

# WWW. WoodLinks Wednesday Weekly

*From the Principal's Desk*

3rd February 2016



**WOODLINKS**

**STATE SCHOOL**

**Only Our Best,  
Everyone,  
Everyday**

## **DATE CLAIMERS:**

**Parade Every Monday**

**2:30 –3:00pm**

**Tuesday 9th February**

Year 4 Meet the Teacher—3-4pm  
4A

**Wednesday 10th February**

Year 1 Meet the Teacher—3-4pm  
1A

**Thursday 11th February**

Year 3 Meet the Teacher—3-4pm  
3A

**WoodLinks State School**  
WoodLinks Way  
Collingwood Park Q 4301  
Ph.: 07 3381 4666

[www.woodlinksss.eq.edu.au](http://www.woodlinksss.eq.edu.au)

## **If you can read, you will succeed!**

Welcome everyone to a new year at WoodLinks State School. Last week we welcomed 115 preps to our school, new students and students from 2015. In 2016 WoodLinks now has 560 students, 23 teachers and classrooms, lots of teacher aides who work in partnership with our teachers and many more staff who work together as a team to ensure that every day, everyone is doing their best.

Our explicit improvement agenda for 2016 is Reading. We encourage you to read every day with your children, come along to our Reading Club - Monday to Thursday at 8:30am in our library and support our students who are Readers of the Week. With reading every day our students are on their way to great success.

During the last week of the holidays our staff engaged in professional learning to ensure that your children are achieving high standards in our priority area of reading and across all curriculum areas.

We welcome the following new staff to our school: Mrs Ostrofski, Ms Mathieson, Ms Nan, Ms Dickson, Mrs Stemp, Ms Newbold, Ms Van Schaemelhout, Mr Woolcott and Mrs Austin.

We have an amazing teaching staff, support staff and ancillary staff and we look forward to working with you and your wonderful children.

Meet the teacher afternoons started this week. Preps will be hosting a parent afternoon soon. Teachers will be discussing learning expectations, routines, homework and much more.

All teachers will be communicating information via email. Please ensure that the office receives the form sent home last week wanting your preferred email address. This form of communication will keep you up to date with what is happening in classrooms at WoodLinks.

Have you visited our new website? Our new website will feature year level learning information in the future and teachers will be providing information to assist with a seamless approach to learning from school to home.

Thank you WoodLinks community for helping make WoodLinks the best school in the district.

## **Dress Code**

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that students are proud of WoodLinks by wearing their uniform correctly and with pride.

The school uniform should be worn on most days except when students have physical education and sports days. On these days they can wear their sports house shirt.

Just a reminder to check out the dress code which states shoes should be black or white, white socks and the school bucket hat or navy broad brimmed hat.

## **Resources for Learning**

The beginning of the school year is an expensive time for families with school aged children. Learning is difficult if students do not have any books or stationary. If you are unable to provide these resources please see you child's teacher.

## *From the Principal's Desk continued.....*

### **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program**

We welcome Deb Farrell to our school as the SAKG kitchen/garden coordinator. Deb would love to meet parents or community members interested in volunteering in our kitchen and garden program. Year 4,5 and 6 will be gardening and cooking and gardening this year and Year 3 will learning about the program in Term 4 as they get ready for Year 4. Parents from every year level can volunteer. Deb is in the kitchen on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, please come along to meet her.

### **Internet connection**

WoodLinks has had very little access to internet connection since the school was built. Over the holidays Education Queensland agreed to put fibre cabling into our school to cater for our growth in students and staff and in the next few weeks we all should be able to access the Internet quickly and without dropouts. Can you believe that the houses around the school were on the NBN connection but not the school? Thanks to lots of help from Regional and Central Office our school will be able to access the internet for the 21st century.

Our teachers will have access to teaching resources that previously we were unable to use. Teachers will be provide with the opportunity to learn how to use the interactive whiteboards effectively to teach.

### **P&C**

WoodLinks state School needs more parents to come along to the P & C meetings. This is a great night to get together with other parents. Help with fundraising events and hear about what is happening in the school. We want to thank our 2015 President Stephanie Griffin for her hard work and dedication to our school. Stephanie Griffin has moved to Runcorn, therefore at the AGM the P&C will be looking for a new president and committee. Meetings start at 6:30 and finish at 8 and the meeting is once a month. Please come along to help your child's education journey at WoodLinks. Our first meeting will be held on the 2 March in the staffroom.

