PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS
One component of what makes a great school is a Parents’ and Citizen’s (P&C) Association that operates alongside a school’s leadership team and works collaboratively with the school towards common goals. At Withcott State School, we are so fortunate to have that working relationship with our P&C that hosted a welcome BBQ last Friday night, providing the opportunity for us to connect with both new and existing families and set the scene for a productive year of working together. It was wonderful to catch up with many of you. It was also fabulous to see a number of families attend our Parent Information Evenings last night to hear about our way of working at Withcott State School and how each class will operate. Many thanks to the teaching staff for their time in providing these sessions.

Tania Angus
Principal

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING
For those new to our school community, Withcott State School is what is known as a Positive Behaviour for Learning School (PBL) and we are in our third year of being involved in this program. Our work in this area has been framed by a representative team of staff and parents who have worked in both a leadership capacity and in a consultative way, to implement a framework that has provided us with an opportunity to review and build upon behaviour management practices.

The goal of PBL is to improve and maximise academic and social outcomes for all students. Part of the PBL process is to define and explicitly teach expected school behaviours, develop systems for acknowledging positive student behaviour and employ consistent procedures for dealing with inappropriate behaviour.

Withcott State School has always seen a high standard of behaviour from the majority of students. This comes from having high expectations that are shared with both the school and the families from which our children are a part of. It comes from being consistent with how unacceptable behaviour is dealt with and having processes in place for students who need our support to self-regulate their behaviour.

Our work in this area is based upon three core values that underpin the way we work at Withcott State School. These three values are represented in the logo you see at the top of this newsletter; respect, responsibility and resilience and are reflected in our motto you see at the top of this newsletter; respect, responsibility and resilience and are reflected in our logo which our children are a part of. It comes from being consistent with how unacceptable behaviour is dealt with and having processes in place for students who need our support to self-regulate their behaviour.

The star symbol was deliberately chosen as our ‘currency’ for acknowledging positive student behaviour. Our students are our stars, they always shine bright and our job is to help illuminate them. Ask your child about the way that stars are being used to acknowledge positive behaviour in their classroom. They will be able to collect them in working towards short and long term rewards.

At every juncture along this journey we consult with the P&C to ensure that all our work in this space is representative of our entire school community so that we can work together to support our students; your children. Our Responsible Behaviour Plan located on the school website reflects all the outcomes thus far.

Tobacco Legislation
The Queensland Government has passed amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act (1998), banning the use of smoking products, including tobacco and electronic cigarettes, in all enclosed and outdoor areas at state and non-state schools in Queensland - including primary, secondary and special education facilities - and for five metres beyond the boundary of school land. The new laws took effect from 1 January 2015. These laws offer further protection to the Queensland public - and in particular, children and young adults - from exposure to harmful environmental tobacco smoke. Children’s health is particularly affected by environmental tobacco smoke, with exposure increasing the risk of ear infections, respiratory illness and asthma. The new laws apply at all times - during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. The five metre ‘no smoking’ buffer will ensure that smokers extinguish their smoking products well before they approach school land. Smoking in motor vehicles where children under the age of 16 are present has been banned in Queensland since January 2010.

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY
Our Leadership Assembly will take place next Wednesday 17 February at 8:00 am in the Auditorium. All welcome.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR SWIMMERS
Best wishes to those students selected to represent Withcott State School at the upcoming Lockyer Zone Swimming Carnival on Friday 19 February.

SWIMMING 2016
The ‘Fees, Costs and Fundraising 2016’ flyer that was distributed with the last newsletter indicated that the end of year swimming lessons are only for Prep-Year 5 students. To clarify, swimming lessons will include year six students in 2016. Sorry for any confusion as a result of this oversight.

HEAD LICE
There have been a number of cases of head lice reported. The only effective way to deal with this issue is for everyone to regularly check their child’s hair and to commence a consistent treatment program. Head lice are spread through head-to-head contact and the sharing of hats. Long hair should be tied back.

