The WOOSH building is receiving a structural makeover. This will culminate with it being painted in the near future. I have just received permission after a very lengthy process to construct a storage shed that the school will share with the P&C WOOSH facility. This should be built next week. The P&C have contributed $12,000 to this project. Over the next seven weeks we are receiving a major electricity upgrade. This will cause some disruption but the end result will greatly benefit the students at our school well into the future. The Infants bubbler structure will be rejuvenated in the near future. At all times with every project my number one consideration is the safety of our children and I’m in daily contact with each set of builders/tradesmen.

Parent Teacher Interviews
I am asking that if parents would like to arrange a parent/teacher meeting to please send a note to the class teacher with your available days and times or organise a mutually convenient time through the front office. It has come to my attention that parents are expecting teachers to talk to them when they are teaching their class, or on playground duty or approaching staff without notice. In fairness to the teaching staff I would appreciate your understanding, support and cooperation with this matter.

Year 7 2016 High School Forms
High School Expression of Interest forms for Year 7 2016 were sent home today to all Year 6 students. They are due back no later than Friday 20 March. Keep in mind that we are going to Canberra from 16 – 20 March. You may like to return your child’s form by Friday 13.

Pink and Purple Day
Students in Kindergarten will be celebrating the Wauchope Lasiandra Festival on Thursday 12 March. They will be having a Pink and Purple Day. I know there will be lots of fun activities to enjoy on the day. Thank you Mrs Best and Kindergarten teachers for this initiative.

North Coast Swimming
Kate B, William N, Sam S and Tom F all competed with distinction at the North Coast Swimming carnival in Lismore yesterday. Well done. We are all very proud of you.

Stage 3 Students
Next week students in Year 6 will have the opportunity to listen to and ask questions of our local member David Gillespie. Thank you Mr Moodie for coordinating this visit. On the same day Year 5 and 6 students will listen to a guest presenter on boat safety. Thank you Mrs Humphries for coordinating this visit. It was my pleasure at Monday’s Stage 3 assembly to present quite a few Gold Passes to our Year 6 students. Congratulations to those boys and girls.

School Improvements
At present we have several projects in progress or about to commence. We are constructing an extension to our undercover walkway system that will allow Infants children to get from the Infants Cola to their classrooms without getting wet for the first time ever.
Kindergarten/Year 1 and Year 2 Parents
We have successfully transitioned our wonderful Kindergarten children into the Infants play area. For those of you who have been to our playground you can see it is a very congested area, especially with tradesmen building an extension to the undercover walkway plus we have a large number of parents in that area. The WPS staff would like parents to drop your child at school between 8:30am and 9am and then leave the school grounds as soon as possible. The children are then in the care of the WPS staff. This should reduce the congestion, children will develop greater independence, parents won’t cramp their child’s style, and it makes it easier for the teacher speaking on the microphone to have the children’s attention at 9am without the parents talking. It also makes for a much more settled start to the school day for the children.
On a child protection note it also ensures that the only people in our school grounds are known to all staff. We have to be incredibly careful these days with this issue.
The WPS staff appreciates your support and cooperation with this matter.

Year 3 Excursion
Good luck to the Year 3 children who will visit Port Macquarie next Wednesday. I’m sure you will enjoy the activities planned. Thank you in advance to Mr Nicholson who has coordinated the excursion.

Year 6 Present to the School
I’d like to congratulate and thank the 2015 Year 6 students for donating and planting over 100 plants in an attempt to have a eye catching hedge along the front of our school. The plants are Murraya Paniculata for all those interested green thumbs.

International Women’s Day
This day is celebrated on 8 March each year. It is a day to celebrate the contribution women have made across the world to their communities and the progress that has been made for equality. It is a time to raise awareness about the unjust treatment that many women and children are still facing around the world and in Australia.
International Women’s Day was first declared in 1910 with the first event held in 1911.

