

Getting ready for our **YEAR 7'S IN 2015**

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Dates to Remember

- 20 March Griffith Harmony Day Arts Expo
- 21 March Harmony Day
- 25-27 March Yr 10 Parent talking careers session
- 4 April Cross Country
- 4 April School Holidays
- 7-22 April ANZAC Ceremony
- 24 April ANZAC Ceremony

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

8 AM to 10 am
Mon - Fri



Principal's Message

With over half the term already passed, it is timely to reflect on the importance of learning. In the 21st Century, learning is about more than just getting by in a changing world. Our ability to learn is what makes us human: we are born curious and our ability to continue learning is what defines us - as individuals, as communities and as societies. Learning can bring you, your family and your community any number of benefits.

Just some of them include:

- personal growth and expanded horizons
- increased employability and improved career development prospects
- a broader range of interests and a wider social life
- the ability to create your own future

So at this time it is important to remind students of the need to apply themselves to their studies, believe that they can achieve and remain committed to doing whatever it takes to achieve in their studies.

Senior Badge Ceremony

On the 14 February we held our annual Senior Badge Ceremony. This is an important ceremony in our school year because we recognise our Year 12 students as a key leadership group within Woodridge State High and we acknowledge our student leaders and the important positions of leadership they have had bestowed on them.

Year 12 students were reminded of their responsibility to be positive role models and set high standards for the remainder of the school to follow. Because whether they realise it or not there are many students in the school who look up to them and model their behaviour on theirs. As seniors they have a significant amount of influence in the school, however with that comes a significant amount of responsibility to ensure they influence others in a positive manner. All in all it was a fantastic ceremony and we look forward to working with our Year 12 students to make this year an outstanding year for Woodridge State High School.



I also wish to acknowledge and thank Ms Lyndsey McKean and her team for all their hard work and effort in organising and staging our Senior Badge Ceremony.

Alex Leapai Visit

Last Wednesday our school was indeed privileged to have a visit from a past student who has now become the first Australian to ever challenge for the World Heavyweight boxing title. Mr Alex Leapai gave of his time to come and share some of his life story and to encourage our Year

11 and 12 students to make the most of their time and opportunities whilst at school. We sincerely thank Alex for his words of encouragement and wish him every success for his title fight later in April this year.



Attendance

At Woodridge State High we believe that every lesson counts and that it is incredibly hard for students to learn if they do not attend school every day. At the same time we are endeavouring to ensure that students maximise their time in class and their focus on learning.

Consequently, we ask for your assistance to work with us to have your student attend every day and for every lesson unless they are medically unfit to do so.

You may be interested to know that under the Education (General Provisions) Act, there is an obligation to ensure that a student attends school on every school day, for the education program in which the child is enrolled unless there is a 'reasonable excuse'. The number of 'reasonable excuses' is quite limited. They include 'the child is too ill to attend', a child who is subject to a direction about a contagious disease, there is an application for enrolment pending or an arrangement has been made for the child for an apprenticeship.

We appreciate your assistance in ensuring your student maximises their time available for learning.

Staffing

Welcome back to our Deputy Principal Ms Stephanie Wade who is returning from leave and a special thank you to Ms Lyndsey McKean who did a fantastic job as Acting Deputy principal whilst Ms Wade was on leave.

Geoff Sippel
Principal

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School uniform

There has been a significant improvement in the wearing and presentation of the school uniform. The much needed supply of more shirts and blouses should arrive in the next 2 – 3 weeks.

The formal uniform should be worn by all students on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

On Tuesdays Year 8 & 9 may wear their sports uniform for the day.

On Wednesdays Years 10, 11 & 12 may wear their sports uniform for the day.

A reminder of the following that some students are having difficulty complying with:

- only white socks to be worn
- only white undershirts to be worn
- only all black shoes to be worn. Canvas slip on shoes are not suitable footwear for the school environment.

