



Woody Yaloak Primary School

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Principal: **Corey Pohlner**
 Phone: 53 42 8565

2017 Term Dates

- 31st Jan - 31st Mar
- 18th Apr - 30th Jun
- 17th Jul - 22nd Sep
- 9th Oct - 22nd Dec

Smythesdale Campus 5342 8565
Scarsdale Campus 5342 8514

Snake Valley Campus 5344 9274
Ross Creek Campus 5342 0478

For Your Diary

MARCH

Monday 13th

- Labour Day Holiday
NO SCHOOL TODAY

Tuesday 14th

- Snake Valley Leadership Presentation
- Phoenix P-12 Information Night

Friday 17th

- Smythesdale Clean Up Day

Saturday 18th

- Woody Yaloak Recreation Facility Trivia Night

Monday 20th

- School Council AGM

Wednesday 22nd

- L.D.S.S.A. Sports Day at Linton

Wednesday 29th

- Ross Creek Easter Hat Parade and PFA Raffle Drawn at 3pm

Thursday 30th

- L.D.S.S.A. Back Up Sports Day at Linton

Friday 31st

- Last Day of Term One
 1.30pm Finish

APRIL

Tuesday 18th

- Term 2 Begins

Principal Message

In the world of education and many workplaces these days, no matter how confident, competent or experienced you are – pressure is a part of every process. How well you handle those challenges, changes, setbacks, and problems will often determine how productive and effective you will be. This year we have planned a number of professional development opportunities for our staff to learn and reflect on their resilience, so that each staff member has the mindset to better understand themselves, in order to meet the needs of your children and manage the demands on having a work/life balance.

This Tuesday is the first session our staff will be involved with at Miners Rest Primary School from 4.15pm. Any students that are late to be picked up will need to wait at the campus office, so that teaching staff can arrive in time.

Any information I feel will be beneficial for our parent community to reflect on, I will share in the Woody newsletter for those who are interested.

Woody Feed Forward

DISCO DATES FOR 2017

We have now finalised the disco dates for 2017. For those who missed the combined whole school Parents and Friends meeting, we discussed having each campus going in order, according to the campus number (Smythesdale 1, Snake Valley 2, Scarsdale 3 and Ross Creek 4), then rotating this every year. As in other years all discos will be held at the Woody Yaloak Recreation Facility in Smythesdale.

- Disco 1: Smythesdale to host on Friday, May 5th
- Disco 2: Snake Valley to host on Friday, June 16th
- Disco 3: Scarsdale to host on Friday, August 4th
- Disco 4: Ross Creek to host on Friday, September 1st

Last year we developed a survey for staff to fill out at the end of the last disco for feedback. Prior to the first disco, we will be reviewing that data and let our school community know of any changes to the current arrangements around the discos.

SCARSDALE AND ROSS CREEK SEPTIC UPDATE

Those who have been involved in Woody for a number of years, will know that our septic systems at Ross Creek and Scarsdale campuses have been an issue for many years.

Ross Creek Campus

Last year you will remember us being successful in obtaining a significant grant to complete the drainage works, after many years of lobbying to the department, which will hopefully fix the issues that we have experienced in the past. The septic system at Ross Creek was installed many years ago and its capacity is around 60 students. At the moment we have around 155 students at Ross Creek, so this requires a lot of maintenance. Currently we have an application in to have this system upgraded, which is a significant cost and will take time, but we are hopeful that we have a result this year.



SCARSDALE AND ROSS CREEK SEPTIC UPDATE CONTINUED...

Scarsdale Campus

Again our Scarsdale campus has had many issues with the septic system, especially over the past 6 months. I am fairly confident in saying that this will be rectified in the short term. The current system's design is not suitable for a school. I would like to assure all our school community at Scarsdale, that every measure has been put in place to keep all students and staff safe and there are no health concerns. If all goes to plan, hopefully we will also get a fence on the road boundary of the oval.

2017 SWIMMING PROGRAM

In term 4 our swimming program will commence. Prior to any documentation being sent home to parents I wanted to explain a couple of issues we are trying to overcome.

Jenna Davidson, our junior teacher at Scarsdale is the staff member in charge of this area within our school. Due to the rising cost of transport and the actual program cost, the initial figure is significantly higher than last year. Added to this for every student that isn't part of the program, this cost as a result again rises.

We understand the importance of this optional school program, but we also understand the strain that the cost of living has on families. Keeping this in mind we are trying to get the cost to come down by looking at;

- The possibility of extending the length of the lessons at the pool
- Reducing the amount of lessons, to save on travel costs

These decisions are not school decisions, but we will try and keep these costs as low as we can, knowing that things do rise each year in line with inflation.

GIFTED AND TALENTED WRITING PROGRAM

This information has been communicated in the Woody and Campus newsletters about our involvement in the Gifted and Talented Community of Practice, which involves working closely with a number of other schools in Ballarat. The focus is on identifying and extending the gifted and talented writers we have at Woody Yaloak. This is a wonderful program to enhance our classroom teaching and learning programs and to ensure we give our gifted and talented students the greatest opportunities to display their talents.

On Wednesday, March 22nd from 3.45pm (afternoon tea first) the launch for the program has been planned at Ballarat High School. Information will be sent home to those students who have been selected from our school.

At the launch, which will be from 4.15 pm-5.00 pm, both parents and students are invited to hear an overview of the program for 2017 and the opportunities your child will be involved in. There will be a cost of \$100 per student involved in the program, this will be covered by the school. At this launch we are expecting around 180 people, this is the reason we are having the event at Ballarat High School.

