



Issue 1  
31 January 2024

# WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PUTTING LEARNING FIRST - EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY

## Date Claimers

February  
6 GRIP Leadership Y6 MECC  
12 Student Leader Induction  
13 PV Netball Trials  
13 PV Touch Trials  
21 PV Football Trials  
22 PV 11/12 Rugby League Trials  
27 150Y Meeting 5.30pm  
27 P&C General & AGM 6.30pm  
March  
6 Y6 Megaband ~ WSS Hall

## Spotlight

Welcome to all  
new and returning  
families!  
Below are links to  
useful apps to  
download, click for  
more information

[QParents](#)

[QSchools](#)

[Qkr!](#)

## General Information

Office Hours 8am—3.30pm  
Parade Every Monday at 9am  
Newsletter every 2nd Wednesday  
PCYC After School Care 4942 3296  
Absence Line: 4959 4366

## Whole School Behaviour Focus

### Establishing Classroom Routines and Expectations



**Principal's Report**— Mr Darren  
Russell

#### Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone to what promises to be another exciting year of learning at Walkerston SS! This year is a special one for Walkerston SS as we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday! The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee are planning a number of activities as part of the celebrations that will occur in November. Please ensure that you keep up to date with what's happening in our school community via our newsletters, Facebook, website and email communications.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to our new families who have joined our school community.

Special welcome to our 51 Prep students who have also made a great start to their first days of schooling. Our Prep rooms have been a hive of activity as students are engaging with their learning, making new friends, forming relationships with staff and having a great time out in the playground at lunch breaks. To assist with afternoon pick-up of our Prep students we ask that Prep families wait in the Outdoor Learning Area (near the sandpit and grassed areas) and Prep staff will ensure that children are directed towards their parents, ensuring everyone is accounted for at the end of each day.

#### Day 8 Staffing

Our enrolment numbers are collected this week and I am pleased to report that we have 306 students which is the exact same number as last year! This ensures that our 13<sup>th</sup> Class Teacher is funded by the Department rather than from school funding.

#### Staffing Update

To start the year we just have the one staffing change with Mrs Nicholson (Teacher Aide) taking

some leave during Term 1. We welcome Mrs Tracy Pringle to our staffing team who is an experienced TA who has worked in our school on several occasions last year.

#### Attendance

Our students made a fantastic start to the term regarding attendance with very few phone calls required to follow up those students who failed to return to school. Our school attendance goal is 94% and it was great to see that after the first week we exceeded this with an attendance rate of **95.5%**! We had 10 out of 13 classes achieve 94% or better and one of those achieved the 'holy grail' of attendance with a **perfect score of 100%**! Congratulations **2B!**

We remind parents that if students are unwell and staying home, to please contact the school absence line to provide an explanation. It is important that every student absence is 'explained' when students are away from school.

#### Student Support Programs

Maximising student learning outcomes aligned to our 'Equity and Excellence' Strategy that all state schools focus upon is our core business at Walkerston State School. Our Teacher Aides (TAs) are a key resource focused on meeting the needs of our students as we strive towards achieving 'equity'.

Aligned to our school's Explicit Improvement Agenda which this year is focused on student's literacy skills (reading, writing, spelling), we have a number of student support programs that our TAs are delivering through the coordination of classroom teachers and our HODC Mrs Acutt.

**Intervention Support** involves a team of two TAs who work with students requiring additional targeted literacy support in Yr 1-5 classrooms (with each class receiving 4 x 30min weekly sessions).

(Continued on page 2)

**Literacy Enhancement** involves a team of two TAs who work together visiting classrooms during literacy group times. Our Yr 1 and 2 classes receive 3 x 40min sessions a week and our Yr 3-6 students receive 2 x 40min sessions.

**Diverse Learner Support** involves our SEP teacher (Mrs Caslin) and team of two TAs who support students across all year levels who require additional support to engage with their curriculum and others.

**Extension Support** involves a number of programs supporting students to progress beyond their current classroom programs.

Mrs Mackay (Library TA) runs STEM lessons each week with specific year levels and focus students. Mrs Acutt (HODC) is working with focus students across Yr 1-6 focusing on literacy enrichment. Mr Russell (Principal) works with selected Yr 4-6 students on virtual STEM programs that are online virtual enrichment programs offered through our Department (Solid Pathways Program) and CQ Virtual STEM (Nth Rockhampton SHS and CQ University).

