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1 February 2017

DATES TO REMEMBER

Week 3 (6th February)	Block Sport begins
Wednesday 8th February	Meet & Greet- 4:30pm-5:30pm PA Block
Tuesday 14th February	Inter-house Swimming Carnival
Friday 17th February	School photos
Monday 20th February	Catch up photos

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome back to 2017! A very warm welcome not only to all returning students, but for the first time Year 7 students and parents now part of our secondary school family.

To date it has been a very busy start to the school year, most notably for all new students to our campus. An important date

Day 8, Thursday 2nd February is recognised as our census day for staffing for 2017. Any change in student numbers from the predicted 2016 data will result in some minor challenges for our school with a number of small unforeseen disruptions to timetables, despite this parents can be assured any adjustments to accommodate these changes will be completed within days.

Overall it has been a very good calm and quiet start to the school year with all students settling down and engaging in their learning. This year will mark a significant change for William Ross, not only have we developed numerous support and extension aspects into our curriculum and provided designated staff to assist students throughout the year, we will also see the separate and identifiable schools within our school.

- Our Junior Secondary school, Years 7, 8, 9 will have their own identity, separate parades, Junior School Captains and Junior School Council so as to provide value and recognition of these students.
- Our Senior Secondary school, Years 10, 11, 12 will follow the same format and also be separate and identifiable, most observable by the senior uniform.

This year has also seen a different attitude towards the school's policy in a number of areas, these are not changes but moreover recognition of expectations that have been in place for some time:

Uniform

This is a uniform school and is heavily supported by parents, also the school's P&C Association now run a Uniform Shop directly from the Tuckshop, parents and students can purchase all aspects of the uniform, enquires can be directed through the Tuckshop staff.

Uniform, particularly shoes are clearly marked and promoted in our publications. Shoes must meet safety regulations – full leather/vinyl (formal or jogger style).

Full BLACK upper and BLACK sole trim with matching BLACK laces accompanied with white socks, no other colour is permitted. Students have a full page within their Learning Journal which is also published in every Enrolment Pack to ensure there is no misunderstanding. Throughout 2016 I mentioned numerous times on full school assemblies the expectations and standards for 2017.

Mobile Phones (and all other electronic devices)

William Ross is a *“no mobile phone school”*.

This message has been broadcasted in a multitude of formats over a prolonged period of time. If possible students should leave their mobile phones at home. If and where mobile phones are carried by students:

- upon entering the school gate, the mobile phone must be switched off and placed in the students school bag (out-of-sight) or handed-in to the front office for collection after 3.00pm (preferred).
- only after leaving the school grounds (after 3.00pm) students can again use their mobile phone.
- Bus students are required to remain within the school grounds under teacher supervision – no mobile phone use. If contact is essential by bus students, teacher permission is required.

Hat

Another area that needs most support from parents, a focus are for 2017 – hats. We have a formal school hat that is now available at our uniform shop and is approved under Sun Safety. The introduction of this element of the school uniform is problematic especially with young teenagers but responsibility sits firmly with us all to ensure students wear hats as a measure to combat future skin cancer – I seek your support on this approach.

Attendance

This most important aspect centres on full attendance. School students are expected to be in attendance on every school day, with a variance for recognised sickness or approved absence under strict conditions. Our expectation is students will be in full attendance at school with an allowance down to 95% of the whole school year.

Overall our school is well placed to move into 2017 and I would invite and request all parents to contact or visit the school if concerns arise, our goal is to provide the best possible opportunities for every student to achieve their potential. Parents are invited to promote ongoing communication between their classroom teachers and the school throughout the school year to support this we have numerous methods to assist, including our LED Notice Board, Facebook, electronic newsletters, text messaging and direct phone calls.

Road Works

There will be some significant disruptions to the entry and exit road access to our school over Semester 1. Townsville City Council is working collaboratively with our school to minimise any disruption, but with a redesigned round-about it would be expected that there will be significant alterations planned for the

near future. The Council and the school will maintain information and communications to ensure parents have the best available notice of any upcoming changes.

FANTASTIC - 2016 Year 12

Each year we reflect on the performance of our departing Year 12 students as means of ensuring we, as a school, are providing the best possible educational outcomes for our students.

The 2016 results are exceptional. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the 2016 cohort, in brief they performed brilliantly, with two students achieving the best possible outcome in Queensland – OP1 and the overall cohort (OP 1-15) achieving at 83% (well above state average).

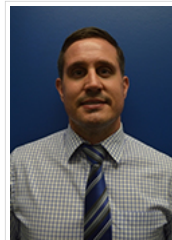
This result is accompanied by 100% of students receiving the Queensland Certificate of Education.

