, Anthony Cuskelly and Michelle Trinder. I know only too well, how much time and effort goes into the organisation and planning to ensure that the camp is a safe and enjoyable experience for all. As well, the time and energy required while on camp with all staff being on duty 24 hours a day is a huge commitment.

An article by Jaykob K in 6PH gives you an insight as to what happened on camp:

On Wednesday 4 February, Year 6 students and a few lucky teachers went on a two night / three day camp to Camp Goodenough. We arrived at Camp Goodenough, which is just over the border into New South Wales, after an hour and a half bus trip.

When we arrived, we met all of the staff members who ran the camp then went to our cabins to unpack.

There were 10 students to a cabin. After unpacking we enjoyed morning tea. All of the food was delicious.

During our stay, we had 5 different activities to try:

1. High ropes  
2. Leap of faith  
3. Giants playground  
4. Team pursuit, and  
5. Crate stacking

These activities were challenging and tested our abilities and fears. Night activities included fun games and team work. We also had duties like setting up and cleaning up before and after our meals.

I'm sure that the teachers from our school enjoyed the three days at Camp Goodenough as much as the students did. We had an awesome time! - Jaykob K, 6PH.

Unfortunately, in our litigious society nowadays and with public liability issues, many schools are withdrawing from camping and excursion programs as staff are reluctant to take on this responsibility and the legal liability. While camping programs and excursions are not mandatory for schools, they have become part of the fabric of what a school offers because staff know the enormous educational and social benefits that can be derived from them. We are fortunate at Windaroo State School to have a staff that is committed to our camping and excursion programs.

Student Leaders

We are in the process of selecting our new school leaders for 2015. The nominated candidates have started their campaign trail by delivering their speeches this week. We wish them luck!

Animals are not Permitted on School Grounds

A reminder to all our parents that dogs or any animals are not permitted on government property. The safety of our students is very important, and even the smallest and unsuspecting animals can be unpredictable.

Accident insurance cover for students

We are again heading into our sporting season. Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education and Training does not have Student Accident Insurance cover for students. Therefore, if your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs, are the responsibility of the child, parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If parents have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered through the private health insurance. Any other costs would be borne by the parents.

Student Accident Insurance is an insurance policy that pays certain benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is a personal decision for parents as to the types and levels of private insurance they arrange to cover their child for any accidental injury that may occur. Parents should contact their insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if they choose to take out student personal accident insurance cover for their child.

Quote of the Week:

"The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way."

Bobby Harding - Principal

FROM THE YRS 1, 3, 5 DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Big Buddies Training

Congratulations to the following students who will be our first group of Big Buddies for 2015.
We had an amazing response and are very lucky to have another group of 16 students for next term. All the students are excited to begin their role. We will be continuing training for our first group of Big Buddies now that Year 6 camp is over. Our students will participate in one more Big Buddy training workshop with Mrs Lee (School Chaplain) and Mrs Leadbeater (Deputy Principal). These students will be assisting in the playground over the coming weeks supporting our new Prep children in the Prep playground. Once the training is completed we will hold a special Big Buddy Induction Ceremony for the students and their families at the Junior Assembly on March 2 at 2:20pm.

Join us on Monday and Friday mornings from 9:00-9:45am in the Lone Pine Hall.

Bus Stop

Congratulations to all of the students who have been waiting patiently for their bus to arrive after school. All of the teachers on duty in this area have noted that the students are very settled and sensible and move to their bus in an orderly manner. Fabulous job everyone, keep up the great work!

'Caring and Learning Together'

Lynn Hunt & Michelle Leadbeater - Deputy Principals Yrs 1, 3 & 5

FROM THE Prep, Yrs 2, 4 & 6 DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Leadership Camp 2015

Our 2015 Student Leadership Camp was once again at Camp Goodenough, a family run concern that ticks all the boxes. This year our Year 6 attended as the seniors completing their final year of primary education.