### **Tuckshop News**

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, our convenor has had to resign from her position. We have now appointed a new tuckshop convenor Mrs Alicia Cook who will take up the position as of this Friday. Due to these changes the opening of our tuckshop will be delayed until week 5. We are looking for volunteers, if interested please email [admin@woodlinksss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@woodlinksss.eq.edu.au)

### **School Term Dates**

#### **Queensland term dates - 2016**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Length</b>
Term 1	Wednesday 27 January - Thursday 24 March	9 weeks
Term 2	Monday 11 April - Friday 24 June	11 weeks
Term 3	Monday 11 July- Friday 16 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 4 October - Friday 9 December	10 weeks

#### **Staff Professional Development Days (SPDDs) 2016**

- 21, 22, 25 January
- 6, 7, 8 April
- 17 October

*From the Principal's Desk continued.....*

## WoodLinks State School Morning

8:15

- Gates opened. Students should not arrive prior.
- Students walk to the Central Covered Area and sit.
- Staff supervise students in this area.

8:30

- Morning bell rings.
- Students either play on the oval, read in the Library or remain in the Central Covered Area.
- All other areas are out of bounds.

8:50

- First Bell rings.
- Students immediately move to their classrooms.
- Toilet and drink stops if needed.
- Students sit in two lines and wait for teacher instructions.

9:00

- Class bell rings
- Students commence classwork.

**Vicki Caldwell**  
**Acting Principal**  
*Only Our Best, Everyday, Everyone*

## Prep's

### English

At WoodLinks we use *Jolly Phonics*, which is a systematic approach to teaching children how to read and write in their first year of schooling. Children first learn the letter sounds and are then taught to read words by blending the sounds together. Please review letters and sounds covered in class each night.

### Sight Words

Learning to read and recognise sight words is the foundation to reading success. At WoodLinks we use *Magic Words* to reinforce the most important words in reading and writing. Your child has a copy of the first 100 words in their sight word folders. These words will be tested in class every Friday and certificates will be handed out when all the words in a colour level are known.

### Handwriting

Learning proper letter formation is extremely important. The students will be introduced to the *Queensland Beginner's Alphabet* using simple, flowing, natural hand movements, including gently sloped straight lines, anti-clockwise and clockwise rotations.

### C2C English

In the *Exploring Our New World* unit, the children will listen to stories and discuss the title, main character, and discuss their likes and dislikes about the story. The children will also be able to retell an event from the story talking about the setting, the characters and their actions. The students will also share their feelings about the main character and the story and connect ideas in the story to their own experiences.

### Maths

**Number and place value.** Students will explore the principals of counting, explore numbers in the environment, represent and subitise quantities, connect numerals to quantities, compare quantities and order numerals and quantities.

**Patterns and Algebra.** The prep children will sort and classify objects, sequence numbers to 20 and describe and create patterns.

**Using Units of measurement** Students will sequence routines and events, compare the duration of events and explore size.

**Location** The prep children will identify language of location (above, below, under, over, between, in front etc) and represent locations.

**Data.** Students will learn how to ask questions to gather information.

### Science

The prep students will be working with Mrs Austen each fortnight to complete the *Weather Watch* unit. In this unit, students explore daily and seasonal changes in the weather. They make links to how these changes in their immediate environment affect them and their daily activities.

### History

The prep students will be working with Mrs Wenzel each fortnight to complete the *Exploring Fabulous Families* unit. In this unit, students understand how the past is different from the present. They investigate their personal history (particularly family relationships) and examine the nature and structure of families. The students recognise similarities and differences in families and appreciate the diversity within their family and others.

Ms Tukuafu  
Prep A Teacher

## Year 1's

Welcome to Year One! It was lovely to meet all the 2016 Year One children and parents. The children are quickly getting back into the routine of school and are showing an eagerness and excitement towards learning. Please make sure your child has a good night sleep so they can do only their best every day!

### Year One Information Afternoon

The Year One information afternoon will be held on **Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of February at 3:15pm** in the 1A classroom. We will be providing information on the following:

- The Year One curriculum including: English, mathematics, science, history, handwriting and sustainability
- Homework
- Tips to support your child's reading development at home
- The *Year One Way* including behaviour management and classroom routines

We hope to see you all there!

### This week in grade 1:

#### English:

This week we are learning about the parts of a story including the title, author, illustrator, characters, problem, solution and setting. Please support your child in developing this understanding by encouraging them to identify these different elements when reading at home.

