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No. 20 27 November 2024

"Withcott Warbler"



LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

A Special Farwell

I address you with a heart full of gratitude, reflection, and a hint of sadness. After 19 years in the Withcott SS library, guiding students through the endless worlds of books, ideas, and learning, it's time for our librarian Roslyn Stemmler to close this chapter and begin a new one.

She always believed that the library is more than just a room full of books. It's a place where curiosity is ignited, where stories come to life, and where the love of learning is nurtured. Over the years, she had (like all teachers) the incredible privilege of being a guide to students as they embarked on their own learning journeys—whether they were looking for their first chapter book, researching a project, or finding the perfect novel to escape into. Roslyn watched so many children grow, explore, and discover new passions, and she has told me it was such a joy to be a part of that.

I would like to thank Roslyn for the collaborative partnerships she made with fellow teachers. Together, with just the right resources from her, they created lessons, explored new technologies such as Ozobots & Beebots, and worked to create a learning environment that was inspiring for all.

She moved with the times and allowed the library to evolved over the years. From the bookshelves to the Reading Eggs resources, from story time to research projects, the library has always been a place that adapted, that grew with the needs of our students and the world around us.

Thank you for the valuable lessons and pieces of wisdom. We wish you a retirement full of curiosity, discovery, and adventure.

A Time of Firsts & Lasts

The end of the year is a time of firsts and lasts, a time of delight and also a touch of sadness.

Lasts

For some of our families, we say goodbye to them for the last time, some after a number of children and many years of association with the school. It has been a pleasure to have had you in the school community and I would like to thank you for all that you have contributed to us.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Askin Family | Castle Family |
| Bull Family | Cook Family |
| Damrow Family | Donald Family |
| Ford Family | Francisco Family |
| Gentz Family | Hill Family |
| Hines Family | Holdsworth Family |
| Kirkman Family | Metzroth Family |
| Parata Family | Riley Family |
| Robertson Family | Russell Family |
| Merson Family | Thomas Family |
| Train Family | Phillips Family |
| Beezley Family | Burow Family |

Firsts

- The Year 6 students will have their first shared dinner and graduation celebration with their parents
- Some of our Year 5's have been selected into leadership position for 2025
- Our 2025 prep students & their parents have had their first visits and first experiences of school as they choose this amazing school to start an amazing educational journey.

Thank you for being part of the many firsts and lasts associated with school. Thank you to the parents and students who have touched this school in any small way and thank you to the staff who set the trail to success.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the final assembly and the End of Year Concert.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Lyndal Symonds, Principal

PREP 2025 Enrolments Now Open

Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website or picked up from the office. We look forward to welcoming you in 2025.

2025 Enrolments

Please advise the school office if your student/s **will not be** returning in January 2025.

FAREWELL WITHCOTT

Yes, I'm retiring as many of you have heard! It's time to smell the roses! I started my teaching career at Mitchell forty years ago, the year a teaching friend, Anna Hack, opened the preschool of the new Withcott State School under its first and much-loved principal Lance Wilson. My teaching journey has taken me through many schools small and large, remote, city and country. Time in tricky schools in the Northern Territory, seven years as an Education Officer with Qld Museum, flood clean-ups (more than one), several awards for excellence. The last 19 years has been at Withcott State School, where I've endeavoured to create an excellent primary school library, something that was warmly confirmed by the lead reviewer at our last school review. Tom Otto, my first Withcott principal, had a mission for me when I arrived, 'to turn the library into the heart of the school!' I took that to heart and the 60 - 70 who spend playtime here daily, reading, conversing, playing with manipulative toys and computer games, developing manners, social skills, a sense of belonging and friendship prove its value in our young student's eyes. Tens of thousands of students and families have kept me in the game, made it all worthwhile! The aha lightbulb moments for kids, the myriad moments that bring a tear to an eye, the desire as teacher to touch and better lives, appreciative hugs decades years later from students and parents. Thank you for the value you've placed on the library, for your support with events, for sharing your children, for steps in family journeys. So many brilliant parents, so many fabulous kids. It takes a village to raise a child and education is a partnership between home and school. You are the magic in the mix. My good wishes go with you.



SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2024	Term 4
18-29 Nov	P-6 Swimming Program
2 Dec	Year 6 Farewell Dinner
9 Dec	Interhouse Swimming Carnival
10 Dec	CHSHS & TSHS Orientation Day
11 Dec	Final Assembly/School Concert
12 Dec	Year 6 Day Out
13 Dec	Final Day Term 4

PAYMENTS/
PERMISSIONS
DUE

Overdue	Online Services Consent-Reading Eggs/Express
Overdue	Swimming Lesson Payment

LAMINATING

Laminating takes place on the first Thursday morning of each month and will be ready for collection the following day.

Next Laminating Date: Thursday, 5 December.

Prices: A4 - \$1.50, A3 - \$2.50, Posters - \$5 a metre. Drop items into the office at any time!!

Roslyn Stemmler, Teacher Librarian

WELCOME MS GOLE

Hello Withcott State School students, staff, and community, My name is Ms Gole and in 2025 I will have the pleasure of teaching a 3/4 class at your school. I have lived and taught in the Northwest of Queensland in Cloncurry for 3 years and prior to that on the Sunshine Coast. I visited Toowoomba when I was a High School student visiting from Brisbane but have never been to Withcott! So please teach me all about your special place!

I love to teach all subjects and especially love English. I enjoy swimming in the ocean, playing social sports and craft. One of the things I am most excited about is acclimatising to some cooler weather! I hope you all have a safe holiday, and I look forward to meeting you in the New Year!

Ms Gole



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Hayden D'Arcy and Slater Walsh would like to thank the P&C and the Community for their support at the recent Election Bake and Raffle Stall. Thank you to the families who baked goods and businesses who donated the raffle prizes. \$966 was raised to assist them with their trip to Sydney for the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships.

The boys are in Sydney from today and will compete in their events over the next few days. Hayden will be competing in the Tetrathlon (100m, 800m, Long Jump and Shot Put), Individual Long Jump and Medley Relay and Slater will be competing in Discus.



2025 BOOK DROP OFF

(Booklists have been sent home, they are also available on the school website)

You can come in and meet your teacher and leave your books in your classroom.

3:00pm - 4:00pm Wednesday 22 January 2025

Drop in books, meet teacher, purchase uniforms.



FINAL ASSEMBLY AND SCHOOL CONCERT

Time	Event	Notes
9am-10am	Final assembly and award presentation	2024 final assembly Awards Year 6 presentations
10am-10:30am	Year 6 parents invited to enjoy punch and canape in the library.	All students return to their classes to get prepared for their concert.
10:30- 12noon	Senior Concert (Year 3-6)	
12 noon to 1 pm	Whole school picnic Shade shelters out Benches out in shade BYO chairs/blankets	Food available to purchase from Tuckshop and food vans. Carnival atmosphere Bubble machines Snow cones Santa's Elf arrives with lollies
1pm-2pm	Junior Concert (P-2)	
Note:	Students will either go home at the conclusion of the concert or go back to the classrooms with teachers.	

MEDICAL ACTION PLANS AND MEDICATION

A reminder that all emergency and medical action plans need to be reviewed by the GP for students with Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Seizure Management Plan, Adrenal Insufficiency Plan, Diabetic Plan etc. Could parents please check the present plan and **bring in the new plan to the office at the beginning of the year.**

All student medication needs to be picked up from the school office on the last day of school. 2025 school medication will need to be dropped off in the new year, with all required forms and consents. Attached is the Administration of Medications in Queensland State Schools: Information for Parents and Carers.

INTERHOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival is on **Monday 9 December** in Gatton. **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED.** A very big thank you to everyone that has volunteered to help with timekeeping on the day of the carnival. We are still looking for additional volunteers. Please note the following: **Depart:** 8:40am **Return:** 1:30pm (approx.) **Transport:** Private transport and chartered bus as indicated on returned swimming nomination **Wear:** Coloured house shirt (red, green or yellow) and school broadbrim hat **Take:** Morning tea, lunch, drinks, togs, towel, goggles, swimming cap and sunscreen.



