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UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

8 AM to 10 am
Mon - Fri



Principal's Message

The Year has commenced very well and it is important to congratulate all teachers, staff and students who have contributed to the successful start to the year. Once again we have seen a significant growth in our school enrolment numbers with a high number of enrolments occurring during the first week of the school year.

A very special thank you to our Deputy Principals and Heads of Departments who have worked extremely hard to cater for our increasing enrolment numbers and to develop an effective and functioning timetable.

I would also like to welcome all our new teachers to our school community. I trust that your time here will be an extremely rewarding and enjoyable one.

Our Administration team has also experienced some changes in personnel due to Ms Pam Ruddell and Ms Tracey Cook being seconded into Central Office for varying periods of time this year. In addition Ms Stephanie Wade has also had to take a period of extended leave from the school and as a result we have three new Deputy Principals at present. Mr Glyn Jones has replaced Ms Ruddell, Mr Rod Flood is replacing Ms Cook and Ms Lyndsey McKean is filling in for Ms Wade while she is on leave. A sincere thank you to each of them for their support and commitment as they have settled into their new roles here at Woodridge State High School.

Congratulations also to Mr Dave Allen, retired staff member and long-time supporter of the school, who was nominated for Logan City Coach of the Year 2013. The school is incredibly grateful and thankful to Dave for his ongoing commitment to the Rugby League program here at Woodridge High.

Congratulations also to Mr Alex Leapai, a past student of Woodridge, who won Athlete of the Year.

High expectations are also dependant on establishing expectations in social, emotional, behavioural and cultural fields, to maximise the chances for achievement that can be celebrated. I would like to remind all parents/carers and students on the importance of ensuring students attend school on time and every day and wear their uniform correctly. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the vast majority of students on their behaviour and appearance here at school and to thank families for their support so far this year. Family support is a key ingredient in aiding a student to succeed. I look forward to your ongoing support throughout the year as we partner together to achieve quality outcomes for your students.

Geoff Sippel
Principal

1 2 1 Update

Welcome back to another exciting year of utilising technology to support learning. By now all Year 11 and 12 students should have **signed up and paid** for either of the laptop programs and be bringing their **laptop to class every day**. The **expectation is that ALL Year 11 and 12 students are on one of the programs** (daily loan or take-home) as they will not be booked into computer rooms for any learning. If your child has not yet done so, please ensure this is done promptly.

Costs for the laptop program for this year are:

- Take-home program - \$80 school fees + \$150 laptop = \$230 (early bird discount was offered end of last year)
- Daily loan program - \$130 school fees need to be paid (\$10 discount if paid by 21/2/14)

Payment options:

- Cash or EFTPOS at the front office
- Complete a Centrepay deduction form available at the front office (new form needed each year)

Miss McCormack
HOD - BITE

Technology Tip:

If you upload photos of your children (or friends), be careful of who is in the background. You might be happy to share your child's successes with your friends and family via social media, but some parents are not.

If you are tagging or naming students, consider that other parents may not want their child's name attached to images online.

Schoolwide Positive
Behaviour Program
***Positive Culture, Improved
Behaviour
Greater Performance***



From the Deputies

Welcome to the 2014 school year! It is with a great deal of pride that I return to the school, previously I was Dean of Students from 2010 to 2012, and I have received such a warm welcome from all the students and families I have met so far. The start of the year has been extremely busy, mostly as I seem to be doing an endless stream of enrolment interviews with families eager for their children to begin at our school – a clear endorsement of all the positive work that is going on at Woodridge State High School.

One of my key responsibilities in the school this year is working on the introduction of year seven to high school in 2015 – that is next year! A large team of staff have been working in key groups with a clear focus on ensuring a smooth start for our new year 7's and year 8's next year – and while the construction site at the front of the school is a visual sign of the activity going on, I can assure you that much work is going on behind the scenes as well.

This year we will be having parent information evenings, opportunities for year 6 and year 7 students to visit our school, and our staff and student leaders will be visiting local primary schools with information about our transition programs. If you have current students in year 6 and 7, or know families that do, be on the lookout for further information on this and early enrolment opportunities.

