PRINCIPAL’S COMMENTS
Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that everyone enjoyed a lovely holiday period. School holidays provide everyone with some much-needed respite from the busy routines that everyday life brings. This morning we hosted a special assembly to commemorate ANZAC Day. We came together as a school community to remember the day, some 101 years ago when the ANZAC tradition was established on 25 April 1915 and the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The ANZAC spirit was characterised by mateship, loyalty, courage and an unwavering selflessness. We value the opportunity to encourage our students to think about what they can do and how they can act to ensure that these characteristics are carried on through them and that the ANZAC spirit continues on. Each class paid their respects today to remember the sacrifice of those who died or who have suffered in war by creating and laying a wreath. Many thanks to Major Nigel Carter who addressed the assembly and to Lockyer Valley Regional Councillor, Mrs Kathy McLean and Mr Ron Smith from Helidon RSL for their attendance. The Withcott Community Anzac Day service is on Monday 25 April at 8:00 am at the War Memorial in Meadows Road. The senior choir and the concert band along with a number of our school leaders will be involved. You are all very welcome to attend. Withcott State School is also invited to take part in the march at the Helidon Community ANZAC Service. Participants assemble at 12:15pm in the railway yards with the march commencing at 12:30pm. Withcott State School captains and representatives from other local schools also take part in the service. We have many other events and activities happening over the term as highlighted throughout this newsletter.

Tania Angus , Principal

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING
The beginning of a new term is a good time to review expectations, routines and procedures; both at school and at home. Last week’s focus expectation was ‘be ready to learn’. On assembly, we discussed how being ready to learn starts before students even get to school and can start the night before with ensuring that they get to bed at a reasonable time, prepare their uniform for the new day and set an alarm so that they get up in time to have a nutritious breakfast and organise everything they need. Whilst it can take energy and effort to re-establish routines after a holiday break, it is important that students arrive at school on time ready to start their day. Prompt arrival ensures that students are present for the orientating messages to the day and facilitates a settled start for the class.

PRE-SERVICE EDUCATORS
We welcome two pre-service educators working in various classes and contexts across the school in the coming weeks. •Prep. Merran Callaghan. •Special Education Teacher/Support Teacher Literacy & Numeracy: Lyn Hartland. These ladies have a range of observational and teaching tasks to engage in throughout their practical teaching experience.

NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will take place for students across Australia in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 over three days, Tuesday 10 – Thursday 12 May (Week 5). NAPLAN requires students to complete a number of tasks relating to proficiency in aspects of literacy and numeracy and provides us with an opportunity to obtain feedback about student performance on tasks which have been specifically developed for this national testing program. While all students in these year levels are expected to participate in NAPLAN, it is possible for some students to be withdrawn or exempted from the testing program. There is also provision in the administration of the testing program for ‘reasonable adjustments’ to be made for students who have a diagnosed disability. Parents and carers wishing to pursue these options should contact the school as soon as possible and no later than Friday 6 May. In the lead up to this week, students will engage in NAPLAN preparation; participating in ‘practice tests’ so that they become familiar with the test genre. They are taught to read the question carefully, examine each of the possible responses and review their answers. Any support from parents in reinforcing these practices is helpful. More information on the tests can be found at http://www.nap.edu.au

BOOKS ON BLANKETS
As part of the program that is funded through the Investing for Success initiative, students will be invited to share ‘books on blankets’ between 8:30 and 9:00 am, Monday to Thursday. Designated teacher-aides will reading to children simply for enjoyment on picnic blankets in locations around the school. This activity will help to ensure that children (and adults) continue to experience the enjoyment of reading for pleasure.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS
Parent Teacher meetings will be offered on Tuesday 3 May from 3:20 pm – 7:00 pm. These meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and all parents are encouraged to take up this opportunity. You will receive a form today asking you to indicate your request for an interview and any time that you are unavailable on the afternoon. Please complete and return these forms to the school office by next Tuesday 26 April. A meeting time and venue will then be confirmed. If you require an alternative date, please contact your class teacher.

CROSS COUNTRY
The Interhouse Cross Country for children aged 9 – 12 years is to be held on Friday 6 May. Students have commenced a training program which involves gentle walks and jogs around the oval, building up to the students running the course. Whilst every student may not be able to run the full course, we encourage all students to participate at their own level. This may involve students walking part of the course. By participating at their level, all students increase their fitness and develop resilience in ‘having a go’. The running/walking of the Cross Country is classified as the fun run for this age group, however, they will be welcome to join in the fun run activities held for the lower age groups following the Cross Country Run.

ATTENDANCE
Regular and punctual attendance at school is essential to promote good work habits. Education Queensland regulations require schools to account for student absences. If a child is to be absent from school, please telephone the office directly on 4614 9300 or on the 24 hour Absence Line on 4614 9360 and provide a reasonable reason for the absence. Unexplained absences will be followed up by the administration team.

To comply with legislation, when a student is absent, or plans to be absent, for more than 10 consecutive school days for any reason, the parent must comply with their obligations in respect to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation by either:
• seeking an exemption from their obligation, or
• by negotiating with the principal to make an alteration to a student's educational program; or
• by seeking to arrange a flexible arrangement for the student

Parents will be asked to complete an Exemption Form to be authorised by the Principal where approval is granted.

