



Principal's Report

Dear Whitfield State School Community,

Another great term

Our children have been busy with a range of different events and excursions across this term, with some big ones still to come - including our annual fundraiser PACE Day, and colour fun run as well as our School Musical - Disney's *Dare to Dream Jr.* A huge thank you to the staff and parents involved in these wonderful and memorable activities.

The P&C are focussing our fundraising efforts from PACE Day on trying to purchase seating, creating undercover spaces, such as walkways, and to save towards stage 1 of an indoor field sports facility for our school - a space where our children can play and practice during wet weather and heat in Terms 1, 2 and 4.

Thanks for Supporting Each Other – Parent Teacher Interviews

Recently we held our parent teacher interviews. When parents and teachers work together in a caring, respectful partnership, children thrive. Open communication, empathy and collaboration build trust, allowing both sides to share insights, address challenges early, and create consistent support. By balancing a child's needs with each family's unique parenting values, educators and families can work in harmony; strengthening children's confidence, promoting engagement, and achieving positive outcomes across learning, wellbeing, and development. Thank you to those parents and caregivers who attended. Together, let's continue to build strong, compassionate connections between home and school because when we work together, children succeed.

Beyond the Headlines: Putting Children First

Parents and schools are surrounded by advice about how children should be raised and educated. Every week seems to bring another headline telling us that 'technology is destroying childhoods', 'schools need to get tougher on behaviour', 'children need greater freedom', 'we need to change the curriculum', 'we need to go back to the way schools ran in the 1950s', and parents and schools need to adopt whatever the latest approach is that responds to the writer's view of the world.

Unfortunately, simple slogans like these attract attention, whereas balance and quality research rarely make for a good headline.

Whether it is parenting or educating, approaches at either extreme, be it overly permissive or overly strict and controlling, can have unintended consequences. Children need both warmth and boundaries, support and expectations, opportunities and responsibility. Most importantly, they need adults who respond thoughtfully to their individual needs.

At Whitfield State School, we make decisions about education by considering holistically the factors that deliver the best impacts on our children and we try to continually share that research and reasoning with our families.

Our key responsibility outside ensuring your child's safety, is to make sure that in partnership with you, we are preparing our children for their future. Our decisions are guided by this aim, guided by research, evidence and the needs of our students; not the latest headline or popular opinion.

(continued over)

Diary Dates

Term 3

13/9	P&C Bunnings Community Fundraising BBQ
16/9	Dagwood Dog Day at the Tuckshop
16/9 & 17/9	School Musical - <i>Dare to Dream Jr.</i>
18/9	PACE Day Last day of Term 3
5/10	King's Birthday Public Holiday
6/10	First day of Term 4



LOOK • LISTEN • REPORT

PHONE

13 17 88



Follow our Facebook Page for additional articles and events.



View the current menu

Tuckshop Menu

Please report all student absences via the Absence Line: (07) 4034 7366 or Email: WSSstudents@whitfieldss.eq.edu.au

Principal's Report (continued)

That means at our school technology has a place in learning, because our children will live and work in a technology-rich world. But we believe technology should only be used purposefully, only where it adds value to learning. It should never replace great teaching, conversation, play, physical activity, creativity or human connection.

It means we have clear and high expectations for behaviour. But expectations alone are not enough. Children also need to be explicitly taught the knowledge and skills to manage themselves, solve problems, build relationships and make good choices. When they struggle, they need appropriate support and opportunities to learn and improve.

It also means we deliberately create opportunities to build belonging and kindness. Children learn best when they feel known, safe and valued, while also understanding that being part of a community brings responsibilities to others.

There will always be books, commentators and headlines offering simple answers to complex questions about children. Despite the noise and the anxiety these strong opinions create, our approach will continue to be balanced, evidence-informed and focused on what children actually need to thrive; now and in the future.

At Whitfield, we will always put quality research, good judgement and the needs of all children first. So, thank you for putting your trust in us and working in partnership to achieve the best for your children.