Most importantly right now however is the current 2014 students and their academic work ahead of them. Our School wide Positive Behaviour program continues with our clear expectations for behaviour and rewards for those who are doing the right thing. Our vast range of sporting and cultural activities provide further opportunities for our students to excel. But it is the work in the classroom that is our core business at Woodridge State High School, and the continued support of parents and caregivers in ensuring high attendance is critical to giving students the best chance of success.

If I can be of assistance in any way for our school families please feel free to contact me on the school phone number, or email rfloo3@eq.edu.au

Rod Flood - Deputy Principal

As one of the new members of staff to Woodridge State High School this year I thought that I would introduce myself and let you know a little about me.

Having grown up in the UK and subsequently worked in a number of schools in and around southern England I migrated to Australia in February 2000 and started my first job as a Teacher of HPE in Kununurra, in the Kimberly region of WA. After 12 weeks in the school I was fortunate to win the position of Deputy Principal. My family and I spent four very interesting years in the Kimberley and in 2004 I was appointed to Tully State High School as Deputy Principal. Tully was an awesome experience and an excellent place to live and work. At the beginning of 2010 I transferred to Shailer Park SHS. The move to Australia and in particular settling in South East Queensland has been fantastic for me and my family.

I am a firm believer in the State School system and both of my boys experienced 12 happy years in the system.

I have to say that my first few weeks at Woodridge SHS have been very rewarding. There is a really good atmosphere in and around the school. The staff are friendly, enthusiastic and dedicated to the task of ensuring student learning provides pathways to success. The students that I have met to date are equally warm, friendly and keen to do their best in their studies. There is a real positive feel around the school.

It is my aim to part of the Woodridge team that makes a positive contribution to the continued improvement in your child's learning. One in which we can provide the platform for their success at school, within the community and for life beyond school.

I look forward to meeting many more students over the coming weeks and likewise to meeting as many parents as possible.

Glyn Jones - Deputy Principal

Welcome to 2014 from the EAL/D Faculty

Welcome back to all of our returning students and their families! Welcome to our new students and their families! Thank you for all of the preparation that you as families have put into getting your children ready for school. Our students have returned well rested and ready for another busy year of learning. Welcome also to our new teachers – Mrs Trish Robson and Ms Brannie Wong - who have joined the ILC teaching team.

It has already been a very exciting and busy start to the year as the EAL/D Faculty continues to grow. Our faculty starts the year with over 270 students in the Intensive Language Centre (ILC) and approximately 80 students in our Year 8, 9 and 10 ESL classes.

This year our focus is on **Reading**. Reading is vital to student success and there are many things that we can all do to make reading a positive experience for our students. **TIP 1: Make reading special.** It is important for all for students to value the gift of reading. Families can help build this appreciation by reading with their children regardless of their age. Families could also visit the local libraries and help them get their own library card. Parents could show their own love of reading by having lots of reading materials (newspapers, magazines, books in any language) around the house for children to read.

My favourite author, a wise man called Dr Seuss, once wrote:

“The more you read, the more things you will know.

The more things that you know, the more places you will go.”

Dr Seuss's words are true even today. We hope that all of our students learn this year to value this important gift.

Kate Davis
EAL/D HOSES

Due Date Policy – permission forms and sport money

Can I draw your attention to our Due Date Policy regarding sport.

- Students must return permission slips and pay the required fees, to the administration desk, by the due date indicated on the information letter.
- **Please understand, if your student fails to return their form or payment, they will be unable to participate in interschool sport this season.**
- Of course, if there are legitimate reasons why your student is unable to pay or return the form, please make contact with the office to make alternative arrangements.

Sun Responsibility

With the hot weather upon us, I would like to ask all parents to encourage students to take a responsible approach to their sun safety. Each week, in addition to the sporting opportunities outlined above, students in Yrs 8-10 study HPE, a 70 minute practical lesson that often require them to be in the sun. All Sport and HPE teachers model a responsible approach by wearing hats and applying sunscreen. Each teacher also has a supply of sunscreen that they take to every outdoors class and make available to students. I ask all parents to encourage their child to take advantage of the measures we provide and to play a greater role in their own responsible approach to sun safety.

SWIMMING

District Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 13th Feb.

Please contact me (swrig69@eg.edu.au) or either Sport Director if you would like to discuss any issues in relation to sport or HPE.

