

Message From the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome or welcome back as we look all set to embark on what looks destined to be a very exciting Term 3 here at Woodford. I hope that any of you who managed a holiday over the past few weeks have had a relaxing time and are not over keen to send your kids back to school. Regardless the teachers are back and certainly well prepared for the term ahead. So that you are able to keep you abreast of the various goings on at the school I offer the following notes for your perusal.

Staffing:

Following the three late resignations in PE /Middle Years Leadership, English as an Additional Language and Individual Needs I am pleased to inform you of the following appointments. I also extend a warm welcome to our new employees.

- EAL – We have appointed Meri Porowai. Meri has spent most of her life in the Solomon Islands and is very well known locally for her conscientious and effective work in various EAL and administrative roles. Meri is originally from the UK but after a short spell in Australia moved to the Solomon Island where a short stay has now become 45 years.
- Special Ed. –We have appointed Alice Rore to take on the Individual Needs role at the School. Alice has a Bachelor of Education degree and a Masters degree in Linguistics. She has just returned to her Solomon Island home after teaching for 8 years in USP, Suva Fiji and we are more than happy to see her back.
- PE - I am also very excited to announce that we have now appointed an experienced teacher/administrator and all round sportsman as our PE specialist. He will join us next term after fulfilling his current contract conditions.
- Middle Years Coordinator role. I have advertised internally for a temporary/interim appointment and hope to conduct interviews this week.

Building Works:

In spite of our best intentions the toilet and shower renovations on the Breezeway are not yet completed. We are following this up as a matter of urgency with the contractor. Our own maintenance team have though made substantial progress on the Library/Media Centre and the emergency stairs from building A are completed ready for testing.

Finance:

Term 3 fees are now due. Please ensure our cash flow position remains healthy by paying all fees promptly. Late fee payers will have their children's reports withheld and in some cases students will be barred from attending lessons until fees are paid. If you are suffering particular temporary financial hardship or have encountered some other problem that prevents prompt payment you should contact the School as a matter of urgency.

Robotics

We are proud to announce that four students from Woodford International School have been selected to represent Solomon Islands in 2018 First Global Robotics Competition in Mexico City.

The FIRST Global Challenge is a truly international robotics event with more than 175 nations across the world traveling to Mexico City to participate. Participating teams are composed of students – aged 14 through 18 years – with the common goal of increasing their knowledge of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) so that they can become the next generation of scientific leaders who will work together to solve some of the world's most pressing problems, from food security and access to clean water, to finding better medicines and securing cyberspace. (Visit first.global for more information)

The Challenge will take place from August 15-18, 2018 at the Arena Ciudad de México. The theme for 2018 is “Energy Impact” From commonly used fossil fuels to environmentally friendly resources like solar and wind, energy is a tool that powers the different parts of our world one way or another. In the 2018 FIRST Global Challenge, shifting alliances of three nations will compete to fuel power plants, initiate renewable energy plants, and build a resilient transmission network.

Team Solomon Islands is being Mentored and Trained by Mr Rakesh Pandey (Assistant Head of School) and include three motivated and aspiring Year 9 students:

- Tania Uale
- William Poznanski
- Edward Patternot
- Renney Sufiona

The Teams progress can be followed

on <https://www.facebook.com/WoodfordInternationalSchool/>

Woodford School also represented Solomon Islands in a similar event held in Washington DC last year and ranked 31 out of 160 countries in the global competition.

We would like to thank the parents for their contribution and South Pacific Oil company for their substantial sponsorship and wish all our students every success.

School Camp

School camps will go ahead as planned next week.

Independence Day

School assembly on Friday to celebrate – somewhat belatedly but as a mark of respect to our host country and to further the mission of international mindedness embedded in the school's and the International Baccalaureate philosophy.

PYP Visit

Primary teachers are very engaged in the preparation for the PYP 5 Year evaluation visit which begins on 5th September. The self-study documentation which is a pre-requisite for the visit is substantially complete and will be forwarded to the IB Office and the visitors over the course of the next two weeks. I would like to thank the teachers, leadership team and many members of the Board and wider parent community for their contributions to the process. I believe that our self-study is an honest and fair appraisal

of where we are with the PYP programme here at Woodford at this particular time. There is clearly much to be proud of but we are also very clear that there is also much that can be done to improve.

I would like to single out for thanks Paola Osario the PYP Coordinator for her boundless enthusiasm, patience and expertise in getting us to where we are with this very demanding process. She has done much to ensure that all of us (myself included) have kept to deadlines and written honestly and cogently in the self-study.