

WAVELENGTH

7/06/13 Email: woodford@solomon.com.sb Phone: 30186 Fax: 38021 www.wis.edu.sb

From Head Of School...

Crazy hair day at school produced some very interesting if not amusing expressions of creativity and those that participated seemed to really enjoy themselves. Some hairstyles were completely unique and distinctly individual while others, unquestionably different in their own right, utilised common elements that could allow them to be grouped together.

A similar situation exists in classrooms where some students have commonalities in their learning styles that allow them to be grouped and work together while others benefit from a slightly different approach. When teachers cater for these differences we refer to it as differentiation – tailoring instruction to meet the learning needs of the individual.

It isn't possible for teachers to simultaneously deliver different lessons but it is possible for them to adapt and embrace alternate strategies in their teaching – to recognise that their objective is to facilitate learning and to create an environment where multiple paths allow students to reach that goal.

As a normal part of school operations our teaching staff have been meeting to share and exchange ideas. Differentiation and the need to cater for Multiple Intelligences forms just a small part of what they are doing to provide the very best educational experience for each and every one of our students.

Their professional development is ongoing and it serves as an ideal reminder and role model to students that learning is a lifelong journey that should be as enjoyable as it is important.

Enjoy the weekend!

Greg Hollis

WOODFORD UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Movie night 8th June*
- *Public holiday 14th June*
- *Tabloid Sports 21st June*

Monday
10th June

"Student Free
DAY"



QUEEN'S
BIRTHDAY
14th
June

More from Head Of School...

Reports! Reports! Reports!

Reports are similar to a major assignment for teachers as they collate and analyse their data and compile their updates of student progress. Their goal is to produce a report that presents an accurate picture of each student's learning and to provide some input and direction as to how we can assist their ongoing performance.

Historically a report is only a small snapshot of what a student has achieved at a particular point in time. We report according to a frame of reference and it logically relates back to what they have demonstrated in class but this may well be at the expense of who they have become or who they are becoming.

The IB learner profile, which underpins our primary curriculum, helps in these situations. It is a list of particular attributes or skills necessary for learning so it serves to explain what qualities students are expected to develop. In classrooms this week it was reassuring to see activities being prefaced with a particular attribute. Teachers worked with students explaining how and what a particular attribute was and what that attribute might look like or what we could expect from a learner who had taken on that attribute.

One of these sessions I witnessed occurred when I was working with a student sent to me to discuss his lack of focus. The class was discussing what it meant to be a principled learner. Notions of being responsible, showing empathy and possessing integrity were all volunteered by students but it was the definition for the latter which caught my attention:

“Integrity is being true to your word and doing what you say you will do”.

The student I was working with toured a number of classes with me that day to see the type of focus and application that is in place and normal across the school. He had on a previous occasion made undertakings to work harder but this resulted in little gain so the tour was designed for him to see for himself what was normal in other classes. The result was a bit of a wake up call for him to realise that being principled about his own learning was a responsibility that he alone needed to amend and that it is important for words to be supported by appropriate action.

I hope when students receive their reports at the end of this term that they are content with their results and that their results accurately reflect their efforts and abilities at this point in their learning journeys.

Greg Hollis

WOODFORD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IS NOW A CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL



Our school has recently been accredited to offer the Cambridge IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) exams to our senior students. A representative from Cambridge International Exams visited the school to assess our ability to deliver this internationally recognised qualification. She was very pleased with what she saw and made the recommendation that we be recognised as a 'Cambridge' School. This is fantastic news for our students and for the Solomon Islands as we are the first school in the country to be able to give Solomon Islanders and expatriates alike an internationally recognised programme that allows for articulation into University Foundation Studies.

In preparation for the IGCSE exams to be held in November, our Year 11 students have been sitting their mock exams all of this week. It has been an exhausting week for them but it has provided invaluable exam-taking experience. The mock exam grades will be used to inform the end of semester grades for our Year 11s.

Four of our secondary teachers recently completed and received certification in teaching IGCSE courses.

Mr Philip Luluku – Business Studies

Ms Florence Alley – Business Studies

Mr Peter Maclean – Chemistry and Mathematics

Ms Livian Ngatulu – Physics

Congratulations to them for their hard work and dedication.

Over the next holiday break more of our teachers will be undertaking these courses and we wish them well in their studies.

School Camps

Our Year 7, 8 and 10 students have been busy fundraising for their upcoming camps. We have had 'Crazy Hair Day' and lunchtime coconut selling just to mention a couple. Early next term there will be a crazy costume mufti day, so get your thinking caps on for what you will wear! Thank you for your support of these efforts, I am sure that the camps will be a huge success.