Phone – 3290 7222.

Regards

Simon Wright
HOD HPE & Sport



School Captains, Leaders, volunteers serving our school through the Breakfast Club!

Tala - Chaplain

SOSE News

2014 is shaping up to be an exceptionally busy year!

A part of studying humanities subjects, like those studied in the SOSE department, we aim to provide students with as many 'hands-on' learning experiences as possible, to maximise their success in the classroom, and cater for the varied learning styles of our students.

Therefore, very soon, our senior classes will be engaging in off-campus experiences with the Year 12 Modern History students undertaking research at the QLD State Library, while all Ancient History students will have the opportunity to undertake an archaeological 'dig' at the Abbey Museum. The Senior Geography classes will soon be undertaking their field studies, which form the basis of their assessment reports, while both the Modern History and Legal Studies classes will be given the option to join their teachers to watch the film 'Mandela', to support their studies in both classes.

As part of our Year 8 SOSE program, students will undertake a Medieval Europe unit of study, as directed by the National Curriculum. In order to engage students, and help them better understand life in Medieval times, we have arranged for the *The Knights Guild of Wessex and Mercia* to come and help students experience the 12th Century, through Medieval activities to enhance the curriculum. The Guild has been researching and presenting English Medieval history for over 30 years in Queensland schools, bringing history to life for students.

For those students currently studying the Medieval Europe unit in class, this half-day program will take place in March, while the remaining Year 8 students will have the opportunity again in May, when they are undertaking this unit of work.

Later in the year, our Year 10 SOSE students will also have an off-campus experience, relevant to the Geography program they undertake, as part of the National Curriculum.

We encourage all students and families to try to ensure that students engage with these experiences, as it helps deepen their knowledge and understanding, which can also result in better outcomes with assessment.

If any parent or caregiver has any questions about these extra experiences we provide, I encourage you to get in touch with either the classroom teacher, or myself, so that we can answer any questions you may have about their student and their learning experiences.

Casey Thomsen

Head of Department – SOSE & LOTE

Tuckshop News

We are still looking for volunteers.
If you can help please contact John
on 32907208 during school hours.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

If you have recently moved house, changed phone numbers or wish to add or delete emergency contacts for your child/children, can you please contact the Office for a Change of Details form, to be sent home to you to be completed and returned as soon



Our Woodridge State High School students are gearing up to make positive change in 2014! In January, 40 of our students attended the *Change Makers Youth Summit*. This was a 3 day youth camp, hosted by Woodridge State High School and attended by students from every year level in our school. The students who attended the Youth Summit represented a wide variety of cultures across our school. They were selected for their leadership skills and passion to invest in our school community. At the Youth Summit the students completed adventure activities, listened to guest speakers, engaged in group discussions and started planning for organisational tasks to be completed throughout the year.

The purpose of the *Change Makers Youth Summit* was to build unity and vision amongst youth from various cultures in our school community. The *Change Makers Youth Summit* was fully funded by the Federal Government's *Diversity & Social Cohesion Program*. Last year our school was successful in receiving a grant that will fund a variety of exciting activities in our school community this year!

Amy Sullivan
Teacher



Science at Woodridge

Even though we are only a few weeks into the school year, it has already been a busy time for our Science students.

Year 8 students have been busy learning about their new laboratories and understanding the importance of fair testing. They have impressed us with their enthusiasm for learning and their very good behaviour. Year 9 students are investigating how the human body works. To help them with their learning, they will be completing a number of dissections over the coming weeks. Our Year 8 and 9 students have access to a non-compulsory homework booklet 'Extra for Enthusiasts'. The booklet is designed to help improve those thinking skills necessary for success in Science.

The Year 8 Science students have also had visits from people whose careers involve Science. Our guests included research scientists involved in head and throat cancers, a geologists who had spent time in the Antarctic, a theatre support person whose role was to ensure operating theatres were properly set up for specific surgeries, a Vet nurse, a Professor from Nigeria who is a Specialist Doctor in the area of pathology, and another who works in the area of specimen collection. Each had a very different story to tell about their life journey and how their career path had been influenced by many factors. Our students, staff and presenters gained so much from the morning. Some presenters have already volunteered to spend more time with our students.