I joined the camp early on Thursday morning after a scenic drive to Bilambil in northern NSW. The full day program of 4 activity rotations had just begun and I was fortunate to visit all groups at Giant’s Playground, High Ropes, Crate Stack, Team challenges and Leap of Faith.

Well done to each and every one of you and your loyal band of supporters who were watching as you pushed your personal barriers and succeeded! You cannot underestimate the benefits of this camp as each student gained an individual personal best in courage.

Student Leaders

We are now entering the first stage of the election of Student Leaders for 2015 and I would like each nominee to know that their efforts are appreciated.

Meet the Teacher

Please set aside February 19 to meet your child’s 2015 teacher. A strong and positive relationship between yourself and the school is a significant factor in student achievement. I look forward to saying hello to our returning families and our new ones.

Reading Matters at Windaroo

Reading is a critical skill in all types of learning which is why it is a priority at Windaroo State School. We would like to encourage a love of reading and will be recognising those students making an effort to improve their literacy skills and reading behaviours at our Assemblies. Please continue to model positive reading habits to your children at home and take every opportunity to praise their efforts.

Don’t forget to encourage your child to use the RAZ and Mathletics sites at home as a support for their reading and maths development.

Valerie Paterson - Deputy Principal Prep Yrs 2, 4, 6

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Merit Nominations were presented to the following students at assembly recently:


Congratulations Students

Values Tokens

Students who excel at displaying our school values:
Congratulations to our fortnightly Value Token winners. Each will receive a Windaroo State School Values wrist band to wear as part of their school uniform.

FROM THE PCA

PCA AGM and Fundraising Committee Meeting

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 25 February at 9:15am in the Lone Pine Hall. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting and nominate for a position within our P&C Committee. If you do not want to hold an Executive position then please come along and join our general committee which will give you a vote and a say on how we shape the future of our School.

We will also be holding our first Fundraising Meeting for the Year where we will be setting our Calendar of Events for 2015. If you have any fundraising ideas or events that you think might be a great opportunity for us to raise funds, please come and join us.

Contacting the PCA

If you would like to touch base with us or be kept up to date with all things P&C there are a few different ways:

Skoolbag App: We will post events and alerts onto the Skoolbag App to keep you all up to date.

Facebook Page: Search Windaroo State School PCA on Facebook. This will keep you up to date with information on the P&C and Uniform Shop and other important school news.

Email: Need to contact us? Email us at windaroopca@outlook.com

ABSENTEE NOTIFICATIONS

It is a requirement by Education Queensland that all student absences must be explained to the school. To assist in this process and to make it easier for the parent/carer to contact us, there are now several ways you can contact us to notify us of students absences. These include:

- Advise teacher in person or by note
- Email the absence to absent@windarooss.eq.edu.au
- Use the Skoolbag Application for iPhone or Android
- Ring the Absentee Line on 3382 4370

In each instance you will need to state the child's name CLEARLY, what class they are in and the reason for their absences. Your co-operation in this process would be appreciated.

SKOOLBAG APP

At Windaroo we can get you information FAST in your hand, on your phone!! How do we do it? Skoolbag! All phones with internet access can have this info and here's how you get it.

iPhones & Androids - click on the link for instructions and the new update Skoolbag_Parent_Instructions.pdf

COMMUNITY NOTICES

PCYC Blue Light Disco

Beenleigh PCYC Alamain Street, Beenleigh is holding a Blue Light Disco on Friday 20 February. Entry is $6.00. Come dressed as your favourite Superhero. Prizes for best dressed, spot prizes and lucky door prizes. Children must be dropped off and picked up by a parent/guardian from the disco. Phone 3380 1777 for mor information.

Mount Warren Park Community Church Fair

Mount Warren Park Community Church is hosting a mini fair at Windaroo Primary School on Saturday 28 March from 10:00am - 2:00pm. There will be a baby animal farm, jumping castle, face paiting, craft activities, sausage sizzle, fantastic door prizes given away. For more details contact 3807 1917
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Windaroo State School Newsletter

23/02/2015