Facial piercings are not permitted to be worn at Woodridge SHS. Students will be required to remove or cover these every day.

Pasifika Families with Purpose and Pride Program

The Pacific Families with Pride and Purpose program was developed after consultation with stakeholders, young people and the local community.

We are pleased to offer this program to help parents of Pacific Island and Maori origin develop strong connections within the family unit by learning life skills to enhance relationships, health, wellbeing and employment and educational opportunities.

The program covers the following topics:

- Culture
- Identity
- Life skills
- Healthy Relationships
- Leadership
- Education
- Employment
- Health
- Support Services



You may refer parents or young people you believe would benefit from this program. We take referrals from: Logan Youth Justice, Department of Child Safety (DOCS) (Logan area), Queensland Police and local schools, the wider community.

Next program starts **TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY, 2014**

at **Hope Centre Services, 440 Kingston Road, Slacks Creek, QLD.**

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

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From the Deputies

They say 'time flies when you are having fun', and this term has just flown by so far. Building work is progressing on our new facilities, while at the same time, much work is being done, by a large group of staff, on the introduction of Year 7 to high school in 2015. This move is the catalyst for a wide review and the development of Junior Secondary at Woodridge State High School.

Junior Secondary will include Years 7, 8, & 9, and part of our challenge for 2015 is that both Year 7 and Year 8 students will be entering high school for the first time in 2015. For parents and carers this may be a time of curiosity and concern – to help with this we are having the first of several information sessions we will have throughout the year. This first session will be on Tuesday 1st April at 4.00pm – see the separate advertisement in this newsletter for further details.

For now though, our Schoolwide Positive Behaviour program continues with our clear expectations for behaviour and rewards for those who are doing the right thing. The Schoolwide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) program helps schools to create positive learning environments by developing proactive whole-school systems to define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviours. SWPBS was developed by leading behavioural experts in the United States and is used in more than 4,000 schools across the United States. Since being introduced in Queensland in 2005, the program has helped more than 400 schools develop successful behaviour management programs.

Woodridge State High School has established four clear rules for the behaviour we expect in all areas of our school. We explicitly teach these rules to the students and reward them frequently with positive reinforcement for their good behaviour. The expectations for all student behaviour are clear throughout our school. There are consistent consequences and positive reinforcement for all students. By detailing every expected behaviour and teaching students in a positive way, we provide a common language for everyone in our school, including students, teachers, and our entire staff. We believe that by helping students practice good behaviour, we will build a school community where all students have an environment where they can succeed and grow. We know that when good behaviour and good teaching come together, our students will excel in their learning.

Two recent events highlighted the effort of staff and students around the school. Our honours assembly on Thursday 27 February was attended by special guests, families and students, and we recognised the achievements of almost 200 students, who, in their last report for 2013, achieved excellence or improvement awards. On Thursday 6 March our Green Day was a special celebration and timely reward for our students. Staff members Jo McGrath and Ashwina Gotame, with the help of our retail students, put together a fantastic range of lunch time activities that continued our focus on recognising the positive contributions of all staff and students in our school.

SMS messaging

We are delighted to inform all parents that Woodridge SHS is now in the position to send SMS Text messages to parents. Our system will allow us to send a variety of short text messages to parents that include:

- Unexplained absences
- Unexplained late arrival
- Parent reminders
- Sports/Music and School events
- Cancellation of events
- Inform parents of excursions returning back late to school
- General information messages

In order for this to be effective it is imperative that all Student/Parent Contact details are correct and up to date. If you have recently changed or updated your mobile phone details can you please provide this information by contacting the school on 3290 7222.

Rod Flood & Glyn Jones
Deputy Principals

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



Want to know more about High School in 2015?

Year 7 will be part of high school in 2015.

If you have a child, or other family member, currently in year 6 or year 7, they will be coming to high school next year.