World Environment Day

Our IGCSE Environmental Management students led assembly this morning with a thoughtful presentation on World Environment Day, and in particular issues associated with sustaining our seas. This is a critical issue for the planet and especially so for many the people of the Pacific who rely on the bounty of the seas for their sustenance and livelihood. It is really up to us to ensure that we do everything we can to protect the oceans and I would like to thank our students for highlighting what needs to be done. Thanks also to the secondary students who sang for the assembly and the teachers who supported them. Well done!

From the chairman of the Board.

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

Another board meeting down and here I am again. One more meeting before the mid-year School Holidays and we plan a big second half of the year. So here I am on Sunday afternoon sitting on the deck out here at Tetere (The jungle miles from town) listening to my music, the locals partying next door whilst generally relaxing, what better time to write this muse.

Thanks firstly go to our new PTFA rep, yes got it around the wrong way last Wavelength, Mr Cheyne Warren on the board and also to Nicky Warren and Lisa Lahari for getting the PTFA up and running again. Good things planned for this year and I hope that all of you get behind them and support them like the Board and I will.

The works sub-committee has made progress and soon you should see adverts requesting interested companies to bid for works at the school. As soon as we have finalised the details and the designs I will share them with you but I promise you, you will be happy to see what we are planning. Nothing will be committed to until a transparent process is in place and we have full board approval as well as support from the Trustees especially. One thing I can tell you is we are seriously looking at Solar Energy or similar renewable supplies not only to save on operational costs but also to set an example of the alternatives available for our community. It was bought up at the AGM and it hasn't been forgotten, thank you.

In the next few months we will be advertising positions for the school including the Head of School. It is a requirement to advertise the HOS position every three years and we will be following that. We will be advertising locally and overseas for all positions and I am sure we will do the best by the school. Welcome now to Bernadine Manuia who has joined the recruitment sub-committee. I am sure with her professional experience added we will not only get the best people but we will ensure all candidates are considered and all employment processes will be followed transparently.

I do hope there is benefit in me sharing my thoughts with you all out there and I have had some positive feedback from parents but I always value your input, no matter what. Yes here we go again, don't forget you can contact us at anytime on woodfordschoolboard@gmail.com. By helping me you are potentially helping everyone at the school. Don't be frightened, don't worry about big man, it is all confidential if you request and I will address concerns and entertain any good ideas. But like the Solomon Star I would prefer a real name if you have an issue.

Until next time enjoy what it is that you do and if I miss getting the next muse out before the school holidays which is likely as the Board Meeting is three days before the break, travel safe and enjoy time with family.

Lastly in the words of the famous Jack Sparrow

"The problem is not the problem. The problem is your attitude about the problem. Do you understand?"

Regards

Andrew Kerr

PTFA Announcements

PARENT READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We all know what it was like to start the reading journey! It's an exciting and unique adventure for every one of our Woodford Students and for those parents who can spare 30mins on weekdays, a number of classes are seeking volunteers to help! If you would like to be put on the volunteer list of guided reading helpers for the term, please see your child's teacher - they will be very happy to hear from you.

All you need is a sense of curiosity and adventure as the classes are split up for small-group guided reading work-- the more parent volunteers, the smaller the groups can be, which makes it a better experience for our emergent and rapid readers!!

STOP AND GO ZONE-COURTESY REMINDER

The mornings can be a busy time for parents/drivers dropping off before starting their own workdays. Please be aware the stop and go zone is just that -- it is a NO PARKING zone and any driver parking their vehicles to get kids to class should be aware that parking in the Stop and Go is an inconvenience to everyone else you -- the half a minute you think you are taking is more than time to create a long and impatient queue behind you, so please consider other parents and waiting vehicles...Let's keep it safe folks -- parking space is just around the corner and makes it easier for the Stop and Go zone to operate.



School healthy canteen Strategy

NEW HEALTHIER MENU AT CANTEEN!

Congrats to the WIS canteen for banning the canned drinks from the student menu, and for bringing in some healthy changes to the canteen menu! Smaller servings are now an option for those who don't want an adult-sized lunch-- and we look forward to hearing any feedback or suggestions from canteen users for recipe ideas/service/etc!.

Wednesday 12 june

There will be a PTFA Meeting in the school staffroom on Wednesday 12 June at 1.30pm to discuss topics raised at the last morning tea and upcoming PTFA events and projects for 2013 - everyone welcome!

AFTER SCHOOL



Activities

After school activities have been going well and two of the sports programs have arranged interschool friendly matches yesterday (6th June) to test out the performance and progress of the daily after-school events.

With some key players absent, our boys lost to Panatina school in soccer with an entertaining 2-1 defeat while the girls won their netball match with a great show of fitness and team work.

