Dear Parents

All parents (and students) are cordially invited to attend our annual Term 1 Open Night tonight. This event will commence at 5:30pm today (Wednesday 15 February) and conclude at 7:00pm. I encourage all parents to take the time to visit your child’s class and see first-hand how they have transitioned into a new school year. Your child’s class teacher will be on hand to answer any of your questions and help you understand all of their 2017 classroom routines. I look forward to seeing as many families present as possible.

The P and C Association is co-ordinating a sausage sizzle during the evening. This will be served from the tuckshop area. If you are available to help prepare, cook or serve this sausage sizzle please contact the school or the tuckshop. It would be appreciated if volunteers could assist from 5:00pm. I look forward to seeing as many parents in attendance as possible.

Staffing Update

Now we have moved past our official Day 8 processes our teaching staff has been confirmed. Earlier in the week I had the privilege of welcoming Mr Robert Oakley to our school community. Due to our school’s recent enrolment growth and the Education Queensland’s Transfer Policy, Mr Robert Oakley has taken over from Mr Daniel Viccars as our school’s Year 4C Class teacher.

Mr Oakley is a very experienced permanent Education Queensland employee. Mr Oakley has been a valued staff member at Worongary State School for more than a decade. We are truly fortunate and excited to welcome Mr Oakley to our school community.

The decision to transfer Mr Oakley into our school has resulted in a change to Mr Daniel Viccars’ teaching position. I am extremely pleased to inform you that Mr Viccars has secured a teaching position in our school for the remainder of Term 1. Mr Viccars will fill a temporary position as our school’s Year 5 and Year 6 Inclusive Support Teacher. Mr Viccars has already worked closely with Mr Oakley to limit any difficulties our students may face during this transition period. I sincerely thank Daniel for all he has done in the three short weeks as the Year 4C class teacher. The year commenced extremely well for all of our students under Mr Viccars’ stewardship and we simply cannot thank him enough.

Currently we are awaiting our finalised Students with Disabilities staffing number and our teacher aide hours. As soon as we are aware of these details we will be moving to confirm our support staff for the remainder of the 2017
school year. I thank you for your patience as we move through this process.

I wish to formally thank and farewell Mrs Sarah Kursav who has been filling in this term for Miss Ellison in year 2A. We wish her all the very best as she enters into the next chapter of her life. On behalf of the entire William Duncan State School community I would like to wish Sarah and Salim all the very best on the imminent arrival of their first baby. We hope everything goes to plan and we get the chance to hold your little bundle of joy early in 2017.

Curriculum Calendars

I invite all parents to view the school’s website and review your child’s Term 1 Curriculum Calendar. This calendar is a new initiative that our school is implementing in 2017. To keep parents informed of your child’s curriculum we have compiled the relevant dates that assessment is due and when other curriculum related activities will be occurring. The Curriculum Calendars can be found at the following location: https://willduncss.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Teachingandlearning/Pages/Teachingandlearning.aspx

Curriculum Calendars for Terms 2, 3 and 4 will be uploaded prior to each term commencing. Like all new initiatives I am seeking your thoughts. If there is something we could add to these please do not hesitate to contact me through the office or email. I trust all parents will find this information very beneficial.

Investing for Success Funding

William Duncan State School has been granted (under the Investing in School’s funding) an anticipated allocation of $218,780 to enhance our students’ literacy and numeracy performance. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to ensure this funding addresses the needs of our targeted students and their families. During 2017 our school will direct this funding towards increasing the percentage of students who achieve a ‘B’ or above on their end of semester reports. The following targets have been established:

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This funding will also be directed towards building a stronger educational community for our students transitioning from Early Childhood Educational Centres into formal schooling. Some of this funding ($16,000) will be allocated to increase the percentage of students ‘on track’ in the Social Competence domain of the AEDC from 65.3% (2015 AEDC) to 90% (2018 AEDC). This is an exciting new project and one that has the potential to positively influence each and every Prep student and their family) within the Nerang Alliance. This initiative will pioneer a way forward for each and every community in Queensland!

