FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

How To Help Your Children Be Better Students

Thousands of students have headed back to school and parents are a vital factor in their children’s educational progress. Here are some ways you can help your child do better at school this year.

1. Let your child see you making mistakes.
   Parents are their child’s first teacher and their lifetime teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it’s not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.

2. Use e-mail to keep in touch.
   E-mail is a great way to reach your child’s teacher without having to play phone tag. Teachers then have a record of a conversation or can print information out to put in a student’s file as a reminder. If you hear what your children are struggling in, please feel comfortable talking to the teacher about it. We want to know that they need help. Communication needn’t be limited to when there’s a problem.

3. Don’t tell your child that you weren’t good at maths.
   Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of helping children with their maths homework, especially in the upper grades but maths is here to serve you, not to trip you up. Maths should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they’re not frightened by numbers.

   One way to make math more accessible is to relate it to daily activities. Capitalise on examples where maths is useful, especially the kinds of calculations adults do daily like measuring ingredients, managing sums of money, working out distances. This way, children see how what they’re learning matters in life.

4. Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist.
   Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to middle school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.

5. Check their homework, and then have them explain it to you.
   It’s not enough to just get the answers right. To make sure your children aren’t guessing, sometimes ask them to explain what they did and why. This lets you know that the child has completed the task and for the child to actually explain their work helps their learning.

6. Don’t compare your child with others.
   Don’t put pressure on children to be just like others. There’s no such thing as the child that’s like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses, they all have talents and challenges.

7. Help your child make connections to literature.
   To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don’t have these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it’s hard for them.

Guy Hendriks
Principal
8. Middle school and high school are not the time to take a more hands-off approach.

Just because your children are getting older doesn’t mean it’s time to put them on auto-pilot. This is the point in their lives when they’re trying to sort out who they are. Peer pressure is intense and their connectedness to school can wane. High school students have this air about them that they don’t need their parents anymore, but they really do.

9. Don’t do everything for your child.

Sometimes it’s faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don’t learn to take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

10. Ask about your child’s day.

Stay involved in your child's education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings so they know you are really hearing them.

Acknowledgement: Mari-Jane Williams.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Visitors To Our School

Our school is very grateful for all its volunteer helpers. All visitors to the school are asked to sign the register in the school office. A badge is available for you to wear, indicating that you are either visiting or volunteering at our school.

We ask that classroom, Tuckshop and Uniform Shop volunteers sign the registers located in the rooms where they are assisting.

LOST PROPERTY

All articles of lost property are placed in the Art Room under C Block. Any unclaimed belongings are sorted by parent volunteers. Identifiable articles are returned to the relevant student via their class teacher, whilst unnamed articles are stored until the end of the term for possible claiming. After that, all unclaimed school items will be given to the Uniform Shop as second hand clothes. Parents are expected to mark the child’s name clearly on all belongings.

CROSSING SUPERVISOR

Casual positions exist for School Crossing Supervisors at multiple schools throughout the region. Please tell neighbours, friends and family of these positions available. Please help us to help our students.

School Crossing Supervisor positions are for up to five days per week on a roster. Remuneration $27.94 per hour.

Contact Brisbane North Road Safety Office for more information. Phone 3863 9873. Email zillmere_road_safety@tmr.qld.gov.au

STUDENT BANKING

What is School Banking

School Banking is a fun, engaging way for children to learn lifelong money management skills. All children should learn about the importance of saving and smart money management and when it comes to a child’s education, knowing how to manage money is as essential as English, Maths, Science or the Arts.

Children are encouraged to participate in the school banking program where they earn Dollarmites tokens which they can redeem for great rewards. Out school also benefits because it receives a commission on every deposit and $5 for every Activated Account via the program.

We have a new range of rewards from our Outer Space Savers for 2015 and these are:

- ET DVD and Planet Handball—Term 1
- Invisiink pen and Intergalactic Rocket—Term 2
- Glow in the Dark Solar System and Cosmic Light Beam Torch—Term 3
- Outer Space Savers Money Box and Lunar Light Band—Term 4.

During the week all Prep classes will receive a School Banking Pack containing information about the program and how to join. If you are new to the school and would like to know more, feel free to pick up an information pack from the school office or contact us on gfin-selbach@optusnet.com.au

NEWS FROM HPE

City District Swimming Carnival

The City District Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 13 February. Students need to make sure that they return their permission notes and payment ASAP.

Class Swimming

Swimming lessons for Year 1-6 have begun this week. If you are able to assist as a parent spotter during your child’s lesson can you please let your child's classroom teacher know.

Rodney Bell. PE Specialist

CHOIR NEWS

We had a great turn out at our recruitment meeting for the Wilston Wonders Senior Choir (Years 5-6) with over 70 children attending! It’s going to be a wonderful year with so many enthusiastic choristers. Please see below for rehearsal times starting this Friday.

One main difference to the program this year is the introduction of a Choir Uniform for the Wilston Wonders only. Please don’t purchase anything just yet as more information will be sent home about this in the near future.

