Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to our week 7 newsletter. The year is moving along quickly already. There are some really interesting events coming up – the Wheelie Fun Day and the Year 9/10 camp to mention just a couple. Extracurricular activities such as these add a lot of value to the experiences our students have at school. We aim to ensure that there are strong elements of learning in these activities – either academic learning or social emotional learning. It also adds to the fun that the students have at school. Having fun adds to the motivation that the students feel about attending school and being engaged in their learning.

At a staff meeting earlier in the year I showed the staff a short video about student self-esteem and how it is important for us, as adults, to support our students and understand how we can build their self-esteem. The video is a little old but still holds some very strong messages. It can be found on YouTube if you search “Poker Chips and School” : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vsl_XiyJupg

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a notice about the P&C. Please consider attending the next meeting. As the notice says it is a great way of meeting other parents and supporting the school. The whole staff are very keen to work closely with the school community to support the school and the learning of the students. The P&C is a great way to build these relationships. I would encourage interested parents/carers to become involved with the P&C – even if only in a small way. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

If you visit the school website you will find a copy of the Annual School Board Report for 2013: http://www.thewodens.act.edu.au/information_for_parents/school_board

This report outlines our achievements against our annual plan.

One of our aims this year is to continue improve the quality of our teaching practice. All teachers are now involved in quality teaching rounds where they are paired with a colleague, are required to plan a lesson together and then each takes turn in teaching the lesson while the other observes and provides feedback. All executive staff are also involved and we are all continuing to learn.

Warmest regards

Ian
PC Times

Wodswash proving to be successful

Wodswash, our school car washing program, is proving to be quite successful. Thanks to the staff who have provided, and payed, to have the interior and exteriors of their cars cleaned. The crew of boys have been developing their cash handling and administration skills, cooperative team work skills, detailing experience and have been bonding and supporting each other in the process. The program will cease at the end of this term and re-commence in Term 4 when finer weather returns. We are hoping to expand the service beyond our school staff during Term 4.

Wheelie Fun Day 2014
Thursday 10th April

Our students have elected to hold the Wheelie Fun Day as our Youth Week event again this year. Along with the activities from last year such as BMX time trial competitions, wheelchair races, Nintendo Wii competitions, a disco and free BBQ we are hoping to expand on the event and add a ‘carnival’ style ride. I am currently negotiating the possibility of an adult jumping castle. Further details about the event will be sent home closer to the date. In the meantime check out the cool promo poster Ben has created in this newsletter.

Lock in the date: Wodnestock to take place Friday 7th of November

After such an exciting and successful debut in 2013 Ben and I are keen for another Wodenstock this year, and have set the date for Friday the 7th of November. The music festival during the day will now also be accompanied by Wodfest, a multimedia competition, during the night. Ben and I will continue to organise the music festival side of the event and the Wodfest committee will organise the night time event. As both events involve competitions for young people Ben and I will promote both competitions to students across the ACT. Ben has been hard at work developing the new promo visuals for the posters and t-shirts for Wodenstock, so get ready for another amazing logo and t-shirt to add to your collection. If you are aware of any young musicians give them the heads up, and direct them to Wodenstock on Facebook.

Do you want the latest information on NDIS or services and events for people with disabilities?

Then sign up to the schools Facebook page. I often receive e-mails from Disability ACT and other organisations across Canberra about key events and information in the disability sector and post relevant information on the schools Facebook page. To avoid missing out on such opportunities please ‘like’ our school page. Just search ‘The Woden School’ when you are next on Facebook.
All Woden School Students are encouraged to have their own MyWay cards. These cards can be used for class excursions and/or for bus training activities (from year 9).

MyWay cards are smartcards used with the MyWay prepaid ticketing system for travel on ACTION Buses. The cards are designed to be easy to use and the majority of passengers will enjoy cheaper travel. Passengers just have to remember to tap on at the start and tap off at the end of the journey, by waving their card over the MyWay card reader. Tapping off ensures the cheapest fare is applied.

MyWay cards are reusable, can be registered and the balance recharged in several ways. Registered MyWay cards can have the balance transferred to a new card if the original is lost, stolen or damaged.