Student Free Day – Friday 4th September

Thank you to parents for making alternative arrangements for your children on Friday 4th September. As with every year, this state-wide mandatory Student Free Day is used by secondary schools to meet the needs of the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) system in Queensland. All state primary and secondary schools are required to hold this day as a student free day. Our staff, across the school, were engaged in professional learning activities both or they were offsite on the day involved in the musical rehearsal.

2027 Enrolments Continuing

Over the last few months, we have had a number of principal tours and enrolment interview days in preparation for next year. The strong enrolment levels are affirming that our school's reputation for providing a great school for children is well established. Please remember that if you or your family or friends intend to enrol children for next year, then getting applications in as soon as possible is important. I look forward to welcoming plenty of new students and families to our school community at the Prep Experience morning on Wednesday 4th November 2026. Please ensure that if you intend coming along that you pre-register as limits on this day apply.



Until next time,
Yours in schooling,

Matt Thompson
Principal

Whitfield State School

Circle of Security Parent Course

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you. The Circle of Security Parenting™ program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

Learning Objectives of the Program:

- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read the emotional needs
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of your child's self esteem
- Honor your innate wisdom and desire for your child to be secure

Program delivered by Clinical Psychologist, Jessica Kezilas and Social Worker, Kendall Larson.

Tuesday Term 3 Week 6-9 and Term 4 week 3-7

This opportunity is available for 10 families



Whitfield State School

Book in for a Principal Tour



The best way to get a feel for our school is to experience it for yourself. We warmly invite parents or prospective parents of our school to participate in a Principal's Tour, followed by an opportunity to have a conversation with our principal and meet other school personnel.

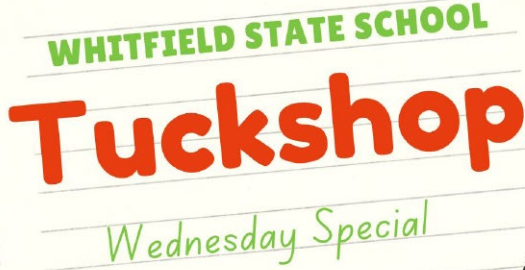
To minimise disruption to our current students, Principal Tours are adults only. Book via our website: <https://whitfieldss.eq.edu.au/enrolments/prep>

Upcoming 2026 Tours | All tours begin at 9:15am

- ~~24 April~~ • ~~17 June~~ • ~~25 August~~
- ~~12 May~~ • ~~25 June~~ • ~~13 October~~
- ~~28 May~~ • ~~30 July~~ • ~~12 November~~



From the Office



Tuckshop

Wednesday Special

Dagwood Dog Day

How to Order

Order online via Qkr! app
cut off time is 7am Wednesday.

Qkr!

Dagwood Dog

Small Dagwood Dog & Chips \$7.00
Large Dagwood Dog & Chips \$8.50

WEDNESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER

Whitfield State School 2027 Prep

Prep Experience Morning

Wednesday 4 November 2026

Come and experience Prep the "Whitfield Way". Parents who have already applied for enrolment will receive an invite to this exciting event.

- ✓ Get a sneak peak of what Prep learning is all about.
- ✓ Ensure a smooth transition into Prep.
- ✓ Help your child feel confident for their first day.
- ✓ Invite only - Have you handed in the enrolment form?



Whitfield State School

2027 Prep Enrolment Interview

Once you have lodged your enrolment forms, our enrolment officer will contact you to arrange an enrolment interview. Enrolment Interviews will be held on the following days:

• Tuesday, 19th May	• Monday, 17 August
• Wednesday, 3rd June	• Monday, 7 September
• Tuesday, 21 July	• Wednesday, 7th October




IEC

All Abilities Sports Day



Prep

Students in Prep have started Term 3 off with a blast!

We celebrated 100 days of school with exciting activities and bright colours. Students have shown so much progress in 100 days and have made lots of friends along the way.