We look forward to seeing the enhanced learning outcomes that result from these programs over the course of the year.

#### **Student Diaries**

Our student diaries have been distributed to students and I encourage parents to be checking these regularly for messages but more importantly as a useful tool with which to engage with your children regarding their learning. These diaries are provided free to students with the expectation that they are replaced if they are lost or in need of replacement. Parents are able to purchase these from the office.

#### **Term 1 Class Newsletters**

Our class term newsletters will be available later this week on the school website and parents will be emailed the link in the coming days. These newsletters provide parents with information regarding the term ahead with a particular focus on the subject areas and the curriculum learning that students will undertake.

#### **Collecting Students From School (McColl St)**

Reminder to parents who pick up along McColl St (office side) of the

school. If you park along the northern side of the street please hop out of your car and cross over so that you can safely walk your child across the road. This street is very busy in the afternoons, particularly with the buses blocking the view of pedestrians in the bus zone. To ensure that we keep our kids safe we need parents to assist them with crossing this busy road. Big thanks to the majority of parents who have already been doing this. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

#### **P&C Meeting**

We had our first P&C Meeting for the year last night and it was a productive one with plenty of news discussed. Keep an eye on the P&C Facebook site regarding upcoming events or communication regarding tuckshop operations. Our school community is having a 'Fair' this term (22<sup>nd</sup> March) and there will be lots of information regarding this being shared in the coming weeks. Our next P&C Meeting which includes the AGM is scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> February. I encourage anyone who has the time and interest in assisting our P&C with the great work that they do with supporting our students to consider coming along to our next meeting.

#### **Breakfast Club**

One area where our P&C and school are in great need of support is our Breakfast Club. Currently we are in need of **volunteers** for our Breaky Club which will ensure that we can keep it open for students each day. We have strong support from our local Scrubby business community who provide donations to ensure that our club is stocked with food each week, unfortunately at the moment we just don't have enough volunteers to keep it open five days a week. If you have some time and/or are a parent who is here in the mornings before school please consider committing some time to our Breaky Club so that we can maintain this very valued service for our students.

#### **Student Leaders Induction Ceremony**

Our 'Student Leaders Induction Ceremony' is scheduled for Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February (following assembly) where we celebrate and acknowledge our 2024 student leadership group. Our students will pledge their commitment to their roles and a badge presentation will also occur. We look forward to celebrating our student leaders with our school community.

### **Cultural News**

This year the following extra-curricular performing arts groups will be running; Choir – open to all students who love to sing, Recorder Band – open to students in years 4 – 6 and Drama Club – open for students in years 3 – 6. Choir and recorder band will run for the full year and rehearsals have already commenced with Recorder Band practicing Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Break and choir practicing Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Break. Drama club will run in second half of the year.

This year students have asked to have more performance opportunities. We have already booked in Megachorus day, Megabands for the instrumental students and our usual performances at Anzac Day and end of year. I am hoping the choir and recorder band will have some pieces ready to showcase at our school fair. More performance opportunities may come up throughout the year – so watch this space.

This week the beginner instrumental students completed their QuickStart program. All instrumental lessons will commence on Tuesday. If you need a copy of the timetable or have any questions please see Miss Kay. Band will commence before school – Term 2.



## Student of the Week Awards for Week 1

Class 1A	<b>Tobias</b> —For an awesome start to year one. Fantastic listening!
Class 23C	<b>Phoenix</b> —A positive and enthusiastic start to her schoolwork and demonstrating respectful behaviour all week!
Class 4B	<b>Tashayla</b> —For being a supportive helper to her peers and displaying positive behaviours in the classroom. What
Class 5A	<b>Zavier</b> —For being actively involved and engaged in class activities. Great work!
Class 56C	<b>Roco</b> —For following classroom instructions and trying his best. What a great start to the year!

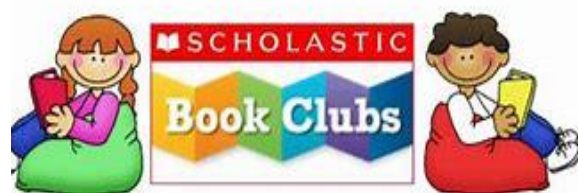


Book Club forms were sent home on Monday 29th January with students. Forms are to be returned Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Any forms that come in after Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, will NOT BE accepted.

