Principal’s Report

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. - Hellen Keller

Today’s Effort Tomorrow’s Success

Reading, Writing & Attendance: 2016 Improvement Agenda

Every student succeeding is our shared responsibility at Woodford P-10 State School. Our school community is committed to working collaboratively and professionally so that all students can achieve their personal best in reading and writing through our shared vision Today’s Effort, Tomorrow’s Success.

Reading: Reading refers to the ability to decode, recognise and draw meaning from the printed word. The key aspects of reading at Woodford P-10 State School include the explicit teaching of skills, strategies and processes of reading. These include:

- Oral Language
- Phonological Awareness
- Letter knowledge and concepts about print
- Linking Sounds to Letters
- Decoding (processing Strategies)
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Writing: The best way to help your child with writing is to encourage them to use real occasions in family life to practise. This can include writing notes, messages, reminders or even helping to keep a family diary.

Attendance: Every day counts! School absenteeism and truancy can impact significantly on students’ learning and wellbeing.

Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. Additionally, attending school every day helps children to build social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience.

Under the law, you must make sure your child is enrolled and attends school on all school days unless there is a reasonable excuse. Schools must monitor attendance of students and follow up with parents and caregivers any unexplained absences.

Each classroom teacher will monitor student attendance. At the school level we will track attendance each week in the sectors of Prep-2, Years 3-6 and Years 7-10 and reward the winning sector with a celebration of choice at the end of each Term. At the end of each semester students will receive Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates for school attendance over 90%.

Attendance for Sectors: Prep-2 94.2, Years 3-6 95.35%, Years 7-10 91.075% Congratulations Years 3-6

Meet and Greet

Thank you to all who attended the Meet and Greet session last week.

At the school level we have had some reflection around the success of this session and have floated some ideas for 2017.

- Call the afternoon a Parent Information Presentation - This session is so much more than
meeting the teachers. It is about the teaching and learning for your child/ren throughout the year.

- First session will start at 3:15pm- This will allow parents to stay at pick up time.

I am open to any suggestions you may have as it is your child/ren’s attendance and learning at school that is of the highest importance and if you believe we can improve our delivery/dissemination of information please come in and have a conversation.

A big thank you to our P & C for providing a sausage sizzle for the afternoon. It was enjoyed by all.

School Leaders

Congratulations to all our newly elected school leaders. We look forward to our Leadership Inductions Ceremony on Friday 4 March at 9:15am. A special thank you also to the students who were unsuccessful as their resilience/courage to put themselves forward has not gone unnoticed.

Secondary Swimming Carnival

Thanks Mr Ricker, staff and students for a wonderful day. Everyone has not stopped talking about the team spirit and incredible behaviour of the students on the day. Congratulations to our swimming champions and Woodford the overall house winner.

Safe and Supportive School Environment (PBL-Positive Behaviour for Learning)

Wk. 3. Seeing Results - We set goals
Discuss with you class what their goals are/ how conversations went with parent teacher talks

Wk. 4. Being Resilient - We choose our attitude
Discuss: having a positive outlook can make a difference in how things progress/ turn out

Lockdown Procedures

Please be informed that Woodford P-10 State School will practice a Lockdown next week. (week beginning 22/02/2016)

As with the Evacuation procedures our school is required to practice our Lockdown procedures each term. I am particularly mindful of our new students in prep and also children who may have been in stressful situations. This give you the opportunity to be prepared if there are any questions and concerns from your children after the event.

Special Thank you

Sending out a special thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have been providing the students at Woodford P-10 State School with a sausage sizzle for over 12 years. The Early Bird Breakfast Club are an incredible group of volunteers doing an extraordinary job. Thank you from the students, staff and families of Woodford P-10 State School.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Anya Myers for her commitment to swim at the District Swimming Carnival last week. Woodford P-10 State School are proud of her efforts.

Ronnie

Junior Leaders – Hayley Burgess, Spencer Horton and Tiana Franz

News from Junior Secondary

Junior Secondary Parent Handbook

The Junior Secondary Parent Handbook was emailed to families this week. This document outlines what it means to be in Junior Secondary at Woodford School. It contains a great amount of information around school policies and date claimers. There are also details on how you can access your students work online via our eLearn online classrooms. If you require a printed copy please contact the office.

Is your student considering a University pathway?

QUT has a website for parents of students considering a University pathway. Year 10 students are learning about the future options in CAR class leading into developing their Senior Education and Training (SET) plan. The website for parents can be found at:

https://www.qut.edu.au/study/undergraduate-study/are-you-the-parent-of-a-school-student

Lockers

Locker forms have already been given to Year 10 students. Year 9 students will receive their forms on Monday 22 February and Year 8 on Monday 29 February. There is a $20 hire fee for the year and students must provide their own keyed lock with a spare key that will be stored in the HOD office for emergency use. To secure a locker the Student Resource Scheme and elective levies must be paid in full or a Centrepay arrangement made.