William Ross has clearly established itself as high achieving school with the many thanks to the dedicated staff but more importantly the fantastic students and highly supportive parents.

I look forward to an even better result in 2017.

Allan Evans
Principal
tevan38@eq.edu.au

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL JUNIOR SECONDARY



Welcome to all our new Year 7 students and welcome back to all of our students in other year levels of Junior Secondary! The beginning of a new school year is always exciting and it is wonderful to see so many new uniforms, black leather shoes and bags in most cases bigger than the student carrying it.

On Monday morning, I spoke to the Year 7 cohort and stated that “our school is a great school because of the staff we have and the opportunities we offer”. I stand by that comment and truly believe that here at William Ross State High School we offer exceptional opportunities to our students and we have extraordinary staff. Opportunity is a door that must be opened and walked through, I encourage each of the students in Year 7, 8 and 9 to open the doors of opportunity they are given throughout the year and make the most of each and every day.

Junior Secondary Coordinator & Year Level Coordinators

This year our Junior Secondary Coordinator is Ms Rayleen Brown, she has a wealth of experience in Junior Secondary and school management and we welcome her to the team. We also welcome Ms Emily Zatta (Year 7 Coordinator) and Mr Garrett McKenzie (Year 8 Coordinator) to the Junior Secondary Team. Mr Jacob Miles (Year 9 Coordinator) returns to his position. All of their contacts are listed on our website. They are willing and happy to be of assistance to you and your child.

Meet & Greet

A meet and greet for parents, students and staff will be held on Wednesday 8th of February from 4:30pm – 5:30pm in the PA Block.

Finally, while you choose how you spend your time at school every lesson of every day, you must remember that the time here at William Ross State High School can be spent only once!

Nathan Hustler
Deputy Principal
nhust2@eq.edu.au

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

SCHOOL PHOTOS

FRIDAY 17th / MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2017

School photos will be held on Friday 17th February and Monday 20th February (catch up photos) 2017.

You will receive a flyer / envelope for each of your students explaining the products available. Please ensure that each student returns his / her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child's envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes.

Students are to bring their envelopes in on the Photo Day.

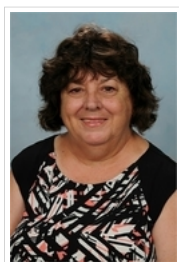
Advanced Life Photography have an automated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to the link below and enter the school code **LV2 VAQ BW1**. Enter your student's details, choose the package that best suits your needs and pay for the photos via the shopping cart (upper right corner of the page). You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order. If paying by cash, please ensure correct amount is in the envelope as the office **will not** change money.

<http://www.advancedlife.com.au>

Sibling Photos are also available for students at the school. Please collect a "Family Order Envelope" from the office and return it on photo day.

Please Note: LATE FEES will apply once orders are closed. Family / Sibling photo orders online close 48 hours before the first school photo day however they can be purchased with an envelope up until photo day.

FROM THE ARTS DEPARTMENT



Music

All returning instrumental students including guitar students must fill in and return the 2017 enrolment form. These can be collected from Ms Allan in J block or from Staffroom 1. We are excited to meet our new instrumental students when meetings are called in Week 2. There is still lots of

room to accept beginners in strings, brass, woodwind and percussion. Please see the HOD – The Arts and Languages for further details.

New Instrumental & Guitar Students

It is not too late to join our programmes. The guitar lessons cost \$60 per term which is amazing value compared to lessons in the general community. Don't miss this opportunity to learn this versatile instrument.

Concert Band

Rehearsals recommence after school on **Thursday 2nd February**. Please note that the finish time will now be 4.30 pm each session with no break. Parents and caregivers are invited to a short meet and greet at 4pm on this afternoon in J Block.

Talent Search

The wonderful **Y Factor** talent competition has returned to start 2017 with a great time for all! We are calling any and all different talents in the William Ross Community to be a part of this great experience. If you can sing, dance, juggle, beatbox, play an instrument or walk on your hands we want to hear from you!!! Please see Ms Allan, Mr Jackson or Ms Wilkinson in Staffroom 1 for an audition form. Auditions will be held in week 3 and heats will begin in week 4. Come a join in the fun and let's see who will be the next winner of **Y Factor!!!**

Media Lab

The final additions are being made to the refurbishing of the former darkroom into a fantastic resource for Film, Television and New Media students. The grand opening will occur shortly so watch this space. Thanks to the Technology crew and Mr Evans for your hard work in making this a reality.

Chinese New Year

Representative Languages students and staff will attend a special Chinese New Year celebration dinner on February 29th. This will be followed later in the week by a morning activity in Flinders square and a Strand Park event later in the week. Watch for announcements on the school Facebook site.