A choral information letter was given to students last week so please contact me if you have any questions. Children are to bring their signed Agreement Form and an A4 folder to the first rehearsal.

Wilston Wonders Rehearsal Times:

- Friday at 8.00am in the MUSIC ROOM starting this week on February 6th.
- Monday Morning Tea 11.00am Music Room.

BRASS WOODWIND & PERCUSSION

Wildcatz

The Catz are resuming rehearsals on Mondays at 8.15am. Our new vocalists are also invited to begin learning the repertoire.

Wilston Beginner Band Members

I’ve almost finished passing out the instruments. Please bring your instruments and books on Monday 9 February as lessons will commence then for most of our beginners.

Cliff Draper
Thank you to all those who have already volunteered for Tuckshop we love all your help. If you haven't put your hand up already we are still looking for help on some days including Tuesday and Friday. We provide coffee, morning tea and lunch with the added bonus of you seeing your beautiful children. No experience needed and lots of lovely mum, dads and grandparents to meet. Its only ONCE A MONTH or ONCE A TERM. Whatever time you can give.

All Tuckshop orders are on Munch Monitors now, it's easy with exciting new menu choices.

Week beginning the 9 February 2015
Monday 9  Jody Murdoch, Jo Vickers
Tuesday 10  Kathryn Napier, Sarah Bender
Wednesday 11  Mandy Kennedy, Peter Power
Thursday 12  Lisa Pyne, Chloe Smith, Sally Carson
Friday 13  Sharon Snowdon, Andrew Quinland, Kathy Davies.

Bec Macdonald 0448 804 279  60huet@gmail.com
Dot Milne 0408 729 021

FROM THE UNIFORM/BOOKSHOP

SHOP OPEN: Monday, Wednesday and Friday during Terms 1 and Term 4 2015 (between 8.15 and 9.30am).
*** Please note – the SHOP will be CLOSED – Wednesday 11, 18 and 25 February *** (but online orders will be filled and delivered).

SHOP ONLINE: Go to www.munchmonitor.com; Username: wilstonss and Password: munch4051. All items purchased online are delivered to your child’s class.

Stock Update: Out of Stock: Senior/rep shirts (size 12); dress (size 8 & 10); embroidered polo shirt mocha (size 6); various stationery (see website for details).

Volunteers Needed
To keep the shop running efficiently, we rely on our wonderful volunteers. If you have an hour to spare in the morning, please contact us asap – we could really use your help!! Spaces are available every morning that the Shop is open.

New House Polo Shirts:
The sports polo shirts have been given a fresh new look, with an embroidered emblem and the name of the house added to the front of the shirt. The biggest change is to Lawson house, which is now a rich green instead of the former teal. The house polo shirts remain $25 each, except for the teal Lawson shirts which have been discounted to $20 (not many left, so be quick!).

Music Shirts:
All sales of music shirts are currently on hold, owing to the possibility of a new shirt style. Stay tuned for more information soon.

Christine Matheson and Janice Nykiel, Convenors
Ph. 3552 8490 / 0448 633 737 / chrismath1@hotmail.com

BEACH PARTY

Just a reminder that this term we are holding the 2015 Beach Party. Keep Saturday 7 March free so you can come along. This is a great event for Prep children to get to know the school and have a great time.

The swimming pool will be open from 4.00 to 6.00pm and there will be lots of attractions for all ages. Face painting, dunk tank, surfing, bungee run, dodge ball, kids slide and kids’ movie, as well as food, cold drinks and bar.

Tickets are available from Munch Monitors. As always we need parents to volunteer on the night for the event to be successful, please consider helping and sign up on our Volunteer Roster by clicking on the following link www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0D4DAFA92CA7FD0-beach1

For further information please contact Jason on jdfinselbach@optusnet.com.au or Gabriela on qfinselbach@optusnet.com.au

NEWS FROM THE P&C

WILSTON STATE SCHOOL
PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY. 7.00PM D BLOCK.

Nominations are now open for officer positions on the WSS PCA. Whilst we welcome nominations for all positions, we do have some incumbent nominating again this year, and we’re seeking in particular nominations for the following positions:

President
Vice-President (2 positions)

The WSS PCA has a proud history of supporting the educational needs and aspirations of the school and our kids alike, and is pivotal in ensuring a great sense of community at WSS through operating before and after school care, the tuckshop and swim club as well as a number of wonderful family social events.

Being part of the P&C Executive is a very rewarding experience representing the families of WSS and collaborating with the school to continually develop our children’s educational experience.

Please consider getting involved.

Nominations can be sent to the Secretary at: adam.spencer@wilstonpandc.org.au

See you at the AGM!!

Kevin Mercer. WSS P&C President

ATTENTION PREP PARENTS!!
NEWS FROM WILSTON KIDS CARE

Welcome to all our new parents using WKC for the first time. We look forward to an exciting year.

WKC Committee Meeting
The first committee meeting for 2015 will be held on Wednesday 11 February at 6.00pm at WKC. All parents are welcome. Wilston Kids Care is owned and operated by Wilston State School’s P&C for the benefit of WSS parents. This committee leads the running of the service and it is important that parents attend. This meeting will plan out the agenda for this year and will review the educational programs and supervision to ensure your children have the best possible care. Please make time to attend. There is free childcare available.

