FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I extend a warm welcome to our many new and returning families to Wilston State School. The year has started well and today our expected enrolment stands at 861 students. This number equates to thirty-five classes.

Last week the staff came together on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The professional development offered to the staff over those three days included the mandated topics of Student Protection and Code of Conduct. Significant time was spent on consolidating pedagogical practice in providing meaningful feedback to students in regard to their learning. Over the last two years our teachers have had the opportunity to work with Dr Cameron Brooks. His focus is to build teacher knowledge and capacity in providing meaningful, timely feedback to students about their work. He addresses the notion that it is only truly helpful if given in a timely manner and students act on the feedback. The telling is irrelevant if not accepted. Teachers have been supported in this work through the delivery of their mathematical units. At the end of this year all teachers will have participated in this training. Over the last two years our student academic gain in mathematics I believe can be attributed to the work we have undertaken with Dr Brooks.

I welcome a number of new and returning from leave teachers to the Wilston State School team. I welcome back Ms Kelly Thorburn. Kelly will be teaching Year 5 this year. I also welcome the following teachers onto our staff.

Ash de Somer on Year 1, Laura Menz-Gilchrist on Year 2, Paisley Dennis on Year 3, Julia Trimmer on Year 4 and Katrina Parker on Year 6. Emma Kilpatrick will be doing Art with our Prep to Year 2 classes.

At the end of last year one of the many projects that our P&C supported us was beautifying the prep student eating area. Prep students now have a fully refurbished area to sit and eat. This colourful addition to the school has certainly enhanced that area of the school and I thank the P&C for their generosity in funding this project.

The P&C welcome to our Prep parents is scheduled for the evening of the 3 February. Parent Information Sessions will be held for all classes. Please see calendar on this page for all dates.

I have scheduled our 2017 Student Leaders Badge Ceremony for Thursday the 2 February, commencing at 9 am. Invitations were sent out to parents last year and I would ask parents of our school, house and music captains that if you have not received an invitation or RSVP please contact Leigh Hofmeister by Monday 30 January 2017 to let her know whether or not you will be attending. I have invited the Hon Dr Anthony Lynham, Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to speak to the students and to present our school captains with their badges. I have also invited our P&C President, Mr Chris Burke to present the badges to our music and sport captains.

We’ve had a very positive start to the year I look forward to meeting you at some stage throughout the year.
STUDENT ABSENCES/LATE ARRIVAL

The classroom teacher marks the roll at 9.00am each morning. If your child is going to be absent from school or even late to school please leave a message on the Student Absence line (3552 8444, then option 1) as soon as you are aware of the absence. Messages can be left for future dates.

Our staff must follow up any student who is absent from the roll and if we have received no notification of the absence.

If your child arrives after 9.00am they must come to the office first for a late arrival slip.

Student absences for 5 days or more require an Exemption Form to be completed and authorised by the Principal prior to the leave. Please contact the office for this form.

Students Departing Early
If your child needs to leave school early or leave for an appointment and then return, please notify the teacher (in writing). Your child will then be sent to the office at the nominated time. This will save the office disrupting the class with phone calls. We ask that you collect your child from the office (not the classroom). If your child is returning to school after the appointment your child must come to the office for an arrival slip before going back to class.

Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

STUDENT UPDATE DETAILS

Just a reminder to all parents who have had changes to email address, phone numbers and address, to please email the office. The email is info@wilstonss.eq.edu.au. It is important that these details be kept up to date in order that we are able to contact you in an emergency.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Our school is participating in the Scholastic Book Club again this year! In the catalogue you will find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. They span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests.

Issue 1 Book Club catalogues will be sent home this week. Orders for Issue 1 will close on Monday 6 February.

Our school has a cashless Book Club with all orders being selected and paid for online. Please use – LOOP – Linked Online Ordering and Payment available on www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the LOOP Apple or Android app. Please note Wilston State School is not accepting cash orders. Please do not send any orders or cash to school.

While there is never any obligation to order, each order helps earn free books and teaching materials for our library and classrooms.

NEWS FROM HPE

City District Swimming Carnival
The City District Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 10 February. Students need to make sure that they return their permission notes and payment ASAP.

Class Swimming
Swimming lessons for Year 1-6 has begun this week.

