WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

9th February, 2015

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Windsor Public School
Tolerant
Safe
Academic
Resilient
Respectful

We can all be STARR students
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

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.

STUDENT ABSENCES

The Department of Education & Communities has updated its School Attendance Policy, which has introduced changes to previous Exemption procedures.

“As part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences.

A certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose.

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations.”

HOMEWORK

Our existing homework policy has been reviewed, with the ‘homework grid’ being removed.

All classroom teachers K-6 will set homework suited to the needs and abilities of their respective classes; with English and mathematics being set as a minimum requirement.

Homework completion will remain a criterion for our rewards system.

The revised policy will be available on our school website and App.

HAWKESBURY LEADERSHIP CAMP

This Thursday and Friday, Katrina, Jada, Connor and Darcy our Student Leaders; will be attending the Hawkesbury Leadership Camp at Lutanda Yarramundi.

The purpose of the camp is to develop leadership skills and teamwork amongst the elected young leaders within our local schools.

I’m sure that our students will enjoy the experience and return to school having established friendships with students from other schools.
WORKING BEE

Shane Kennedy has kindly offered to supply turf to the bottom section of our
playground, which will cover all of the remaining bare soil.

I am quite humbled by Shane’s generosity while being excited about the
completion of the ‘make-over’ to this part of the school.

Shane has also offered to prepare the area for the laying of the turf.

I am seeking assistance from the school community to help with the actual laying
of the turf on Saturday 28th February, commencing at 11.00am.

Please let me know over the next few weeks if you are available to help out.

On behalf of the school community, I again thank Shane for this very generous
offer.

Mike Watson
Principal
Congratulations to the following students who received STARR awards last week. Well done!

**KZ**
- Elizabeth Baldwin
- Sahkai Gabriel
- Rose Baldwin
- Cheyenne Harris
- Hudson Kennedy
- Cruz Mackintosh
- Vanshdeep Maliya
- Jack McInerney
- Ruby Oaklands
- Lachlan Reeves
- Poppy Spies
- Aiden Bailey
- Daniel Vredegoor
- Penelope Woodhouse
- Brianna West
- Porsha Woodhouse

**K-1F**
- Nathaniel Clark
- Charlie Devine
- Brody Taylor
- Swayzee Kennedy
- Ryland Harris
- Madeleine Macdonald
- Shelby Stanyer
- Laila Arab
- Charlotte Jones
- Cailin McHenry
- Grace McHenry
- Elise Radunz
- Hannah Shamoun
- Hayden Shamoun

**1-2M**
- Grace Vredegoor
- Brooke Farrugia
- Daisy Spies
- Ruby Bugeja
- Jesse Blume
- Corbin Shearer
- Mikayla Layt

**2C**
- Richard Baldwin
- Ruby Blume
- Owen Brown
- Eden Bugeja
- Lily Callaghan
- Cassidy Grima
- Peri Kane
- Kirri McDonald
- Stephen Radunz
- Lily Spies
- Jack Stubbs

**2-3V**
- Jackson King
- Zak Oaklands
- Bailey Jones
- Marcus Mavin
- Bailee Walker
- Noah Krix
- Lucas McIlrick
- Aleeya Warrington
- Jacob Simmons
- Kobi Manion
- Melek Massingham

**3-4T**
- Preston Kennedy
- Jett Mackintosh
- Iris Miller
- Makaelah Simmons
- Charlotte Collier-Mitchell
- Gemma King
- Ethan Lewry
- Ryder Mavin
- Connor McGregor
- Riley Small
- Riley Taylor

**4-5C**
- Paige Hottwagner
- Paris Mackintosh
- Emily Shamoun
- Lana Stark
- Hannah Taylor
- Isaac West
- Gemma Whitmore
- Ella Paraha
- McKeely Whitmore
- Oliver Macdonald
- Taylor Reeves
- Jordan Tolmie
- Mason Walker

**6B**
- Katie McClure
- Ethan Hearne
- Lachlan Morgan
- Taine Nolan
- Katrina Maher
- Sarah Dorahy
- Seth Nolan
- Darcy Martin
- Alexi Suela
- Connor Simmons
- Reili Massingham
- Felicity Tait
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 9\textsuperscript{th} 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.

