Pilton News

QCWA Country Study competition.
Congratulation to Shane and Jordan on their efforts in this competition. This year, students put together a poster on Viet Nam. Shane and Jordan won at Clifton and Darling Downs level and had their posters entered in the State finals. Shane did superbly and won his section while Jordan did nearly as well by coming third in his section. Well done to both boys.

2015 Prep Students Open Day and Zoo Visit.
Tomorrow, we will be holding the third of our Open days for next year’s Prep students. Our newest students will be spending the whole day with us this time. Current students and staff have been invited to tour Darling Downs Zoo tomorrow and Steve and Stephanie Robinson have kindly allowed us to invite the 2015 Prep’s and their parents to join us for the zoo visit.
Information about the zoo visit is elsewhere in the newsletter. In essence, we will spend the morning visiting the zoo and then planting “koala food” trees at the zoo as our thank you to the Robinson’s for their invitation to us. Students will need to be able to take their morning tea, water bottle and hat with them. They will return to school for lunch.

Audits.
As you are aware, we recently had our Curriculum, Teaching and Learning practices and our Behaviour practices audited. I’m quite pleased to report that the school did very well in both audits.
The auditor spoke with two parents and a third parent as a P&C rep. Auditors select parents at random to speak with. In this case, the random selection procedure came down to hauling in Georgie and Kelly after they had finished an exercise class. P&C treasurer Rebekah also spoke with the auditor. The auditor was impressed by such strong support from parents and, although having a behaviour plan without positive reinforcement was a first for him.
He also spoke with our Year 5 and 6 students and they made a very favourable impression on him. Students reported that their school work was a bit easy (WOW! That’s new. Let’s hope it shows up in the report cards!!) and that they like work that is a bit difficult.

This appreciation of work that is not easy demonstrates, the auditor said, a high degree of resilience in our children. That is, they are prepared to have a go and are not put off by possible failure.
The auditor also spoke with a couple of staff members and myself. We are now waiting on his written report which will be put up on the website for all to read.

At the time of writing this newsletter, we had just completed another audit. This was a wide ranging audit covering matters such as our finance processes, workplace health and safety processes and practices and staff professional development and training. We again did quite well in this audit.

Camp and Swimming.
Again, our apologies for the short notice about camp (and swimming). With this newsletter, you will receive forms to complete for Murphy’s Creek Escape as well as a list of what they suggest students should bring to camp. We would prefer that students don’t bring items such as mp3 players or other expensive electronic items including cameras. We aren’t banning such items, especially cameras, but students need to understand the school cannot be responsible for such items.
As well as school staff, I am hoping Chappie Karl and Mr Healy will be able to attend camp with us. I’m just a tad worried Mr Healy might snore as loudly as he talks so I’ve put him in Chappie Karl’s tent.
At this stage, I expect I will drive the four Year 6 students to Clifton SHS after breakfast on Wednesday. They will be able to catch the bus back to Pilton after their day at high school. I look forward to getting them out of bed at about 4am so they can pack up their gear, have a shower and get their school uniforms on, have breakfast and wash everyone’s dishes before heading to Clifton.

Additional swimming lessons was about the only thing suggested in the recent survey that people would like us to consider adding to what we already do. I will take this up with the P&C. However, it must be remembered that lessons take a lot of time and, with bust travel included, do not come cheaply. School swimming lessons would be cost effective alternative for parents who want their children to become competent swimmers and take them to lessons but we would need to find out just how many parents would be prepared to pay for additional lessons.

Pilton Hall Committee Christmas Tree.
We are pleased to have again been invited to perform at the Hall Committee’s Christmas Tree.
As you may have heard from the students, this year’s performance will showcase their dancing skills.
A highlight will be the performance of two Year 6 boys. (No names, we want it to be a surprise.) Unfortunately for them, they lost a bet with Mrs Heaton and myself and now have to face the consequences. But, I’m sure they are practicing hard so as to be the stars of the show.