We make our decisions in the school based on current research and to provide opportunities for our students to perform high growth over time. As a school all our decisions are based on data and the needs of the students and the students we have chosen for this program are ones that we want to continue to challenge, so that they stay engaged in school and continue to show high growth over time.

WOODY STRATEGIC PLAN PERFORMANCE

Teacher observations

Over the past two weeks, teachers across all campuses have been involved in classroom observations to enable them to use feedback to enhance their teaching. Teachers will complete a self-reflection survey, students will be surveyed about their teacher and an observer will complete a lesson observation. All of this data will then be collated to inform the teacher about their particular strengths and areas to improve. Teaching staff will then use this information to form goals for their 2017 performance plans.

Why is it important for teachers to observe each other?

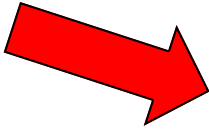
As a school we don't make decisions based on opinions or following what other schools are doing, we make decisions based on credible research that is proven to work. This is the sole reason we have implemented a teacher observation program within our school. There are no surprises that when teachers gain quality feedback about their teaching and learning program and when there is a consistent approach to this throughout the school, that student results and engagement improve.

Corey Pohlner
Principal

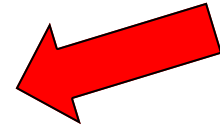


COMMUNITY NEWS

SAVE THE DATE! Ross Creek Campus Trivia Night



Saturday, 20th May 2017



Expressions of Interest for Donations: We are seeking businesses large and small to sponsor tables or donate items, goods or services to this event. If you are involved in or know of a business that might be interested in assisting us - and who would like to receive FREE advertising on the night in return for their donation - please leave details with Brenda at the Ross Creek Campus office for further information.

SEBASTOPOL CAMPUS

INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 14th March, 2017

Campus Expo and tours from 5.30pm
Information Briefing from 7pm

Parents and prospective students
are warmly invited to attend our
Information Evening.

The evening begins with an Expo and tour
of the Sebastopol Campus from 5.30pm
followed by discussion with Campus Leaders
and Teaching Staff in the Learning Resource
Centre.

A comprehensive information Package with
details about our Academic Achievers/SEAL
Program, Academic Curriculum Community
Scholarship Opportunities, Performing Arts
and our Sports Program will be provided.



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The College Principal Team or School Leaders would be pleased
to conduct a personalised tour of the College at anytime.
Bookings can be made by contacting the General Office on 03 532 93293.

"In Knowledge there is Opportunity"



Ballarat Young Authors' Program



You're invited to the launch of the
Gifted and Talented Network

**'Ballarat Young
Authors'
Program'**

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

The Robinson Centre

Ballarat High School

3:45pm for drinks and nibbles followed by the
official presentation at 4.15pm

The program has been created to inspire our
talented writers and to provide them with the
opportunity to mix with like-minded students
from other schools.

Specialist Areas Update

Performing Arts, LOTE, Science & PE



PERFORMING ARTS

Many interesting and fun things have been happening in the Performing Arts. There have been hats of all sorts, character exploration through mystery clues, learning about safe dance practices, exploring traditional Aboriginal dance and working to create puppets.



Mimicking the movements of the Australian brogga after watching and interpreting a traditional Aboriginal dance.



The seniors Learning about Australian animals. Can you guess what animal they are?



Some Junior students trying on different hats to become different characters.



Warming up- learning about safe dance practices.

LOTE- JAPANESE



Smythesdale F/2 Comparison of size of Japan and Australia (they look interested!!). You can fit 21 Japan's in Australia!!!



Smythesdale F/1 Comparison of the amount of people in big Australia (1) to small Japan (7)

Dokkan – a 'new' game to the children using paddle pop sticks with the kana (alphabet) on them, as well as some other sticks with dokkan (bang). Two children from opposing teams come and choose a stick – if they know the kana, their team keeps the stick, otherwise it returned. BUT if dokkan is chosen, all of the teams sticks are taken!! All of the classes love this new game, and want to play it each week.



Scarsdale 5/6 (Grace has "mu"; Sophie has "dokkan" ☺)



RC 5/6W Josh is being supported by Alicia



SCIENCE



At Snake Valley, investigating how to make plasticine float on water.



At Scarsdale, using magnetic force to make a paperclip 'float in the air.



At Smythesdale, deciding what to alter in the circuit to change the glow of the lightbulb.



At Smythesdale, working together to alter an electrical circuit



At Ross Creek, feeling the vibrations from sound on a balloon as a partner 'talks' to the balloon.



At Scarsdale, working out how to create a circuit to make the lightbulb glow.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students have been busily working toward refining their skills in the sports for the upcoming Athletics Day.

What's happening in the Junior classes at Woody?



Chloe and William from Grade 2 at Snake Valley proudly showing their recent work in mathematics. Using play doh they made the tens and ones to represent the place value of their digits.



The F/1/2 's at Smythesdale have been learning their sounds and all about odd and even numbers. They have enjoyed getting to know their new buddies and are practising hard for the high jump at the sports.



During reading, at Scarsdale the juniors have been focusing on concepts of print including reading left to right, initial sounds and one to one matching, with their fingers. We have implemented the Café reading program into our classrooms and all students have been participating in read to someone and read to self, practising their reading goals.



At Ross Creek the F/1/2's have been really busy too! Our Foundation class made tiger masks and 1/2 Dwyer have been doing fun Science with Ms Pearce. 1/2 Weickhardt have worked very persistently in their spare time to create a massive "Where's Wally" jigsaw puzzle! 1/2 Wood are working hard, using m.a.b. blocks to represent place value .