Isabella Shatte
HOD The Arts
isash5@eq.edu.au

FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



The science department would like to welcome all of our new and returning students to William Ross SHS. The dedicated team of science staff are looking forward to working with students and their families in 2017 to achieve the best possible outcomes.

With the continued focus on STEAM across our school, science will be taking a front seat in delivering innovative, hands-on learning experiences in the classroom along with a broad array of extra-curricular programs aimed at inspiring our students and equipping them with the necessary skills for the economy of the future.

This year we will continue to work with our partners:

- **CSIRO**- Scientist in Schools program

- JCU – QSTEM Hub partnership
- Ergon Energy – Community fund supporting the *'Innovation in Sustainability Project'*
- Queensland Police- Forensics Crash Unit – QSTEM Hub partnership
- Conservation Volunteers Australia (Creekwatch)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority – Reef HQ, Reef Guardian Program
- Townsville City Council

ScienceNewsforStudents

Science News for Students provides news articles relevant to young people and can be found at the link below. Please encourage your student to read and access information using a variety of media.

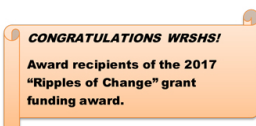
<https://student.societyforscience.org/sciencenews-students>

Tracking Student Progress

Science classrooms are equipped with posters and wall charts which allow for students to access concept ideas and track their learning progress visibly throughout the term. Each student will be provided with a unit starter and proficiency scale which describes what they must be able to do to meet varying standards of success related to their unit of study. Students will use these to track their personal progress as they improve in their ability to work with their new scientific knowledge. If you have any questions or concerns with how your student is progressing in science, please do not hesitate to be in contact with his or her teacher.



We have become a Reef Guardian School!



'Making a Difference for our Future'

The Reef Guardian Schools program supports schools to create awareness, understanding and appreciation for the Reef and its connected ecosystems. Through our involvement, students will have opportunities to participate in further environmental and sustainability projects both within the school and across the wider community. Interested students will act as environmental leaders and ambassadors. The program aims to foster stewardship and promote a culture of active participation in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef.



The Reef Guardian Program will be coordinated by the fabulous Ms. Short. Stay tuned for future updates on this exciting new program and for how to get involved!

Shelley De Ruyter
HOD Science
sderu3@eq.edu.au

FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Rhinos Sports News



Welcome back, we are looking forward to another year of exceptional sporting performance in 2017

Inter-house Swimming Carnival

The first major sporting event for William Ross in 2017 will be the Inter-house Swimming Carnival. Students are encouraged to attend adorned in their sporting house's colours and or theme and be either a competitor or supporter on the day. Parents and students are reminded that the swimming carnival day is a normal school day and attendance is expected as per normal. Parents are also welcome to attend.

Venue: Long Tan pool Heatley

Date: Tuesday February 14

Time: 8:30am – 2:30pm

Due to planned roadworks at the front of the school during term 1, this year there will **be a change to the transport arrangements** for students getting to and from the carnival. Students will be required to make their own way to and from the pool. An information letter will be sent home shortly with further details. If this will be an issue for you please contact the school ASAP.

Block Sport

Block sport for Term 1 will commence in week 3 (pending nominations).

Block sport will occur either on a Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday afternoon dependent on sport and age group. The exception to this is open water polo which occurs on Friday afternoons. Generally participating students will be required to attend from 4 – 5pm, again this is dependent on the sport and students must regularly check the game schedule for times and venues. No school transport is provided to get to and from after school sport.

Block sport – Start week 3 WC 6th Feb

Open Volleyball - Boys and Girls

Open Rugby league - Boys only

Open water polo - Boys and girls

Open Cricket - Boys only

Open Softball - Girls only

15, 14, U13 rugby league - Boys only

U15 Netball - Girls only

U13 Basketball - Boys and Girls

Townsville trials

Townsville trials will occur for various sports across Terms 1 and 2. When sports are open for nomination, notices will be communicated throughout school and students will have to come and collect a trial form from the Sports Coordinator Mr Welsh in Staffroom 2. This form **must** be signed by the school before the student can attend the trial. Dates, times, venues and other details will follow in the future.

Year 7 students

Students in year 7 at William Ross that turn **12** years of age or younger in 2017 will be required to attend the **10-12years Primary Townsville trials** (for their respective sports), the process is exactly the same as the secondary trials however dates, venues and times will differ. All will be communicated at school and through newsletters.