A fee applies for new MyWay cards ($15) and funds must be added to the card at the time of purchase. The method for obtaining a MyWay Card depends on whether you are an adult, concession holder, senior, school or tertiary student.

School Students

To obtain a MyWay card, please visit any Canberra Connect Shopfront. You can buy your own card and then apply for a concession pass. We can assist with that. Contact the front office for further information.
Important Parent/carer information

NAPLAN TESTING
(The National Assessment Program)
13, 14, 15, May 2014

NAPLAN tests provide information on how your child is progressing against national standards in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy.

Letters have been sent to all parents and carers with students in years 7 and 9. It is important to complete the paperwork and send back to school. This is important to ensure that we administer this process properly. Although most students at The Woden School are eligible for exemption they may still sit all or part of the tests if you elect.

Some students are not eligible for exemption and you can elect to withdraw your son/daughter from the tests.

Please contact the school if you would like to discuss further. Otherwise please complete the papers included in your letter and return it to the school immediately.

Thank you,
THURSDAY— WEAR ORANGE COLOURS TO SCHOOL

To celebrate Harmony Day and the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence this week, our school will host a special disco this Thursday the 20th March. Students are encouraged to wear Orange Coloured Clothing, or traditional cultural attire on the day. There will be giveaways for all students at the disco and prizes for the best dressed. Students will also be learning about cultural diversity and anti-bullying strategies in Pastoral Care this week. Thanks.

School Photo’s

The school photos have arrived and will be sent home with your child on Monday 24 March.

Please remember to check your child’s bag

Voluntary Contributions

We have registered our school with the ATO so that any Voluntary Contributions made to the school will soon be Tax deductible!!
AFFIRM is a program for families who are at risk of family breakdown, who have a child/young person aged 7 – 20 years, with a diagnosed disability with high and complex needs and who are residents of the ACT.

AFFIRM aims to work collaboratively with family members and all services involved. Families who wish to work with AFFIRM need to be willing to commit to participate actively for the duration of the AFFIRM process.

Families referring to AFFIRM participate in a comprehensive assessment process which is then presented to the AFFIRM Panel for consideration of their eligibility for the service. If the family does not meet the eligibility criteria further other service options will be provided.

What is the AFFIRM assessment process?

An AFFIRM assessment simply means collecting information about your family; what works for each of them (their strengths) as well as their challenges (needs). The information collected is necessary to allow the AFFIRM Panel to make a clear and informed decision about whether AFFIRM is the best program to assist your family. The Panel is made up of representatives from DUO, Disability ACT, Therapy ACT, Care and Protection, CAMHS, Dept. of Education, Housing ACT and ACT Health.

What will happen?

Information will be gathered from you, your child/young person and other family members or persons who can offer useful opinions. In order to work together with all services and organisations that your family is involved with, we need your permission to allow us to talk to whomever may offer some insight into your family’s situation.

The information will be presented to the Panel for a decision on acceptance into the program; Panel members will also share information in relation to you and your family to assist with the intake and assessment processes.

The assessment will be culturally and linguistically sensitive. If required, help will be provided in your first language.

If you do not agree with what the FSP says in the assessment, you will be able to record your point of view on the assessment.

Your family’s participation in AFFIRM is voluntary and you may withdraw from the program at any time.

What will be expected of you?

To participate willingly in the assessment and information gathering to provide information that will help the FSP recognise the strengths you and your individual family members have,

as well as the challenges. There may need to be frequent contact with the FSP, requiring you and your family to be available to meet.

Your commitment to the planning, process and ongoing active participation if accepted into AFFIRM.
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Your commitment to the planning, process and ongoing active participation if accepted into AFFIRM

What you can expect from us:

We will aim to work with you and your individual family members’ needs in ways that are respectful and useful, and that consider your views and opinions

Your child/young person’s safety will always be our first concern. We will always try to reach an agreement with you about ways to keep them safe. AFFIRM has a duty of care to report to the appropriate authorities if it is suspected that a child or young person is at risk of harm or has been harmed. Where possible this will be discussed with you prior to report

We will respect your right to privacy and collect and store your information in line with the National Privacy Principles (Privacy Act 1988)

We will work in partnership with other agencies and services to assist your family to achieve the agreed upon goals

In order to assess the effectiveness of AFFIRM, non-identifying data will be collected for evaluation purposes. Non-identifying data will also be provided to the Commonwealth, State, Territory Disability Agreement Minimum Data Set (CSTDA MDS)

Informed Consent:

All clients of DUO must give informed consent to allow us to gather the information we need. You must be provided with enough information on AFFIRM and its processes to allow you to make an informed decision about whether you want to be part of the program. This consent may be withdrawn by you at any time by contacting the FSP and advising them of your decision.

