Dear Parents

Term 4 is certainly busy. Planning for 2016 is also well underway. If your family will not be returning to Wheatlands in 2016 please advise the office as soon as possible to help us confirm arrangements.

Student Resource Scheme
I encourage you to participate in the Student Resource Scheme as endorsed by the Wheatlands State School P&C Association. Please send along the completed forms to the office at your earliest convenience. It is our intention that the exercise books will be available for collection before the end of the 2015 school year.

School Improvement Review Report
This report is a product of a review carried out at Wheatlands State School from 28 to 29 October 2015. It provides an evaluation of the school’s performance against the nine domains of the National School Improvement Tool. Following are some of the key findings. The full text can be found on our school website. Staff, students and parents are united in their commitment to school improvement. People at the school are optimistic and positive about the way in which the school is succeeding in its charter. A clear agenda for improvement is identified and is driving gains in student achievement and wellbeing.

The school has recorded significant growth in learning achievement over recent years. Student performance in NAPLAN is now at or above similar Queensland state schools in all areas assessed. Rates of relative gain have improved.

A culture of high expectations for student learning, attendance and behaviour is highly evident. This culture is underpinning improved school performance. Many staff and parents articulate widespread support for the school. Enrolment demand is strong.

The school has a coherent, sequenced plan that ensures consistent teaching and learning across year levels. Opportunities exist to further embed locally responsive curriculum responses, regularly evaluate units of work and differentiate for students within school planning processes.

These excellent results come from 4 years of dedicated and focussed effort by all the staff at Wheatlands State School. I thank our school community for supporting initiatives to improve student outcomes, attendance and behaviour. You can be reassured that your children have the opportunity for a world class education at Wheatlands State School.

Attendance Matters
When you are reviewing your child’s report card, take a moment to consider your child’s attendance rate. Research shows that students who have good attendance are more likely to achieve high results at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons which will help them to achieve to their full potential.

Visit http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/fact-sheet.html for more information on student attendance requirements. Parents are required to advise our school the reason for a child’s absence. If an explanation is not offered the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.

Uniform
It is our expectation that all children will wear correct school uniform everyday. This includes black shoes. I have included the school policy on uniforms, which can be found in the parent information handbook. The P & C of Wheatlands State School resolves that it supports a student dress code for Wheatlands State School because it believes that a student dress code promotes objectives of Education [General Provisions] Bill 2006. In particular, the P & C of Wheatlands State School supports the intention of a student dress code in providing a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment by:

- Ready identification of students and non-students at school;
- Eliminating distraction of competition in dress and fashion at school;
- Fostering a sense of belonging; and
- Developing mutual respect among students through minimising visible evidence of economic or social difference.

UNIFORMS—DRESS CODE:
- School polo shirt in blue with black trim and school logo
- Summer: School approved blue shorts or skorts (netball skirts are not encouraged for modesty reasons)
- Winter: Plain long blue pants (i.e.: track pants, leggings)
- School jumper—Plain blue or school supplied spray jackets only
- Enclosed shoes are compulsory. Black is preferred with white or black socks. Sports shoes are ideal. Shoes must contain show laces or Velcro.

Rewards
We have planned exciting rewards trips for Week 9 this Semester. The Pre/1/2’s will head to Underwater World and the 3/4/5/6’s will head to the Aqua Park at Bli Bli. I encourage you to check in with your child to ensure they are completing their homework, meeting check dates for lecturettes and behaving well, to ensure they will receive an invitation to Rewards Day.

Libby Meikle
Testing, testing, testing! This week we will conclude most outstanding assessment tasks as I move into final reporting. A few data facts you may find interesting. At this stage 75% of Prep/One students have completed 200 Magic sight words, the Year 1 Benchmark! Also 91% of students know all of the alphabet- letter name, sound and word that begins with the sound. These results are possible because we all work together, school and parents, to support each other through the setting and consistent completion of homework tasks. The average number of nights reading is 125 nights, that means at least 125 books have been read. Practice does make perfect in reading.