We have also been enjoying a variety of experiences for our recount writing. Students have been involved in experiences such as:

- Going on a bear hunt in the Loose Parts Playground
- Building sandcastles at the Blue Playground
- Making wombat stew in the Nature Playground
- Dressing in disguise and walking around the school
- Making magic hats

We can't wait for the final couple of weeks, including PACE Day!



(continued over)

Prep (continued)



(continued over)

Prep (continued)



Prep (continued)



Year 1

Kuranda Excursion



Year 2

This term, we are learning about the life cycles of animals. Year 2 students have been exploring the life cycles of different animals and learning about how animals grow and change over time. We have been investigating the stages animals move through, from birth or hatching to adulthood, and discovering that different animals have different life cycles.

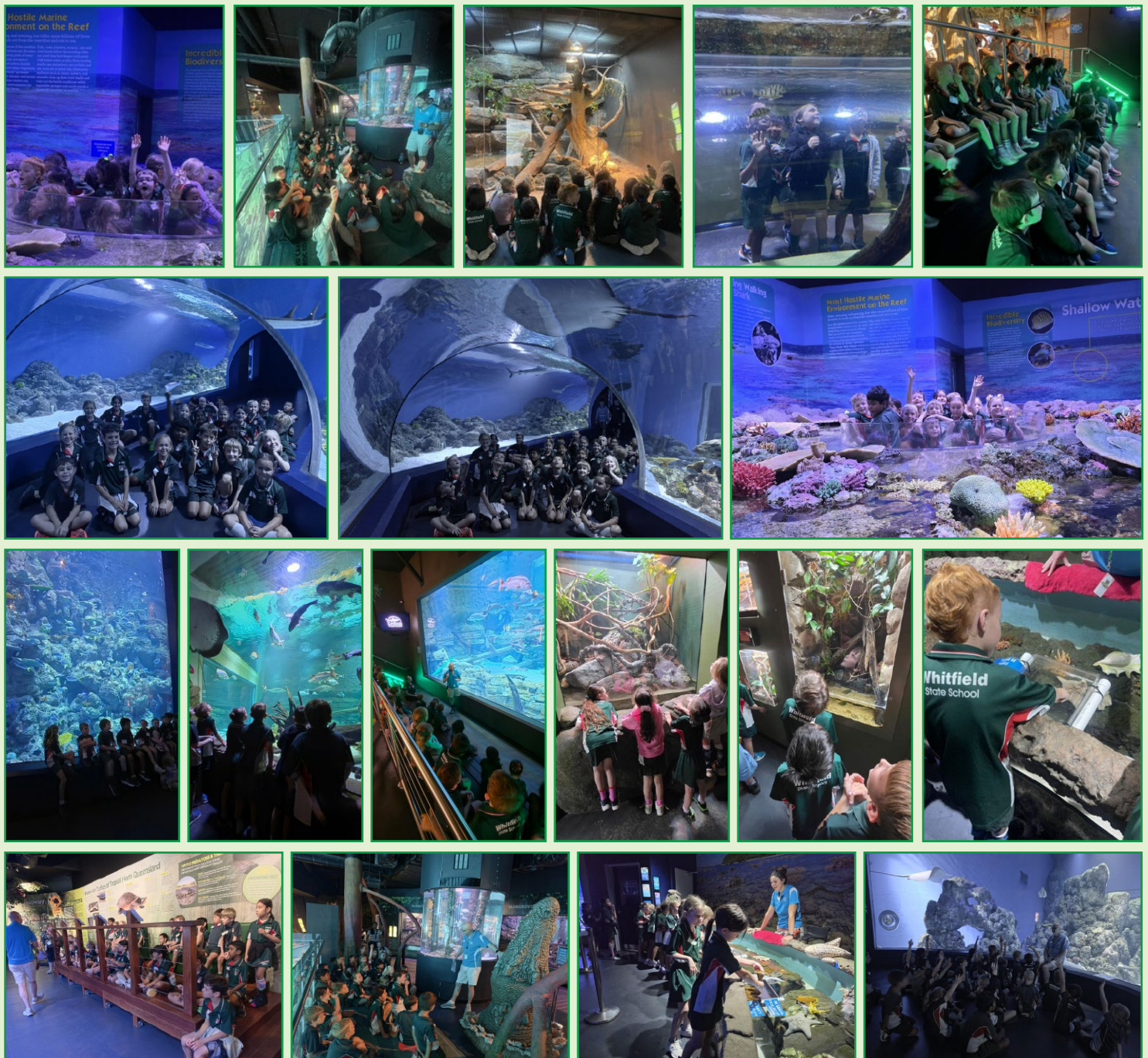
What better way to extend our learning than with an exciting excursion to the Cairns Aquarium!