Study Session

Study Session has commenced for the year. The Session runs from 3-4pm each Tuesday (consult the Junior Secondary Handbook for weeks when it doesn’t run). Students can attend for as much of the hour as they need. Students will receive
support with homework, classwork and assessment preparation. Please take advantage of this fantastic opportunity that we provide for your students.

**Junior Secondary – Distinct Identity**

Our Junior Secondary students are looking fantastic in their correct school uniforms. Shorts must be plain black and when the cooler months are upon us pants and jerseys must also be plain black with no designs or embellishments please. Correct footwear is a requirement to comply with workplace health and safety standards. Students who are not in the correct footwear will not be permitted into practical subject areas but instead will be given theory work and sent to another classroom for the lesson. We require a note from a parent/carer if a student is unable to wear our correct school uniform for any reason.

**Secondary Swimming Carnival**

Last week’s swimming carnival was nothing less than awesome! Student’s were dressed in their Hawaiian attire, the sun was shining, music was playing and everyone was participating. The cheering was the loudest I’ve ever heard it and the competitors swam with pride as they represented their house colours in 2016. The day was a mixture of both individual and relay swimming events, mass swims and novelty events. However, as always there can only ever be one winner with this year’s title going to Wood, despite strong competition from the other 2 houses. Continuing the good news, we have 15 swimmers representing Woodford at the District trials on Monday the 22nd of February. I will be attending the event and will keep you posted with our results!

*Drew Ricker*
*Secondary HPE Teacher*

**Secondary Science and Engineering Challenge**

Last Friday, 13 students from Year 10 attended a full day science competition at QUT Caboolture in which 8 other schools were involved. They were placed into groups and were given several challenges that tested their creativity and science understandings. We did not have enough students to compete in all challenges however that did not stop our competitiveness. After all but one activity was completed we were coming second overall however we became unstuck on the Bridge Building activity. So we fell from the perch and ended up coming 7th after our bridge did not go to plan. All-in-all it was a fun day had by all and it gave the students an insight into some of the science industries that exist.

**Meet and Greet**

**HMAS Melbourne**

Last year, in October, the students wrote Christmas cards to HMAS Melbourne. The Navy ship was on tour in the Middle East as part of Australia’s contribution the United Nations fight against terrorism and the drug trade that funds it.

The students wrote messages in the Christmas cards to the sailors on board HMAS Melbourne and when they received these cards it gave them a real boost to their spirits. It is hard being away from family and friends for long periods of time and especially at Christmas. A total of 240 cards were written and sent along with care parcels from many of the teachers to be given to those who receive no mail or present from home. One of these parcels even went to the Captain of the boat.

Below is the letter the Chaplain from HMAS Melbourne wrote to the students of Woodford;

**To the Children of Woodford State Primary School**

It is a joy to write to you to say thank you for all the wonderful things you sent to us at Christmas. Some of the Sailors onboard have been at sea for so many years they have lost contact with friends and family ashore and can be easily forgotten at Christmas. It was a treat to be able to give them a little present. Some others had to join the ship in a hurry and so missed out on their Christmas plans. They were also encouraged by your gifts.
Service men and women have always had to be willing to sacrifice time and family for the work they are called to do. My own father did not see his dad for the first 6 years of his life and found it very difficult when a stranger moved into the family home. This was the story of many during the Second World War. My dad was also away for long trips with the Royal Navy, sometimes 9 months and I missed him terribly. Today we fare a lot better and there is a lot more support.

It was lovely just before Christmas to see all the Officers and Sailors reading the many Christmas cards you sent us. Even a simple message like, ‘Don’t worry, you will soon be home’ had a profound effect upon those who read it. It is great to be thought of. Do rest assured, we are not actually at war at present but appreciate it’s hard not to feel that might be the case given the news on the TV. It was moving to hear the real concerns resonating within some of the comments.

When we get home in February we will have been away for 7 months on Operation Manitou which seeks to prevent the traffic of drugs and other harmful things by pirates in the Indian Ocean. Our helicopter flies sorties to try and spot their boats, then we steam hard to intercept them. It was nice to have a quiet day over Christmas to enjoy all your cards and gifts.

May you also have had a wonderful Christmas break and I hope the coming year will be full of exciting things. Personally I can hardly wait to come home to my own lovely family in a month or so. Be sure to watch the news late February and you may see some footage of us sailing in.

I remain yours in service,
J Cox
CHAP, RAN
HMAS Melbourne
Dec 15

1B have settled in well to the new school year. They have been busy practicing their counting patterns, reading strategies and writing skills. They enjoy hearing stories and doing maths warm-ups. We look forward to seeing them all grow as the year progresses.