All students need a wide broad brimmed hat . Please ensure it is clearly labelled.



QPARENTS

ONLINE SERVICES CONSENT FORMS for all students for Reading Eggs are required for student access to Reading Eggs to continue. Please see the office if you have not completed this consent through QParents or already signed a paper copy.



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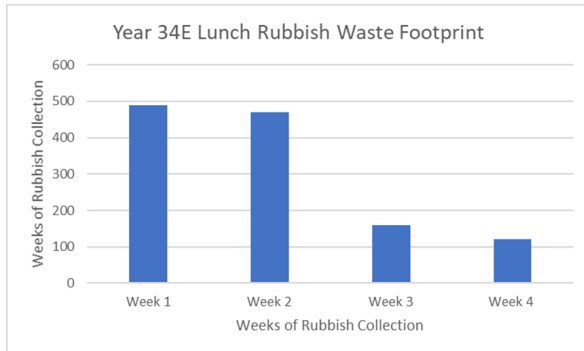
3.4 LUNCH RUBBISH WASTE FOOTPRINT DATA

During our Digital and Technologies unit this term we were challenged to decrease our waste footprint in our school community to make our environment cleaner and to learn how to recycle, reduce and reuse our waste.

We didn't think that it would be much of a challenge because as a school we participate in Nude Food Tuesday each week, so **3.4E** collected their lunch rubbish every Thursday, at each break, over a four-week period. Our initial results surprised us and we soon realised that so many of the foods we eat at school are wrapped in so many different types of commercial wrappers. Although many wrappers are light and don't weigh much, we actually had quite a lot!

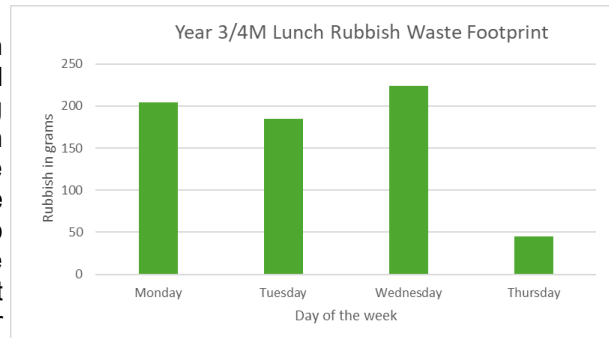
After we collected our data, we decided that our school community had to work harder at reducing our waste to make a significant impact. **3.4E** would like for our school to continue doing Nude Food Tuesday but would like students in all cohorts to participate in reducing their waste footprints and to challenge themselves to reduce their waste over a similar time each term.

In 2025 we hope that most students are able to leave their wrappers at home to make a significant difference in our school and local community.



This term, **3.4M** has been learning about the different types of waste and digital technology we can use to record data. We decided to collect our general waste over 4 days to investigate our weekly waste footprint. We took our popper containers to the blue recycling bins in the eating area and our green waste went into the compost. Our general waste weighed 204g on Monday, 185g on Tuesday, 224g on Wednesday and 45g on Thursday. On Friday we learned how to create a graph of the data using Excel.

We discussed possible reasons for our results. The most rubbish was collected on Wednesday because it is our tuckshop day and many of us had disposable packaging. It showed us that using lunch boxes and containers makes a positive difference. Our graph clearly showed that we produced a lot less waste on Thursday. We hypothesised that the class ate less food that day because the weather was warmer. Some people might have been trying to reduce how much food wrapping they brought to school because our data was at its highest the day before. **3.4M** agreed that packing nude food would help reduce the amount of rubbish in our school environment. We could improve our investigation in the future by collecting rubbish data over a few weeks, from more classes, to see if there are patterns between the days of the week.