During our visit, the students had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour, allowing them to get up close with the spectacular species and ecosystems of Tropical North Queensland. The students were able to see and learn about the incredible plants, animals and habitats found in our very own Wet Tropics.

One of the highlights of the day was the marine touch pool, where students had the exciting opportunity to get up close and interact with marine life. It was wonderful to see their excitement, curiosity and enthusiasm as they made connections between their classroom learning and the amazing animals, they were seeing first-hand.

The students absolutely loved their time at the aquarium! In fact, many shared with their teachers that the worst part of the day was having to get back on the bus and return to school!

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to our wonderful parent helpers who joined us on the excursion. Your support and assistance throughout the day were greatly appreciated and helped make our excursion such a fantastic experience for our Year 2 students.

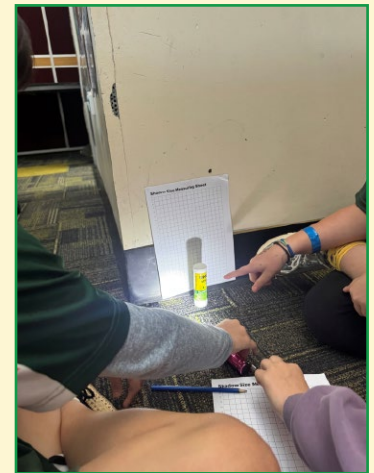
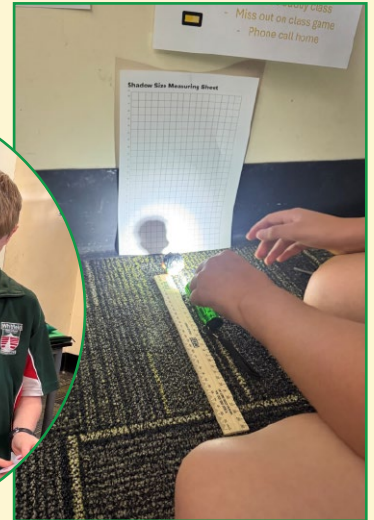


Year 5

Year 5 has been very busy this term in both Science and Maths, with students engaging in a range of hands-on learning experiences.

In Science this term, students have been learning about the properties of light and the formation of shadows. They have been investigating how shadows are formed and how they change depending on the position and distance of a light source. Students enjoyed a hands-on investigation using everyday objects from around the classroom to create shadows. They experimented with moving the light source closer to and further away from an object, observing and measuring how this affected the size of the shadow.

In Maths, students have been working hard to develop their multiplication fact fluency and accuracy, while also strengthening their understanding of fractions. Students have been using packs of playing cards to explore, represent and compare fractions in an engaging way.



Year 6

Year 6 Camp



Sport

Whitfield Shine at TCC Track and Field Carnivals

On Friday 24th July, 30 talented athletes from Whitfield State School proudly represented us at the TCC District Track and Field Carnival. Each student gave their best effort in various events, demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship, dedication, and school spirit.

We are excited to share that 12 of our students were selected to represent TCC at the Peninsula Track and Field Championships – a fantastic achievement!

A special congratulations to Ava and Robert, who were crowned age champions for their respective age groups.

A big thank you to all our students for their commitment and for representing Whitfield State School with pride!