Regards,
Stuart Fuller

Parents should be aware of the following legal requirement:

An application for exemption from compulsory schooling or the compulsory participation phase must be made when “a child or a young person cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for them to attend school or participate in an eligible option for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days”. This may include for reasons of illness, family reasons, cultural or religious reasons.

Should there be an occasion when your child will not be attending school for more than 2 weeks (10 consecutive school days) please contact the school to arrange for an exemption.

Madonna Bell
Admin Officer

Student Advantage

All Queensland State School students from Prep–Year 12 can now get multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite.
The Microsoft Office 2013 Suite can now be downloaded by all students on to their personal devices.
• The suite of products is only available for download on to personal devices, not devices connected to a school network.
• Personal devices include those devices in the students home environment as well as mobile devices.

PLAYGROUP :  
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**WDFA January Soccer Holiday Program**

When: Monday January 19th 2015 and Tuesday January 20th 2105

Times: 10am - 2pm daily, Ages: 6 years to 12 years

Holiday Program of Soccer Coaching - Soccer skills/drills, Small games, Lots of fun activities

The Canteen will be open for drinks and Lunch

Two days - $60 (discounts for 2nd, 3rd or more children from the same family)

Wolves Football Development Academy financial members are able to attend for Free

Registration forms and more info are available from

www.warwickwolves.com.au

E: butlerps@gmail.com or sponsor-ships@warwickwolves.com.au

PH Rebecca Butler - 0428 715663, Paul Butler - 0423 647890, Tim Gaske - 0434 211441

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I was very excited to win the bird bath in the P&C raffle during last holidays. It is gorgeous! I would like to very sincerely thank Brett Turkington and the P&C committee. It has pride of place in my garden now.

Madonna Bell
Remembrance Day
At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, the students of Pilton State School gathered in front of the flag pole to have one minute silence to remember the men and women who suffered in World War One to protect our country. Before the ceremony, Miss Stewart gathered all of the students to make red poppies and wreaths. We made red poppies because it is a symbol of the war. The red poppy is a symbol because the soldiers fought in a fields over in Europe and the fields were full of red poppies after the war was over. Some people believe that the poppies are red because of the soldier’s blood. Billy-Rose, Leanna and Lizzie read the poem called ‘In Flanders Field’, Levi read the ‘Ode’ and we played the Last Post. All the students got to lay poppies on the school fence and got to lay a wreath near the flag pole. Mr Fuller played the Advance Australia Fair and everyone sang along while Clayton raised the Australian Flag. Soon after, all the students and teachers lowered their head and closed their eyes and had one minute silence. One minute passed and everyone opened their eyes and remembered the soldiers that suffered in all the wars.
By Billy and Natasha.
Hi all,

Can you believe it is nearly the end of the school year? There is definitely a buzz in the air at the school with concert practise and preparation well on the way, a visit to the Zoo tomorrow, school camp and swimming lessons coming up, and of course the School Dentist.

A big thank you to Peter Vernon for the work he is doing with the concert and also to the teaching staff who are putting in so many extra hours with practise and making costumes.

We have our last fundraiser next Saturday the 29th of November at Bunnings Warehouse in Toowoomba commencing at 8.00am. Brooke has organised a roster for the day in three-hour shifts. If there are any questions about this, please catch up with Brooke or give me a call on 46964508, or via email jacq.gill@yahoo.com.au.

We then have our Picnic Day on the 11th of December. All family and community members are welcome. Further information about this day will be sent out shortly.

On behalf of the P & C, I would like to sincerely thank Steve and Stephanie Robinson for inviting the school children and Playgroup to their Zoo tomorrow. The kids are so excited about it and your generosity is much appreciated by the school community.

That's all for today.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jacqui

P & C Bank Account Details

For EFT payments:
Bank account name: Pilton State School P & C
Account number: 508683666
BSB: 084-610

Please make cheques payable to: Pilton State School P&C