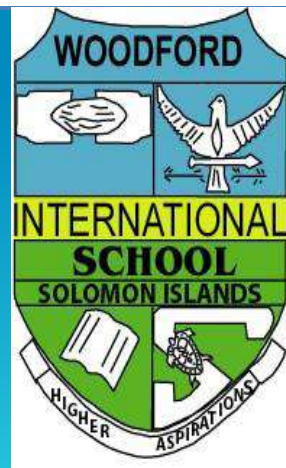


WAVELENGTH

30/8/13 Email: woodford@solomon.com.sb Phone: 30186 Fax: 38021 www.wis.edu.sb



From Head of School...

Welcome to another addition of our newsletter. The week has absolutely flown by but certainly not without some noteworthy milestones being reached. Our first "off-shore camp" proved to be so enjoyable and such a success that I have had requests from both students and parents to make it longer. An interesting prospect but having achieved its aims it is timely to focus our energy on other activities.

Our International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE 1) students sat exams in the same format they will be presented with at the end of their course – this was a great exercise and I am confident we will hear much more of their experiences and how much they learned about themselves from their participation.

There has been further landscaping and earthworks carried out at school. It has been a long time coming but in opening up more space for students it will create additional space for quiet study and relaxation as well as enhancing the overall school environment. The modern day tendency to worship the motorcar and "not leave home without it" continues to add pressure in and around the school. We will continue to do what we can to maintain a safe environment for all children but need you help to recognise the need to take extra care whenever in or near the school precinct.

Lastly, school fee invoices for term four have been issued and they fall due on the first day of term four which is Tuesday the 1st of October. I understand that some invoices may have incorrectly indicated the due date as being the 8th October so please make a note of the correction. In keeping with school policy all fees from any previous term must be paid up in full before a student will be re-entered onto the roll for a subsequent term.

Enjoy the weekend!

Greg Hollis

WOODFORD UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wk 8 assembly Yr 5
- Yr 9-11 social night
- Athletics Carnival
- Three way conference
10th Sep.

Year 5 Exhibition

5th - 6th

September

Honiara ECE Games!!

5th - 6th

September



3-5 year olds.

Greeting to all Parents, Teachers, Students, Trustees, School Staff and Alumni,

Well here I am again, another Board Meeting down and nearly up to School Holidays again. Seems to be a lot more than when I was in school but could be that as a child I looked forward to them and as an adult.....

Where are we at? Well we are working hard and in fact so far this year we have been able to save a little over half a million dollars total on previous quotes and budget prices, so that's looking better already. We do a bit of shopping around and try to purchase locally where possible and make sure we bargain as hard as we can.

After school care has been high on the agenda recently following a proposal by the PTFA. Students are not being picked up as soon as possible after school and sometimes this runs as long as two hours. Whilst it is understood that there are times working parents can't make it as soon as school finishes the school is still responsible for these students until they are picked up. To date a couple of teachers are looking after the students but it's not fair that they have to work longer for no reward so they will be paid now. Of course that means more expense so to offset this, a time based fee will be charged for the students left at school in care for extended periods. It is not intended that this will profit the school but will cover the costs for the teacher's times.

Also high on the agenda is the new building developments for the school. Whilst it has been discussed for a while now a final concept design is nearly there and we are reviewing options. One option is to bring on board a Project Manager to look after the process. This will allow for an experienced person, reporting to the Board, to be engaged on a contract basis to manage the design, contractor selection, supervision and QA of the construction process. An advert will be placed this week calling on interested parties for this position and once an idea of costs are complete the final to decision to either use or not use will be made. Whilst it is another expense it will mean we have full time commitment from someone to ensure we get a professional, cost efficient and built to time facility that stands the test of time.

Another point that comes up frequently is communication from the Board. We believe we are providing plenty of opportunity for people to keep updated through articles like this and Board members attending school functions. Also there is the email that a number of people have been using and we believe we have certainly increased the information flow out. It has been noted that in recent surveys being sent to parents that only about 12% of the parents respond so maybe there isn't a requirement for input from the parents. We as a Board are happy to assist and answer where possible its up to those who wish to comment to step forward. Thank you very much to all of you who have contacted us so far and look forward to working with you to make our school better.