If you are able to assist as a parent spotter during your child’s lesson you can please let your child’s classroom teacher know. Students need to ensure that they have the following items for swimming lessons:
- Swimming togs
- Towel
- Rash shirt / sun shirt
- Swimming Cap
- Swimming bag

Rodney Bell
PE Specialist

CHOIR NEWS

Wilton Wonders Senior Choir 2017
Welcome to the New Year! We had a wonderful “sign-up” meeting this week for Wilston Wonders Senior Choir and those who attended received an information note about our choral program for the year. There are no auditions and any student from Years 5 or 6 are welcome to join us.

Rehearsal times:
Monday Morning tea – 11.00am (first rehearsal January 30)
Fridays 8.00am – 8.45am (first rehearsal February 3)

Some students expressed concerns about clashes with other commitments such as running club and tennis. We have been able to make these issues work in the past so let myself or Mr Fay know if you think this may be a problem.

Please return the response forms to the blue bag or to myself by Friday Feb 3. If your child missed our meeting or if they aren’t totally sure about joining they can come along to our first rehearsal on Monday and check out what we do!

Miranda Charters (Classroom Music Specialist)

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Welcome back to Term 1. Tuckshop will be open next week on Tuesday 31 January.

All orders are placed through the web site Munch Monitors. Please remember to update your child’s new class so they can receive their meal.

For those new to the school, the code is USER: wilstonss and PASS-WORD: munch4051, then follow the prompts, please drop in to Tuckshop if you have any questions.

If you would like to help out the school we would welcome your help in tuckshop. We always need help and would love to see you anytime.

The Tuckshop is always looking for volunteers. For those parents new to the school it is a great way to get to meet other parents and become a part of the school community. Please pop in and put your name down.

If you can help, we are looking for volunteers on Tuesday through to Friday from 9.00am until 1.30pm or 11.00am to 1.30pm. We would only need you to help out on one day a month or even one day a term!

When you help in the Tuckshop we provide you with coffee, morning tea, lunch and great conversion with the added bonus of seeing your kids at school.

Roster for the week beginning 30 January 2017

| Monday 30 | CLOSED |
| Tuesday 31 | Lorraine Tibbits, Help needed |
| Wednesday 1 | Tina Robertson, Help needed |
| Thursday 2 | Bev Mitchell, Help needed |
FROM THE UNIFORM/BOOKSHOP

Welcome back to school everyone and thank you for your patience in long queues as we've worked to get you kitted out with uniforms and book packs for this first week.

It's going to be an exciting year, with a new winter jacket being introduced mid year, and a new look for our music and choir students in the formal uniform.

We look forward to supporting you throughout the year.

Here's a few more things you need to know this week:

**Opening times:** In Term 1 we are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.15am-9.45am. We are located in D Block, next to the Tuckshop.

**MunchMonitor:** Order all your uniform and stationery items online at [www.munchmonitor.com](http://www.munchmonitor.com). Username: wilstonss and Password: munch4051. Please place orders by 9.15am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This will ensure orders are delivered to teachers’ pigeonholes for class delivery on those days.

**Senior shirts:** There are around 20 Year 6 families who have not given us a school shirt for the Senior Shirt printing this term. Please can you do this urgently so we can get the shirts to the printers and have them back in classrooms to be worn by students. They are a great source of pride and help our senior students stand out as leaders in the school.

We will send out a permission form for senior printing next week, this is to allow us to put your student’s name on the back of each shirt.

**Stationery:** From Maths Mentals and Dictionaries to Problem-Solving Whiteboards, USBs, Chairbags (which are needed from Year 1) and pencils, we have all your stationery items including complete bookpacks so come down and let us help you.

**Wilton's uniform – thinking ahead:** 2017 is the last transition year into our new uniform. That means it’s fine to wear the plain mocha or plain gold shirts this year but as students grow, plan to introduce the new two-tone polo shirt which is available in both polycotton and cotton material for $30. In 2018, the two-tone polo shirt and our formal check shirt or dress with brown skorts/shorts/pants and black shoes will be the standard uniform for all Wilston students.

**Tip of the week:** Please update your MunchMonitor account as soon as possible, particularly your student’s new class. This will help us deliver items to the correct room. It will be good for Tuckshop too when it opens next week.

**Did you know:** There are 16 muscles in each foot and 23 bones that take up to 18 years to fully form, so a shoe that offers flexibility is best to support the development of these muscles and bones into adulthood. The Australian Podiatry Association says when buying a new shoe, there should be about 1cm of growing room between the end of the longest toe and the end of the shoe. The shoe should be fitted for both length and width.