How can you access your information?

You have the right to request access to your own information. You may also ask for an amendment to be added, if necessary, where you tell us that our information is incorrect. Access to your information will be in accordance with the National Privacy Principles (Privacy Act 1988) and the Freedom of Information ACT (1982).

Any questions?

Please talk to the referring agency or AFFIRM staff if you have any other questions or concerns about what happens to your family’s information or if you wish to access your family’s records.
Athletics Program Expressions of Interest

This year the Woden School's Physical Education Coordinator, Jake Naylor is offering an extra-curricular Athletics program to the students of the school. Through this program students will be provided with opportunities to develop their skills in running, jumping and throwing in a fun and social environment. The emphasis of participation is placed on self-improvement in preparation for the students to enroll and participate in regular Athletics events for example, combined high school Athletics competitions and local club meets. This program is intended to be conducted outside regular school times (before or after school). Alternate transport arrangements may need to be considered prior to commencement of this program.

If you think this program would suit your young person please fill in the below slip and return it to the school as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you require more information please contact Jake at the school.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Students Name: ________________________________________

Year: _______________________

Athletic Area of Interest: (Please Circle)

Sprints, Middle Distance, Long Distance

Long Jump, High Jump

Javelin, Discus, Shot Put

All of the above

Previous Experience: (Special Olympics, Little Athletics etc.)

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING

Travel training programs
Independent mobility is an important factor in assisting students to gain independence, access to the environment and develop a positive self-image. Travel training is a curriculum priority for year 9 students. We also encourage and support this training for students in all year groups as part of our commitment to life-long community inclusion and independence.
It is important that students have the opportunity to learn to use transport options that will be available to them when they leave school. Individual independent travel planning and training arrangements will be negotiated directly with you. Please support us to encourage and embed this important independence activity.
Dear Parents and Carers

The next meeting of The Woden School P&C is on **Tuesday 13th May at 5.30 pm** at the School.

This is the Annual General Meeting. Our Committee for 2014 is already pretty set.

Please join us to support the school. It is not onerous - we only ran one disco last year and this year we are hoping to hold a fundraising barbecue.

It is a great place to meet other parents.

Date for your diary
Please check your child’s Student Diary for important forms and communication from staff.

Labelling
Please remember to label all items of clothing, lunch boxes and drink containers.

DIARY’S
Please check your child’s Student Diary for important forms and communication from staff.

ALLERGY FRIENDLY SCHOOL
Please remember to ensure no products made with peanuts/cashews are brought into the school as The Woden School is an ALLERGY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

School Hours
9am to 3pm
Recess
11:00 to 11:30
Lunch
1:30 to 2:00

Voluntary Contribution 2014

One Student
Yearly contribution in full: $100
Term instalments: $25

Family
Yearly contribution in full: $150
Term instalments: $40

Uniform

School T-Shirts $33
School T-Shirts (long sleeve) $36
School Hoodies (jumpers) $38

Please order through the front office — 62055966

Subject Contribution 2014

The annual subject contribution of $60 per student will cover the costs of your student’s use of the following resources:

Art supplies
Home economics’ consumables
Stationery
Wood technology materials

These items are used frequently to support teaching and learning in all sections of the school.

Your contribution is much appreciated and will ensure that we can continue to provide them for your student throughout the year.

In addition it is expected that all students will provide their own individual pencil cases containing essential pens, pencils, glue sticks, sharpeners, coloured pencils, texts etc.

EFT for payments

BSB: 032777
Account Number: 001893
Account Name: The Woden School

Please include reference: Student’s name then item you have paid for, e.g. ‘J SMITH Stationery’

Thank you for your support
Please note that this has replaced the stationery contribution of previous years.