PACE Day

We are thrilled to officially launch our annual PACE Day (Physical Activity for Challenge and Enjoyment), which will once again feature the highly anticipated Monty the Monstar Colour and Slime Fun Run! This event continues to be a highlight of our school calendar, combining fun, physical activity, and community spirit. Students can look forward to a vibrant day filled with colour, laughter, and of course, the ever-popular chance to slime their teachers. This event also plays a vital role in supporting school initiatives through fundraising, and we thank our community for their ongoing support.

The Three Main Components of PACE Day

1. Mini Fair

Our very own sideshow alley! Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of competitions and challenges for a small cost, with fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Further information will be sent home by class teachers, including ways parents and carers can assist in making this a successful event. Don't forget to pre-purchase your PACE Dollars via Qkr!

2. Physical Activity Challenge

Held on the oval, this challenge will include a variety of physical activities with ball skills, games and challenges that students have been developing during their HPE lessons.

3. Monty the Monstar Colour and Slime Fun Run

Open to all students, this exciting event will take place from 2:00pm – 3:00pm. Expect colour, slime, laughter and unforgettable fun!

Fundraising – How Does My Child Get Involved?

Each student has received a Sponsorship Form booklet, which includes instructions on how to:

- Create an online fundraising profile
- Share it with family and friends
- Track donations and earn rewards

To get started, visit: www.myprofilepage.com.au

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WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL

P.A.C.E Day

MINI FAIR

FRIDAY 18 SEPT

JUMPING CASTLE • FACE PAINTING
COLOURED HAIRSPRAY • TEMPORARY TATTOOS
GAMES & PRIZES • SAUSAGE SIZZLE

MORE P&C ROOM OPEN HOURS!

	BEFORE SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
TUE 8 SEPT	8:15 – 8:45AM	
WED 9 SEPT	8:15 – 8:45AM	2:30 – 3:30PM
THU 10 SEPT	8:15 – 8:45AM	
FRI 11 SEPT	8:30 – 9:30AM	
MON 14 SEPT	8:15 – 8:45AM	

PRE-PURCHASE YOUR P.A.C.E DAY DOLLARS & BBQ LUNCH

OR ON Qkr!

REMINDER: STALLS WILL BE CASHLESS.



START FUNDRAISING TODAY!

GOVERNMENT WITH MONTY THE MONSTAR

REWARDS UP TO \$100,000

GO TO www.myprofilepage.com.au

Sport

Awesome Angler Fishing Excursion

Students from our Inclusive Education Centre recently enjoyed an exciting day out on a hands-on fishing adventure as part of the Awesome Anglers Fishing Excursion.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to engage with the environment in a meaningful way, handling small fish and prawns while developing their confidence and practical skills. It was fantastic to see every student successfully catch a fish, making the experience both rewarding and memorable for all involved.

A huge thank you to all of the amazing staff who supported the excursion and helped create such a positive and inclusive experience for our students. A special thank you also to Jack and the team from Awesome Anglers for providing such a valuable and engaging learning opportunity. This was truly a day to remember!



Netball and Hockey Excellence Programs

Building on the success of our Hockey and Netball Excellence Programs, we are excited to see our students take the next step in their sporting journeys.

Whitfield students proudly represented our school at the BDO Primary School Hockey Gala Day on Wednesday 19th August, followed closely by the Fowlers Cup Primary Netball Gala Day on Friday 21st August. These events provided fantastic opportunities for students to showcase their skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a competitive environment.



FNQ Interschool Chess Tournament



PEAK Dance Academy

Dance Academy Success!!

Our Rising and Shining Stars shone at the Dance X Competition! Our Rising Stars were awarded 2nd place and our Shining Stars were awarded 1st place!

Thank you so much to Miss Carter, Miss Maia, Miss McGuinness, Ms Hollis and Miss Tyra for their support.