More information regarding our Investing for Success initiative and our intended strategies will be uploaded to the school’s website once the agreement has been endorsed by Dr Jim Watterston (Director-General of the Department of Education and Training). I will also be sharing this document at our February’s P and C Association Meeting. Parents wishing to obtain more information about this initiative are encouraged to contact our office.
Progressive Achievement Testing

Students in Years 1-6 at William Duncan State School have over the past few years completed a combination of ACER Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT). Last year these tests (Number and Reading) were completed online. Over the next few weeks our students will be sitting the online PAT Math and Reading. I am extremely pleased that due to these assessments being conducted online, staff members will have access to this data almost immediately. I am also pleased that these assessments will provide our students the opportunity to engage in an online assessment process. As many of you would be aware the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is moving to an online format. It is therefore critical that our students have multiple opportunities to become familiar and master this testing format.

As soon as these PAT assessments are completed, teachers will have the opportunity to work with the school’s leadership team to analyse this data and align their teaching to the needs of our students. This is an exciting aspect for our school and one that I truly believe will sharpen the numeracy and literacy pedagogy in each and every classroom. Parents who wish to obtain any information regarding your child’s individual performance in these assessments are encouraged to make contact with their class teacher.

Parents’ and Citizens’ February Meeting

The William Duncan State School’s Parents’ and Citizens’ Association’s meeting for the month of February will be conducted on Monday 20 February. The meeting will commence at 3:15pm in the school’s library. The 2016 Executive members met last week to review our 2016 performance and set goals for 2017. I am very pleased to announce that the executive remains committed to building a stronger school community by continuing many of the initiatives that were so successful last year (ie Breakfast with Mates). In 2017 I would love to see our P and C Association strengthen in numbers and also gain a long term direction. This association plays a much more important role than fundraising. Our school needs all parents to come together and provide advice on ways we can better support our students – your children. Your feedback is important to us, so please come along to our meeting and provide us with your thoughts. Your commitment of only one short hour a month will make a massive difference to the lives of our students.

Dental Care - Gold Coast Health Oral Health (Dental) Services

I recently read an article that outlined a number of preventable childhood health conditions that significantly reduce the burden of disease experienced by adults. One of these was maintaining healthy oral health. With Gold Coast Oral Health Services continuing to offer on-site free dental check-ups to our children in PREP through to Year 6 there is no time like now to review your child’s oral health. If you have not yet accessed this service please see below.

To arrange an appointment for your child, telephone:

The Oral Health Client Service Centre
1300 300 850
Monday – Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm (Excluding Public Holidays)

Further information on public funded oral health services can be accessed via URL: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/goldcoasthealth/html/services/oralhealth.asp
MUSIC REPORT – Ms. Melissa Cole

This week, we have had many Band and String students attending lessons and rehearsals without instruments and the required equipment for their instrument. ALL band students require a ‘Standard of Excellence’ book for their instrument, and ALL beginner string students require a ‘Strings Basics’ book 1. These books are available for purchase from our school uniform shop.

Last week I sent home notes to join the Centre of Musical Excellence Facebook Page group for 2017 (to all new students in the Band, Strings and Choir Programs) – this page will be used for Music updates and reminders. If you have not returned your child’s forms please do so as soon as possible, or if you require another form, please contact me.

Instrumental Music fees for Term 1 are due now and can be paid at the school office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Last week I issued our Music students with their 2017 Music Homework Books. These books are used to record students’ home practice and weekly music homework activities to complete (which will aid in students music theory learning). Students in Year 4, 5 and 6 must hand in their homework books each Friday morning (before 9am) to the music room for marking. Year 3 students will have their homework books marked in string lessons with Miss Marten.

Weekly rehearsal times for this year are listed below.