#### Mathematics:

This week the children will learn to create and continue different types of patterns. We will be building on our knowledge of repeating patterns to learn about growing patterns (for example: A B A B B A B B B A). This skill will support children's early algebraic thinking.

#### Home Readers

Home readers and sight words will be sent out Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February to the children who have provided their homework bag. Home readers are changed on Monday and Wednesday. The expectation is that your child will reread their reader on Tuesday and Thursday. Have fun reading!

#### Morning Routine

The Year One classrooms will open at 8:45am, the children are not allowed near the classrooms before this. The front gates will open at 8:15am. The children are expected to stay seated in the Central Covered Area until 8:30am. After this, the children are allowed to play on the oval, undercover area and library. At 8:45am the learning bell will go and the children can enter the classroom, sharpen their pencil, unstack their chair and sit on the carpet. This is a whole school routine that we will continue to enforce in 2016.

Warm regards,

Miss Hiley  
Year 1A Teacher

## *Year 2's*

Welcome to Term 1! Only a few days in and we are already hard at work and setting up our routines.

What an exciting term we have ahead of us. We have started our poetry unit in English. Our students are especially enjoying reading a variety of poems including funny and entertaining poems, rhyming poems and nonsense poems. In a few weeks, Year 2 students will recreate a poem and present it to their class. We are very excited to see what the students create.

In Mathematics, we have been learning to order the days of the week and months of the year. Our students have also been learning how many days there are in each month. We have been enjoying a few songs in class that will help them to remember this. Have your child sing one of these songs to you, so that they can continue their practice.

We also start our science unit this week. This term our unit is 'Mix, make and use'. Students will be learning about familiar objects and the different materials they are made of. At the end of the term, students will mix materials to create a water-resistant object.

We are all looking forward to the term ahead.

**Ms Dickson**  
**Yr 2A Teacher**

## *Year 3's*

Welcome back to another exciting year ahead. Our lovely Year 3 students have settled in to their new classes and are already busily working away. Thank you to all the parents who ensured that their child was well prepared for the school year with all their belongings here on day one and clearly labelled.

Hopefully you have already received two parent letters that came home with your child last week outlining what they will be learning, the expectations as well as another note outlining our parent afternoon on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 3.10pm. This will be held in inside the 3B/3C classrooms. If you did not receive one please let your classroom teacher know.

Homework will be sent out Monday of week 3 and home readers will be coming home on Wednesday. We will discuss homework and our expectations at the parent afternoon. It is very important though that home readers are returned each week. If you have any queries or concerns before this, please contact your child's year 3 teacher. With reading being our main focus here at WoodLinks it is very important that your child is reading each night at home. They also have the option of attending reading club of a morning to simply just relax in the library and read book before school.

We are in need of some parent helpers inside our classrooms to help with home readers as well as reading groups. If you are interested in this please let us know.

We look forward to meeting you all at the parent afternoon.

Have a great week.

**Miss McKenna**  
**Year 3A Teacher**

## Year 4's

Year Four have had an amazing start to the year! We enriched our rooms by assigning a theme to each room with 4A Superheroes, 4B Star Wars and 4C The Beach. Welcome to 2016!

Our focuses for the term include:

- Maths – Place value, fractions and decimals and Time.
- English – Investigating author's language in a familiar narrative and examining humour in poetry.
- Science – Biology – Ready, Set, Grow!

Our year four students have demonstrated Superhero behaviour by displaying and abiding by the WoodLinks Superhero Way. We have super safe and respectful learners. Stand by for more exciting and amazing work and news from 4A, 4B and 4C!

**Ms Newbold**  
**Year 4A Teacher**

## Years 5 & 6

Welcome back to another school year! The senior teachers and I sincerely hope that you had a relaxing, safe and enjoyable break. In the Year 5 area, Ms Wilson and I have been busily getting our classrooms ready and planning for the jam-packed year that is to come. We are very excited about 2016.

In English, we are reading Emily Rodda's *Deltora Quest* and having a look at how she has expertly used vocabulary and language features to describe characters, settings and plot lines in order to create a gripping fantasy novel. At WoodLinks State School, if you read, you will succeed! We strongly encourage every parent to read to their child or ensure their child reads every day. This could include reading newspapers, comics, menus or even junk mail. Ask your child questions about what they have read- for example if they read a menu or a junk mail brochure you could ask them "I have \$20 to spend, what could I buy?" This encourages your child to use both mathematical equations and reading comprehension strategies to work out the answer. If they read a book, you could ask them to retell what they read or "describe the place that it was set in."