Students in year 7 at William Ross that turn **13** years of age or older in 2017 will be required to attend the **13-19years Secondary Townsville trials** (for their respective sports)

10-12years Primary Townsville trials for Term 1 (dates to follow)

Basketball
Australian Rules
Football
Rugby league
Hockey
Netball

13-19 years Secondary Townsville trials for Term 1 (dates to follow)

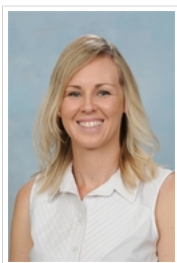
Netball U15 U19
League U15 U18
Union U18
Touch U18, AFL U15, Hockey Girls, Football U19

Students Achievements

Congratulations to Simbai Makawa and Courtney Fryer who recently travelled south to compete in the state basketball championships as part of the North team. Courtney was part of a gold medal winning team, competing in the second division of the competition.

Simbai was successful in being selected as a reserve for the U18 Queensland North state team to play at the Australian Junior championships later this year

FROM THE SENIOR SECONDARY DEPARTMENT



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head of Department for Senior School and VET at WRSHS. My roles include:

- Overseeing the school's compliance with Vocational Education and Training (VET) Courses. This consists of managing assessment, certifications, complaints, credit transfers, governance and scope.
- Organisation and implementation of Year 10 and Year 11 FSK20113 Certificate II in Work and Vocational Pathways and the 12 10563NAT Certificate I in Work and Life Skills.

Year 10, 11 and 12 students must have a **Unique Student Identifier (USI)** in order to receive VET Certifications. For instructions on how to complete this please visit

<https://willrossshs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Vocationaleducation/Pages/Vocationaleducation.aspx>

For more information on the Certificates we offer, school based traineeships and apprenticeships, work experience or TAFE, please email nmand0@eq.edu.au

I look forward to working with you all.

Natalie Anderson
HOD Senior Secondary / VET Co-Ordinator
nmand0@eq.edu.au

IN THE COMMUNITY

Due Now - Student Resource Scheme 2017

William Ross State High School operates under a Student Resource Scheme (SRS). The purpose of this scheme is to provide parents with a cost effective alternative to individually purchasing all necessary educational material for each year level. The SRS covers the hire of textbooks, class sets, novels and curriculum reference material as well as the necessary consumable resources required within practical subjects. Student Learning Journals and Student ID cards also form part of the Student Resource Scheme.

All enrolled students would have recently received a letter from us outlining the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) along with a statement of your account and a SRS Participation Agreement Form.

The fee to participate in the scheme in 2017 is \$280; this is a flat fee, not available in part. If you elect to participate in this scheme you must complete and return the SRS Participation Agreement Form.

If you opt to not participate in the SRS you will have to purchase all textbooks, class sets, novels and curriculum reference material as well as the necessary consumable resources required within practical subjects. The school can provide you with a SRS resource list if you wish to take this course.

We know that some members of the community believe state education to be free; the fact is that in state schools it is the tuition that is free, not the resources. Schools receive limited funding towards resources and are dependent on the success of the Student Resource Scheme. We appreciate your participation and payment of this scheme.

Please note : For those students going into years 10, 11 or 12 in 2017, enrolments (subject selection) into VET courses will only be accepted if the Student Resource Scheme Fees are paid in full for the upcoming, current and past years; this is due to the high cost of consumables and or the school's financial commitment in engaging external providers.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 4726 7666 or contact the Business Manager, Tracey Harker, by email on bsm@willrossshs.eq.edu.au.

United Suburbs Jnr Rugby League

mailto:PRESIDENT@UNITEDSUBURBS.COM.AU

Registration is now open for boys and girls age 6 to 18 for the 2017 season. If your child would like to be a part of one of the most popular junior sports you can sign on online at the link below or contact Gary Kinsey at president@unitedsuburbs.com.au or Tracey Ford secretary at secretary@unitedsuburbs.com.au 0432017817. Our training grounds are John Barr Oval Morey Street South Townsville.



<http://www.unitedsuburbs.com.au>



ESTATES FOOTBALL CLUB Junior Sign-On/Info Day!

Estates Football (soccer) Club wishes to invite children of all ages and their families attend to our Junior Sign-On/Info Day:

Where: Victoria Park (Tully Street) – South Townsville

When: 3.00pm to 6.00pm – Sunday 29th January

Includes: Complimentary Sausage Sizzle

Who are Estates?

We are officially the oldest football club in Townsville, having been established in 1932 by the great Crad Evans. To this date we offer a fun, friendly and social atmosphere to all our players at minimum cost.

Estates strongly believe that finance should not be a factor that prevents children from being able to play the sport they love, hence why we offer the cheapest fees out of all clubs in Townsville.

Seniors Welcome!

Estates would also like to invite any interested adults to come and play in either our senior men's or women's teams for the 2017 season – no matter what age or skill level!

Questions?

Should you have any questions or would like some more information please feel free to contact us via any of the methods listed on the left.

Estates Football Club – Contact Details:

PRESIDENT
Matt Whalley
0432 388 295

EMAIL
estatesfc@gmail.com

FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/estates.fc