In English we are completing our letters to a book character from the story ‘Amy and Louis’ by Libby Gleeson. In Maths we have completed our final assessments and I will now be reteaching any areas of concern that are identified through this process, over the next few weeks. In Science we have been talking about movements, like sliding, bouncing, rolling, pushing and pulling.

We enjoyed sharing our room with the Prep students for 2016, that was a busy morning. They all settled in well and listened to stories, played with equipment and had fun on the playgym.

We enjoyed the P-3 Swimming Carnival, although the water was a little cool on the day. We look forward to Under 8’s Day at Windera SS next Friday. Not long until invitations for P-2 Rewards Day arrive for our trip to Underwater World.

**Green Slips** - Breanna and Riley
**Bookwork** - Anna

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Mrs Alex Brimblecombe

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**Wheatlands Kids are “Have a Go” Kids**
Year 3 News

As we near the end of Semester Two and the year, students in Year 3 have been working hard to complete assessment and learning tasks.

In English, many students are wrapping up their assessment task by presenting their version of *The Lorax* to the class. It is so interesting to hear all of the different perspectives that students have given to their stories! In the coming weeks, we are hoping to watch *The Lorax film*, it will be fun to see how different it is from the original book version.

With all of our required units finished in Mathematics, Year 3 students are now working on revision tasks. So far, we have been revisiting fractions and decimals (the really tricky stuff). Additionally, I would like to congratulate all Year 3 students on the results of their Time test, with everyone achieving great results!

Our science investigation, about the transfer of heat energy, went off without a hitch! (Despite Miss Snow’s concerns about the dangers of hot water!) It was fun to work together and test different materials to see which conducted heat and which insulated against it.

Over the course of this Semester, we have been studying the climate and environment of Australia and its close neighbours in Geography. However, now that the hard work is done, we will be focussing on some different countries from around the world to wrap up our unit. So far, we have investigated Egypt and Tanzania, who knew there were so many different and diverse countries across the African continent?!

As we near the end of the term, finishing off our assessments and units of work, I believe it’s time to let our creativity a little loose. As many would know, Art is one of my passions (although I wouldn’t call myself an artist… ask any student about my drawing skills). Therefore, in the last days of school, Year 3 students will indulge in some challenging, creative and crafty activities to wrap up our learning.

STRIVE: Consider, unbearable and diversity.

Miss Amy Snow

Greetings from Year 4/5/6!

Since our last newsletter, we have had the opportunity to experience some new sports at a combined schools Sports Gala Day and participate in the Small Schools Cluster Swimming Carnival. I have been proud of the way our students have represented our school and have all got in and had a go. Wheatlands are definitely have a go kids. Congratulations, students!

The last few weeks have become very busy as we aim to finish all our assessment tasks.

In English, our animated short stories are coming along really well. This has involved making characters and props and photographing these to upload to Photo Story. Narrations, captions and music are then added to complete the story. I can’t wait to watch them all.

In Maths, we have moved onto 3D shapes and volume, some more hands-on topics.

Geography has led us to discover more about the cultural diversity within our own students as well as the local community. We had the opportunity to chat with the Murgon State School Year 6 class on Thursday and found out about cultural similarities and differences that exist amongst the two classes.

Our technology unit has unleashed some very innovative designs using only newspapers and a small piece of cardboard. The task is to be able to carry a small present. We have some very creative students in our midst.

Green slips this week, are awarded to Kenzie for problem solving in a very mature manner, Damian for being on task with his assessment work and Teai for helping out with the younger students. Congratulations students!

Mrs Michelle Newton
The photos included this week were taken at the Swimming Carnivals 😊

** REMINDER** Lecturettes are due on Monday 23rd November (Next Week).

**ENGLISH**

This week, students were given the opportunity to choose a Dreamtime fictional story to complete a written retell. This is the final piece of written assessment for the year. Students will spend the remainder of the year rehearsing and performing their chosen story in a group. They will be given time during lessons to re-enact the events that occurred throughout the story for their peers. This may require some “dress up” and perhaps a little creativity – which will be a welcoming change to the busy Semester we have had.