Thank you

Mrs Mackay, School Librarian



### Disaster Emergency Preparation



For information visit:  
[getready.qld.gov.au](https://getready.qld.gov.au)



#### MACKAY REGIONAL DASHBOARD

Save this on your home screen to keep updated  
<https://disaster.mackay.qld.gov.au>



#### HOW TO PREPARE & WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Share this information with others  
<https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/check-out-what-you-need>



#### CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS & SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Make sure your House Insurance is up to date  
<https://www.fcfnational.com.au/blog/extinguishing-fires>



#### DO YOU AND THOSE YOU LIVE WITH HAVE A SAFETY PLAN

Make sure you and others are safe  
<https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/plan>

Contact The Neighbourhood Hub  
for more information:  
**PH: (07) 4957 2626**



Funded by



### Help our Kids get Safely to School

Become a School Crossing Supervisor and make a real difference to the lives of school children.



Working with us you will:

- be paid a generous casual rate of pay with leave loading
- be entitled to long service leave
- have access to the government superannuation scheme



**Where:** Walkerston State School – Dutton Street & St John's Creek St  
**Hours:** Up to 15 hrs per fortnight- Crossing times are as follows  
mornings 7.50am to 8.50am & afternoons are 2.45pm to 3.15pm

**Pay:** Casual relief rate: \$32.70 per hour

**Duties:** Assist children crossing roads at local schools

- Training is provided
- You will be required to undergo a medical & working with children Blue Card check provided by the Department of Transport & Main Roads

**Contact:** The School or Road Safety Officer Karen Cantoni on 0409 511 542 for application forms



**AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION**  
More people outdoors more often

# DISABILITY CAMPS COMING TO QLD IN 2024!

On People Outdoors camps, we're dedicated to providing excellent care and support for campers throughout their stay. Don't miss this chance to enjoy Adventure For All with People Outdoors!

**EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST TODAY**

ACA-People Outdoors: Referral Form

ACA-People Outdoors: QLD Camper E.O.I

**PEOPLE OUTDOORS - EXPERTS AT PROVIDING OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY**

## WANT TO PLAY NETBALL ?

For more information go to [www.mackaynetball.com](http://www.mackaynetball.com) or email [operations@mackaynetball.com](mailto:operations@mackaynetball.com)

**MACKAY NETBALL ASSOCIATION**

## PLAYER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

**Register via the Squadi App**

**ANY QUERIES PLEASE EMAIL**  
[Info@citybrothersfc.com.au](mailto:Info@citybrothersfc.com.au)

**OR PHONE**  
Steve Calicetto- 0410 680 959

- MINIROOS
- JUNIOR COMPETITIVE
- SENIORS

Training shirt and hat included in miniroos registration

### CITY BROTHERS FOOTBALL CLUB

**THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA**  
CREATE CHANGE

## ARE YOU THE PARENT OF AN AUTISTIC CHILD?

Researchers at UQ are looking for parents of autistic children who would like to

- strengthen their relationship with their child
- understand autism from autistic people
- develop personalised strategies for self-care

### WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

This study seeks to test the effectiveness of a new innovative online parenting group program for parents of autistic children, designed to improve parent-child relationships and wellbeing of autistic families.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Adults fulfilling a parental role (e.g. biological, adoptive, foster parents or legal guardians) of autistic children (10 years and younger)
- Able to commit to 3 sets of assessments and a 5-week online program (zoom), across 4 months
- All parents will receive free access to the full program

**I want to participate!**  
For expressions of interest or more information, please contact Sarah Lee at [lee.jy.sarah@uq.net.au](mailto:lee.jy.sarah@uq.net.au) or scan the QR code to find out more!

## SENIOR AND JUNIOR

**PHOENIX WHANAU NETBALL CLUB**

### 2024 ALL JUNIORS, SENIORS AND MIXED NETBALL TRIALS

REGISTER VIA NETBALL CONNECT

11TH FEBRUARY, FROM 9:00AM  
MNA NETBALL COURTS  
CASEY DRIVE, MACKAY

**PRECISE CORPORATION - PTY LTD**



# YOUNG ENGINEERS PROGRAMS

LEARN MATH  
AND LAWS  
OF PHYSICS

Young Engineers provides practical application of STEM. We aim to ignite students' passion for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics through hands-on workshops. Weekly sessions demonstrate scientific and coding concepts using LEGO® prototypes.