- Senior Strings (Yr. 4 – 6) – Thursday mornings: 7.45am – 8.45am
- Yr. 3 Beginner Strings – Wednesday mornings: 8am – 8.45am *(Beginning Weds 22 Feb)*
- Choir (Yr. 4 – 6) – Friday mornings: 8am – 8.45am
- Senior Band (Yr. 5 - 6) – Tuesday mornings: 7.45am – 8.45am
- Junior Band (Yr.4) – Monday mornings: 7.45am – 8.45am *(Beginning Mon 20 Feb)*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thursday 16 February – **Beginner String** Workshop (9am – 10.30am) in Music Room
- Monday 20 February – ‘Synth City’: Term 1 Arts Performance (1.40pm) in Hall
- Tuesday 7 March – **Choir** performing on the School Assembly (9am)
- Tuesday 14 March – **Senior Strings** performing on the School Assembly (9am)
- Tuesday 21 March – ‘**Musical Mayhem – Beginners Unleashed**’ Concert (1.45pm) in WDSS Hall
- Tuesday 28 March – **Senior Band** performing on the School Assembly (9am)

If you have any questions or queries in regards to the music program, please contact me. Remember to always read the WDSS newsletter for upcoming music events and performances.
FINANCE
William Duncan State School General A/c
BSB – 064-430
Acc – 00091086
Please use your child’s 1st initial & surname and 17SRS as the reference. (ie: tsmith17srs)

DUE PAYMENTS
Synth City Arts show - $5.00 Due Wed 15 Feb
2017 Student Resource Scheme Term 1 - $60 Overdue
2017 Instrumental Term 1 - $80 – Overdue

Please be advised all new excursion notes have a payment method section were you can advise the office of how you are going to pay. Please tick the appropriate box when filling in the form. This will save a lot of confusion and wasted phone calls. Thank you so much for your cooperation

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME 2017
2017 Resource scheme term 1 payment are now overdue. Please contact the office to make payment arrangements. If you choose not to participate in this scheme you will need to collect a book list from the office and all materials are to be bought in the first 2 weeks of starting school. The cost of the Student resource scheme is $160, with a discount of $10 being given to 2nd and subsequent children.

Internet payments can be made into our account, details as below:
William Duncan State School General A/c
BSB – 064-430
Acc – 00091086
Please use your child’s 1st initial & surname and 17SRS as the reference. (ie: tsmith17srs)

DUNCAN DELIGHTS
As of Monday 27 February the tuckshop will be closed every Monday.

P&C NEWS
Give yourself a night off from cooking, the P&C will be running a BBQ at the Open Night on Wednesday 15 February from 5pm. The BBQ will be held in the Tuckshop undercover area. Burgers and sausages will be available.

Do you want to be more involved with the school? Do you have some fundraising ideas? Are you new to the area and need to connect with other parents?
If you answered yes to any of these come along on Monday 20 Feb to the P&C meeting, a great way to meet new people.
Meetings are held in the LIC at 3.15pm.
Hope to see you there!

UNIFORM SHOP
Uniform shop opening hours for the year are as follows:
Monday & Wednesday 8.15am – 9.15am

SCHOOL BANKING
We need some volunteers to help with school banking on a Wednesday morning from 9am. No qualifications required just an eagerness to assist with our children’s banking. Drop in on Wednesday morning to the office to see us.
WILLIAM DUNCAN COMMUNITY NEWS

TENNIS

[Image of tennis court]

PLAYGROUP

Highland Park Playgroup Nerang
Age 0-5yrs $2.50/visit. Playgroup with a safe play area, outings/ excursions and a range of organised activities for babies, toddlers and prep aged children. Group does not continue to meet during school holidays.