In Seven Steps to Writing Success, we have been looking at how persuasive writing aims to evoke emotions and make people act. This is why ads are the best way of all to teach students the art of persuasive texts. We have been observing various styles of advertising and discussing which one was the most persuasive.

Our STRIVE words for this week and next week are: record, separate, gather and prefer.

**MATH**

Students completed their second math assessment on “Money” this week. We have enjoyed counting up money and working out change. A huge congratulations goes to Ryan Mollenhauer who achieved another 100% for his test. Students will begin their final unit for the year, “Space and Shape”. This will begin with students identifying 2D shapes and 3D objects.

**SCIENCE**

We will be completing our final assessment for Science on Monday. Students will be given a multiple choice questions page and will need to complete a procedure for making a mixture of their choice.

**GEOGRAPHY**

Beanie Boos... Yes, this might sound like gibberish but they are REAL... REALLY in our classroom. The 1/2 class have adopted six new Beanie Boos to assist us on our final assignment. A fun and engaging way to complete our unit. Check Communication Books for a letter explaining the “Beanie Boos Challenge”. Student names will be randomly drawn out of a hat and, if selected, can choose to take home a Beanie Boo. Their mission: to photograph their Beanie Boo at a chosen location within the South Burnett. Students will then be asked to write a paragraph explaining what they saw and found interesting there. They will also have to highlight the chosen location on a map. Happy exploring 😊

**TECHNOLOGY**

This week, students have been discussing various ways we can communicate. We had a competition this week: How do we communicate? Students were asked to write down as many forms of communication as possible. We enjoyed this activity and I’m pleased to say, students listed a huge range from sign language, to passenger pigeons to electronic devices. We also wrote a piece on the first words ever spoken over a telephone. Students were asked, “If you had invented the first telephone, who would you call first? And what would you say?” Just so you know, Justin Beiber and Taylor Swift were the favourites.

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS HANDWRITING AWARD**

Week 5 – Shaelee
Week 7 – Jayde

**GREEN SLIPS**

Week 5 – Ryan and Ruby A
Week 6/7 – Miley, Miranda and Jessica

**READING AWARDS**

Weeks 5, 6 & 7 –

125 Nights of Reading: Xavier, Jayde and Mia
175 Nights of Reading: Amber W
200 Nights of Reading: Tamika
225 Nights of Reading: Pixie and Leo
250 Nights of Reading: Jessica
275 Nights of Reading: Ryan and Amber M

Miss Sarah Sullivan.
We seek to build:

Self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience in order for students to approach future life experiences, opportunities and challenges with self-awareness, energy and zest.

Over the last two weeks, students have been exploring ‘Diversity’

Appreciation for diversity within the school promotes healthy relationships among students and an understanding of our differences and similarities.

Some of the activities included: Words can Hurt, Everybody is Unique and Me and We: We Are All Similar and Different

Next week—we will focus on ‘Respecting Yourself and Others’. 
P & C NEWS

Next Meeting — To be announced—Term 1 2016.

If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda for the next meeting, please add it to the form at the front office counter.

Please note that the last day for tuckshop will be Friday 27th November. Thank you to our parent volunteers who make this possible for us.