Commonwealth Day
Commonwealth Day is celebrated every year by 53 Commonwealth countries on the second Monday in March. This year it falls on Monday 9 March 2015. The aim of commemorating Commonwealth Day is to promote understanding of global issues, international cooperation and the work of the Commonwealth of Nations to improve the lives of its citizens.
The theme for Commonwealth Day 2015 is ‘A Young Commonwealth’, which recognises the capacity, contribution and potential of young people, who play a vital role at the heart of sustainable development and democracy.

Impetigo
We have noted some incidences of Impetigo (also known as school sores) recently. The symptoms are small red spots that change into blisters that fill with pus and become crusted. Please see your family doctor as soon as possible. Children can attend school if sores are being treated and are properly covered by clean dressing.

Canberra Excursion
Please finalise all payments now please.

Sport
Good luck to the Girls Cricket Team who will play Hastings PS next Tuesday.
Good luck to Corey L, Noah C, Izaac B and Cooper B who will be trialling for Lower North Coast teams in either Basketball or AFL.

P&C Meeting and AGM
These meetings will be on next Thursday in the school staffroom commencing at 6pm followed by a General Meeting at 7pm.

School Funding
Please see the memorandum that I received last week. It explains why we must have accurate information on parent’s level of completed education and occupation. Our level of funding from the Government is directly related to what information is presented to us on the enrolment forms.

Memorandum
The low socio-economic background loading for the Resource Allocation Model (RAM) is based on a combination of student and school needs using the Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI). The FOEI measure was developed following research undertaken by the Department that identified parental education attainment as a
strong predictor of student and school performance. 2015 represents the third year that schools will receive a FOEI score. Each year there has been a significant improvement in the way schools work with their parent community to ensure that this data is updated annually. It is critical for determining the level of funding schools will receive for the 2016 RAM equity loading for socio-economic background.

FOEI 2015 will be based on students’ parental education and occupation information which will be extracted from ERN at the start of Term 2 (planned extract date: 26 April 2015).

To ensure that your school’s FOEI accurately reflects the profile of your school community, a high level of completeness and accuracy of parental background information is needed. We appreciate that requesting this information from parents may not always be easy and that it may not be possible to follow up all instances of missing data. When following up with parents, schools should consider communication strategies that best suit their local school context. This may be through phoning the families identified, or sending a letter or form requesting this information, or talking to the parents if they visit the school office. You might also like to consider using the following introductory statement that a large metropolitan high school developed and used successfully in 2014: “I am calling to ask if you could help us complete some important details not listed on your child’s enrolment form. My questions to you are strictly confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than statistically for future funding for your child’s education.”

Please note that any changes to parental occupation or education information need to be adequately documented using proper record keeping processes that may be subject to audit. Your attention to the quality of student and parent information in ERN will not only benefit your school, but will ensure that equity funding provided to schools through the Resource Allocation Model is fair, transparent and best meets the needs of all students in NSW public schools.

Jenny Donovan/Dail McGilchrist - General Manager, strategic information and reporting
Executive Director, learning, high performance and accountability

Cameron Osborne

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 11 March
☼ Year 3 Excursion to Port Macquarie
☼ Stage 3 - Boat Safety Course
☼ Dr David Gillespie visit

Thursday 12 March
☼ Pink and Purple Day - Kindergarten only
☼ P & C AGM Meeting - 6pm
☼ P & C General Meeting - 7pm

Monday 16 March - Friday 20 March
☼ Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Friday 20 March
☼ High School forms due today

Monday 23 March
☼ Young Leaders Day - Sydney

Wednesday 25 March
☼ School Photos - K, 1, 2, 3, 4

Thursday 26 March
☼ School Photos - Year 6 Group, SRC, Special Education, 5, 6, Staff

Thursday 2 April
☼ Easter Hat Parade
☼ P & C Easter Raffle drawn

Friday 3 April
☼ Good Friday

Tuesday 12 May - Thursday 14 May
☼ NAPLAN Assessments

PBL focus for Week 6 & 7 - Safety in the Playground

As we are having a lot of work done outside
☼ Stay in the right play areas
☼ Play safely
☼ Stay away from machinery
☼ Walk on hard surfaces