## PROGRAMS

### BRICKS CHALLENGE

Bricks Challenge enriches your child's world with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to make sure they are ready for the 21st century.

### ROBO BRICKS PROGRAM

Robo Bricks Program provides theoretical knowledge in software and mechanical engineering combined with mathematics and physics.

### ELECTRONICS & INVENTOR'S KIT PROGRAMS ALSO AVAILABLE

Find out more online



## WHEN & WHERE

After class each week during school term\*.

- \* Young Engineers runs 9 week programs. Each lesson is 1hr 15mins. Program duration and fees prorated for public holidays.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Visit [www.cq.young-engineers.com.au/registration](http://www.cq.young-engineers.com.au/registration) and select your school or closest venue



### REGISTER NOW FOR THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!

Early bird discount applies automatically at checkout

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS, TIMINGS AND FEES PLEASE GO TO THE REGISTRATION LINK AND SELECT YOUR SCHOOL OR CLOSEST VENUE**



Telephone 0424 985 172  
Email [cq@young-engineers.com.au](mailto:cq@young-engineers.com.au)  
[www.cq.young-engineers.com.au](http://www.cq.young-engineers.com.au)  
[www.facebook.com/yecentralqld/](https://www.facebook.com/yecentralqld/)



# Keep our kids safe, Park Safe



## **Ensuring the safety of our kids is a top priority for council, schools and the community alike.**

One crucial aspect of student safety that is often overlooked is the significance of responsible parking in and around school premises and sporting zones.

Responsible parking contributes to organised traffic flow around schools and sporting precincts and helps prevent congestion and chaos during peak drop-off and pick-up times.

It is imperative that students and path users have safe walkways to get to and from school and their weekend sporting activities.

Unlawful parking can obstruct sidewalks and crossings, putting children at risk when navigating these areas.

Unimpeded access to school premises and sporting venues is also crucial for emergency vehicles. Responsible parking ensures that emergency services can reach the school or sporting venue promptly in the case of an emergency.

It also assists in promoting healthy lifestyles, as unobstructed pathways are essential for students walking, in wheelchairs or cycling to school or weekend sport.

Responsible parking is not just a matter of convenience; it is a critical component of overall

safety of path users. By following designated parking guidelines and fostering a culture of responsibility, we can create an environment where students feel secure and where the risk of accidents is minimised.

Council is working with schools and sporting venues to prioritise the safety of children by patrolling school zones and sporting venues and issuing infringements to motorists that are found to be parking in an unsafe manner.

We're asking motorists to share our commitment in creating a safe environment for all path users by making responsible parking decisions. A list of parking regulations is listed overleaf for your information.



# Keep our kids safe, Park Safe



**Mackay Regional Council  
Local Law No. 5 (Parking)  
2011 allows council to  
complement the parking  
provisions of the Transport  
Operations (Road Use  
Management) Act 1998  
(TORUM) to make provisions  
for parking in our region**

This gives council the ability to manage parking in your local neighbourhood.

All motorists must comply with all the requirements of TORUM and any parking provisions provided by council to ensure the safe movement of traffic.

Illegal parking and unsafe parking on the road and on footpaths affects everyone and can:

- Endanger path users by obstructing their path, forcing

them onto the road.

- Reduce the visibility of road users by obscuring the view of vehicles entering and leaving roads and driveways.
- Damage underground infrastructure.
- Cause surface damage to the footpath.
- Make it hard for emergency services such as fire and ambulance to attend the property.

In accordance with parking rules, you must also not park:

- On a footpath, bicycle path, shared path, dividing strip, nature strip or painted island.
- On a road with a continuous yellow line.
- In a designated parking space for a time longer than the

maximum time indicated on the official sign.

- In a manner that the vehicle is not wholly within the space.
- In a loading zone, taxi zone or bus zone (unless an authorised vehicle).
- In a disabled parking space without displaying your permit clearly with the number and expiry date visible from the outside of the vehicle.
- In a way that obstructs passage of other vehicles to/from a road to an access provided for vehicles.
- A vehicle that is for sale on a Local Government controlled area or road.

If a Local Laws Officer finds your vehicle parked illegally, an infringement notice may be issued to the registered vehicle owner.