From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome back

Welcome back to a very full Term 2. I hope all families had a relaxing break over the Easter vacation period. Term 2 is an 11 week term with lots of activity for all.

Upcoming P&C meeting and welcome new executive

A reminder that our next meeting is Monday 18 April at 9.30. I’m pleased to report really great attendance at our last meeting and AGM. My thanks to our newly elected executive as follows:

President: Lee Webber  Vice President: Jessica Tamatea
Secretary: Rachael Hill  Treasurer: Louise Bolte

I’d also like to thank Sandra Turner who has been a long term executive member and outgoing President. Sandra has made a big contribution to our school through the P&C and I thank her for commitment to WPSS P&C and wish her and Stuart well in the future.

ECDPs

In the last newsletter I responded to enquires from parents about the future of ECDPs. Since that point in time the following new information or updates have become available.

Below is a excerpt from a Media Statement form the Minister for Education, The Honourable Kate Jones, released on Sunday, March 27, 2016:

Early Childhood Development Programs will continue to support children with disability until 2020, Education Minister Kate Jones said today. “We do not want any child with a disability to be further disadvantaged as part of the transition to NDIS,” she said.

“I know ECDPs do an incredible job in helping prepare children with disability for life at school. That’s why I will ensure ECDPs that are supporting children who have not transitioned to NDIS will remain open until 2020. We will give parents peace of mind and ensure these services continue to be available to families that need them. This will give families an additional 12 months of early intervention services and ensure no child is disadvantaged.”

“I want to reassure Queensland families that children will continue to receive support from Early Childhood Development Programs until they transition to school or to new providers under the NDIS. Under the Federal Government’s NDIS, children with disability will attend their local kindy or playgroup and receive NDIS funded support to meet their early intervention needs. Ensuring ECDPs remain open until 2020 will provide further certainty for Queenslanders following the signing of the Bilateral Agreement.”

Further information about early childhood intervention services can be accesses on the NDIS website on the link below.

The Department of Education and Training is working with the NDIA to manage this transition through a smooth and supportive process for staff and families. As more information becomes available I will endeavour to keep all families informed. If you have any further question please don’t hesitate to contact me.

**Students unwell at school**

I am frequently asked questions about parents’ responsibilities for the children’s health while at school. Below is a summary of some common questions we receive at school and answers. As always if you have concerns you should discuss these in the first instance with your child’s teacher then the Principal or Deputy if you need further assistance. In some cases the school nurse is able to offer support also.

**Q: Can we guarantee your child won’t get ill at school?**

A: No. Communicable diseases exist everywhere in our community. Shopping centres, parks, community organisations, businesses, family homes, and of course schools. At Woody Point Special School we practice safe hygiene practices (such as regular hand washing) and at all times do our best to work with families to minimise risk. However we do not provide a quarantined environment and we are not a hospital.

If you believe you’re child’s immune system is compromised to the point that they are unable to attend school for a period of time then please communicate this with staff. We may be able to develop an exemption from school plan for you so that your child’s attendance record is not impacted upon.

**Q: How do I know if I should keep my child at home?**

A: Some medical conditions require exclusion from school to prevent the spread of infectious diseases among staff and other students. Attached to this newsletter is the “Time out” poster from Department of Health. It provides guidance for how long or if your child should stay at home for certain medical conditions.

Although this is useful information often you need to make decisions about your child’s attendance at school without a formal diagnosis. As a general rule you should keep you child at home if they have vomiting or diarrhoea, unusual rashes or spots, a fever, cold or flu symptoms or simply present as unwell and therefor unable to fully engage in their learning and education program.

**Q: Where can I get reliable information?**

A: Please avoid Dr Google or Facebook experts. If unsure consult your family GP. If you need quality online information consult with the Queensland Health website.  


**Q: What do I do if the school contacts me to let me know my child is ill?**

A: Please know that we don’t call you unless we need to. If we ask you to come and collect your child because they are unwell please do so as soon as you can. We appreciate this is often a difficult task as parents are at work or otherwise busy. Please take the time to have back up plans in place in case your child becomes ill during the school day. We do not have the resources or facilities to supervise students in isolation, we need you to come and collect them quickly when they are unwell. Usually we would then ask you to seek medical input (visit your Dr) before they return to school.

Ric Day  
Principal
Senior Schooling

Senior schooling at Woody Point Special has been revamped this year so that our senior students can work towards gaining their Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) at the end of year 12. Our unit of work this semester has involved learning to take photographs, write about them and, in June, we’ll be entering our best ones into the Redcliffe Show – please stop by if you’re there and have a look! Our community access program is one of our favourite things to do during the week – so far, we’ve been to the Gallery of Modern Art, Walkabout Creek (where we got to see and touch the reptiles!) as well as other local parks. This term, highlights will include trips to the Qld Museum and Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

This term, our in-school work experience programs are taking shape – students will be engaging in a recycling program, gardening program, laundry program and fundraising program. We will also be trialling day-service providers so that we can plan for life after school and are looking at an interschool sports program with other special schools.

One of the most exciting parts of our program will be electing a School Captain and Student Leaders who will be in charge of the various senior programs. We look forward to letting you know in the near future who our School Leaders will be!


**Early Years 4 – Literacy**

In Early Years 4 we have been learning about nursery rhymes and fairy tales. We are exploring different stories together. We really enjoy our focused literacy sessions with Early Years 5- we have lots of fun!

We learnt the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We read and viewed different versions of the story and discussed the similarities and differences. We looked at rhyming words together. We explored maths concepts of size, and science concepts looking at properties of materials, including hard and soft.

To end the week, we role-played the story of Goldilocks. It was so much fun! We took turns playing different roles, and we enjoyed saying “Someone’s been sitting in MY chair!”

**Dates to Remember**

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>18th April</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
<td>2.20pm</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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**For Sale**

Hi Lo Electric Single Bed with mattress $940 neg.

- In good condition only had a max of 45kgs sleeping on it so mattress is in good order.
- Vibration mode and other modes
- Side bars that can be raised up or down
- Comes with head and foot boards

Please contact Kym on 0419648374 if you would like any further information.