PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome back; I trust that both students and parents are well rested and had an enjoyable holiday.
I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families who have joined our school community and I hope that your time with us is memorable and rewarding.

STAFFING

I am pleased to welcome Mrs Verhelst, who has joined our staff this year, as a permanent classroom teacher.
Mr Cromie will continue to fulfil the role of General Assistant, while Mr Johnston remains on extended leave.
We have returned with 190 students being distributed amongst 8 classes.
The breakdown of classes (which should remain) is:

KZ – Miss Zammit
K/1 – Mrs Ford (Assistant Principal Stage1)
1M – Ms McAuliffe
2C – Mrs Chard
2/3 – Mrs Verhelst
3/4T – Mrs Tuck
4/5C – Mr Clark (Assistant Principal Stage 2/3)
6B – Mrs Berghofer

Mrs Rogers will be adopting the role of Reading Recovery/Support Teacher
Mr Graham (Release from Face to Face teaching) will be teaching Library and Science to all classes K-6.
Ms Parkinson will continue her role as Support Teacher
Mrs Wallace, Mrs Zahra and Mrs Riley will continue in their respective roles of Student Learning & Support Officers.

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

No doubt you will have noticed a marked change in the bottom playground, which took place during the holidays.
We now have a playing field constructed from synthetic grass – which looks great in comparison to the badly eroded and barren section of playground that students have endured for many years.
This new section of playground will have permanent lines outlining a ‘mini’ soccer field applied this coming Friday – students have already utilised the area, thoroughly enjoying the ‘new, clean’ surface.
I have received positive feedback over the installation of this synthetic surface, which has already proven to resolve issues of ‘run-off’ and blocked drains from silt, during our first few days of consistent rain.
It is my intention to place turf between the new play area and the car park in the very near future.
SCHOOL UNIFORM
As we commence a new school year, it is most important that the expected school image is respected and maintained. I therefore seek your support in ensuring that your children attend school in the correct summer uniform. We maintain a Sun Safe Policy and the wearing of hats by ALL students is expected. Baseball caps are not part of our uniform and students will be deemed out of uniform if such hats are worn. All students are to wear the ‘slouch hat’ which is available for purchase from the office.

Summer Uniform

Boys: Green & gold school shirt, grey shorts, grey socks – black, closed in shoes or black joggers. NB. No sandals.

Girls: Green and white polyester dress, or bottle green shorts with green & gold school shirt, white short socks, black, closed in shoes or black joggers. NB. No sandals.

Sport: Green & gold school shirt, bottle green shorts or bottle green pleated skirt for girls.
NB. Skorts are not part of school uniform

Please note the following:

- Summer uniform is to be worn in Terms One and Four;
- Winter uniform is to be worn in Terms Two and Three;
- Students wearing the correct Summer/Winter uniform will be eligible for STARR Awards in our merit system.
- Students wearing combinations/variations of both Winter and Summer uniforms will be considered “out of uniform’;
- Students who wear coloured sports shoes will be considered ‘out of uniform’;
- The correct seasonal uniform will be displayed (photograph) in prominent positions within the school to promote the correct uniform to be worn during the term;
- Sport uniforms are to be worn on specific sports days only.
- All students are to wear black school shoes (leather or plain black jogger). It is recommended that plain black joggers be worn for sport as well as normal school days – cost effective for parents.

Sports day is Tuesday K-6 and students will be permitted to wear sports shoes and sport uniform on that day only.

I have already noted some students wearing coloured shoes or black shoes with brightly coloured shoe laces – these options are not part of our uniform and I discourage this practice.
FURNITURE
The movement of teachers and furniture to different classrooms has created excess furniture due to some teachers adopting new classroom environments to complement their teaching styles. Therefore, we have some tables and chairs available if you are interested and could use them around your home. Please contact me if you could utilise any of the above furniture.

SKOOLBAG APP
Our school now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our community. We are asking parents to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name "Windsor Public School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

This App will allow for the distribution of information very quickly and will hopefully create clear and efficient lines of communication.

We have commenced uploading information onto the App and will use it to complement our web site. The App will also be used to notify ‘alerts’ which will prove very useful in the event of cancellations of events due to bad weather etc.

*I recommend all parents install this App on your devices, as we will gradually be reducing all hard copies of information as we utilise mobile devices and electronic communication. We will also be changing the current format and distribution method of our existing newsletter throughout this term.*

MEET THE TEACHER
On Wednesday 11th February, we will be holding our Meet the Teacher information sessions, commencing at 5.00pm in the hall.

