Magic start to the school year

Congratulations to all students on a great start to the school year. It is amazing to work with such beautiful children who are keen to learn and embrace all the experiences that school brings. Returning students got straight back into routine and were keen to share their knowledge of school routines with new staff.

Our Kindergarten students commenced on Thursday, 29th January for their very first day of formal learning. We welcome Maddison, Cody, Tobias, Indiana and Willum to Woolomin School. They had their photos taken at the school gate with their back packs on and looked very smart. These photos, once developed, will hold pride of place in the school office until presentation night 2015. They will then be presented to the students and their families as they graduate, as a reminder of their special first day of school.

We also warmly welcome James (Year 2) and Joseph (Kindergarten) and hope that they enjoy their learning at Woolomin School.

Warm Welcome Appreciated

Thank you to the students, school families and community members who have welcomed me in my new role as Principal. I look forward to working with you all in providing quality learning experiences for our children.

It has also been a delight to discover the outstanding bank of academic resources, well maintained buildings and most excitedly, up-to-date technology and related infrastructure at Woolomin School. It is a credit to the hard work and planning of the outgoing Principal, Theressa Miles and I thank her for the legacy she has left. I would also like to express my gratitude for one of Woolomin School’s long standing teachers, Mrs Hubble. Mrs Hubble has made a difference to the lives of many children in the Woolomin community and we will miss her commitment. We wish both teachers well in her new schools.
**Staffing**
As a PP6 school (less than 25 students) the staffing allocation for 2015 is for one permanent Teacher / Principal. However, until further notice from the Department of Education and Communities there will be a second teacher at Woolomin School. This is not a permanent arrangement and is subject to change.

The following class organisation commenced on Wednesday 28th January:

Ms Jennie Pichler is the teacher of Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2, Monday to Friday in the Infants Building. On Tuesday and Wednesday Kindergarten receive small group instruction for Literacy and Numeracy from Miss Kylie Burford in the Library.

Mrs McMahon teaches Years 3,4,5,6 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Miss Burford will teach the Primary class on Thursday (Principal release).

Miss Burford has worked in many small schools throughout the region, most recently teaching at Manilla Central School. Woolomin School is fortunate to secure her expertise and we welcome her warmly to our school community.

Mrs Kay Fletcher will be providing valuable learning and support at Woolomin on Mondays and will work with most students throughout the year.
We also welcome back our School Administration Manager, Elizabeth Murray who has been keen to offer support for the choir and mentoring the Student Representative Council. Our beautiful grounds and buildings will continue to be maintained by our support staff Zac Hubble, Jenny Wright and Cheryl Sipple.

**School Information Evening**
An information evening will be held on Tuesday, 17th February. The evening will commence at 6.30pm with a sausage sizzle dinner followed at 7pm with an information session in the library. The purpose of this evening is to share important information with school families about the structure of classes, academic programs, classroom routines and other information regarding learning at Woolomin School in 2015. All teaching staff will be presenting information relating to their classrooms. If you would like to speak to staff in more detail about your child/ren please make an appointment so that a more comprehensive interview can be arranged.
**Personal Learning Plans**
These will be introduced at the information evening. Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) are effective in identifying factors of engagement for individual students and involving all stakeholders (students, parents and teachers) in student learning.

The plans are completed by parents with their child/ren and provide the following information:

- Parents will be asked to identify the goals they would like to see their child/ren achieve in 2015
- Students will set academic and social goals they would like to achieve
- Information is provided relating to students interests, strengths and areas for improvement

They will be used to provide a more tailored educational experience for individual students and assist the school in planning and selecting relevant learning experiences for every child.

**Sport**
Sport for both K-2 and 3-6 will be on Fridays. The students will participate in skill building sessions in classes then join together for a whole school game. Last Friday, students participated in catching and throwing instruction and ball control skills and then enjoyed a traditional Indigenous game called Wana. Wana is much like French cricket. Students will be required to be in sports uniform including school hat and bring a water bottle on Fridays.

**Library**
Students in both classes will have a formal library lesson on Fridays. Students who bring a library bag will be able to borrow books to take home for one week. We are fortunate to have a well-stocked library with a variety of literature to suit all students and reading interests.
Monday Assembly
We held our first Monday Assembly this week. Staff were very impressed with the self-discipline all students showed towards sitting still in a formal situation, especially so soon after returning from holidays. Most notable was the behaviour of our new Kindergarten students who attended beautifully.

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this week:

K-2 Class Award - Bladen Steel
3-6 Class Award – Fiona Self
Principal’s Award – Samuel Lee

Happy Birthday to Corbin Steel for his special day this week. The whole school sang Happy Birthday to Corbin at the assembly on Monday and several students were observed making him birthday cakes in the sand pit at lunch time!