Try quickly clasping your hands together. Is your right or left thumb on top? This is something you inherit through your parents. Understanding how characteristics are inherited and the implications of this form the basis of learning for our Year 10 students this term.

Our Year 11 and 12 Science students are busy working across a number of areas. Some are working on assignments while others are preparing for an exam. Either way, to assist them with their learning it is important that they have access to a school laptop through either the take home or at school program.

If you have any concerns or general questions about your young person's Science learning please do not hesitate to contact their classroom teacher.

Ms Deanne Blackmore (HOD Science)
dblac6@eq.edu.au

Tuesday Afternoon Maths Homework Club

Students from Year 8 to Year 12 are invited to attend Tuesday afternoon tutorials in the Woodridge State High School Library. Mathematics teachers will assist students in areas they are having problems, provide help with homework concerns and extend students that would like that little bit extra.

Where: Woodridge State High School Library

When: Tuesday afternoons

Time: 2.45 to 4.00pm

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN

This year, the South-East Region is prioritising Reading as a main focus to improve student outcomes. In this way, Woodridge State High School is also working toward the creation and implementation of a school-wide Reading Plan. We want all students to be able to read confidently throughout their studies and as such, there are things that you as parents can do to help.

READING WITH STUDENTS YEARS 7-9

As your child moves into the middle years of schooling, they are not only 'learning to read' but 'reading to learn'.

Here are some activities that may help you to support your child as they become confident readers of a range of texts and topics:

- encourage your child to read every day, either independently or with you or a sibling - congratulate them on their reading efforts
 - encourage your child to locate and read a variety of materials that are of interest to them such as:
 - information books and other reading materials about a topic of ongoing interest - the solar system or rainforest habitats
 - books by a favourite author
 - books from a favourite genre, for example, mystery novels
 - reading materials related to an interest outside of school, for example, camping: 'how to' texts about camping; brochures and websites of campgrounds; camping gear catalogues
- visit the [Logan City Council Library](#) regularly and use it as an opportunity to talk to your child about their reading experience, for example, what they like or don't like to read; what is difficult about reading; what is enjoyable about reading
- encourage your child to think and reflect on texts they read and view, for example, *Do you agree with what was written in that article?* or *What was the point/message in that television program?*
 - subscribe to or borrow a magazine that interests your child
 - read some of the same books as your child and talk about characters, storylines and themes
 - share reading materials and experiences that you enjoyed at a similar age discuss the different reading materials that you currently read in your work, leisure and family life
 - talk about new and interesting words that they have heard/found including words from different cultures
 - encourage your child to read a range of electronic materials such as websites, blogs, emails
 - assist your child to use computer search engines - critically discuss which websites are useful
 - encourage your child to read a range of visual texts such as diagrams, tables, graphs, photos, cartoons and comics

READING WITH STUDENTS IN YEARS 10-12

The capacity to read a wide range of materials in a variety of situations is an essential skill if young people are to participate in our society. Your teenager will be developing communication skills that allow them to express themselves, define their goals and interact in an ever-increasing range of groups and organisations within the wider community.

Here are some activities that you may find useful as you help your teenager to read confidently for a wide range of purposes:

- encourage the reading of a variety of materials about their areas of interest, for example, music reviews, websites about favourite bands, details of concerts - understand that their choices may be very different from your own
- encourage the viewing of a range of electronic materials on topics of interest, for example, websites - discuss which are valuable and which could be misleading
- encourage the reading of a range of visual texts such as diagrams, tables, graphs, photos, cartoons, comics
- read some of the same books and discuss characters, storylines and themes
- share your thoughts on both what you are currently reading and what you were reading at a similar age
- encourage reflection on the materials that are being read, for example, *What do you think of the way that the character was portrayed? How does that reading material/television program compare to other things you have read/viewed on that topic?*
- look together at numerical information, for example, statistics and data in newspapers, and think critically about the author's purpose
- encourage them to use a search engine to find/read good examples of texts that they may need to write, for example a resume and a letter of introduction when applying for part-time jobs
- share pro formas that are common in the workplace and wider community such as an application for a bank account or to join a gym or a tax file application form
- show with them how to use internet banking or purchase tickets online
- share procedures and paperwork for paying household bills such as telephone, electricity and rates - explain what a budget might look like
- read career materials with your child as you help them develop and implement their [Senior Education and Training \(SET\)](#)