All parents are most welcome to attend the afternoon to meet your child’s teacher and to receive valuable information about individual teacher expectations and classroom organisation/requirements.

*Mike Watson  
Principal*
**2015 WORKBOOKS**
To support your child's learning this year, teachers have prescribed a Stepping Stones workbook for all classes K-6. The Workbook fee is **$30 for Years 1-6** and includes a paper levy that covers photocopied booklets, worksheets and other class copied requirements supplied throughout the year.
The Workbook fee for **Kindergarten Students** will be **$40** as they will receive a Homework Folder valued at $10 when they pay their Book/Copy Fees.
As teachers will be using these books in class from Monday 9th February it would be appreciated if payment could be sent to the office as soon as possible. Credit card and Eftpos facilities are now available.
Please note this fee is in addition to our School Contribution.

**VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION – 2015**
Each year we request financial support through ‘Voluntary School Contributions’, which assist with the purchasing of consumables used by students. Our contributions for 2015 are set at **$30 per student**.
**A DISCOUNT of $5 per student** will be applied for families with more than one child if **paid in full before the end of Term 2**.
A further discount will apply of **$5 per student** if the school contribution fee is **paid in full by the end of Term 1**.
An invoice will be sent home soon and we would appreciate your financial support at your earliest convenience.
All payments are to be made at the front office and a receipt will be sent home with your child. Credit card and Eftpos facilities are now available at the school. Payment plans may be set up to assist families with these payments. Please call at the office to organise this.
Thank you for your understanding and support.

**ANNUAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**
The school swimming carnival will be held this Thursday, 5th February, 2015. All entrants must meet at Richmond Pool at 5:50pm, for a prompt 6pm start.
There is no cost involved other than entry to the pool paid directly to the centre, Please do not send any money to school.
If you are able to help on the night with timekeeping, please see Mrs Tuck at the start of the carnival.
Good luck to all competitors.
Julie Tuck

**STUDENT BANKING**
School banking is every **Tuesday**!
The first day for school banking will be tomorrow 3rd February.
If your child does not already have a student banking account, there are three simple ways to open an account.
1. If you are a CommBank customer apply online through Netbank.
2. Visit any CommBank branch
   (Please bring along your child’s birth certificate and identification for yourself)
3. Call 13 2221
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
Book club order forms for Issue 1 will be sent home tomorrow. The last day for payment and orders from this issue will be Monday 16th February. When placing an order please ensure that the Student’s Name and Class are on each order form and if you have paid by credit card on-line that you have included your receipt number on the order forms.

Please be aware that the school office cannot accept eftpos or credit card payments for Book Club.

CLOTHING POOL
The Clothing Pool will be opened for sales on the following days:
Monday 2.30-3pm
Friday between 8.45-9.10am
If you need access at any other time please ring Kylie 0416274804 or Lisa 0403015423
If you have any uniforms that no longer fit, please consider sending them to the Clothing Pool.

CATHOLIC SCRIPTURE
The Parish of St Matthew’s, Windsor is looking for generous volunteers to teach Catholic Scripture at your child’s school. If you have a child who attends Catholic Scripture classes and would like to assist in this important ministry to your children, who may otherwise, miss out on Scripture, please contact Dolores Vella, Catechist Co-ordinator on 45796160

FOR YOUR DIARY
Tuesday 3rd February - First day for Student Banking
Wednesday 11th February - Meet The Teacher – 5pm

The school office is open from 8.30am until 3.00pm. Uniform purchases 8.30am to 2.45pm.

LAST DAYS FOR PAYMENT
Now due - Voluntary Contributions
Monday 16th February - Book Club orders/payments

Payments can be made by cheque, cash & eftpos. Please be aware that the school office cannot accept eftpos or credit card payments for Book Club.
Parenting Ideas by Michael Grose

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child’s teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.

There’s no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children’s learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child’s teacher to maximise your child’s chances of school success.

1. Know what your child’s teacher is trying to achieve
Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child’s teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child’s class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive
If your expectations are too high your teacher may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child’s school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher’s expectations & activities at home
One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time
Maximise your child’s chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It’s estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child’s challenges and changes
Life’s not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child’s teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.
6. Skill children to work with others
Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties
Resist the temptation to solve all your children’s problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities
There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child’s schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child’s teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher’s knowledge, professionalism and experience
Your child’s teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids, and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school
Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10-point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child’s teachers.