PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS
Last week on assembly, the students did a lovely job of acknowledging the contribution of Withcott State School Groundsman, Mr Carl Nicholls who has now retired. Many thanks to those parents/carers who attended as we demonstrated how much we value Carl and the way in which he carried out his role in creating beautiful school environments that form the foundation upon which we carry out our work. We wish him all the very best for a well-earned retirement.

Tania Angus  
Principal

PRIORITIES FOR 2016
The first part of the school year sees us creating our annual implementation plan and budget that are then endorsed by the P&C and our Assistant Regional Director. We also examine our school data to determine priority learning areas for the year. Our target areas for improving student achievement in 2016 include: reading comprehension, numeracy and writing. Resources, both human and monetary are then targeted towards these priority learning areas. All students are now involved in reading groups that aim to target comprehension skills. The additional staffing required to facilitate these small groups is funded through the Investing for Success initiative.

This successful reading program has been in operation in the early years for two years now and has now assumed responsibility for 5/6D. We welcome Nikki to our teaching staff.

STAFFING UPDATE
Sharon Denman has been appointed to the temporary position of Curriculum Coach at Withcott State School for the remainder of Semester One. Mrs Nikki O’Kennedy commenced work with us last week and has now assumed responsibility for 5/6D. We welcome Nikki to our teaching staff.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS
Parent Teacher Meetings are usually offered towards the end of the term. However, due to staff availability, will be offered in Term Two on the afternoon/evening of 3 May. Bookings will be made in the new term.

Sharon Denman  
Curriculum Coach

BUY A BALE COLLECTION IN HONOUR OF STEVE JONES
An amount of $252.90 was raised for this wonderful cause. Thank you all for your generous support.

TOOWOOMBA & DARLING DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP
It was my pleasure to accompany three students, to the annual primary schools chess tournament for Individual players at Toowoomba Prep last Tuesday. They conducted themselves quite beautifully, as always, and were a great credit to our school. Close on 200 students from 28 different schools attended. It's interesting to note that a number of past very competent primary school chess players from various schools are now at university studying medicine, genetics and engineering. Lachlan Von Pein, formerly of Withcott State School, is now in year 12 but still attends every primary school chess competition to help with the running. He's planning a career in physics. Chess helps all children develop turn-taking skills, patience, perseverance and good sportsmanship. Beyond that it fosters the development of memory, focus, intelligence, the ability to visualise and form complicated mental strategies, the ability to problem solve, adapt, weight options and think abstractly. Schools world-wide acknowledge the value of this classic game and countless studies have reinforced the fact that playing chess does make kids smarter. Later this year we hold our own chess competition at this school and keen students will have the opportunity to participate in a Toowoomba & Darling Downs Chess Teams competition. Please encourage your kids to play, even better, play it with them. It develops intelligence and we'd love to see more children taking it up.

Steve Jones

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
Please note that I will not be at school next Tuesday 15 March as I will be attending the Secondary Music Camp.

Vanessa Bartley, Instrumental Music Teacher

PURPLE DAY - WED 23 MARCH
The 2016 Student Council would like to begin the year by supporting the National Epilepsy awareness campaign. This is the day we ask people at our school and in our community to wear a touch of purple and spread the word about Epilepsy. Purple Day is a campaign to promote awareness about the brain disorder, Epilepsy.

On Wednesday 23rd March (Week 9) we ask you to support this worthy cause by wearing a touch of purple with your school uniform and by bringing a gold coin donation to help support Epilepsy Queensland. Some ideas for wearing a touch of purple are: purple socks, purple hair ribbons or a purple tie.

For more information go to www.epilepsyqueensland.com.au

Student Council

2016 SCHOOL PHOTOS
TOMORROW
THURSDAY 10 MARCH

What to wear/bring:
Student Council & EMT Representatives:
Formal uniform preferred consisting of royal blue bottoms, check top (or dress), black shoes.
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.

WITHCOTT STATE SCHOOL
ACKNOWLEDGES:
Mr Evans, Mr Scrivener and Mr Akin

for supporting the Environmental Management Team.

Your contribution is greatly valued.
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, 15 April 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.
Week 3 - 16 March: Leesa Van Zandbergen, Sally Shore, Bec Edmonds.
Week 4 - 23 March: Treat Day
On-Line Ordering: Please update your child’s roll class to ensure they get their order.
Treat Day: Wednesday 23 March “Easter Fare”. This will replace the normal tuckshop menu for this day. More details to follow and menu out next week.
Proposed Menu Changes due to the implementation of P&C Qld Smart Choices has now been postponed to Term Three: More details next term.
Leesa Whiteman
Tuckshop Convenor: 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.
Thank you for all the generous donations of second-hand clothing. They have been greatly appreciated and provide a valuable service for our school families.
Sonia DeBortoli
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator 46309495

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Community Notices are published in good faith, though not necessarily endorsed by the school.

CENTENARY HEIGHTS SHS ENROLMENTS
Enrolment for 2017 - an information sheet is being distributed to Year 6 students today.

POLICE LEGACY BOOKS are being distributed to Year 6 students today.

DROUGHT FUNDRAISER
‘Kidding about for Drought’ DVD $20, on-line orders welcome. It’s a hilarious joke DVD produced by the ‘Booyal Bunyips’ from Booyal Central State School. Enjoy jokes by children, country music stars, celebrities & community. All profit to the QCWA’s Public Rural Crisis Fund.
www.booyalbunyips.com

2016 LOCKYER VALLEY SKATEBOARDING CHAMPIONSHIPS - WORKSHOPS
Helidon 2-4pm 8/4/16, Murphys Ck 10am-12noon 25/6/16, Withcott 2-4pm 25/6/16. All sessions are free. Register online at: http://australianskateboarding.com
More info: youth@lvc.qld.gov.au or phone 1300 005 872

2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016 - TERM 1
10 Mar School Photos
13 Mar Rotary Ride the Range - CAN YOU HELP?
15 Mar P&C Meeting 7pm in the Staffroom
18 Mar Zone Cricket, Kanga, Softball Carnival
19 Mar Polling Booth - CAN YOU HELP?
23 Mar Treat Day “Easter Fare”
23 Mar Purple Day - bring a gold coin donation
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
6 May Interhouse Cross Country/School Fun Run
10-12 May NAPL (Year 3 & 5)
31 May Semester 1 Music Evening
20-23 Jun Life Education
24 Jun Final Day Term 2

PAYMENTS / PERMISSIONS DUE
15 Mar Zone Cricket, Kanga, Softball Carnival $13 (Notes out tomorrow 10 March)

2016 TENNIS COACHING WITHCOTT STATE SCHOOL
ROBERT WILLIAMS
TCA ADVANCED (LEVEL 2) TA CLUB PROFESSIONAL COACH
Monday (higher grades) 1.10pm - 1.40pm
Wednesday (Prep only) 12.30pm-1.00pm
Wednesday (lower grades) 1.10pm - 1.40pm
6-8 pupils - ½ hour - $65.00 per term (family discount) min 8 wk term
Term 1 commences Monday 1 February 2016
For further information and enrolment
Phone Robert Mobile 0413 488 303 / home 4635 5655
e-mail rwil@bigpond.com

HELPERS NEEDED
2016 ROTARY RIDE THE RANGE THIS SUNDAY 13 MARCH
The P&C will be holding a Refreshment Stall at the mountain bike pit stop at Jubilee Park via Amos Road Withcott from 6:45am. Can you help?
Proceeds go to the P&C.

2016 ROTARY RIDE THE RANGE
Yes, I/we can help:
Name: _____________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________