Assembly Awards Week 6
KDB - Ella D & Abby P
KJB - Jason D & Bella M
KJL - Siahn C & Sam H
KLB - Noah A & Dylan C
KMM - Riley C & Jordan C
1/2WL - Brock C, Shyla W & Ezra B
1BP - Summer S, Izaak D & Lukas N
1KB - Lizzy H, Rodney B & Aleisha G
1KN - Matilda H, Preston C & Hayden P
1LF - James P, Jake C, Pearl M & Khlayla M
2EM - Rosie M, Dylan S & Maggie L
2HL - Abby-Rose F, Ben H & Max C
2MG - Tyler D, Hayden A & Molly L

Excellence, Opportunity and Success
Citizen of the Week
KDB - Soren M
KJB - Sam H
KJL - Bodhi T
KLB - Cameron D
KMM - Jordan C
1BP - Joel F
2MG - Bonnie C

Worker of the Week
KDB - Odin S
KJB - Zoe S
KJL - Jolie S
KLB - Cassie H
KMM - Isabella W

Pink and Purple Day – Thursday 12 March
Kindergarten children are encouraged to join the celebrations of the 31st annual Lasiandra Festival by wearing pink and/or purple to school on Thursday 12 March. If no pink and purple at home then green would fit with the Lasiandra theme. Children need to wear their regular school shoes or joggers and socks plus their hat to school on this day. We will enjoy some whole grade pink and purple activities. Please send in $1.00 before this day to cover the cost of the activities including a pink/purple cupcake.

P & C News

P & C Canteen News

WPS P&C Association/AGM Meeting
The Wauchope Public School AGM for 2015 is being held on Thursday 12 March 2015 at 6pm in the school staff room; there will be a short break followed by the general meeting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to attend; Please be advised that only current financial members are allowed to vote at the AGM. Positions to be elected at the AGM are:
President - Vice President - Secretary - Treasurer
If you require any further information, please contact Joanne Garrett 0417 852 777

Canteen News
Canteen Roster Term 1 Week 7

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<th>Day</th>
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WOOSH News

April Vacation Care, Term 2 Pupil Free day 2015 dates are as follows:
- April Vacation Care - Tuesday 7 April to Friday 17 April.
- Pupil Free Day – Monday 20 April

These are up on the board in the Woosh room now. Please come into the centre and place your child’s name on the list with the required days clearly ticked or alternatively give Alex a ring at the centre. The closing date for registration is Friday 13 March 2015. As we have to undergo a priority procedure, please phone Miss Alex on 0412 852 441 at the centre for availability after Tuesday 17 March 2015.

Community News

Kid’s fun run
All children participating receive a medal and fun bag cap-drink bottle-ruler-pencil-bottle of water

ENTRY FEE: $10 VENUE: PORT MACQUARIE TOWN GREEN START TIME: 10.30
DISTANCES
- 2 KM AGES 4 YRS – 8 YRS
- 4 KM AGES 9 YRS – 12 YRS

BROOKS PORT MACQUARIE RUNNING FESTIVAL SUNDAY MARCH 8TH
The Port Macquarie running festival is a great fun day for everyone featuring 5 km fun run, 10 km run, half marathon, 4 km walk and talk and kid’s fun run. For more information or to enter online go to http://www.portmacquarierunningfestival.com.au/event/
Entries also taken on Saturday 7th March between 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm
From the registration tent at the Town Green or on Sunday prior to the event
CONTACT PETER CAMILLERI 646835050 petercamilleri64@gmail.com

Thank you for all your support.

In case you are unable to work on your allocated day please contact the Canteen Manager, Mrs Nicole O’Hagan prior to the day you are working, to enable her to organise a replacement.

Thank You P&C Association
REMEMBER TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR SCHOOL