These assemblies will continue to be held on Mondays at 9.00-9.30am. The agenda will include formalities such as reciting the school creed and motto, singing the Woolomin School song and National Anthem and receiving weekly Class and Principal’s Awards. Students will be introduced to the Skill of The Week. The purpose of this assembly is to support students in acquiring and maintaining the social skills that are expected in formal situations. Staff will use this opportunity to explicitly teach, model and reinforce these qualities and values.

Special Assembly
This will be held in Weeks 5 and 9 of each term except Term 4. At these assemblies school families are encouraged to attend to enjoy a class item that will be presented by either the Infants Class or Primary Class. The day for these special assemblies will be on Friday afternoons from 2.30-3.00pm.

Scripture
Catholic scripture will commence this Friday at 2pm. Please complete the attached permission note if you would like your child/ren to attend. Students who do not attend scripture will be participating in other structured activities.
Art shirts
Visual art lessons will be held on Tuesday afternoons in the Primary class. These lessons can often become a ‘creative frenzy’ as students are encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and techniques. To protect uniforms all students will need an old shirt or art smock. It would be appreciated if these can be sent in as soon as possible.

Uniforms
It is great to see the children in their uniforms fresh for the new school year. We have a lovely uniform and it is wonderful to see the children wearing it with pride. Please ensure all items of school clothing are labelled.

Homework
Homework will commence next Monday (week 3) for all students in both K-2 and 3-6 classrooms. If you would prefer that homework is not set for your child/ren please contact their teacher.

Permission Notes
Over the next week there will be several permission notes sent home regarding different aspects of school life. Please sign and return the notes relevant to your child/ren as soon as possible.

School Fees
School fees are due at this time of the year. We keep these at a nominal amount and ask that parents pay these to assist with the costs associated with text books and stationary supplies throughout the school year. These fees are $30 per student or $60 for a family with more than one child.

P&C Meeting
Thank you to the parents and community members who attended the first P&C meeting of the year. It was great to listen to the enthusiasm in which upcoming events and fundraisers were discussed. The next P&C Meeting is the AGM Monday 16th February 2015, at 3:10pm at the school. Your support in attending these meetings would be greatly appreciated.
Crunch&Sip
Both Infants and Primary classes are having a set break to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit or vegetables during the extended morning Literacy session, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. This gives children a chance to refuel. Children can bring a small clear bottle of water in the classroom to drink throughout the day to prevent dehydration.

Through Crunch&Sip, schools demonstrate their commitment to nutrition education in the classroom, by making links with the curriculum and creating a supportive school environment.

The objectives of the Crunch&Sip break are to:

- increase awareness of the importance of eating fruit or vegetables and drinking water every day
- encourage students, teachers and staff to drink water throughout the day in the classroom, during break times and at sports, excursions and camps
- encourage parents to provide students with fruit or vegetables every day
- develop strategies to help students who don't have regular access to fruit and vegetables

Canteen
There has been discussion about canteen options in 2015, both with SRC and P&C. Until a decision is made, students will no longer be able to order pastries on Fridays as this initiative has ceased. Further information will be provided as soon as available.

Ice Cream Orders
The children can order an ice-cream on Wednesdays only. These vary in price from $1 - $3 ea.

Chocolate Frog Fundraising
P&C voted to continue with this fundraising initiative. A variety of Cadbury chocolates are available. These are $1 ea and children are able to buy only one a day. However, if buying for family at home they can buy more and take them home at the end of the day. Boxes can be purchased through the school office to sell. Please speak to Liz for more information.
Swimming Carnival
The bus will depart from school at 9.10am and we expect to be at the pool by about 10am. Students are to wear their sports uniform including hat and closed in shoes to the pool. If students wear their swimmers under their uniform, please send in a change of dry underwear for them to change into after swimming activities. Please include a plastic bag for wet towels and swimmers. Parents and family members attending the event will need to pay an entry fee to the pool. Students will need to bring their lunch and snack foods for a recess break. There will also be a canteen in operation on the day. The menu includes:
Pies $4.50
Sausage rolls $4.00
Cans of drink $2.00
Ice-creams ranging from $1.20-$3.50

INTRODUCING OUR SCHOOL LEADERS FOR 2015

Miriam Csanki  Emma Thompson  Samuel Lee
Welcome to our new Kindergarten students for 2015

Tobias Douglas  Willum Gordon  Indiana Fisher

Maddison Humphries  Cody Friend  Joseph Sampson
Week 2 Awards Recipients

Bladen Steel  Fiona Self  Samuel Lee

CALENDAR...

Only the month of February has been included in this newsletter until dates for future events can be confirmed.

February

- 4th  Swimming Carnival Tamworth Town Pool $2.70ea.
- 6th  Scripture commences
- 9th  Homework commences
- 13th  Cockburn Swimming Carnival Nundle
- 16th  P&C AGM School 3:10pm
- 17th  School Information Evening
- 27th  School Assembly Primary Classroom
- TBA  Zone Swimming Carnival