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Woodford School Athletes shine at QLAA Regional Championships

On 6 & 7 February 4 current and 2 past students from Woodford School represented the Wamuran Little Athletics Club at the Qld Little Athletics Regional Championships, which were held at Caloundra. Competitors were able to qualify for the State Championships which are to be held at the Qld Sports and Athletics Centre – Nathan from 18 – 20 March.

Woodford School was represented by Zion Collins, Rory Collins, Aden Collins and Lachlan Hill and past students Antonio Bonomo and Kian Collins.

Those who qualified for the upcoming State Championships are:

- Zion Collins – Javelin; Long Jump; Shot Put and Triple Jump
- Rory Collins – Shot Put
- Antonio Bonomo – 100m; 100m and 200m Hurdles; Long Jump and Triple Jump
- Kian Collins – Shot Put and Javelin (Kian also set a new Regional Championship Javelin Record with a throw of 44.54m with a 700g Javelin)

Unfortunately, Aden Collins and Lachlan Hill did not qualify – however, Lachlan did make the finals of the 70m, 100m and 60m Hurdles.

Well Done boys and best of luck at the State Championships.

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Year 1 Updates

Year 1A are amazing!! I have been so proud of how our children have settled in to our routines. We have been working hard to learn our letters, start writing in sentences and count in 2’s, 5’s and 10’s.

We still love inside play but we are learning to stay focused for longer sessions and to return our homework every day.

Thank you to our amazing families who are helping us with spelling and reading each day. We look forward to your continued support.
Woodford School will be represented by 2 teams in the upcoming Justin Hodges Brisbane Broncos Nines which kicks off this Thursday at 5pm at the Woodford Showgrounds. We will be represented by a Year 7/8 and a Year 9/10 team. Please feel free to come down and lend your support and maybe catch up with a NRL Champion.

Our teams will also be playing the following Thursday – with the venue still to be confirmed (however it will probably be also held at the Showgrounds).

Good Luck to those who are participating!

### Congratulations Anya

Congratulations Anya Myers who competed in the Caboolture District Swimming Trials last week.

Kym Rawson’s homestay student from 9 years ago revisited his host family last week.

### Book Fair

**BOOK FAIR is coming – MONDAY 7 MARCH**

The Scholastic Book Fair Monday 7 until Friday 11 March 2016 is returning to our school from

Reading is our focus and we hope you are able to visit the display and maybe purchase some books for your child/children. Ten percent of all purchases will go back to the school to buy books directly from Scholastic. Your support is much appreciated.

A book pack raffle and a surprise visit will be happening during the week so come and join us for the fun.

We will be open in the library from 8.00am – 9.00am each morning and from 3.00pm – 4.00pm each afternoon except Friday (opening morning only).

We hope to see you there

Kind regards

**Dale Beecher**

Head of Curriculum

### Sounds to Letters Introduction Parent Workshop Invitation

I will be holding an introductory Parent Workshop to explain our Sounds to Letters Phonological Awareness Program. The workshop will include: how the brain learns, sound cards, gestures to match the sounds, blending and segmenting sound activities. There is also an information pack to take home.

**Date:** Friday 26 February

**Time:** 9.20 – 10.20am – straight after P-2 morning parade

**Venue:** Library

If you are interested in attending this introductory workshop please fill in the flyer your child will bring home or call the office to register and confirm numbers by Tuesday 23 February for catering and Take Home Pack numbers – N.B. one pack per family.

Hope you are able to join us.

Kind regards

**Dale Beecher**

Head of Curriculum

### Koban Student revisits his host family after 9 years

Kym Rawson’s homestay student from 9 years ago revisited his host family last week.
P & C News

Easter Bun Drive

Each family will receive an order form early next week. Orders and payment due back by Wednesday 2 March.

Footsteps Disco

Wednesday 16 March - 5pm to 7pm.
Flyers will be sent home with more information

P & C Meeting

Our next P & C meeting is Wednesday 9 March at 6.30pm in the Admin Building.

Early Bird Breakfast

Middle Year Awards

Date Claimers

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<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>District Swimming 13 – 19 years</td>
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<td>26 February</td>
<td>Sounds to Letters Workshop</td>
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<td>29 February</td>
<td>Year 6 Stanley River Excursion</td>
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<td>4 March</td>
<td>Leadership Induction</td>
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<td>7 – 11 March</td>
<td>Book Fair</td>
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<td>7 March</td>
<td>District Netball Trials 10-12 years</td>
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<td>9 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>16 March</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
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<td>Primary Valley Champions Swimming</td>
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<td>Interschool Maths Tournament Kilcoy SS</td>
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<td>Prep Excursion Maleny Dairies</td>
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<td>23 March</td>
<td>Junior Debating at Mt Mee</td>
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<td>24 March</td>
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<td>25 March</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>28 March</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>11 April</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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