Dear Parents

Audit

Several weeks ago the Regional Auditor spent a week analysing our practices and procedures in relation to Workplace Health and Safety, Human Resource Management, Finances, Facilities, ICT and all aspects of student management. I am pleased to report that many aspects of our procedures were highly effective and our report has significantly improved since our last audit in 2012. I commend Mrs Debra Jackson, our Business Services Manager, and my administrative team for this good result.

Two Minute Parking

Last year the school introduced the Look Out program. This program supports parents who drive to school to pick up their children. Our staff who man this program have been trained. It has come to my attention that a number of parents are moving into the two minute zones but are remaining longer than is necessary. Could I ask that in consideration to other parents who are doing the right thing, that you need to drive out of the zone and circle the block if your child is not ready to be picked up after two minutes. The staff on duty have been asked to politely ask you to move from the area. Please do not abuse them!

How Curiosity Boosts Learning

Brain scans have found that when a student’s curiosity is piqued, two things happen:

- The brain is primed for learning. This includes remembering unrelated information, because curiosity puts the brain in a state that allows it to learn and retain any kind of information like a vortex that sucks in what you are motivated to learn, and also everything around it. So if a teacher is able to arouse students’ curiosity about something they’re naturally motivated to learn, they’ll be better prepared to learn things that they would normally consider boring or difficult.

- Curiosity makes learning more rewarding. When curiosity is aroused, there’s activity in the hippocampus (which deals with forming memories) and also in the area of the brain that deals with reward and pleasure, releasing dopamine, the feel-good chemical. So telling students the answers before they’ve had a chance to explore it squashes the chance for them to exercise their curiosity. Rather than jumping straight to the answers, try to start students off with the sort of questions that encourage them to do their own seeking.

"Why Curiosity Enhances Learning" by Marianne Stenger in Edutopia, December 17, 2014.

"It’s more important to focus on what’s to blame, rather than who is to blame.” - Ben Dattner.

Guy Hendriks
Principal
**Easter Service**
Our Easter Service will be held on Friday 27 March 2015 at St Columba’s. Year 1 to 3 will attend from 9.30am and Year 4 to 6 from 10.15am.

**NAPLAN**
National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy
The National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The program commenced in 2008 and tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar, punctuation and numeracy. The test is designed to examine literacy and numeracy skills that have been developed over time—it is not a test of curriculum content. All eligible students are expected to participate.

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and are administered by class-room teachers, school deputies or the principal.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process and do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance. NAPLAN results add value to teacher assessments by showing how their students’ achievement compares to a wider group of students across Australia.

Teachers can use NAPLAN results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support. Schools can use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.

Although all students are expected to participate, exemptions may be granted (upon application) to students from a non-English speaking background who have been attending Australian school for less than one year and to students with a significant disability. Contact your child’s school to discuss your child’s participation.

Test dates are Tuesday 12 May to Thursday 14 May 2015.

**TEMP TEACHER AIDE (LANA)**
Expression of Interest. Temporary Teacher Aide (LANA)
Expressions of Interest are invited for a position of Temporary Teacher Aide. The position is for 20 hours per week from 20.04.2015 to 27.11.2015 (excluding school holidays).

Role of the Teacher Aide—LANA (Literacy and Numeracy Assistants)
* Contribute to the provision of quality educational service by assisting and supporting teachers with the enhancement of learning and associated activities.
* Support activities with the objective of improving learning outcomes of students in literacy and numeracy.

Selection Criteria
SC1: A demonstrated capacity to follow the direction of the class teacher to provide support and instruction to groups of junior primary children in the areas of literacy and numeracy.
SC2: A capacity to build and maintain relationships with staff and students in a professional manner.

Application Process
• Applicants need to provide a written CV and brief application addressing the selection criteria, of no more than two A4 pages.
• Applicants are subject to a ‘working with children check’ as part of the employment screening process.
• Applicants should also provide the names and contact details of two referees.
• Applications will be short-listed and interviews will take place prior to the end of term.

**Enquiries should be directed to:**
Debbie Mill
dmill108@eq.edu.au
A/Deputy Principal
Wilston State School
Primrose Street
Grange 4051

Closing date for applications: Monday 23 March 2015.

**ICAS TESTS**
The International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) tests will be held in Term 2 and 3. Letters advising of competition dates and costs have been sent home with the students. Unfortunately the Science competition sitting date clashes with the Year 6 Camp. So that students in Year 6 who wish to sit the science ICAS test are catered for, we are offering an alternative testing session on Tuesday June 2 at 7.45am. For more information please visit the Educational Assessment Australia website at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au. We look forward to your child’s participation in these valuable competitions.

Just a reminder that the ICAS permission forms and payment are due back by Friday 27 March 2015.

Please make sure a separate permission form is completed for each of your children. Please return this to the office via the class Blue Bag in an envelope clearly marked with the students name and class.

**STUDENT BANKING**
Last day of school banking this term is Friday 27 June.

Don’t forget to send in your banking folder every Friday. Every deposit made is an entry into the draw to win a backpack full of Dollarmites merchandise. The winner will be announced in Term 2.

Also for those of you with more than 10 tokens remember to redeem, send your tokens with your choice of reward. We currently have hand-balls and the popular ET movie, next term we will have two new rewards on offer that we can’t wait for: Intergalactic Rocket and Invisible Ink Martian Pen. Keep on saving!