*P & C meets on the first Monday of every month at
6.30pm in the Board Room in the
Administration building.*

*ALL WELCOME!
This newsletter is published fortnightly and supplied
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*Email: the.principal@woodridgeshs.eq.edu.au
Web Address: www.woodridgeshs.eq.edu.au*

SPORTS DIRECTORS REPORT

Welcome to a new year of sport at Woodridge SHS. This year we see a change in our Sport Directors with Mrs Barrett looking after Yr8 & 9 while Mr Frarricciardi responsible for Yr 10, 11 & 12. The following information provides some general information about the way sport operates at Woodridge SHS for the benefit of new families, and also some information about upcoming events.

Sports Calendar 2014

Mrs Barrett is currently in the process of developing the current sport calendar on the school website. Once up, this calendar will be updated regularly as the school is notified of new events. If you have a child who is into sport and wishes to be part of Sport at Woodridge SHS, can I encourage you to download that calendar, highlight events you would like to participate in and then stick it on the fridge? That way you can always see what is coming up in relation to sport at the school.

Sporting Pathways at Woodridge SHS

There are many opportunities for students to become involved in sport here at Woodridge SHS. They are:

School Carnivals – Woodridge SHS runs Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics carnivals annually. During these carnivals, students from all age groups can compete to become Age Champion and also to gain selection in the school teams to go to district carnivals. To participate in the school carnivals, students will need to act on the information provided to them by the Sports Director prior to each carnival.

District Trial Days – District Trial days provide students with the opportunity to gain selection in district, regional, state, and even national teams, in a wide range of sports. The first step in this process is trials for the *Logan District Team*. Students will be invited to attend trials after school to try and gain selection in the *district team*. If successful, they then go to *regional trials* where they trial for selection in a *Met East Regional team*. If selected in the Regional team they can go onto State and National Trials. All common sports are catered for in this pathway, however the age groups are (usually) Open and Year 10 (and under), effectively meaning that younger students face very tough competition to get selected into these teams.

Specific Sports Squads – Throughout the year there will be a number of sports that the school enters competition for. These include sports such as Touch, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Volleyball and Soccer. For students to get into these squads, they need to act on information given by the Sports Director and by coaches. Trials will be required for these teams. If selected in these squads, students usually compete outside of school time and there is usually a cost involved. Some of these cater for a wide range of age groups, which sometimes means we can enter teams from all age groups.

Inter-school sport in 2014!

Every year there is summer and a winter sport season played on Tuesday Afternoon (Yr 8 & 9) and Wednesday afternoons (Yr 10,11,12). The sports we will participate in are; Touch, Volleyball, Softball, Cricket, Basketball, Netball, Soccer, Rugby League and Futsal. Most of these sports will have both boys and girls teams at each year level of competition. Students from all year levels will have the opportunity to be part of one of these sporting teams.

The purpose of this competition is to provide quality sporting games between schools in the district.

Teams will compete for the title of District Premiers in each sport and then the premier teams will progress onto the Metropolitan Finals series against other winning schools from across Brisbane.

At Woodridge we are committed to developing strong teams to compete in this competition. Sign-ons and trials for the teams will be conducted early in term 1 and then training will commence thereafter. Students who are selected into a Woodridge team are expected to commit to the team and attend all training sessions. Students will be advised of the sign-ons and trials at the start of the term. If selected into a team, they will be advised of training times.

As a result of this, students at Woodridge SHS will have the opportunity to become part of a sporting team that competes in a quality competition against our local schools, on a regular basis. I encourage students to embrace this exciting opportunity and to try out for a team this year.

Wednesday Afternoon Sport – Yr10 -12 students will have the opportunity to participate in two levels of organised activities. During this current summer season, students can elect to trial and play in an interschool sport. The other option students have is recreational activities. Students who choose the recreational option have the opportunity to participate in various organised activities with an emphasis on full participation and enjoyment.

These pathways exist in an attempt to provide a wide range of sporting options for those students interested in sport. For quick reference, I have also included an overview of sporting pathways at Woodridge SHS. If you would however like further information about any of these, please contact me at school.