Acknowledgements
Our P&C for organizing the Welcome BBQ
It was a wonderful night.
Thank you for your support.

2016 SCHOOL PHOTOS
THURSDAY 10 MARCH
PAYMENTS CLOSE 3 MARCH
Class photo envelopes are being distributed today. Payments are by cash or cheque made payable to Onsite Photographics. As well as Class Photos, there are also a number of other options (envelopes for these should be collected from the office):

- Family Photos (non-school family members can be included)
- Environmental Management Team
- Whole Year 6 Photo
- Year 6 Captains (School, Sports & Music)
- Student Council
- Instrumental Music
- Junior Choir
- Senior Choir

Note for Yr 6 students: Package Deal - see envelope “THE PACKAGE”. Yr 6 students have the option of having either their Roll Class Photo or the Whole Year 6 Photo as their Laminated Group Photo. If choosing the Whole Year 6 Photo, please note this on your envelope. Yr 6 students can order the Package with their class photo and order the Whole Year 6 Class separately if they wish.

What to wear/bring:
- Year P-5: Formal uniform preferred consisting of royal blue bottoms, check top (or dress), black shoes.
- Year 6: Sport shirt with royal blue bottoms, sport shoes. (Captains to wear formal uniform.)
- Snr Band, Choirs: Bring black and white uniform and band members bring instrument.

INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP
This annual event is being held on Tuesday 1 March 2016 at the Millennium Centre (Toowoomba Anglican College & Preparatory School) from 8.30am - 4pm. The cost is $15 per student and you will need to transport your child to and from the event. If your child is interested in participating, please complete and return the form on the reverse of this newsletter (by Monday 15 Feb).
You will then be invoiced for the cost of $15.
A great start to the year has seen all classes engaged in some great music making over the first few weeks of the year. The first round of recorder lessons for the beginners will be a revelation to all concerned...especially the children who will discover that moving the fingers on their left hands is far harder than what it sounds!!! Thanks for persevering with them, families, as we go through the first few weeks of making duck noises and the like!

Choirs: Our two choirs are getting into their rehearsals and working very hard already. Numbers are up again this year, and we look forward to enjoying their music as the year progresses.

Choir Membership Letter returns: Thank you to the many children who have promptly returned their signed Choir Agreement to the office. There are still a few outstanding, and I would ask that you follow this up promptly if they are outstanding. This is the written commitment that the child (and you) make to the choral program, and we endorse it as another way of encouraging our children to assume responsibility for their decisions.

SEASON 1 DATE CLAIMERS:
- 20 April - ANZAC Day Assembly
- 23 March, 8 June - Assembly
- 31 May - Semester 1 Music Evening
- 14, 15 or 16 June - SINGOUT at the Empire Theatre (Date to be confirmed)
- Junior Choir:
  - 9 March, 18 May - Assembly
  - 31 May - Semester 1 Music Evening

Brett Gredig
Classroom Specialist and Choir Conductor

P&C NEWS
Thank you for supporting our Welcome BBQ, it was a great night and it was terrific to see you all!

The first P&C meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 16 February at 7.00 pm in the staffroom (administration building). This meeting will include both a general meeting and the Annual General Meeting (AGM). All new members are welcome and it would be great to see some new faces at the P&C this year. We will be looking for people to fulfil the roles of President and Treasurer as well as all positions on the P&C becoming vacant. Nominations will be called for at the meeting. The P&C Executive is made up of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Communications Officer. If you are interested in any of these positions, please come along to the meeting. Even if you’re not interested in a position (no pressure!), you are invited to come along to the AGM to simply become involved in this great school.

The State Government Election is on Saturday 19 March. The school is again being used as a local polling booth and as such, the P&C will be putting on a Bake Sale and Sausage Sizzle. We are using this event to raise additional funds for our school students. We would love to get some help on the day if you have an hour to spare. More information closer to the date.

