FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Many parents are worried about what is commonly referred to as a lack of 'basics'. I am sure that parents don’t want a return to old-fashioned methods or to recreate schooling of yesteryear; rather, parents want to be sure that certain areas are given appropriate emphasis. If you ask any parent, this is what they will most likely want for their children:

- To read fluently.
- To write with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- To express themselves clearly.
- To be competent in numeracy skills.
- To have a sound understanding and appreciation of the world in which we live.

What could be more reasonable? I cannot imagine any teacher or other educational professional who would not share these objectives. The only problem is this list is not complete! For students living and working in the 21st century, schools need to provide a lot more, and they do!

Schools and society owe each child the following, which go far beyond the traditional basics as defined by the 3 ‘R’s’. The ‘new basics’ include:

- Learning to understand oneself as a ‘learner’.
- Communicating effectively in speech and writing.
- Logical reasoning and clarification of issues.
- Thinking critically about local, national and international issues.
- Understanding of our own and other cultures.
- Cooperating with others in work and social life.
- Investigating and solving a wide range of problems.
- Appreciating and modelling approaches to healthy living.
- Expressing ourselves through the arts.
- Valuing those qualities which make a civilised and compassionate society.
- Applying information in everyday life situations.
- Being actively involved in their own communities.
- Learning via a range of multi-media applications.

Meeting these ‘new basics’ is an exciting challenge for schools and school communities. We will be including more ‘thinking skills’ and ICT into our classroom next term.

The students have been working very industriously on their assessments this term and are very enthusiastic about their science.

Judy Angel

SCIENCE

Termite

Cockroach

Bee

Ant
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Student of the Week has been awarded to Kati Wright. Our school rule awards are:

- Respect for Yourself – Hamish Cox
- Respect for Other Students and Staff – Cody Perkins

Congratulations to Kati, Hamish and Cody on receiving their awards.

P&C
The AGM is being held next Monday 26th March at 8.45am and all parents are invited to attend. A general meeting will follow the AGM.

ITEMS FOR TENDER
Tenders are now closed. Successful tenderers will be notified by phone and unsuccessful by letter. A big thanks to all who tendered.

DETAILS FORM
On Friday, there was a form sent home for you to update your details. If you would do this as soon as possible, that would be appreciated. If you need any help filling the form out please call in to the school and we will assist you.

TUCKSHOP
Tuckshop will be available this Friday. Pizzas will be on sale for $2 and poppers for $1.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Warra SS will be open as a polling booth on Saturday, 24th March. It will be held downstairs in the Art Room. Time will be from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

The Warra Playgroup will be holding a cake stall and raffle on Election day. Any donations of cakes, biscuits, slices etc. would be greatly appreciated. Please drop any donations off to Sharee at school on Friday afternoon. All donations need to be clearly marked with what they are and if they contain nuts. Thanks!

DATES TO REMEMBER

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 23 Mar</td>
<td>Tuckshop</td>
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<td>Mon 26 Mar</td>
<td>P &amp; C AGM and general meeting</td>
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<td>Fri 30 Mar</td>
<td>End Term 1</td>
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<td>Fri 13, Sat 14 Apr</td>
<td>Dalby Show</td>
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<td>Mon 16 Apr</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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<td>Wed 18 Apr</td>
<td>School Health Screening – Prep and Yr 7</td>
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<td>Mon 23 Apr</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
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<td>Wed 25 Apr</td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
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<td>Mon 7 May</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
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<td>Mon Jun 11</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday</td>
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<td>Fri 22 Jun</td>
<td>End Term 2</td>
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FREE ‘SAFER SCHOOLIES’ RESOURCES
Parents and Year 12 school leavers looking for information on staying safe at Schoolies can access a range of free resources developed by the Queensland Government. The Be Safe and Watch your Mates Schoolies information booklet focuses on issues such as health and safety, alcohol and drug awareness and the importance of making good choices. The Parents’ Guide to a Safer Schoolies has been developed to help parents start conversations with their teenagers to encourage healthy, safe and respectful behaviour during Schoolies. These booklets are available for collection at the office. Alternatively, you can order a copy from the Schoolies website — www.schoolies.qld.gov.au — or call 13 QGOV (13 7468) for further information.

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE
To mark the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence held across Australia last Friday 16 March, a series of great materials was released for teachers, students and parents. An iPhone app to give students immediate access to information about bullying is now available. It can be found on the updated website — www.bullyingnoway.gov.au — which also has dedicated student, teacher and parent areas. Short videos with practical advice for teachers and students, presented by Queensland’s anti-bullying expert Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, were also released on the department’s website.

COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS - A POSITIVE APPROACH
Concerns arise at schools for a variety of reasons. Schools are very busy places – there are lots of things that happen and there are many decisions made every day. At the same time, the school community is quite diverse, with many individuals or groups having vastly different opinions on how things should be done.

It is inevitable therefore, that times will arise when some parents agree with the school’s actions while others disagree and wish to discuss the matter and seek clarification with the school.

We welcome such discussions and encourage parents to raise issues so that they can be dealt with speedily and resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Raising concerns or seeking clarification is not a negative experience if everyone focuses on it being a solution-focussed experience by valuing everyone’s opinions.

Agreed Complaints Procedure:
The following procedures are to be used to resolve complaints or concerns at our school.

STEP 1: Try and find out the facts before contacting the school. Many concerns are quickly resolved once the parent is aware of all the facts.

STEP 2: Let the school know via an appropriately written letter, telephone or in person that you have a concern, providing details of the issue.

STEP 3: The school WILL investigate the concern and the most appropriate person will contact you to discuss the matter or organise a meeting. Almost 100% of problems are resolved at this point.

STEP 4: If however, the matter remains unresolved, make a formal appointment to discuss the issue with the Principal.

STEP 5: The Regional Office can be contacted to help solve problems. The Principal can provide contact details.

Points To Remember:
- Problems are best resolved by a positive attitude. Anger is counter productive to solving problems.
- People need time to investigate and resolve many problems; a quick fix is not always possible or desirable.
- Schools are large and complex – very few decisions will suit everybody.
- There are always at least 2 sides to every story – with students there are often as many stories as there are children.
- Not all disagreements can be resolved – sometimes we simply have to agree to disagree.
- Opinions vary widely – disagreement is a natural part of life.
- Everybody aims to achieve the best possible outcome for all involved in the school community.
- Win-Win is always the desired outcome to any issue.

“*The important thing about a problem is not its solution, but the strength we gain in finding the solution.*” Unknown

JUST FOR TODAY
I will live through the next 12 hours and try not to tackle all of life's problems at once.
I will improve my mind,
I will learn something that requires effort and concentration.
I will be agreeable.
I will look my best, speak in a well modulated voice, and be courteous and considerate.
I will not find fault with a friend, relative or colleague.
I will not try to change or improve anyone but myself.
I will have a programme; I might not follow it exactly, but I will have it.
I will save myself from two enemies: hurry and indecision.
I will do a good turn and keep it a secret; if anyone finds out, it will not count.
I will do two things I don’t want to do, just for the exercise.
I will believe in myself.
I will give my best to the world and feel confident that the world will give it’s best to me.
Anonymous