



Woodford International School

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Website: <http://wis.edu.sb>, E-mail: communication@wis.edu.sb

WAVELENGTH

Newsletter - September 2017

Online access: <http://wis-wavelength.weebly.com/>

From Head of School's Desk

They said I would have to hit the ground running and they weren't joking. It's certainly been a very busy time of late here at Woodford but rewarding and enjoyable at the same time. The school community is an active one and there is so much for parents and students to be proud of. I have highlighted just a few things in this Newsletter and express my thanks to the contributors. Apologies if my own late arrival in Term 3 has meant some activities have been missed out but just please provide any details or narrative regarding events and I will try to get them in a future edition.

Lyn Watts (Educational Consultant and School Visitor)



We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Lyn Watts who visited our school for two days in September to consider how we might improve our curriculum delivery. Her bright, wholehearted personality, considerable classroom experience and sound common sense ensured the two days were not only inspiring and informative but

also fun. As a fellow professional it was a joy to meet someone so keen and able to foster school improvement. It is no wonder her services are in such high demand throughout Australia. I am sure her visit will lead to considerable improvement in teaching and learning here at Woodford and hopefully lead to further visits in the near future. Also a huge thank you to Judy Martin our Teaching and Learning Director who accompanied and advised Lyn throughout her tour. Both Judy and I will lead a PD event for teachers after their return from break to look at ways we can incorporate Lyn's ideas into our work here. Parents can read Lyn's initial insights in the School below:

Lyn Watts Report

Thank you for your invitation to review the beautiful Woodford International School. It was a joy to spend last week with you observing quality classrooms and engaged learners across the school. I have completed an audit of Teaching, Learning and curriculum and can now make the following observations:

Lessons have clear learning intentions with goals that clarify what success looks like. Sound lesson structures reinforce routines, scaffold learning via specific steps/activities. Planned sequencing of teaching and learning activities stimulate and maintain student engagement

Explicit teaching practices clearly show students what to do and how to do it.

Collaborative learning is supported by designing meaningful tasks. It involves students actively participating in negotiating roles, responsibilities and outcomes.

Questioning opens up opportunities for students to discuss, argue, and express opinions and alternative points of view.

Differentiated teaching methods teachers extend the knowledge and skills of every student in every class, regardless of their starting point.

Clearly Woodford aims to lift the performance of all students, including those who are falling behind and those ahead of year level expectations. In order to ensure that all students master objectives, effective teachers plan lessons that incorporate adjustments for content, process, and product.

The curriculum design is also very successful. Primary School students undertake the International Baccalaureate (PYP), while Middle School students participate in the Cambridge/AICE Program and Senior School students are measured against the Solomon Islands National Curriculum. These internationally recognised curricula provide excellent guidance as to effective teaching and learning processes as well as curriculum planning, development and evaluation of learning.

It is clear that the Woodford International School highly values the relationships between teachers and students, and students with their peers. There is considerable evidence to support the school strategic plan statement that,

“WIS is a community of learners that builds on each child's strengths, drawing from our diverse local context and a rich international curriculum, to develop globally ready learners equipped to shape their future and achieve their dreams.”

-Lyn Watts

Fees

One of my roles here is to ensure financial stability. It is extremely costly to the School if fees are not paid in a timely manner. Thank you to all those who pay their school fees on time and I urge all fee payers to support the school and do the same. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and very necessary.

Tournament of Minds – Challenging the World at Woodford

Woodford International School hosted Solomon Islands' first ever 'Tournament of Minds' in September.

With special permission to pilot Tournament of Minds in Solomon Islands, Woodford teams went head-to-head entertaining and persuading a panel of expert judges about the merit of their solutions to a 4 week Engineering – Mathematics challenge.



Each team designed and produced a unique mechanical device capable of independently producing three distinct sounds, within a range of constraints. The teams were judged on the effectiveness and design of their devices, the quality of their dramatic presentations and mathematical explanations, their use of recycled materials and other criteria. The teams' designs and presentations were totally different from each other, reflecting the students' creativity and independence. In a tight battle, the 'Rulers of Phenophalia' took the title of TOM Champions.

TOM is a problem-solving programme for mixed-age teams of students from both primary and secondary years. Tournament of Minds was created in Australia thirty years ago and now involves tens of thousands of students each year from Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Thailand, South Africa and other countries in the region. Participants in TOM develop diverse skills, enterprise, time management, and the discipline to work collaboratively within a competitive environment. Participants in the inaugural Solomon Islands Tournament of Minds said TOM was also 'super-challenging', 'incredibly rich with learning' and 'heaps of fun'.

-Emily Russell



Many thanks to all the participants, judges and advisors. A special thank you to Emily for initiating and coordinating the event.

WISE Field Day and PYP Sports Carnival

There were two most enjoyable community events to end Term3 on a high sporting note. The WISE Field Day and the PYP Sports Carnival. Both were enormous fun and allowed for a good balance of participation for all and competitive spirit.



Although a good time was, I am sure, had by all it was not just about that. If you doubt the competitive edge you should certainly have witnessed the tug-of-war competition where students really dug in for their house and gave everything for victory. Indeed so many of the events showed the Woodford students the value of teamwork, efficiency and hard work. Hard physical effort like studying can be both rewarding and fun. It was also hugely gratifying for me to see so many older students engaging so comfortably with the younger students and relaying instructions in a thoroughly supportive manner (even if the older ones

were left scratching their heads at times).

I know that students and spectators alike enjoyed and benefited both events. These activities build school spirit and allow parents to get a feel of the good things happening at Woodford. Many thanks to Ryan his team of IGCSE PE student helpers and all the Primary staff for their efforts, expertise and enormous patience. I'm sure they were all happy to enjoy the holiday at the end of it.



Final Word

I read this yesterday and thought I'd share it

Wheat
Heat
Eat
At
T

A whole process in one word.