Prue Fellowes - Communications Officer
Withcott State School P&C
E: pandccontact@withcottss.eq.edu.au

LAMINATING
Laminating takes place on the first Friday afternoon of each month and will be ready for collection the following day.

Next Laminating Date: Friday, 4 March 2016;
Prices: A4 - $1.50, A3 - $2.50, Posters - $5 a metre. Drop items into the office at any time!!

TUCKSHOP TALK
Please note that all orders must be in by 9.30am Tuesdays. Helpers are needed, a Tuckshop Volunteer Form is being distributed today. Please complete and return the form if you can help.

Week 3 - 17 Feb: Sally Shore, Leesa Van Zandt, Deb McFadyen, Anna Goldsmith.

Week 4 - 24 Feb: Julie Ferguson, Deb McFadyen.

On-Line Ordering: Please update your child’s roll class to ensure they get their order.
Leissa Whiteman
Tuckshop Convenor ph: 0478 782 182

UNIFORM SHOP
The Uniform Shop opens each Wednesday morning 8.15am - 9.30am. A noticeboard in the uniform shop advertises second-hand school uniforms. Second-hand uniforms are also gratefully accepted on a donation basis. Washable/squashable hats - the supplier has advised that hats are due for delivery late Feb/early March. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.
Leissa DeBortoli
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator 46303495

COMMONWEALTH BANK
SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM
Each Monday is banking day, so drop your bank books with completed deposit slips in the office mailbox before 9am. If a public holiday or student free day falls on a Monday, banking day will be on the Tuesday for that week.
Browny Logan, School Banking Co-ordinator

LOADING ZONES - DROP OFF/ PICK UP AREAS
The success of loading zones requires cooperation from all motorists using it to ensure quick movement of vehicles through the area. Please observe any time frames on the sign (see example) and only stay in the area for as long as it takes to get the children in to or out of the car within a two minute timeframe. The driver must not park the car in these signed areas and go into the school with the children or pick up their children. This area is designed to keep the vehicles moving. It is there for the convenience of ALL motorists.

Road Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility. If you would like more information on this or any other road/child/ bike safety or other transport issue, please phone your local Road Safety Office on 1300 560 135.

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS
2016 - TERM 1
16 Feb  P&C Meeting (AGM) 7pm in staff room
17 Feb  Leadership Assembly
19 Feb  Zone Swimming Carnival
2 Mar  Individual Chess Championship
2 Mar  Regional Swimming Carnival
10 Mar  School Photos
18 Mar  Zone Cricket, Kanga, Softball Carnival
19 Mar  Polling Booth Bake Sale & Sausage Sizzle
24 Mar  Final Day Term 1

2016 - TERM 2
11 Apr  School Resumes
20 Apr  Anzac Day Assembly
25 Apr  Anzac Day
2 May  Labour Day
10-12 May  NAPLAN (Year 3 & 5)
31 May  Semester 1 Music Evening
20-23 Jun  Life Education
24 Jun  Final Day Term 2

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Withcott Wildcats Football Club
Flyers being distributed today. Sign-on days 20 and 27 Feb 2016 10am-2pm (Under 6 to Seniors). More info: Clinton 0407 007 482 or www.withcottfc.com

Withcott State School
PH: 4614 1600.

Love Bites Wed 17 Feb 9.30am-3.30pm HumRidge Church Auditorium, BBQ lunch provided, all welcome. Ph: 4614 1600.

Stars & Idols Guitar, keyboard, bass, drums and singing lessons each Monday from 3.15pm in the Withcott State School Auditorium. $12 per lesson, more info text 0402 349 301.

INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP
TUESDAY 1 MARCH 2016 8.30am - 4pm
My child ______________________ would like to participate in the Individual Chess Championship on Tuesday 1 March 2016.

* I understand that I will need to transport my child to and from the event.

* I understand that the school will invoice me for the amount of $15.

Parent/Carer Signature _______________________  Date: ___________________

Student’s Roll Class: ________________________