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10th Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>Library borrowing day</td>
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<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>PE &amp; Music sessions and School banking day</td>
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<td>Last banking day is Week 9 - 3rd December</td>
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<td>23rd Nov</td>
<td>2016 Leaders Parade 9am</td>
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<td>26th Nov</td>
<td>Last day of Swimming</td>
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<td>27th Nov</td>
<td>Under 8’s Day—more information to come</td>
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<td>27th Nov</td>
<td>LAST TUCKSHOP FOR 2015</td>
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<td>30th Nov</td>
<td>Rewards Day Excursion Underwater World—Prep-2</td>
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<td>1st Dec</td>
<td>Rewards Day Excursion Bli Bli Aqua Park—3-6’s</td>
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<td>2nd Dec</td>
<td>Yr 6 Transition Day Murgon SHS</td>
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<td>4th Dec</td>
<td>No Tuckshop today</td>
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<td>8th Dec</td>
<td>Year 6 Graduation Dinner</td>
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<td>10th Dec</td>
<td>Break Up Parade 2pm</td>
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<td>11th Dec</td>
<td>No Tuckshop today</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4</td>
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<td>27th Jan</td>
<td>First day of 2016 School Year</td>
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RECYCLE FOR THE SCHOOL!

Do you have any old automotive Batteries lying around?? Please drop them off at Murgon Tyre & Auto who can recycle them for you and all proceeds will be donated back to our School.

Thank you to Murgon Tyre & Auto for this great program! Another $398 received this week. Donations to-date total—$2117

KEEP RECYCLING!
Meeting Opened: 6:39pm

Present: Kieran Ramke, Ngaire Louis, Kimberley Kunde, Kylie Ward, Libby Meikle, Fay Kerkow, Kerrilee Gordon, Michelle MacCartie

Apologies: Michelle Bishop

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Kieran proposed the attendance book and the apologies be accepted.
Moved Kylie
Seconded Libby

Kieran proposed that the minutes from the previous general meeting be accepted.
Moved Ngaire
Seconded Kylie
Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes: None

Correspondence: Kieran proposed that the correspondence be accepted as per the Inward and Outward Correspondence Book as presented at the meeting.
Moved Kimberley
Seconded Kerrilee
Carried.

Business Arising from Correspondence

Treasurer’s Report: Balance as at 31.07.15
$ 107.79 Receipts
$ 276.50 Payments
Current Balance - $2901.06
Kimberley moved that the Treasurer’s report be adopted.
Seconded Fay
Carried.

Business Arising from Treasurer’s Report: None

Student Council Report: The student council held a Footy colours day and will hold a cancer council fundraiser on Friday the 4.9.15.
The council also held “Wear Blue” for asthma fundraiser last term.

Principals Report: 1. Parent teacher interviews will be held next week. Please come and see your children’s teacher as all children have finished PAT testing and we are really pleased with the results.
2. Naplan is coming up. This is one test which is held on one day and is not the be all and end all. Naplan helps creates a picture for the
Minutes of the Wheatlands State School P & C Association
General Meeting held at the Wheatlands State School
on Tuesday the 1st of September, 2015 at 6:35PM

2015 we made the average or above average stats across the board for all grades. Years 3 and 5 stats show that we have improved our results for the kids across all levels. The great results money has been monumental in our improvement with keeping a teacher aids in our classrooms.

3. Leadership accreditation will be given to students next week.
4. We currently have $123 625.93 and Libby tabled the budget for review.

Moved Kieran
Seconded Fay
Carried.

Business Arising from Principals Report:
Kieran would like to congratulate the staff for the massive time and effort that they have put in over the years. The improvement in our children and school is value in itself.
Libby would also like to thank the P&C for their monetary support and their efforts that is put into our school.

Catering Committee Report:
We had a very successful weekend at the show and the show committee were very happy with our efforts. Thank you for all those that helped Fay over the weekend.

