Welcome to the school year for 2016! It has been a real pleasure to start the school year with the wonderful families of our school. The way that the students have been excitedly sharing their stories from the holidays and their enthusiasm for being back at school are genuine reasons why we have such a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this great school.

Welcome to our new students
It has been great to have 7 new students enrol at Pilton State School this year. I know that a lot of information was included in the transition days last year, but I would like to make sure that all new families feel very comfortable in talking to us at school about their students’ learning and the way that school operates.

Focus for 2016
Although what we teach at school is regulated by the Australian Curriculum, at a school level we have the ability to direct our time, staff and financial resources heavily towards different priorities to meet the needs of our students. This year we will be keeping up the pressure on student reading results continuing to improve. We will capitalise on the great gains that were being made in 2015 and continue to develop the ability of students to read fluently and be able to comprehend a range of texts. The ‘Read Every Day’ initiative, volunteer reading, reading comprehension programs and a range of other activities that all require consistent effort will be key to students continuing to improve their reading capability. Our second focus area will be in the Maths and Science subjects where we will continue to commit significant time and effort in having the fundamentals skills to engage in maths and science successfully. This will again include participating in the Hermitage Science competition. Some additions to the school programs this year include 30 minutes of French for all students from Year 1 to Year 3, and some programming and robotics lessons that will enhance the teaching and learning of technology at school. If anyone wants to see what our school curriculum plan or how we fit all these subjects into our weekly program please feel free to come and talk to me about this.

Student Lunches and Allergies
We do have students at school who have allergies to certain things. We have undertaken to educate students about what we can do to mitigate the risks of allergic reactions at school. I would like to inform all parents that we do have nut allergies at school and if students bring nuts to school we will have to manage this closely to ensure that it doesn’t cause any harm.

I would like to thank all the tireless efforts that parents and carers go to when they provide our students with their great lunches. If you would like us to help with ensuring lunches at school are eaten or any other specific goals when it comes to school lunches, we are happy to help however we can.

Chaplaincy Breakfast on Fridays – Starting tomorrow
We are very pleased to have Chappy Karl back at school with us on Fridays during 2016. After implementing successful breakfast programs in other locations, Chappy Karl has been supported in providing bacon and eggs on toast for any students who would like to take part on Friday mornings before school starts. He will be starting this service at school tomorrow (Friday 29 Jan) and I am sure that there will be some very satisfied students starting the day on Fridays. Chappy Karl is a wonderful support person for the students at school and is also able to provide his chaplaincy service to families of the school if requested.

After-School Sport and Sport Trials
We will be starting the after-school Sporting Schools Tennis program next week on Thursdays. Thanks very much to Sarah Turner for continuing to coach the students in tennis. We also have a number of Central Downs sporting trial dates coming up in first term for students turning 10-12 years old this year. Please see the calendar of events to ensure you can prepare your students for these activities if you would like to. We will be doing some training at school for general fitness for the Nobby Triathlon and Central Downs Cross Country events, and I am happy to help those students who are keen to do some training at school during their lunch breaks also.

School Maintenance
At the end of the year, the school had a number of maintenance jobs raised to repaint and replace some of the infrastructure that needs attention at school. Please be aware of the cracked concrete that is a trip hazard near the ‘Centenary’ paved area. These jobs have now progressed to tender through the departmental progress and I will keep everyone informed as works commence.

All the best,
Jon Robertson
Curriculum News Year 3-6

The Year 3-6 classroom will be focussing on different content for the Year 3s and the Year 5/6s. In English the Year 3s will be learning the basic parts of speech (grammar) that we use and focusing on persuasive texts and short stories. The Year 5/6s will be refining their understandings of narratives (eg. understanding characterisation, point of view, use of dialogue and many other elements) and I hope to see the best pieces of writing they have ever written by the end of the term.

In Mathematics we will also be focussing on different age-appropriate content. The Year 3s will be working on measurements of time, understanding representations of numbers up to 1 000, conducting chance experiments, solving addition and subtraction problems and will be starting to learn multiplication number facts off by heart. The Year 5/6s will be developing their understandings of division, factors and multiples and analysing data.

In Year 5-6 History we will all explore Australian colonies and the development of British colonies in Australia. In this unit students will investigate what do we know about the lives of people in Australia’s colonial past. What impact colonisation had on the environment and Aboriginal peoples.

This term for Year 3-6 Geography we will be exploring sustainability. We will shift our focus this year away from the school environment to the home. So be prepared for your children to become dumpster divers! We will pose questions about sustainability and then set out to answers our questions. We will collect data and then finally make recommendations for a better household rubbish atmosphere.

The Year 3 students will look at days of commemoration and remembrance within Australia. What days are special and why. The meaning behind flags and special events. The students will even get to design and create their own coat of arms. If you have any heirloom or family crests at home we could look at please send them along.

Finally in Science the senior classroom will be “Spinning in Space.” We will try and understand the magnitude of scale within the planets. We will also look at seasons, cause and effect as well as shadows at play.

Curriculum News Prep-Year 2

In English for term one, students will be using picture books and stories to focus their language learning and understanding of characters. In Mathematics students will be learning about representing number in a number of different ways, learning about measurement and using chance and data processes.

This term Prep-2 are exploring their family trees and moments in time in History. We will be sharing family photos and stories that our parents or even grandparents have told us over the years. If you could send through a family photo and even an old family photo from generations before we would love to have them to photocopy and display.

In Science the students will be looking at the weather in their world. We will frame clouds, predict weather, delve into weather patterns and explore many kinds of weather instruments (we even have a weather stick!).
The Great Host Family Hunt is on again!

World Education Program (WEP) Australia, a registered, non-profit student exchange organisation is looking for volunteer families who would like to host a 15 to 18-year-old girl or boy. Our students come from countries such as Italy, France, Belgium, Finland and Chile and are arriving in July 2016. They are looking forward to living and learning about Australia and enjoying our famous Australian hospitality and lifestyle. Without the generosity of families around the world, student exchange could not exist. Experiencing a foreign language and culture in your own home is the next best thing to living overseas. To request a free information pack for your family, contact us today!

1300 884 733 info@wep.org.au www.wep.org.au

Happy Birthday
James 31st Dec, Jordy 26th, Tom 27th & Ani 29th Jan, Mrs James 7th & Alex B 8th Feb.

JUNIOR NETBALL
Girls 5 – 14Yrs & Boys 5 – 12Yrs come a join us for fun, fitness, skill development and a great group/team learning environment all whilst enjoying the great sport of Netball. Ages 5 Yrs Born 2011 – 14 Yrs Born 2002

Junior Sign-On Day Saturday 13th February 2016, 10am – 1pm at Barnes Park, Matthews St, Warwick Fixtures are played Saturday afternoons and commence 20th Feb.

For further information please see our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/warwicknetball/ (go to Photos, Albums, 2016 Fixture Info & Forms, Junior Information Brochure) Enquiries to Lou Bunch: warwicknetball@bigpond.com or 0407 734 380

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Schools—Tennis</td>
<td>Week 2-9 Thursday—after school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Downs Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>5th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Downs Tennis Trials</td>
<td>19th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Downs Soccer, Netball and Rugby League Trials</td>
<td>4th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobby Triathlon</td>
<td>11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Downs Cross Country</td>
<td>15th April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 School Leaders Morning Tea</td>
<td>To be advised.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shane with his Australia Day Junior Sports Award

Welcome Millie and Amelie to Y2.

Welcome Thomas to Y1

Welcome James, Jordy, Maddy and Hamish to Prep.