When    Thursdays 9am to 11.30am
Where    William Duncan State School
         Alexander Drive
         Highland Park
Contact  Kay 0438 153425

NEW GROUPS IN THE HALL

TAEKWONDO LESSONS

Beginning in week 3 on Friday 10 February at 3.30pm, Gold Coast

Taekwondo will be running martial arts classes. Students 6 years of age and up are invited to try a class for free. Students will learn self-defence and martial discipline from internationally respected martial artist and instructor Nikolai Babkoff. Nikolai started training at age 9 and has actively trained and competed in the martial arts for over 28 years. A finalist in the upcoming channel nine television
show ‘Australian Ninja Warrior’ Nikolai is looking forward to passing on
his knowledge to the community. We very much look forward to meeting
students and parents in the coming weeks.

WILD WOLF FITNESS AND NUTRITION

ACTIVE KIDS CLASSES

Do you want your kids to be healthier and happier?
Build Strength, Co ordination and Confidence
Fun Workout for all ages
Monday 3.30-4pm & 4-4:30pm Starts 6 February
$12 session per child casual, $10 session per child term paid in advance
Contact Louise 0435 941519

DRUMMING FITNESS classes for adults

Burn up to 600 calories in fun, crazy workout
Drumsticks provided.
Curious? Bring a towel and a smile.
Monday 4:45 – 5:15 $10 only Starts 6 February
$10 only

Contact Louise 0435 941519

And don’t forget our regular groups are back this week.
Contact details are below.

Shim Jang Taekwondo Academy 0407 244734 Monday and Thursdays 6pm -7pm
POW Martial Arts Mob -0468 477951 Tuesday night 6pm – 7pm
Fitness and Dance Mob- 0400 803673 Wednesdays 3.15pm – 7.45pm
BINGO Mob - 0424 853113 Friday nights 7pm
COMMUNITY NEWS

CARRARA NETBALL CLUB

Requires Players age 7,8,9, and 10 years plus for the Southport Carrara netball association 2017 winter season.

Season commences – February 25  
Sign On - February 4

Coaches and Team managers also required.

Please contact by texting full details to 0411 441310

THE GOLD COAST BULLETIN FUN RUN

William Duncan SS is registered in the REBEL schools challenge for the Gold Coast Bulletin Fun Run on Sunday April 23, 2017. Use the link below to sign up for a 2.5km challenge:


Parents, friends, staff and students can sign up to enter. There are longer distances available (up to 21km) for adults wishing for a bigger challenge.

Click on the link, enter your details, pay your discounted entry and start training!

See Ms Roberts for more details.

BREAST SCREENING

FREE breast screening in Nerang

31 JAN – 23 FEB 2017

Australian Red Cross Nerang
38 Ferry Street (near Stevens St)

Call 13 20 50 to book your free breastscreen appointment*

Women aged 50 to 74 years strongly encouraged to attend.

* Women 40 and over eligible for a free breastscreen.
A big, warm welcome to 2017 from the P&C.
A special welcome to our new Prep parents!

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support in 2016. We managed to raise enough money to contribute $10,000 towards the shade cover for the Prep playground which looks fantastic. We also held the ‘5c Challenge’ that enabled us to buy a defibrillator which is now located in the office.

We have another exciting year planned and the P&C needs the support of parents, teachers and the community in order to make it possible.

We are looking for parent representatives from each class to help the P&C. You can do as little or as much as you would like by being an advocate for your child’s class, putting up posters, volunteering at events or simply sharing a post on Facebook to help spread the word.

If you would like to help, please fill out the form below and return to your class teacher or bring it along to the next P&C Meeting being held at...

3:15pm on Monday 20 February 2017

The majority of P&C Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month in the school library.

All parents and guardians are welcome!

We look forward to seeing some new faces in 2017!
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Gary Lindsay
Director and Principal Mortgage Broker

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Email: gary@argillite.com.au
www: www.argillite.com.au

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MORTONS QUALITY MEATS

Email: admin@willduncss.eq.edu.au  Website: www.willduncss.eq.edu.au  Phone (07) 5581 4888  Fax (07) 5596 5947
William Duncan State School