Enrolment Information for 2015
To comply with our licence we need all enrolment information updated for 2015. All parents wishing to use Wilston Kids Care have to supply a new enrolment form for 2015. These forms can be downloaded from http://www.wilstonpandc.org.au/index.php/wilston-kids-care/forms.

All information provided in 2014 is not automatically transferred and so you will need to complete new medical and known allergens advices.

Opening and Closing Times
WKC opens at 6.30am for Before School Care and closes at 6.00pm for After School Care. There is a fee charged for late collection of children.

We would also like to remind parents they can always access the policies and procedures for WKC from our website at http://www.wilstonpandc.org.au/parent-info.php

NEWS FROM WILSTON SWIM CLUB

On Friday 6 February we will be holding our “bring a friend” to Club Night. Your friend will not need to nominate prior to the evening and they will be able to swim in the 25m freestyle, 25m breaststroke 25m backstroke events.

Congratulations to last week’s trainer of the week- Jack Mc.

This week the following families are on BBQ and Canteen duty:
BBQ: Beaman, Andrea and Tilbury
Canteen: Crook and Howes.

Club Night nominations close Thursdays at 6:00pm. If you miss nomination, you will not be able to swim on that particular Club Night.

There is limited availability for Term 1 Learn to Swim which also runs on Saturdays this term. Please see Kirsten in the pool office for availability.

See you at the pool.

W: www.wilstonswim.org.au
E: info@wilstonswim.org.au

Violin for sale
Handmade ¾ size Artiste
Good condition $110 negotiable - includes neck rest and case

Also
1 x ¼ size Violin neck rest $10
1 x 3/4 size Violin neck rest $10
(Johnson)

Please phone Colleen on 0417773414
Ironing

Do you need help to catch up!

Weekly/Fortnightly

Very Experienced Ironing Lady Available

Phone

0401 368 286

Brisbane City Football is the local National Premiere League Football Club.

In 2015 we will run a local inhouse competition for 6-10 year olds and have teams participating in the Northside U8-11 competitions.

If your child just wants to have a kick around or is determined to play at the higher levels, Brisbane City has the right program, to develop their skills and enjoyment of the game.

Register online at www.myfootball.com.au or come to the Clubhouse on Saturday 31 January and Sunday 1st February from 9.00am till 2.00pm or on Wednesday evening 4th February from 6.00pm till 9.00pm

Or go online at www.brisbanecityfc.com.au

PLAY RUGBY UNION AT EVERTON PARK JUNIOR RUGBY UNION REGISTRATION DAY Saturday 7th February, 2015 12.00-4.00pm

FREE Sausage Sizzle & give-aways!

Everton Park Junior Rugby Union (Enoggera) is looking for children aged 5 to 16 to play a team sport where you can get fit, and make great mates.

Rugby is an exciting fast and free flowing game combining the skills of passing, catching, running and evasion (no tackling for U6-U8).

No experience is necessary; our accredited coaches are willing to teach all aspects of the game.

Become part of our club ….. it’s never too late to join

Email: rugby@epjru.com.au or visit www.epjru.com.au

Go Sports

Cricket

Commences Friday 13 February

7.55 to 8.40am

6 weeks—$105.00

Prep to Year 3

Oval

Netball

Commences Monday 16 February

7.55 to 8.40am

6 weeks—$105.00

Year 2 to year 5

Netball Court

Greg Martin 0417 614 509

www.gosports.com.au

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AT 16-18 QUEEN STREET, BEACONHILL

For Sale:

- 2x 2.5m x 4m Greenhouses
- 2x 2m x 2m Greenhouses
- 2x 1m x 1m Cold Frames
- Assorted tools and garden accessories
- Additional greenhouse accessories

For further information, please contact the owner at 0408 345 678.

GURU SPORTS

KIDS & YOUTH CLASSES

Kids FUNdamentals (5 - 8 years of age)

A fun class to assist kids with body awareness, movement pattern recognition, confidence, and overall health and fitness.

3:45pm - 4:30pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

Youth Movement (9 - 13 years of age)

A movement class for early teens to enhance their running, jumping, catching, throwing ability and core strength in a fun class.

4:30pm - 5:15pm on Mondays and Thursdays.

Classes are $10 per child, which includes a free parents group session.

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Do you need help to catch up!

Weekly/Fortnightly

Very Experienced Ironing Lady Available

Phone

0401 368 286
On behalf of the Wilston State School P&C we would like to invite you & your family to the Wilston Family 2015 Beach Party.

7th March Saturday
4 - 8.30 PM

$20 / family
($25 at the gate on the day)

Attractions include: Face painting, Dunk tank, Surfing, Slushies, Popcorn, Music, Kids movie, Glow sticks, Box building, Bungee Run, Dodge ball, Little kids slide, Food, Cold drinks & Bar

Swimming 4 - 6pm
(swimmers must be accompanied by an adult to gain entry to the pool)

Event to be held at Wilston State School