PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Term 1 Week 1

WELCOME BACK TO 2015
Welcome back to everyone as we begin Term 1 of our 2015 school year. We have heard some wonderful and fun holiday stories already which is pleasing. Willow Tree Public School is such a wonderful learning environment where the staff work hard every day to provide academic, social, cultural and sporting opportunities for our students. It is fantastic to see the familiar faces of our existing students and that of our new students and our Kindergarten class of 2015. We welcome all our new families into our school community and encourage you all to become involved in your students learning and school activities.

2015 promises to be another exciting year full of great opportunities for our students. Our school will be implementing new programs and continuing with existing ones. Our calendar is already filling up, you can find details of upcoming events in our newsletter, The Breeze, each week. If you have any queries or concerns with regards to any school matters, please do not hesitate to contact the school at any time. We look forward to another successful year of education.

STAFFING FOR 2015

Principal/3/4/5/6 Teacher: Mr Ireland
K/1/2 Teacher: Mrs Jenkins
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur
K/1/2 Teacher Friday/Release: Miss Bale
Office Manager: Mrs Barnett
SLSO: Mrs McCarthy
Cleaner: Mrs Cone
GA: Mr Matthews

WHAT HAPPENS? WHEN & WHERE

Monday: Canteen
Tuesday: Student Banking (for further information please see the office)
Wednesday: 3/4/5/6 Library
Mr Ireland’s Admin day
Thursday: K/1/2 Library
Newsletter printed
Friday: Sports Day
School assemblies

PERMISSION NOTES

From time to time we will require permission notes for students to attend certain events. Permission notes will generally be in The Breeze as required. At times the permission notes will require a payment to be paid. All permission notes and payments are to be handed into the front office unless otherwise stated. It is requested that permission notes are returned stating if you DO or DO NOT give permission. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter and once again, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further information.

Calendar

FEBRUARY 2015
6th – Swimming Carnival – Werris Creek
11th – P&C Meeting
13th – Zone Swimming Carnival
2015 SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Our 2015 swimming carnival will be held next Friday, 6th February 2015 at the Werris Creek Swimming Pool commencing at 9am, students will need to be assembled at the pool by 8.45am. The swimming carnival is a compulsory school day and all students are expected to attend. There will be novelty events held throughout the day as time permits for non-swimmers. Parents will need to transport their children to and from the carnival. It is preferred that all students have a parent present on the day as staff are busy with the organisation and running of the carnival. If you are unable to attend the carnival please let staff know. Parent helpers will be required for timekeeping throughout the day. Students are encouraged to come dressed in their sport house colours, Kinder and new students will be advised of their sport house in the next couple of days. Please note that no bikinis are to be worn at the carnival. Werris Creek Swimming Pool do have an operating canteen however the menu is limited. Please make sure students have plenty of sunscreen, water and a hat. We look forward to a friendly fun day of competition. Please make sure the permission note is completed and returned to the office by Wednesday 4th February 2015.

2015 ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The 2015 Zone swimming carnival will be held on Friday 13th February 2015 at the Werris Creek swimming pool. Further information will be handed to students who will be eligible to compete at the zone carnival. Parent helpers will be required to assist with time keeping throughout the day. If you are able to assist please contact the office.

2015 KINDERGARTEN
What a fantastic group of Kindergarten students we have welcomed at Willow Tree Public School this week. A huge welcome to Alecia, Cooper, Joel, Damien, Justice, Tyler, Zac and their families. We know you will just love your schooling at Willow Tree Public School.

BEST START
Our 2015 Kindy class has settled into school well and are already adapting to school life and class routines. Over the coming weeks, information will be sent home to Kindergarten parents outlining ways they can support their child and their learning.

WELCOME THOMAS
We would like to extend a huge welcome to Thomas Ward and his family. Thomas comes from QLD and joins us in Year 4. Welcome Thomas!

FRUIT BREAK
Each morning at approximately 10am the children will have a fruit break. Could you please ensure your child has some fresh fruit or vegetables cut up which will enable them to eat it in the 5min time frame. These short breaks re-fuel our students so they can continue their learning throughout the morning.
HOME READING PROGRAM
Last year Willow Tree Public School implemented a home reading program to encourage students to read at home. Reading is an extremely important and vital skill for all students. Students are encouraged to read either with a family member or independently each night. Students can choose the material they read, remember even reading a magazine is still reading! The home reading program will run again this year at school. Students will be provided with a home reader book at a small cost of $3.00 per book, to complete each night. Students are encouraged to complete the book and return to Mr Ireland at least once a week regularly in order to be eligible for a book voucher to be issued each term. Last year students who regularly completed their reading and home reader book showed significant improvement in their reading. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school. Home reader books will be sent home with students next week.

MATHS PLUS TEXT BOOKS
Each year students are issued with a Maths Plus text book. These text books are used in a maths lesson to consolidate what students have been focusing on in the maths lesson that day. The cost of the maths plus text book is $15 per student. Please complete the note with the newsletter and return to school together with payment by Friday 6th March 2015. Please note, part payments can be made at the office at any time.

*QUIRINDI ZONE PSSA ANNOUNCEMENT*
Due to an increase cost of fees incurred by our association such as casual costs, hiring fees of venues, ribbons, and trophies as well as maintenance of equipment along with administration fees, Quirindi PSSA Zone can no longer afford to run at a loss. Therefore it is necessary for us to charge your child $5 to compete in each of the Zone carnivals like swimming, cross country and athletics if they qualify.

We have received the above notice from the Quirindi PSSA Zone. Students who are eligible to compete at a zone carnival will need to pay a $5 fee prior to the carnival. This will be sent home with permission notes when applicable.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES
On behalf of our school community we would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of Mr Lionel Sky who passed away prior to Christmas. Mr Sky was a well-respected bus driver who transported our students on many occasions. Further condolences are extended to the family of Jarrod Miller. Jarrod was tragically killed from a motorbike accident in early January and was an ex pupil of Willow Tree Public School. Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

CANTEEN
Monday 2nd Feb –
Caroline Sevil
As of Term 1 2015 due to the availability of volunteers the canteen will only operate each Monday. This will be revised if volunteer numbers increase.

Please contact Jacinda to advise her as to the days you are able to volunteer. If you have any queries please contact canteen coordinator, Jacinda Moore on 0438138065 or email jak_bug83@yahoo.com.au

Notice of P & C Meeting
Of Willow Tree Public School
To be held
Wednesday 11th February - 6pm in School Library.

Agenda for the meeting is as follows:-
Present/Apologies
Reading of Previous Meeting Minutes
Correspondence In/Out
General Business
* Treasurer’s Report
* Canteen Report
* Canteen Policy
* Principal’s Report
* Horse Sports
* Sandpit Update
* Year 6 Sport Shirt
Business Arising
Closure of Meeting
All welcome to attend!!

Farrell Memorial Agricultural High School
Prospective Students & their Parents
Are cordially invited to attend their OPEN DAY
Wednesday 18th February 2015

For further information please contact the office for a flyer