PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

WORKING BEE

I sincerely thank those parents, students, staff and in particular Shane Kennedy; who volunteered their services on Saturday to lay the turf.

The new turf has lifted the appearance of our playground dramatically, while at the same time removing the immediate issues of erosion and silt deposits. More importantly, our students can now enjoy a dust-free playground!

SPIRIT POLES

As you may be aware, 3 spirit poles have been placed in the garden adjacent to our outdoor checkers board.

Last year, Indigenous artist John Boney visited the school to help design and paint spirit poles with each class. During the day the students learnt about Indigenous art symbols and the importance of painting in the Indigenous culture.

As you can appreciate, the artwork has taken a considerable amount of time to complete; and I wish to thank Mrs Ford and Ms McAuliffe for finishing the artwork on all 8 poles (one for each class).

Both teachers have spent numerous hours during their personal time finalising artwork to ensure that we have dynamic additions to our school playground!

The remaining 5 poles will be placed in the garden just inside and to the right of our double gates near the administration building.

This term, selected students will commence painting large timber, animal cut-outs, which will be mounted on external walls. These wall mounts will also be reflective of indigenous artwork.

SHED PROGRAM

This Friday I will be commencing our Sharing Helping Encouraging and Developing Program (SHED), for nominated boys in years 3 – 6.

As in the past, the program focuses on group work and self-esteem through a ‘hands-on’ approach, with students creating items for display or use throughout the school.

I will again invite Windsor High School to join us later in the semester, as this proved to be most beneficial on many accounts last year.

Mike Watson
Principal
As part of NAIDOC week celebrations last year, Mrs Kate Ford (Assistant Principal) arranged for an indigenous artist to come to Windsor Public School and work with the students in designing eight spirit poles for the school grounds.

He demonstrated and discussed the artwork and provided a design for each pole, featuring animals such as a barramundi, snakes, ants and turtles. Once the design was sketched onto the poles, Mrs Ford assisted by Mrs McAuliffe, and a number of students, spent numerous hours dot painting and creating beautiful painted images.

The first three poles were positioned and placed in the garden last week, opposite K1F’s room and look absolutely amazing. The staff and students cannot wait to see the remaining five spirit poles when they are positioned in the school grounds in the coming weeks.
STAGE 1 (K – 2 ) COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to these students who received awards last week. Well done!

- **KZ**
  - Jack McInerney - for having great enthusiasm in the classroom
  - Cheyenne Harris - for being a great contributor in all activities

- **K-1F**
  - Charlotte Jones - always trying her best
  - Brody Taylor - a great start to the school year

- **1-2M**
  - Jesse Blume - for applying great effort in spelling
  - Ruby Bugeja - great contributions to class discussions

- **2C**
  - Owen Brown - always trying his best
  - Alice Sheridan - creative dance moves

- **2-3V**
  - Jackson King - trying his best in spelling

STAGE 2 & 3 (YEARS 3-6) COMMENDATIONS

Congratulations to these students who received awards last week. Well done!

- **2-3V**
  - Lucas McIlrick - trying his best in reading groups every day

- **3-4T**
  - Jett Mackintosh - always trying his best and presenting his work in a neat, well-ordered manner
  - Gemma King - being a positive, happy, hardworking class member

- **4-5C**
  - Caleb Maittlen - being prompt and trying hard
  - Jordan Tolmie - great attitude and application

- **6B**
  - Katrina Maher - being a responsible and reliable class member
  - Campbell Young - for hard work and excellent attendance this term

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 available at the school office.

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.

Invoices have been sent home 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 available at the school office. 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.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Book club order forms for Issue 2 will be sent home today. The last day for payment and orders from this issue will be Monday 16th March. 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.

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
WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

WHY NOT JOIN THE P & C COMMITTEE?

Have a voice, implement change, improve our image and have fun while doing it. There’s no expectation for how much or how little you can offer.

WHEN: Monday, 2nd March 2015
Annual General Meeting

TIME: 7.00PM

WHERE: Staffroom (located in Admin building)

NOTE: There is a $1 membership fee.

Monthly meetings are held but it is not compulsory to attend all meetings

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

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.

UNIFORM NEWS
New stocks of school hats have arrived. All sizes now available.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2nd March - P&C AGM/Meeting 7pm staffroom
Friday 20th March - School Photos

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
Now due - Workbook fees
Friday 6th March - Year 6 Leadership camp final payment
Monday 16th March - Book Club 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.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:
- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:
- Compulsory Schooling Conferences
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.
- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order
If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.
- Prosecution in the Local Court
School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:
http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/goto/schools/a-z/attendance.php

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
I am in transition and it has happened way too fast. I hope I am prepared. I am now the mother of a high school student. Entering high school is a phenomenal year of change for parents and youth. Actually, it was the first week that really made its mark. Suddenly my daughter has her own laptop, email addresses and a smart phone.