Head of School, we are now short listing from the 58 applicants we received. We should be in a position to final check references, conduct phone/Skype interviews and potentially interview applicants by the middle of September.

So that's about it for me this month and if I don't get the opportunity enjoy the upcoming school holidays (doesn't seem long ago that I said that for the previous holidays) no matter what you do. Please feel free to send an email to the Board if you so wish and it will be answered but please do remember sometimes there are legitimate circumstances beyond our control that do delay replies, that have nothing to do with the decision, but are purely personal. So please bear with us.

Regards

Andrew Kerr



PYP CORNER



Learning Journey Conferences

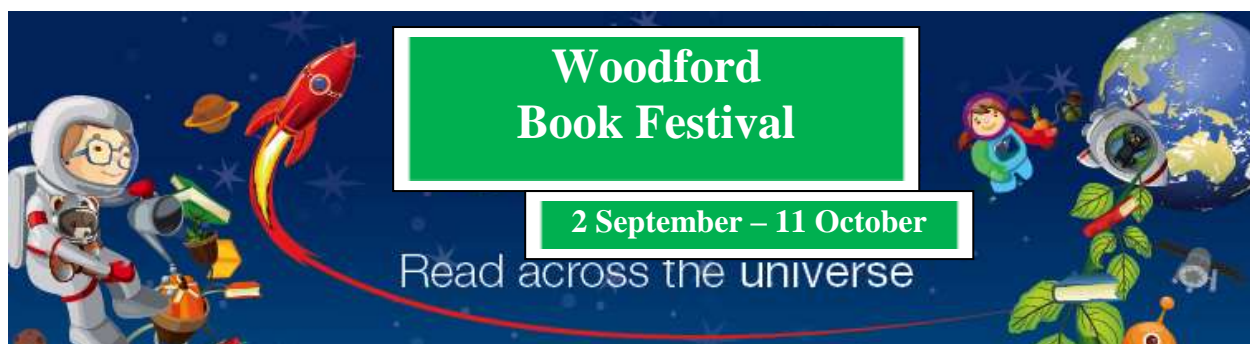
On Tuesday 10 September Kindy – Year 5 are having Learning Journey Conferences.

This is a *Pupil-Free day for Kindy-Year 5*

What is a Learning Journey Conference?

A Learning Journey conference is a formal conversation between a student and their parents, where the student takes control of sharing their *learning journey*. Through an organized, planned and rehearsed process, the student discusses and demonstrates their individual strengths, successes, challenges, goals and areas for personal improvement. Conferences are scheduled in forty minute blocks. You can stay as long as you like during the assigned time. The teachers will be in the room, but are not part of the conferences. If you would like to discuss things with the classroom teacher, you can make an appointment to meet at a different time.

Sign-up sheets have been sent home on Monday. If you haven't received it, please ask at the main office.



Donate A Book Day

Help, and give other children the opportunity to enjoy reading

Wednesday 4 September (week 8)

- **Bring a book to school that you would like to donate**
- **Put it in one of the boxes in the breezeway**

Book Exchange

A great opportunity for you to get some 'new' books you can read during the holiday!

Wednesday 11 September (week 9)

- **Take the books, that you would like to exchange (swap) for other book, to the library on Friday 6/9 or Monday 9/9.**
- **You will receive a voucher for each book you hand in.**
- **Bring the vouchers to school on Wednesday and exchange them for books.**
- **Each class will have an assigned time to exchange books.**



Contagious Diseases

Because of the numbers of students in a school and the relatively close contact that is shared on a daily basis it is necessary to take responsible steps to minimize the likelihood of diseases spreading. There is no way to completely ensure that your child will not “catch” or “pass on” a particular disease but we can take certain steps to minimize the spread of illness throughout the community. Whenever we become aware of the presence of particular illness it will be communicated to parents. In addition there are certain diseases that are highly contagious and require a child to be isolated. If they are at school and present symptoms consistent with these illnesses it will be necessary to send them home where they will need to be confined until such time as medical clearance can be obtained.

