Welcome Back

Welcome back to what has started off to be a fantastic 2016. Our school has shown a positive growth this year with over 900 students. A very warm welcome to all our new families starting with us for the very first time. Due to our increased enrolments we have had to form an additional class taking us up to 38 classes and also allowing us additional teachers.

We welcome to our staff:

Miss Leanne Francis 6F, Mrs Kim Burdett 2B and we welcome back from Long Service Leave Mr John Waller, 6W.

Also returning to Prep is Mrs Charlotte Turner in PC.

We trust that you will have an exciting 2016 with us at Windaroo Primary.

The First Few Weeks

The next few weeks are very important here at school as everyone settles into the new school year. Our aim is to make our students feel comfortable and successful in their new year level and classroom. Your child's teacher will be working closely with the class to establish classroom rules and routines. They will discuss behaviour and work expectations and set the tone for the year.

Teachers are also currently working on developing a picture of the capabilities of each student. Lots of assessment occurs at the beginning of the year so that we gain an understanding of what your child
already knows and what skills they need to develop or refine. Teachers can then use this information to develop programs that provide support and challenges for every student. Our curriculum is designed around building upon what a child already knows and using this to learn and discover more.

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 18 February   Time: 3-4pm   Venue: Your child's classroom

Drop off/Pick up Zone

NO we did not call the police. As many of you have noticed, we have had a strong police presence around our school in the afternoons after school to ensure the safety of our students as well as the smooth transition of the buses.

Many of our parents are not using our new ‘Drop off/Pick up zone’ correctly causing congestion at the entrance which prevents the buses from entering the bus zones. Buses run on tight schedules and this frustration has probably resulted in them complaining to Council hence the police presence. The purpose of this zone is to ensure the speedy drop off/pick up of your children.

HOW IT WORKS:
• Parents/carers are to pull into the zone and move right to the front of the line.
• Should the car in front of you move out then you need to move forward giving those behind you access into the zone.
• DO NOT leave your vehicle unattended. This is NOT a parking zone.
• If there is no space in the zone then you need to do a drive through and do the loop again as we do NOT want the entrance blocked for the buses.

I trust that this helps clarify the drop off/pick up zone more clearly.

PCA (Parents' and Citizens' Association)

Our PCA plays a major role in supporting our school and students. Last year our PCA Committee with their volunteers raised a substantial amount of money which enabled our school to purchase a number of computers and iPads for our students. We strongly encourage you please to join or support our PCA this year so we can again achieve the fundraising goals set for 2016. Our next meeting is:

Date: AGM Wednesday 10 February   Time: 9:15am   Venue: Lone Pine Hall

Advice for New School Parents

Things I wish I’d known before my child started school!!!

Buy lots of the same pairs of socks, so if you lose one you'll have a spare, not a left-over.
Buy a good quality summer uniform because they will outlast the cheaper ones and save you money in the long run.
When you name your child’s clothing, lunch box and drink bottles, use only the surname. Things can then be handed down to younger siblings.
Teach your little boy what a urinal is and how to use it.
If your child is having a lunch order, make sure you put in something for them to eat at recess time as the orders don’t arrive until lunch time.
If you can afford to buy two hats, do it. Leave one permanently in the car or school bag….it saves the argument about the hat every morning.
It’s OK to forget other parents’ names….it’s hard enough to remember your child’s new friend’s name. Just ask again!
It’s also OK to cry on the first day, but wait until you’re around the corner!
When you speak to your child’s teacher the first few times, introduce yourself as ……….’s Mum or Dad. If you want to know what’s going on at school, come to a PCA meeting. We were all new parents once…don’t be shy.
Arrange coffee mornings with other parents at a place where the toddlers will be kept entertained and you don't have to clean up!
Try to help out in the classroom once a week. Your child will love it and you will get to know the other kids, as well as being familiar with their school activities.

Buy snap lock bags for lunch because they can be reused and they are easier to open than cling wrap. Fill drink bottles from home, it's cheaper and healthier than buying packaged juices/water.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Please note that students need to be on time to start their school day as there is much learning to get through on any given day. That is why it is also essential that children not be picked up early from school without a valid reason. Appointments should be scheduled for after school whenever possible.

“What we see depends mainly on what we look for.”
Created by--Sir John Lubbock

FROM THE PREP, 2, 4 & 6 DEPUTY

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all of our returning students and a warm welcome to all of our new students and their families who have enrolled this year.

I will be responsible for the social well-being of our students and their teachers in Prep, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6.

Responsible Behaviour Plan

Windaroo State School is committed to providing a safe, respectful and disciplined learning environment for students and staff.

A Responsible Behaviour Plan has been developed to facilitate high standards of behaviour so that the learning and teaching in our school can be effective and students can participate positively within our school community. A copy of the WindarooSS Responsible Behaviour Plan can be found on our School Website.

FROM THE 1,3,5 DEPUTY

Promote Your Child’s Success at School

The contribution made by parents, carers and family members to a child's success in school and life is enormous. When teachers and families work together the results that children can achieve are incredible. Here are a few main points to consider:

Be positive about learning ourselves

By taking on new hobbies, new courses and discussing new inventions and ideas we show our children that learning is interesting and it is for everyone (life long learning). The main idea is that young people know that learning is something adults do as well. We can learn from sharing books, discovery shows and talking about something another adult (colleague, friend, relative) has shared.