P&C NEWS

There will be a meeting on Friday 13\textsuperscript{th} February at 9am in the P & C room (near canteen) to discuss fundraising for 2015. It is an open invitation to all parents/caregivers. Please feel free to attend if you have some ideas or are interested in joining the P & C this year.
FOR SALE

2014 Year books $15 each (reduced from $25)
Limited supply available from the school office

STUDENT BANKING

School banking is every Tuesday!
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 have been sent home.
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

Wednesday 11th February          - Meet The Teacher – 5pm
Friday 13th February             - P&C Fundraising meeting

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
Friday 13th February             - Year 6 Shirts
Friday 20th February             - Year 6 Leadership camp deposit
Friday 6th March                 - Year 6 Leadership camp final payment
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.
School Banking 2015 is ready for launch.

For over 80 years, the School Banking program has been teaching Australian children lifelong money skills. This year, your child is invited to join the Dollarmites on an intergalactic mission to Planet Savings.

Information on how students can get on board with School Banking, including a Savings Tracker and a rewards redemption card, is available from your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Your school has received parent packs that include all the information you need to get on board. If you haven’t received a parent pack yet, please ask your School Banking Co-ordinator.

Rewarding good savings habits with eight new items in 2015

The School Banking program encourages good savings habits by rewarding students with awesome reward items. For every 10 deposits made through the program, they can redeem a reward from our Outer Space Savers range, including ET DVDs, Planet Handballs, Invisible Ink Martian Pens, Intergalactic Rockets, Glow-in-the-Dark Solar Systems, Cosmic Light Beam Torches, Outer Space Savers Money Boxes and Lunar Light Bands.

You could win a family trip to Disneyland

In a School Banking first, students who make 25 or more School Banking deposits in 2015 will automatically receive one entry into the competition draw to win a family trip to California’s Disneyland. The prize includes return airfares, five nights accommodation, transfers and three days park entry for up to two adults and two kids, plus AUD$2,000 spending money.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Things to know before you Can: Conditions apply. Penalties start 9:00am AEDT 27/11/15 and end 11:59pm AEDT 14/1/16. Entry is open to all Youthsaver account holders aged 5–13 years who participate in CommBank School Banking program. Entries under 11 must have parent/guardian consent. The draw will take place at 12:30pm AEDT on 12/1/16 at the Promoter’s office. The first valid entry drawn will win a family trip to California’s Disneyland valued at $22,245.

The winner’s name will be published in the public notices section of The Australian on 26/1/16. Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 49 121 124 951 of Level 2, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions available at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. NSW Permit No LTPS/14/00525; ACT Permit No TP14/045435; VIC Permit No 14/5666; SA Permit No T14/2327.
SCHOOL UNIFORM
School uniform is compulsory. This has been decided by the school community. Therefore, we have tried to make our uniforms as economical as possible, by handling and selling the uniforms through the school office. Uniforms can be purchased at the office during office hours.
A Clothing Pool is operated by the P & C Association.

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

Winter Uniform
Boys: Green & gold school shirt, grey trousers, green jacket or jumper, grey socks, black, closed in shoes or black joggers. NB. No sandals.
Girls: Tartan tunic or bottle green pants, lemon blouse, green & gold school shirt, green jumper or jacket, bottle green socks or stockings, black, closed in shoes or black joggers. NB. No sandals.
Sport: Green & gold school shirt, bottle green shorts, bottle green tracksuit or bottle green pleated skirt for girls.

Shoelaces – students unable to do up shoe laces should have velcro or buckles on all shoes.
School Hats (Slouch style) are compulsory throughout the year for all students. Students not wearing hats will be restricted in play to shaded areas only.
Hats are available for sale from the office.
Paint Stains on clothing can be largely avoided by providing your child with a paint smock or an over-sized t-shirt for school use. However accidents do happen! The paint can be removed by using lukewarm/tepid water and soap, rubbing gently.

DO NOT USE HOT WATER! It will set the stain.

UNIFORM ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM SCHOOL OFFICE
All prices include GST

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<td>School Shirt</td>
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<td>Winter jumper</td>
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<td>Winter Jacket</td>
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<td>Hat</td>
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<td>Tailored Green Girls Shorts</td>
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<td>Tailored Green Long Pants</td>
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<td>Summer Check Dress 4,6,8</td>
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<td>School bag</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Library Bags</td>
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Parenting Ideas

INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

It’s not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It’s hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young, primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year’s lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today’s highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That’s not a reason to be away! It’s now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling’s birthday, being absent because they stayed up too late watching television or going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 1000pm the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

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It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself, I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go to school today because my best friend is coming to visit.” Nice try! But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means they need to go every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.