The common illnesses that fall into this category are chicken pox; (red eye or conjunctivitis); and impetigo or school sores. Of slightly less seriousness but a problem that can be extremely persistent and annoying is head-lice. In all of these cases students should be kept at home, treated and only returned to school when fully recovered.

Naturally if your child is at all unwell on a school morning it would be appreciated for both them and us that they be kept at home and the school informed of their absence.

PTFA Notice

“As part of Woodford's Book Festival, PTFA is inviting parents and companies associated with the school to sponsor one of the 29 books that have been shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia for the Book of the Year.

In doing this you are helping keep Woodford's Library up to date with the very best titles to feed your children's knowledge and imaginations - what's more - every book sponsored will have a sponsorship certificate naming your family or company inserted in the front inside cover of the book, letting everyone know how thankful we are for this sponsorship.

If you would like to sponsor any of these titles, please see us in the breezeway at the PTFA table next Thursday afternoon from 2. 15 -3. 15 and be the proud sponsor of a new addition to our great library!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support,
The PTFA team

Year 8 Camp photos – Setting off on Sunday morning



All Aboard



Eager students



Anxious – or is that excited – parents farewelling their children



Mrs Alley keen to get going!



Setting off to Tulagi



Ryan 6A presenting his Argument



Ms. Buffy And Mr. Iroga assessing the debate



A speaker for the opposition side



Robert Iroga giving feed back to the students



Yr. 6 Debate

You may have noticed some very dapper looking Year Six's this afternoon in the hall. It is because they presented a political debate as part of their SOSE assignment. The topic was, "The Solomon Islands should adopt a direct voting system by the people to elect the Prime Minister." Year 6A took the Government stance and Year 6B took the Opposition's stance. With so much to cover on rights and responsibilities this term, the students did an excellent job combining critical thinking, research and public speaking skills in their preparation and presentation. Mr. Robert Iroga, Chief of Staff for the PM, was our special guest moderator. He gave us some very positive feedback and even invited us to submit our arguments to the Constitutional Reform Committee for review. Needless to say, proud does not even describe how Woodford International School should feel about these students. I know as a teacher I could not have asked for more.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LEARNING

This week has been an important one in the learning journey of our IGCSE 1 students. The students sat their trial IGCSE exams and for many of them it was their first experience of the stress and study commitment required to succeed.



This morning at the conclusion of the exam period I asked the students to reflect on what they had gained from the experience. Below are some of their comments.

"Studying a week before the exam doesn't help much; studying nearly every day would be much better."

"I now know how serious these exams are going to be. I loved coming in and putting my phone in the box at the front of the room. It felt like you were entering a different world."

"Honestly these exams are a wake up call for me. It's time to wake up and be serious with my studies."

"The trial exams were really tough but they were also fun and challenging and kept me motivated."

"I now know that there is no time for me to be joking around all the time!"

"The exams were hard. I need to spend more time studying and looking back through my notes. I have also missed lots of school and have also been coming late so I need to try my best."

"The first day I did the exam it gave me the jitters. I was scared, I could hear my heart pumping really fast and I felt sick because of the pressure. But as I went on I felt courage and strength and now I am used to the feeling."

"I can now write longer without my hand feeling numb."

"I've gained skills in time management and learnt how to study at a very stressful time."

"I was always scared of facing exams but the trial exams made me get used to it and more confident. Thank you!"

The IGCSE course is rigorous but the students – and their parents – should be confident that the challenges it presents are worth it. A student who succeeds at IGCSE level is well placed for further study. They have learnt time management, study skills, a body of knowledge across a number of subjects and valuable life skills.

Congratulations to the IGCSE 1 students for the commitment to this exam period. Maintain your focus and continue to strive for success!

Angela Hollis - Director of Curriculum