



# Woodford International School

Honiara, Solomon Islands

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# WAVELENGTH

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Newsletter - October 2017

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

## Book Week



Book week was certainly lots of fun and I hope that the event has inspired the students towards a real love of reading. I was very impressed with the decorated reading corners and the imaginative costumes of the fancy dress characters. It is so important that we follow up high profile events like this with a true commitment to reading at both school and home. Please always

have a book available for your child to read or for you to read to them, and gently encourage them to engage with books even if only for a few minutes each day. It is. Often a good idea with younger children for you to read a page and then for them to do so, or to stop for a minute to discuss what you've read or what will happen next. On the School's side we are planning a major revamp and new location for the Library and it would be wonderful if we could open that some time in the New Year with another reading event throughout the School. Even a 30 minute silent reading session throughout the School can have a huge impact.

Many thanks to all of the staff and particularly Melissa and Jahnet for their efforts and expertise. Many thanks also to all of the parents who gave so willingly of their time to read and participate in other ways during the week – it was a pleasure to see you all. I am talking to Mira from the PTFA about to some staff about the most efficient way to employ the services of parent volunteers- this support is invaluable especially in helping those students with reading difficulties to improve their skills and to gain a real love of books. We will be looking for people willing and able to help individual kids with their reading on a regular basis. More information from us at school very soon.



## Coffee Morning

October saw the first of what I hope will prove to be very many coffee mornings here at Woodford. Most of the senior leadership and a fair number of parents attended. This allowed a wide-ranging and very interesting discussion regarding the future of Woodford. Questions were raised on many issues including classroom practice, health and safety, teacher appraisal, the A/Ls, scholarships, fund-raising and fee levels. Remember all parents are welcome to attend. The next coffee morning is planned for Friday 17th November after the morning Assembly. It will be on the topic of the PYP curriculum. I encourage all parents (especially those with a child in the Primary School) to attend. There will be a short presentation by Paola (PYP Coordinator) followed by a question and answer session on all things PYP. Oh and of course there will be coffee and biscuits! Here is a link to the Presentation from the first coffee morning <https://goo.gl/TCvU7m>.

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## A Level Presentation

Another parent supported event was the A Level information evening. A good turnout (especially for a Friday evening) to hear of the Ministry of Education support for the A/Ls at Woodford and the excellent news that the Solomon Islands, Australian and NZ governments will all accept A/L as a qualifying entry for university and college scholarships. Many thanks to Rakesh for his very informative and well thought out presentation. It was also good to hear the very genuine concerns and fears of many parents and I know that Rakesh managed to allay many of those fears during the discussions. A measure of this success is the fact that we now have around 15 sign-ups for the course commencement in January. Here is a link to the A level Presentation <https://goo.gl/eGdFLn>.

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## Values

After a consultation process, which began some any months, ago I am pleased to inform you that the Board has agreed values as part of the Strategic Planning process. Discussion and comment in still welcome and I can always be contacted on [headofschool@wis.edu.sb](mailto:headofschool@wis.edu.sb) you should soon be seeing these values not only printed out on all of our literature but also displayed by our staff in our implementation of policies and procedures throughout the school. The values should underpin all of the Woodford community decision-making and action. The agreed values are

**C**ourage, **R**espect, **E**xcellence, **D**iversity, **I**ntegrity and **T**eamwork

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## **Seat Fees**

It is very difficult in a small school like Woodford to predict the financial future. Even losing a relatively small amount of students can play havoc with effective budgeting. For that reason we ask parents to commit by providing a Seat Fee in November. These monies allow the school to purchase basic requirements for next year in a timely manner. This is crucial as many of our teaching supplies and equipment are imported and need to be purchased in good time for the January 2018 start. Healthy cash flows are very necessary at the end of the School Year as we try and avoid the high interest costs of short-term borrowing. Your understanding and prompt payment is greatly appreciated.

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## Ministry of Environment

Many thanks to the Ministry of the Environment for the plaque (PICTURED) presented to the School in recognition of the Woodford students' runner-up position in the Miss Nature Pageant. Mikaela, Rachel and Esther accepted the award on behalf of the School..



## Bored.?

Stare at this and tell me if it moves.

