Westlawn Public School
A member of the Grafton Community of Schools

Message from the Principal
Welcome to the 2015 school year at Westlawn PS. We extend a special welcome to the newly enrolled students and their families. Our friendly school community is sure to make you feel most welcome. Our new Kindergarten students will begin on Friday and will get to know their Year 6 buddies during the next week. The Year 6 students do a fabulous job in introducing the Kinders to being at ‘big school’ to help them with transition to school.

We have great plans for 2015, with our focus on providing the best opportunities for every child at Westlawn. We offer highly trained teachers who ensure every child reaches their potential in literacy and numeracy, as well as exploring their talents in physical, creative and leadership areas. Our positive approach to instilling values to support student welfare has earned our school a strong reputation in the Grafton community for being a school that cares for children and teaches them to care for others.

Exciting news was received from Mr Lollback and his wife Kristy, who had a son, Taj, to add to their family. Layla is enjoying her little brother. We send our sincere congratulations to Andrew and Kristy.

Our Staff Development Day was most productive with staff gaining further knowledge and expertise in the aspects of the new Science and Technology Syllabus, and the new planning processes introduced by the Department of Education. The new Science and Technology Syllabus is being introduced in 2015 in all schools so this year we will continue to be spend considerable time ensuring our staff are at the forefront of these changes. We will also focus on further developing the critical and creative thinking skills of students and their abilities with problem solving skills. These are skills which are highly valued in all careers and are recognised as needed by 21st Century learners.

Thank you to our school community for keeping an eye on the school during the school holidays. Neighbourhood watch works wonders.

In the last two Newsletters of 2014, I explained that children would be put into their new classes for 2015 on Monday morning. We will be retaining 20 classes, however, as explained, with new children enrolling unexpectedly and others leaving, it is best to make well considered judgements when we know the numbers in each grade so that changes are not made a day or two after classes are formed. A great deal of planning and thought goes into forming classes across the school. On the first two days children have been, where possible, with last year’s teacher to do lessons on Sun Safety, Bike Safety, Bus Safety, behaving responsibly at school, anti-bullying, revision of Maths facts and some related literacy tasks. It is a chance for children to settle into familiar groups and be ready for their new class on Monday. We only have the children’s best interests at heart. It would be good if we knew before the end of the previous year of all families who were leaving or coming, but this is not the case.

Our canteen roster does a fabulous job providing food and drinks for students. We need many volunteers to be able to have a fully functioning canteen. We hope not to have to close the canteen on any day due to a lack of volunteers. If you are able to assist one day per month please complete the tear-off in this Newsletter.

A reminder to all parents that children should be dropped off and picked up from the Hoof St or North St entrances. Cassia St is busy with bus traffic and should be avoided.
NEWSLETTER

If you would like the newsletter emailed to you rather than a paper copy please complete and return this advice slip.

☐ I currently have the newsletter emailed to me and my email address has not changed.

☐ I currently have the newsletter emailed to me and my email address has changed.

My email address is: __________________________________________

Name of children in the household who attend this school:

Name: ____________________________ Class: ______

__________________________ ______

__________________________ ______

Parents Name: __________________________ Signature: __________________________

CANTEEN VOLUNTEER

I can help in the canteen.

I am available:

☐ one day a month ☐ more often : _______________

Preferred day - (please circle)

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Name: ____________________________

Contact Phone: __________________________

Child’s Name: __________________________