Any questions do not hesitate to contact us on gfinselbach@optusnet.com.au

**NEWS FROM HPE**

District Sports
**Touch**
Congratulations to Jack M, Lincoln D, Callan J and Polly L who were successful in gaining selection into the City District Touch teams. These students will represent the district at the Regional carnival on the 3 June.
Soccer
Congratulations also to Jaden F for being selected into the City District Soccer team to compete at the Regional trials on the 19th and 20 May.

Cross Count
The school Inter-house Cross Country will be held on Tuesday 31 March on the school oval and surrounds. Students will have received an information note this week with details and approximate times of races. The carnival will also double as selection races for students born 2003 to 2006, to pick the Wilston SS team to compete at the City District Carnival on Tuesday 5 May.

FROM THE UNIFORM/BOOKSHOP

SHOP OPEN: Monday, Wednesday and Friday during Terms 1 and Term 4 2015 (between 8.15 and 9.30am).

SHOP ONLINE: Go to www.munchmonitor.com; Username: wilstons and Password: munch4051. All items purchased online are delivered to your child’s class. PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR CHILD’S CLASS WHEN PLACING AN ORDER TO ENSURE SPEEDY DELIVERY.

Stock Update: Out of Stock: dress (size 8 and 10); embroidered polo shirt mocha (size 6), senior shirts (size 14), tights (size 10-12), prep hat ribbon.

Senior Shirts
All shirts and forms should now be submitted, and the printing of the shirts will be underway very soon. There is limited stock remaining of size 8 and 12 shirts, in case you’d like another senior shirt in your cupboards!

Music Shirts
All year 4-6’s (not Year 3’s) require a white music shirt to participate in orchestra performances. These shirts are available in sizes 6-14 for $30 each.

Stationery
Key stationery items are now back in stock, including Whiteboards for problem solving, whiteboard pens and erasers, dictionaries, atlases and headphones.

Winter Items
When that cold snap finally arrives, visit the shop for all your winter uniform items. There are plenty of jackets ($46), long-sleeve rugby polos ($30) and cargo pants ($30) in stock. There is limited stock of girls’ stretch pants ($30) in varying sizes, and a limited stock of tights.

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

NEWS FROM THE P&C

2015 Annual P&C Easter Egg Raffle
We are in the final weeks of collecting for the Annual Wilston State School Easter Raffle. Students should have received their tickets – please return asap via the class Blue Bag.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. When you are out shopping please add in a little something for the Easter raffle and send it into the Tuckshop. Please consider donations of allergy free items, colouring books, stickers or Easter craft items. All donations will be gratefully received and should be delivered to the tuckshop.

Should you require more tickets, please contact Kath O’Hara 0411 699 867 k-ohara@bigpond.net.au
Update On After School Activities

The WKC committee decided at the last meeting, 11 March 2015 that we will conduct a review of our current procedures to provide access for children enrolled at WKC to private and Wilston P&C after school activities.

In reviewing our policy and procedures we have always kept the safety of the children paramount in our decisions.

Currently a large number of WKC children are involved in a range of after school activities provided on the WSS campus. Some of these activities are run by private businesses and some, like swimming, are run by the Wilston State School P & C. Children need to be taken to their activities from WK with a qualified carer. Up to now we have tried our best to accommodate these requests using existing staff, however with daily attendance now reaching 200, on four afternoons, the subsequent increase in demand for this service required us to review it.

Duty Of Care – 3.00pm Starts
The first review was to discuss the number of students needing to be at different activities at 3.00pm. This is our most difficult accommodation. Under our licence we are required to check each child into the service at the end of school. We perform this check in during Roll Call from 3.00pm in the Undercover play area. Children on our rolls for attendance that day but do not turn up for Roll Call are immediately identified. Our policy is to start to call parents to locate the child, if parents are unable to be contacted we are required to contact the police. This process is very important as we need to know we have all our registered children in our care. This Roll Call takes approximately 15 minutes. We try very hard to complete the process as quickly as possible with all staff on separate rolls managing the large number of children.

The problem we face is that when we are requested to have children to their activities by 3.00pm. We physically cannot accommodate this request. Children who take themselves to these activities will be recorded as missing from Roll Call. We have tried to request that WK children start their activities 15 mins after 3.00pm to accommodate our processes but we have found problems this year.

Staff to Children Ratios
The second problem we face is the staffing required to manage the number of students who go to activities and then come back to WK. We have, as an interim solution, put extra staff on to accommodate the large number of children.

Revising The Number of Activities
We will need to review the current list of providers. We are hoping that we can find a way to work with them as we do for the Swimming lessons. We are also aware of the large number of children who are not attending WK but attend after school activities with their parents or on their own. We need to know who the children in our care area at all times.

Currently we have children going to the following activities:
- Swimming
- Jujitsu
- X country
- Arts Extra
- Typing
- Drama
- Tennis
- Cricket

Safety Of Children While In The Care Of WK
Finally we have found that there are many of the activity providers who are more than happy to work in with WK, however there are some that allow children to go unsupervised around the school and once a session has finished will send the children unsupervised back to WK. We are responsible for the children’s safety and we need to have them handed over to the care of a WK staff member at the completion of the activity. This will ensure that the responsibility is handed back to WK and negates the issue of children going missing between activities and WK.

Review Process
The committee is going to discuss these issues at the next meeting of WK which is held the second Wednesday of each Month at WK. All parents are welcome.