Business Arising from Catering Committee Report:
None

Agenda Item:
1. Kerrilee proposed that the tuckshop menu be revised. A thought was to limit the menu to a few items a week that would be for all children. Further discussions will be held to determine if it is a viable option for us to take on the tuckshop ourselves.
2. Fay has been approached by the Wondai Lions club to do the catering for the Gardening Expo in September. 6 workers will be needed for the weekend. 3 on Saturday and 3 on Sunday. To help with making sandwiches and help with the BBQ. Fay will investigate and report back
3. Kimberley has booked the Mango fundraiser in for this year.
4. Kimberley asked about outside school sporting activities Libby will look into further.
5. In regards to the Ramke Reunion on the 3.10.15 we have been asked to do the BBQ. We will need approx 4 people to help out. Kieran will coordinate this event.
6. Comedy night, tickets are selling quickly. We will advertise in Murgon Moments and the South Burnett Times. It will be a 9am start for the setup of the hall. Many hands make light work so please let us know if you can help in any way.
Libby would like to thank the P&C for their continual support of the Student Resource Scheme. This not only helps the school, teachers and children but supports the local community. The scheme will also be implemented next year as voted at the AGM earlier this year.

Next Meeting: 17/11/15
Meeting Closed: 19:55:00

Thank you to all families who attended this meeting.

President: Kieran Ramke  Secretary: Ngaire Louis
The many faces of independence

Here are 5 ways for parents to give their children skills, encouragement and support in their quest for independence.

It’s been well documented in recent years that children/young people are dependent on adults for longer. In Australia one in four 18-30 year olds still lives at home and those numbers are on the increase. There are many reasons for this including lack of housing, affordability, working and partnering later, and simple convenience.

The propensity for many parents to do too much for children is a massive contributor to this increased dependency. Oddly, this is the exact opposite of what parents have always done, which is to develop their children’s independence, and in doing so effectively become redundant from their children.

There are a number of reasons for the current high level of dependency parenting including family shrinkage (parents are able to do a great deal for kids in small families), older parents (often over-concerned), busyness of life (it’s easier to do than delegate) and a heightened fear that the world is a dangerous place for children and young people.

**Independence is the point**

When independence becomes your priority then suddenly you’ve found a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children including the key four – confidence that comes from facing fears; competence that’s built through mastery; creativity that’s encouraged when kids must resolve their own problems; and character that is forged under the duress of challenge and hardship.

Adults are the gatekeepers for children’s independence. And of course, independence takes many guises including:

1. **Self-help skills**
   The starting point for independence building is giving kids the skills, know-how and confidence to look after their own wellbeing and welfare. This is shown in the many everyday situations where parents model, teach and provide opportunities for children to look after themselves. Including toddlers undressing themselves, primary-aged children preparing their own snacks, and teenagers organising their own transport to school and after school activities. Kids develop real confidence from being able to look after themselves and others.

2. **Autonomy to make choices and mistakes**
   Without realising it, as parents we frequently make choices on our children’s behalf. We choose the food they eat; the games they play; their leisure activities and often the clothes they wear. When families are large (four or more children) parents usually give their children more space to make their own decisions as well as opportunities to learn from their poor choices.
... The many faces of independence ...

This may mean that children choose healthy interests and pursuits that parents are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of their parents’ wishes. In small families parents often know so much about minutiae of children’s lives that inevitably we tend to impose greater well-intentioned control over children’s decisions.

3 Freedom to explore the neighbourhood

On a recent trip to Italy I was struck by how much freedom to wander their neighbourhoods Italian children had. It was a throwback to the type of childhood that many of today’s parents experienced, where we had the opportunity to navigate our neighbourhoods on our own without having to check in with our parents all the time.

4 Freedom to explore unpredictable and potentially risky environments

Independence is also built when children spend time in unpredictable, potentially risky environments such as the bush or new environments beyond their neighbourhood. There may be some risk involved but this is where real learning lies for children and young people. Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning.

5 Taking responsibility for your own problems and actions

There’s no doubt many kids are adept at shifting their problems and responsibilities to adults. One of my children would always blame me when they were late for school. Even though the child in question had an alarm clock and was more than capable of using it, any lack of punctuality was somehow shifted to me. Go figure! Independence comes when children take ownership of their responsibilities rather than using someone else as a scapegoat.

In order to grant children and young people the type of independence outlined parents need to be brave rather than fearful; work hard to develop the skills and know-how kids’ independence requires; and be willing to give kids the encouragement and support they need to step out of their comfort zones when independence seems to hard.