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## DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday 1st May	Labour Day
Tuesday 2nd May	Year 7 HPV Dose 2 Immunisation
Tuesday 2nd May	Year 12 QCS Practice Test
Tuesday 2nd May	DOLCE – Musical Performance
Tuesday 9th May	P&C Meeting 7:00pm Admin Block
Tues 9th – Thurs 11th May	NAPLAN (Yr 7 & 9)
Friday 12th May	Chinese Speaking Competition
Monday 15th May	Open Day 4.00 – 6.00pm
Friday 19th May	Senior Drama Night

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### “Change is inevitable”

As many parents are aware, changes occur daily in all large organisations, change and flexibility in our approach to any change is acknowledged as the greatest challenge in achieving results.

In 2016 William Ross State High School became an **“Independent Public School”** – this provides many opportunities for our school to move ahead and develop

site based responses to the complexity around staffing, facilities and the inclusion of our local community onto supporting and advancing the educational outcomes of our students.

Another milestone for William Ross at the end of 2016, our school was accredited as an **‘International School’** as approved under Department of Education and Training International.

This accreditation opens the door for international students to enrol and study at William Ross. In July we have already enrolled three international student for the future, studying in Year 10 through to the end of Year 12, another five students have also enrolled from July for the remainder of 2017.

Another element to being an international school is the contact with overseas representatives. This change will see a number of visiting delegations visiting William Ross in the near future. In Tuesday 9th May, Townsville’s Sister City, Changshu will visit Townsville through the Townsville City Council and Mayor Cr. Jenny HILL.

This high ranking delegation will also have an afternoon visit to William Ross and it is a great honour to be the only school chosen to represent State Education in Queensland. This title, International School, will open significant opportunities for both our school students and incoming overseas students that will eventually better place William Ross within an global context.

## CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pride that I congratulate all students for their acknowledgement at the ANZAC service at the William Ross ceremony last Monday. This occasion was undertaken with the highest level of respect in memory of the ANZAC tradition.

I would further recognize the many students who, in William Ross uniform, attended the Dawn Service and the many more who marched as a school contingent in the formal ANZAC Day march before the Townsville community.

As a school within a community we provide and contribute to the values and future of that, the community of Townsville and as school we will always undertake events that reflect the expectations and involvement of our students within that community.

## WHY IS SCHOOL IMPORTANT?

### Why is it so?

A student would spend a minimum of 35 hours a week at school under the care and direction of teachers, it is touted that adolescences spend more of their waking hours each year in direct contact with their teachers than their parents.

### What to make of this?

We should encourage more parent-teacher conversations about what teachers 'see'. Our school has always welcomed parents into our school, throughout the year we provide opportunities for requested interviews to take place, each semester we provide an Interim Progress Report each semester and two end of semester Report Cards. Is this enough?

'Student Led Conferences' – Parent and Teacher meetings is one such example of these conversations, we will always encourage and support opportunities where productive and informative conversations assist and progress student learning within the classroom.

### What else?

It is clear that parents want to know more about how their child is progressing, can their child handle the work, what could be done to help the student's understanding and engage more productively, is behaviour a problem and the like. What is not clear is when these questions should be asked as it is different for each child.

### Challenge:

As a school we are more than willing to accommodate requests from parents to improve the communication channels between the teacher and the parents, to date our teachers are making contact with a range of parents, in return the challenge to parents is to initiate the same, make contact with the teachers responsible for your child's future. It will be rewarding for you and your child in that learning journey of secondary school and adolescence, the years that determine their future pathway.

## PARENT – TEACHER (SCHOOL) INTERACTION:

While there are multiple opportunities to have direct teacher – parent conversations there also exists an avenue where parent concerns and whole-school issues can be discussed openly with like-minded parents. This school's Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association conduct a monthly meeting where whole-school behaviours are discussed and recommendations forwarded to the school administration for action. Now with our P&C Association running our school Tuckshop (very successfully) and our school Uniform Shop, it is clear they hold a vital role in operation and wellbeing of all students but their contribution to the future strategic direction is critical.

The next meeting, 7.00pm Tuesday 9th May would welcome all and any parents to attend, support and participate in the future of our school.

**Allan Evans**  
**Principal**  
**tevan38@eq.edu.au**

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

### JUNIOR SECONDARY



Welcome Back to William Ross State High School for Term 2. I trust you and your child had a safe and enjoyable Easter break. Again, we have many things happening at our great school both curricular and extracurricular. Today, I spoke with students in Junior Secondary about how

proud I was of them when reviewing the data for Term 1 in their effort, achievement, behaviour and attendance.

## KEY DATES

Some important dates to note for students & parents to note in coming weeks:

- **ANZAC DAY (WRSHS Ceremony)** – Monday 24th April
- **ANZAC DAY (Public Holiday)** – Tuesday 25th April
- **WRSHS Cross Country (Inter-House)** - Wednesday 26th April (half day)
- **Year 7 Academic Audit** – Week 2
- **Year 9 Academic Audit** – Week 3 (Extended Parade)
- **Queen's Birthday Public Holiday** – Monday 1st May
- **NAPLAN Testing** (Week 4)
- **William Ross State High School** – Open Day – Monday 15th May 4pm – 6pm.

## NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008. The Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority confirm that this year the dates for that testing is Tuesday 9th May, Wednesday 10th May and Thursday 11th May. Parents wishing to withdraw their child from NAPLAN testing are asked to contact the school.

## CYBER BULLYING - RESOURCE

As a microcosm of society, many times schools, parents and students are confronted with issues around cyber bullying and cyber safety. The Australian Government has launched an informative and confidential way for young people and parents to report cyberbullying or incidents that have made them feel unsafe online. This resource can be accessed below.

## UNIFORM

A friendly reminder to parents and students that William Ross State High School has high expectations around student uniform. Our winter uniform permits students to wear either a logoed WRSHS jumper or a plain navy pull over. This **must not** be a hooded top. The William Ross winter jacket can be purchased from the school P&C uniform shop.

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](mailto:nhust2@eq.edu.au)

## FROM THE HPE DEPARTMENT



### MOVIE FUNDRAISER

Parents, students, friends and our local community are all invited to our movie fundraiser. See details below:

**WHAT:** "Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2" movie fundraiser

**WHEN:** Friday 28th April

**WHERE:** BCC Cinema – Townsville Central (near Max Brenner)

**TIME:** Movie starts at 6:30pm

**COST:** \$15/ticket

**WHY:** Raise money to support Qld All School Touch Tour in October

Tickets available from the school office. Get yours before they sell out!



## SPORTS FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Local Sporting Champions (LSC) program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for young sportsmen and women aged 12-18.

If successful, applicants will receive a \$500 grant that can be used towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an official national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state, national or international sporting championships, or a School Sport Australia state, national or international championships.

For more information see the website below:

[http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/local\\_sporting\\_champions](http://www.ausport.gov.au/participating/local_sporting_champions)

**Adam Kehl**  
**HOD Health & Physical Education**  
[akehl3@eq.edu.au](mailto:akehl3@eq.edu.au)

## FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT



### BLOCK SPORT FOR TERM 2 – STARTS WEEK 3

*\*All block sport teams are subject to the return of a sufficient number of permission forms\**

At this stage for term 2 we will be nominating the following teams

### NETBALL

Open VW x 1 team  
U15 VW x 1 team  
U13 Netball 3 teams

### RUGBY UNION

Open boys x 1 team  
U15 boys x 1 team

### BASKETBALL

U15 Boys x 1 team  
U15 Girls x 1 team

### FOOTBALL

U15 Boys x 1 team  
U15 Girls x 1 team

### RUGBY LEAGUE 9 a side

Open girls x 1 team

### HOCKEY 8 a side

Open Boys x 1 team  
Open Girls x 1 team

## AFL

Gold coast suns cup is fast approaching the dates are below, permission forms and training times will follow soon

Junior Girls and Senior Girls Thursday 4th May (Week 3)  
Junior boys and Senior Boys Thursday 18th May (Week 5)

## TOWNSVILLE SPORTS TRIALS

There are many opportunities for students to represent Townsville in Sporting trials this term. We have had several students who have already gained places in the Townsville and North Queensland Schoolboy and Schoolgirl teams. Students who would like to nominate for any of the trials taking place this term need to see Mr Welsh in Staffroom 2 and collect a permission form and ensure that their school fees are paid prior to attending the trials.

**12 Years** – Touch 26th May, Rugby Union 2nd June, Softball 2nd June, Cricket 2nd August

**13-19 Years** – U15 Rugby Union and U15 Football 15th May, U15 Basketball 16th May, U14 Cricket 28th August

**Andrew Welsh**  
**Sports Co-ordinator**  
[awels7@eq.edu.au](mailto:awels7@eq.edu.au)

## FROM THE SENIOR SECONDARY DEPARTMENT



Welcome back to another exciting and action packed term.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kristy Kirk and I will be acting as the Head of Department for Senior School and VET while Ms Natalie Anderson is on maternity leave. If you have any questions or would

like more information on the Certificates we offer, school based traineeships and apprenticeships, work experience or TAFE, please email me [kkirk65@eq.edu.au](mailto:kkirk65@eq.edu.au)

**Kristy Kirk**  
**HOD Senior School / VET**  
[kkirk65@eq.edu.au](mailto:kkirk65@eq.edu.au)

## FROM THE YEAR 12 CO-ORDINATOR



Term one has been a very successful beginning for our year 12s. I would like to congratulate those students who achieved 100% attendance for the term. It was fantastic to hand out so many certificates celebrating your achievement. Overall attendance sat steadily around 93%, a little under the desired 95% but still a fantastic

effort!

This term we have begun preparations for this year's formal. It has been wonderful to see so many students wanting to take

part in making the formal a memorable night. This year's theme will be Starry Night. I hope that the rest of the year continues on as positively as term one.

**Jamie Gardner**  
**Year 12 Co-ordinator**  
[jgard92@eq.edu.au](mailto:jgard92@eq.edu.au)

## P & C ASSOCIATION

Feel free to join us at our monthly P&C Meetings. The P&C Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm in the Admin Building. All welcome.

**Madonna Wilkes**  
**President**