When I was her age I hadn’t a faint idea of transition. I simply walked across the parking lot and turned left towards the high school instead of left to the primary school and the transition had occurred. There was no real knowledge of the privileges of a rural education – not that there was a lot more youth as they made the change from primary school to secondary college. Back then, thoughts of laptops and phones with internet connection were non-existent, or at least only possible in the realm of movies like Star Trek. Fast forward to today and our kids are carrying these devices around in their backpacks.

With all this technology comes a great deal of responsibility for youth and their parents. I know I expect my children to be the same mannerly people, show respect and treat others as they would like to be treated. I expect this in the real world and I expect this online – consistently and constantly. Social netiquette is exactly that: online rules and guidelines that match real world rules and guidelines.

Here are some guidelines you can teach your child to help them develop social netiquette:

Don’t be an ‘open book’

Giving away too much information, too soon, to people you may not really know can put your child at risk. What you need to know and understand is that your child is now hanging out in the biggest possible public place there ever was. Playing themselves online and being an open book can make your child a target. Once they have put themselves out in this public place, they are accessible to billions of people. Even with strict privacy settings and a lot of awareness of the world, that post, that photo is out there. Someone else is going to say something, someone else is going to make a derogatory comment about something they put online. I’m not saying that is right, but I am saying that it is bound to happen. Be prepared for that, and talk to your kids about what to do when it does.

We recommend they do not respond, let a trusted adult know what has happened and do not reveal that conversation.

Building your personal brand

In a world where social media rules, we have all become brands. Everything we do online is either adding or detracting from our personal brand. Does your child want their brand to be like a Nike or Coca-Cola, a top shelf brand that people want to buy into because it is seen to have value? Everything your child says, like, re-posts, comments or.Invites on social media tells others what they are all about. Online presence is not only about the content that they provide themselves – it is also about what’s written or posted about them by others. Today’s first impression is often on the internet.

Your child’s personal brand will take them further than any education or university degree. In today’s world an individual’s online reputation is far more valuable than anything they can provide on a piece of paper. A comment on a piece of paper doesn’t have a lot of weight, but what others can see about them on the internet – now that is it.

A strong personal brand will allow your child to move between opportunities with ease.

Housekeeping required

Your child’s personal brand will also outline any of their personal and professional achievements. Setting up and maintaining social networking requires constant work. Work with your kids to maintain a clean house, so to speak.

more on page 2

parentingideas.com.au

Help develop "social netiquette"

Keep social networks tidy and tight. Some apps make it very easy to connect with people they have never met. Have a conversation with your child about why "quality friends" shouldn't outnumber "quantity of friends". Are they connecting only with real-life face-to-face friends? Who will stand beside them if they don't, and things go wrong?

Watts will be on and 5G will be on, and a parent should take the step-up and monitor their children will take. The first thing is to reassure your child that you will be there to help if something goes wrong as it is out of control. Yes, we may be angry at first, but your child will need your support, we may be disappointed, but we will get over it. Let your child know that you are far more likely to respect them for being upfront about issues rather than trying to bury any mistakes they have made.

Even the most insignificant online actions can have an influence on how your child will be perceived. Take a proactive and preventative stance — spending the time now to help your child navigate their way through their new digital world, and to help them stay out of trouble and spills that might happen along the way will pay off in the long run. Learning how to set, block, and delete content is a great place to start.

Encourage kids to T.H.I.N.K.

Think first and be careful, and it works every time. Work with your kids to have them answer these five simple questions before they post: Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inappropriate? Is it Necessary? And is it Kind? If your child answers yes to those questions, then certainly they can consider putting their material online. But, even a single no to one of those questions means they will be pushing the boundaries of social netiquette.

Times certainly seem different these days, but the rules are still the same. Be nice in public, make first good impressions tidy up your mess and think twice before speaking.

So far, the transition has gone smoothly and we have both settled into the new demands of online learning and the world of "bring your own device". Being the mother of a high school student is a privilege, and I welcome the new challenges it will bring.

Catherine Gerhardt

"eSmart Schools has found the content in the Kidproof Safety program to be a valuable and credible resource on cybersafety for schools" The Alannah and Madeline Foundation


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