Woodridge State High School is holding Junior Secondary 2015 Information session –

Tuesday 1st April 2014 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Come along and hear about the preparations that are being made for Junior Secondary at Woodridge State High School. Including:

- Presentations by our Principal, and key Junior Secondary staff.
- Hear about our Positive behaviour and welfare support systems.
- Discuss the Academic and Elective subjects on offer.
- An opportunity to ask questions of staff.



WOODRIDGE
STATE HIGH SCHOOL

'Connected to Every World'

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)

Technology Tip:

Be careful what you write in "cyberspace" as once it is written it can never fully be retrieved even though you may delete it.

Would you want a future employer seeing what you have posted online?

What you send to friends may not always stay "private" between friends.

Think before you type to protect yourself.

Miss McCormack
HOD - BITE

Harmony Day 21st March

Next Friday our school will be hosting our annual *Harmony Day* celebrations. *Harmony Day* is always a special day for our school as we celebrate the vibrant cultures that make up our diverse community.

This year's *Harmony Day* will include cultural performers from our very own students and cross-cultural food stalls at lunch time. We will also invite our students to come to school wearing their own unique cultural dress for a day. Students may also wear the special colour for Harmony Day – orange. Change Maker students can also wear their Change Makers shirt on this day.

Cultural Dress Day for Harmony Day

Date: Friday, 21st March

Celebration: Harmony Day

Dress: Cultural Dress or Orange

T/Shirt, Book & Plant Sale

Logan East Community Neighbourhood Centre is holding a T/Shirt, Book & Plant sale on Saturday 29th March from 8.00am – 12.00pm. There will be brand new T/shirts in all sizes for \$2 each and a variety of plants, books and bric a brac. Come along to our centre on the Cnr of Cinderella Drive and Vanessa Blvd, Springwood and pick up a bargain. All proceeds from our sale go to support LECNA programs. For more information call 3808 4529.



2014 RSPCA Million Paws Walk

Sunday 18 May, 8:30am – 12:30pm
Logan Gardens, Civic Pde Logan Central

Leadership

Our Senior Leadership Team have had a busy start to 2014. Most of the students attended the Change Makers Camp at Tallebudgera in January and have since been busy leading their chosen projects.

Our Captains Alberto and Johnathon need to be congratulated on their start to the year. They are fantastic role models for our younger students and an asset to the school.

Last week our female leaders had the privilege of attending International Women's Day celebrations. Our Sports Captains Margaret, Tai and Anna-Liisa attended a High Tea at the Sofitel hotel, hosted by the Australian Defence Force and our Vice Captains Chloe and Manu attended a High Tea hosted by Mayor Pam Parker at the Logan Entertainment Centre. All the girls represented the school to the highest standard and should be congratulated on their participation and contributions to discussions with members of the community.

Rosa and Jarrau attended their first Enable Student Council meeting early in the term. These students represented Woodridge SHS to the best of their ability and are looking forward to their next meeting.

Over the coming weeks our year level representatives will be announced on assembly. These students will attend a leadership day hosted by our Senior Leaders early in Term two.



Bonnie McKay
Teacher

Tuckshop News

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



Almost 80 of our students had a wonderful time attending our second *Change Makers Camp* for this year. Students packed their bags and headed to the *Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre* for 3 days during week 5. Our school hosted the event which was fully funded by the Federal Government's *Diversity and Social Cohesion Program*. This camp encouraged our students to celebrate their diversity, develop team work and leadership skills and inspired them to be Change Makers in our community. The camp included students from our Intensive Language Centre, ESL and mainstream classes. It was a great opportunity for students to make connections outside their immediate social groups. The students were also involved in cross-cultural sharing activities, youth discussion forums, adventure activities and a cultural celebration night. The Change Maker Youth will continue to take a leading role in our school community. They are currently planning our *Harmony Day* celebrations scheduled for the 21st of March.

Amy Sullivan—Teacher



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

2014 *Next Step* survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The *Next Step* survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12. Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the *Next Step* survey in 2014. For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