**Junior Engineers**

Computer programming made fun!!

Thursday 9 February
Thursday 3.15 to 4.00pm
8 weeks
$240 per child
Year 3 to Year 6
All course material provided
Register today at [www.jnrengineers.com](http://www.jnrengineers.com) or contact Ron on 3700 9053
admin@jnrengineers.com

**NEWS FROM THE P&C**

Welcome back to school for 2017. I hope you all had a wonderful break and everyone is feeling relaxed and refreshed and ready to take up the challenges for the year ahead.

The first week is always exciting for our little ones, meeting a new teacher, settling into a new class and meeting new classmates, it is also exciting for us meeting other new parents that we'll be spending the year with.

Last year was a busy year for the P&C, with lots of fun events and this year will be no different especially with this year being a Fete year.

As usual the P&C starts the year with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is scheduled for Thursday 16th February, 7.00pm in D Block.

The P&C will be welcoming nominations for all positions as there are no incumbents seeking nomination again this year. Therefore the following positions will be available:

- President
- Vice-President (2 positions)
- Treasurer
- Secretary

We would encourage people to get involved, 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 and improve our children’s educational experience.

Chris Burke, P&C President
Brisbane Roar Active Program

Tuesday 7, 14, 21 and 28 February 2017
Register at roaractive.com.au under Schools Program.
Prep to Year 6
School Oval
$55.00 per child
Skills and Drills with the Roar Coaches
Pauls inflatable field at Session 1

Go Sports
Cricket
Prep to Year 4
Netball
Years 2 to Year 5
Friday 10 February to Friday 17 March
7.50-8.35am
School Oval
www.gosports.com.au
Or SMS child’s name, school, sport and mobile number to 0417 614 509

PIANO & CELLO LESSONS!
I am a past WSS student currently studying a Bachelor of Music at the Conservatorium. I have been awarded my Australian Associate in Music on piano and cello. Based in Wilston, I am willing to teach students of any age or experience.
Rate $25/half an hour
Contact Francesca on 0497269820
francescamasael@gmail.com

Valleys Diehards

All Other Age Groups $220
Sign on Day Sunday 5th Feb
Emerson Park Bega St Greenslopes 10am - 2pm
Register to play at www.valleysdiehards.com

Inner City Tutors
✔ Fully Qualified Teacher
✔ Home Tutor Servicing Brisbane
✔ All Subjects Primary
Call Ben Maxwell
0412 922 352

Helen Grady Drama Academy
KIDS LOVE DRAMA
PARENTS LOVE THE RESULTS!

We know they do! All children (5 - 17 years), no matter how confident, benefit greatly from our self-development drama program. A unique, teamwork approach helps to develop confidence, communication and performance skills as well as creative talents.
The acclaimed Helen O’Grady programme helps your child become:
Empowered to Participate Fully in Life
An Effective Communicator
A Confident, Happy Student

Our teachers are fantastic! They have received specialist training in the Helen O’Grady Drama System.

Affordable fees. No hidden costs.
CLASSES ARE HELD WEEKLY IN:
Albany Creek • Arana Hills • BCLUS • BRedcliffe
Calicoerue • Chermside • Killarney • Redcliffe
Stafford • Strathpine

To find out more about our program and how it can benefit your child, please phone the Principal Margaret Truelove 5497 6961.

3353 0555
Helen O’Grady Drama Academy
www.helenogradyc.com.au
Greater Brisbane Junior Tennis (GBJT) offers juniors up to and including year 12 tennis fixtures on a Saturday afternoon at the Queensland Tennis Centre and the University of Queensland during school terms. For more information, please visit our web site At [gbjt.org.au](http://gbjt.org.au) or phone Mrs Peta Davis, Secretary on 3374 0516.

Does your child love to sing around the house? Leading children’s choir, Voices of Birralee, invites young singers to join their training choirs; Birralee Piccolos (Prep – 1, ages 5 – 7), Birralee Kids (years 2 – 4, ages 7 – 10) and Birralee Singers (year 5 – 8, ages 10 – 13).

The non-profit organisation nurtures a child’s love of singing in a fun and educational environment, focusing on holistic education, building social and cognitive skills, emotional resilience, confidence and musical expertise.

Tuition is provided by professionals who are highly regarded and experienced in their field. Members can enrol by semester, with rehearsal details below. For more information and to enrol, visit [www.birralee.org](http://www.birralee.org).