In Maths, we are investigating numbers that have 2, 3, 5 or 10 as factors and exploring the relationship between multiples and factors. We are using models to represent fractions, comparing fractions and completing addition algorithms involving fractions. We are also completing weekly algorithms and graphing our progress in order to track how we are going. Feel free to drop by anytime and have a look at how your child is progressing.

In Science, we are examining the structural and behavioural features and adaptations of living things to survive in their environment. Did you know that the "Water-holding Frog" burrows deep underground and can remain dormant for more than five years to survive drought conditions? They store large amounts of water in their bladder, and form a "cocoon" around themselves to reduce loss of water. They only return to the surface to breed and eat, and normally only after heavy summer rains.

Finally, we are desperate for parent helpers. If you would like to volunteer your time to help out with reading groups, spelling or anything else, please see your class teacher! In Term 2, we will require regular parent helpers for our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Program as well.

I sincerely wish you a fabulous 2016.

**Ms Roberts**  
**Year 5A Teacher**

## HPE News

Welcome back to another year of HPE! Hope you have had a great break and are ready for a fun filled busy term of HPE.

This term we have the Central District Swimming Carnival. We are in the process of identifying possible representatives for this event. Later in the term we will be having our annual Cross Country Carnival. Students will be preparing for this event in the coming weeks during their HPE lessons.

Just a reminder that students will need to have their hats and drink bottles with them for their HPE lessons. Students are welcome to wear their sports shirts on these days. If your child cannot participate in a lesson, please write a note stating this.

### Camp

Students in Year 6 were given an expression of interest in regards to the upcoming Camp in Term 2. These notes will need to be returned **ASAP** so that planning for the camp can continue. If you have any questions in regards to camp please don't hesitate to contact me through the school.

*"One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than 50 preaching it."*

*Knute Rockne*

**Mr Artates**  
**HPE Teacher**

## SAKG News

Hello and thanks for the warm welcome, my name is Deborah Farrell and I'm co-ordinating the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Programme at WoodLinks.

I have 13 years' experience as a cook, I once owned a goat dairy and market garden farm in the mountains of Tasmania, and now run an organic food co-op and a battery hen rescue group. You'll often hear me chatting to our school hens; I'm a certified Crazy Chicken Lady!

Classes for our Year 4s start in week 5 of term 1, I can't wait. I'm very keen to meet parents and other school community members with a passion for cooking and gardening, as we need lots of volunteers. There are also some exciting fund raising activities planned, so keep an eye out for some information coming home soon.

**Ms Farrell**  
**SAKG Teacher**

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be starting on Monday 8th February.

It will operate on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the running of Breakfast Club, if you are available on any of these days from 8:00 am- 8:45 am we would love to have you along to help out.



## *Uniform Shop*

**Monday 8.30 - 9.30am and Wednesday 2.30 - 3.30pm**

Please remember that there are **NO EFTPOS** facilities in the Uniform shop.

### **CASH ONLY**

**Can you help out in the uniform shop? If so, please see Melissa in the uniform shop.**

## *Absence Line*

Remember if your child is going to be away please call the

**Absence Line: 3381 4688**

and leave a message stating child's name / class / and brief reason.  
(ie—sick/doctors appointment etc)

**a reason must be left or the absence will be recorded as unexplained**

## *School Banking*

### **BANKING DAY IS WEDNESDAY**

#### **SCHOOL BANKING RESUMES WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2016**

Every student participating in School banking helps raise money for the school. For example, for each new student enrolling into school banking the school gets \$5 and then per term the school gets 5% commission from the total amount banked through school for school banking.

Remember to fill out your deposit slip, then give your bank book to your teacher to be placed into the silver satchel. Every time you bank you will receive a silver token, once you have 10 tokens you can claim for one of the reward prizes available in each term.

If you haven't opened up your CBA school banking account yet, please head to your closest CBA branch with your child's birth certificate and get started.

## *P & C News*

WoodLinks state School needs more parents to come along to the P & C meetings. This is a great night to get together with other parents. Help with fundraising events and hear about what is happening in the school. Meetings start at 6:30 and finish at 8 and the meeting is once a month. Please come along to help your child's education journey at WoodLinks.

**Our first meeting will be held on the 2 March in the staffroom.**