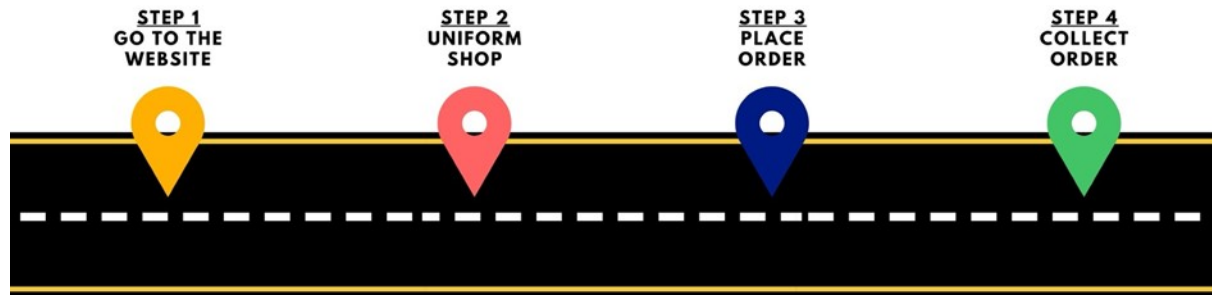


3.4A investigated their waste footprint. As a class we collected our landfill rubbish over 4 days. One day 1 we collected 92 grams of waste. We were able to reduce that rubbish over the next 2 days. However on day 4, which was Tuckshop, we noticed it increased to 137 grams!

As a class we would like to reduce the landfill waste in our community and improve the overall impact on the world environment. **3.4A** reduced their waste footprint in 4 days. Imagine what we could do as a whole school over a term! What can you do to reduce your waste footprint?

UNIFORM SHOP

4 STEPS TO PLACING UNIFORM SHOP ONLINE ORDERS



**STEP 1
GO TO THE
WEBSITE**

Navigate to the website
linked below:

<https://withcott-pandc.square.site/>



**STEP 2
UNIFORM
SHOP**

Once on the website
Scroll down the page
Click on the button that says
"UNIFORM SHOP"

**STEP 3
PLACE
ORDER**

Ensure you select the
correct store pick up
location being "Uniform
Shop - Withcott P&C"
Add student name and
class to the "note to
seller" section.
Add items and complete
the checkout process

**STEP 4
COLLECT
ORDER**

Collection of your orders is on the
very next Wednesday during
school term between 8:15am -
9:00am from the Uniform Shop
Your items will be left at the front
office for collection if not collected
Students are welcome to collect
on behalf of parents

In case you haven't heard, online ordering is now available from Withcott State School Uniform Shop! Orders can be placed following the instructions above.

The uniform shop is open to make purchases and collect online orders each Wednesday from 8.15 am - 9 am, until Wednesday, 11th December 2024, and then each THURSDAY from Thursday, 30th January 2025.

Additional opening times to make purchases and collect online orders will be as follows:

Wednesday, 11th December, 2.15 pm - 3.15 pm

Wednesday, 22nd January, 3 pm - 4 pm

Thursday, 23rd January, 3 pm - 4 pm

Orders not collected during opening times can be collected from the school office. If you have any questions, or would like to report any issues experienced, please email pandc@withcottss.eq.edu.au *Withcott State School P&C*

P&C NEWS: P&C Meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of each month. Next meeting will be next year, Tuesday 4 February 2025. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.

TUCKSHOP NEWS:

Tuckshop service has now concluded for 2024. A very big THANK YOU to Miss June and all her wonderful tuckshop volunteers. You are very much appreciated.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Contact Camp Australia at www.campastralia.com.au or phone customer care on 1300 105 343. You are always most welcome to come and have a look around, ask questions or just have a friendly chat. **Please see attached flyer to make your 2025 bookings.**

Camp Australia will be offering a Summer Holiday Program at Withcott State School. Please see attached flyer for more details on this exciting new opportunity for OSHC at our school.

Bye for now from Team Camp Australia

~ Guiding Children's Growth

STUDENT ABSENCES - EVERY DAY COUNTS!

A reminder to all parents/carers at Withcott State School that when your child is away/sick, it is expected that you **make contact with the school office before 9 a.m.** to let us know the reason. You can leave a message on **ABSENTEE LINE: 4614 9360, TEXT: 0427 259 562** or through the QParents App.

STUDENTS P-2

All students in P-2 should always have a **change of clothes** in their bag in case of toileting accidents.

LOST PROPERTY

All lost property is stored in the undercover area (near bubblers in tuckshop area). Families are reminded that any unmarked lost property not collected