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to ……….. who has been selected for the Darling Downs 12yrs Boys Hockey team! Chris will compete at the State Championships in June. Well done also to ……………………. who represented the Lockyer Zone team at the Darling Downs Netball trials.
SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 - TERM 2</th>
<th>2016 - TERM 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Apr Anzac Day - Community Service 8am</td>
<td>11 July School Resumes</td>
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<td>2 May Labour Day</td>
<td>15 July Y2/3P, 4/5C Empire Theatre Excursion</td>
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<td>3 May Parent Teacher meetings</td>
<td>22 July Interhouse Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>5 May Mothers’ Day Stall</td>
<td>8 Aug Exhibition Holiday</td>
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<td>6 May Interhouse Cross/School Fun Run</td>
<td>12 Aug Upper Lockyer Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>9 May Indigenous Morning Tea</td>
<td>19 Aug Locker Zone Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>10-12 May NAPLAN (Year 3 &amp; 5)</td>
<td>5 Sep Year 1/2S, 2/3P Amaroo Excursion</td>
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<td>13 May Family Movie Night “Jungle Book” 5.30pm</td>
<td>6 Sep Regional Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>17 May P&amp;C Meeting 7pm in staffroom</td>
<td>16 Sep Locker Zone Soccer Netball Carnival</td>
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<td>18 May Treat Day</td>
<td>16 Sep Final Day Term 3</td>
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<td>18-24 May Bookfair</td>
<td>20-23 Jun Life Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 May Y2/3P, 3/4A, 4/5C/5/6D, 5/6D Spirit of Anzac</td>
<td>21 Jun Year PL, 1/2H Amaroo Excursion</td>
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<td>31 May Semester 1 Music Evening</td>
<td>22 Jun Treat Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Jun Y5C, 5/6D, 5/6J Japanese Taiko Drumming</td>
<td>24 Jun Final Day Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Jun Trivia Night</td>
<td>25 May Y5C, 5/6D, 5/6J Japanese Drumming $5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-23 Jun Family Movie Night</td>
<td>20-23 Jun Family Movie Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Jun, 14 Mar Trivia Night</td>
<td>25 May Y5C, 5/6D, 5/6J Japanese Drumming $5.00</td>
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<td>31 May Movie Night “The Jungle Book” 5.30pm</td>
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<td>1 May Prep Nurse envelopes</td>
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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 children’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.

P&C NEWS
P&C Levy – Congratulations to the Gravelin family, winners of our first levy drawer. Have you paid your levy yet? There are some great incentives for early payments. Pay early to be in the draw!

Trivia Night - A Trivia Night for parents/carers will be held Saturday 18 June at the Withcott Hotel. More details later.

Family Movie Night – A Family Movie Night will be held from 5.30pm Fri 13 May. “Jungle Book” will be screened. Hot Dogs & Doughnuts will be on sale. More details later.

P&C Meeting – Next meeting, Tuesday 17 May 7pm in the staff room.

Liz Todd – Communications Officer
Withcott State School P&C
Email: pandcontact@withcottss.eq.edu.au

COMMONWEALTH BANK SCHOOL BANKING PROGRAM
Along with the rewards currently available for each 10 deposits of Flying Snake Tail, Wildlife Winter Set, Mud Splat Handball and Outback Pat Bag Tag, every student who makes 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will automatically go into the draw to win a family trip for two adults and three children to meet the Irwins at Australia Zoo. Information packs and account application forms are available at the office, or if you have any questions regarding school banking, please email me at withcottschoolbanking@gmail.com.

School Banking Co-ordinator

TUCKSHOP TALK
Please note that all orders must be in by 9.30am Tuesdays, on-line or cash orders accepted.

Treat Days this term will be 18 May and 22 June (Wednesdays instead of normal menu). On-line or cash orders accepted. Menus will be out in the week prior.

Week 4 - 24 April: Volunteers needed please! Please phone me as below.

Week 1 - 4 May: Michelle Vaughan, Jean Kennett. Leissa Whiteman 0478721892

Tuckshop Convenor

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.

House Shirts If you would like to order house shirts for the Interhouse Cross Country/Run Fun, orders must be in by 27 April. Cost $15, available by order only.

Sonia DeBortoli
Uniform Shop Co-ordinator 46303495

PAYMENTS/PERMISSIONS DUE

MOTHERS’ DAY STALL
THURSDAY 5 MAY
Gifts will range from $1 to $5.
Get mum (or Grandma) a gift that she’ll love!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COMMUNITY NOTICES

STARS & IDOLS
Guitar, keyboard, bass, drums and singing lessons each Monday from 3.15pm in the school auditorium. $12 per lesson, more info text 0402 349 301.

AUSSIE HOOPS PROGRAMS
For kids 5-10yrs run on Sat mornings at Withcott Sport Centre & Lockyer Valley Sports & Aquatic Centre in Gatton is excellent for beginners in sport. More info: Withcott@toowoombabasketball.com.au

TMBA JNR BASKETBALL
Clubs are now preparing for nominations for the Championship. More info: Withcott@toowoombabasketball.com.au

LOCKER COUNTRY LIBRARIES

SECOND RANGE
construction commences soon and will take approx. 3yrs. There will be some impacts and changes for the local community. More info: http://nexustarc.com.au/community