Have a creativity corner

Find somewhere in your home for projects, art work or collections. Creative people need somewhere to invent, work on and keep ongoing projects (it could be that LEGO construction, jigsaw or science experiment). Persistence develops when we continually build upon an idea and improve. Choose an area that is safe and secure and can become messy/untidy.

Experience + reflection = learning

Experiences that we have in our lives builds our brain. By giving our children new and interesting positive experiences we stimulate brain development and make them smarter. Language associated with these rich experiences is very important. By asking them to think about the things that they have
seen or felt they consolidate this new experience into their brains. For kids brains to surge they need to find ways to do new things, visit new places and try out different ways of viewing their world (and talk about it!).

**Look for strange and weird ways to connect things**

Play games that think of ways that different things are alike or could be used for a different purpose.

**Know that mistakes are opportunities**

If you can't make a mistake you'll never do anything new. RISK TAKING in a safe environment is critical to making mistakes and LEARNING. Give examples of how mistakes can lead to new learning.

**Stretch ideas**

Ask kids to take ideas and apply them in as many weird ways as they can. Genius takes information from multiple sources, recombines them in new and interesting ways and applies them in settings not thought of before.

**Develop concentration and stamina**

Concentration is a skill that we can improve with practice; we need to be able to focus to learn a new skill. Talk about how you concentrate as an adult when you drive a car, use electrical appliances, play a musical instrument, cook on the BBQ. Brain stamina is very important for sustained concentration.

**Help them to learn to plan and make decisions**

Being able to anticipate what is likely to happen as a result of your actions is an essential life skill. Encourage your children to look at the possible outcomes of different courses of action. As children approach their adolescence this can be life saving. Pose the question, "What do you think would happen if we did this?" Decision making is a skill. Decisions can be like crossroads and encouraging children to consider their outcomes is critical. ACTIONS have positive and negative CONSEQUENCES.

**Attendance At School**

One of our goals this year is to improve our attendance. Teachers mark the rolls each day and have to record illness, holiday, other etc.

If your child is away, it helps us greatly to let us know. There are several ways you can contact us:

- Phone the school and choose the "Report an Absence" option
- Use SKOOLBAG App
- Email the office on admin@windarooss.eq.edu.au
- Send a note in with your child when they return.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

**Updating Contact Details**

Life is very busy for all of us and things change! But, it is really important for the school to have your current details so we can contact you in an emergency.

Friends and family members who are listed for your children may have changed and as we move toward emailing report cards, we need to ensure that your details are correct.

Please contact the office by note, phone call or the easiest way is by email:
admin@windarooss.eq.edu.au

**FROM THE SPORT DEPT**

Cross Country
Our school cross country is to be held on Friday 4 March.

Any children born 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 or 2004 are invited to run on the day. If your child is interested in training for the cross country we will be training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.15 – 8.40am on oval 1.

Even if your child does not want to run the actual race but they just want to come for a run in the morning they are more than welcome to join us.

It is strongly suggested that children who attend trainings bring spare clothes and shoes to train in and then change into their school uniform before the start of school.

Swimming

Any Children born 2006, 2005 or 2004 who belong to a swimming club or who are very capable swimmers that are interested in trialling for our school swimming team please see Miss Shaab (PE teacher).

FROM THE LIBRARY

World Book Online

As a school, we now have a subscription to World Book Online. This is a fantastic resource that you can now access at home for FREE! If your child is interested in training for the cross country we will be training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.15 – 8.40am on oval 1.

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Welcome and AGM Details

Welcome to all our families new and returning. We had a fantastic turnout to the meet and greet on the first day of school. I hope talking with other parents made the transition back or commencing school a lot easier.

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday 10 February at 9:15am in the Lone Pine Hall. We invite all our parents to come along.

If you are wanting to hold a position on our committee we will have a link to position descriptions and nomination forms on our Facebook Page and Skoolbag App by the end of this week.

Michelle Lockhart

Apple Adaptor Recall

If you own an "i" product (iPod, iPhone, iPad) or Macbook aged between 2003 and 2015, Apple has offered a replacement of the adaptor.

Please click on the link to see a picture of what to look for and details of how to have it replaced.


COMMUNITY NEWS

Beenleigh AFL

Please click on the flyer for Information and Sign On Dates

Special Olympics for Kids
Do you know someone with an intellectual disability or ASD who is 8 years or older and would enjoy participating in sports training and competition?

Special Olympics provides regular sports training and competition for athletes (8 years and older) who have an intellectual disability and/or ASD. The Special Olympics Logan Allstars Club was established in 2013 and now has sports programs in aquatics, basketball, futsal and tenpin bowling in the Logan area. As membership grows, new sports will be added to the offerings. An information evening is being held for all interested athletes, coaches, families and carers on Monday 15th February at 7pm at Logan Metro InSports (357 Browns Plains Rd, Crestmead). You will have the opportunity to learn more about Special Olympics and hear from current athletes and coaches.

Please register your interest in attending the information evening by email at info@soqlogan.com or contact our club registrar, Joy Gavin on 3208 0174.