Cairns Show



Musical



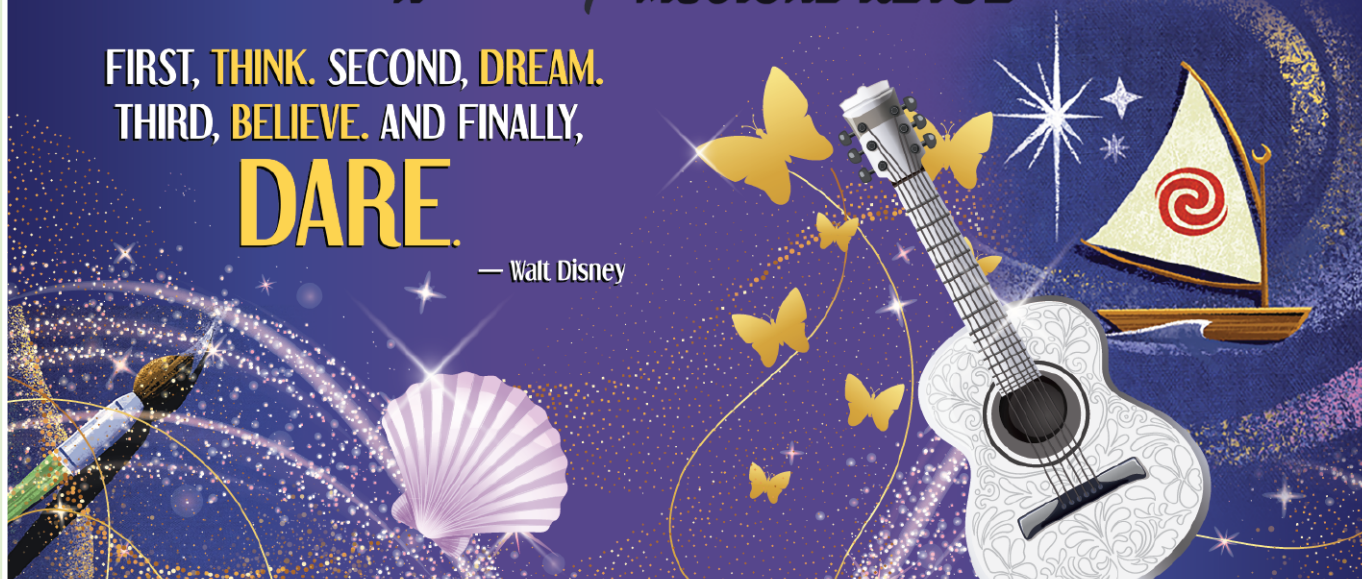
Whitfield State School
production of

DARE TO DREAM

A **Disney** MUSICAL REVUE

FIRST, **THINK**. SECOND, **DREAM**.
THIRD, **BELIEVE**. AND FINALLY,
DARE.

— Walt Disney



16 & 17 SEPTEMBER

Tickets available from 26th August 2026 via: lastcall.net.au

Book developed by **Disney Theatrical Group** | Music Adapted and
Arranged by **Patrick Sulken** | Orchestrations by **Patrick Sulken**
Additional Vocal Arrangements by **Britt Bonney**

With songs by: Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Howard Ashman, Frank Churchill, Phil Collins, Mack David, Mikkel Eriksen, Sia Furler, Terry Gilkyson, Leigh Harline, Tor Hermansen, Al Hoffman, Elton John, Philip Lawrence, Jerry Livingston, Robert Lopez, Alan Menken, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Larry Morey, Davy Nathan, Randy Newman, Tim Rice, Stephen Schwartz, Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman, Glenn Slater, Ned Washington, David Zippel
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

Link for tickets: <https://lctx.au/book/wss/2026/dare-to-dream>

Musical

WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL MUSICAL PRODUCTION WEEK

Monday
14th September 2026

Normal School Day

Notes

Tuesday
15th September 2026

Full Day - Tech Rehearsal

Location: Trinity Bay State School

Whole Cast attendance required as we are testing Microphones, lighting & staging which will directly impact student safety on stage

- Drop off 8am-8:15am
- Collection, 2:30pm
- Sign in/out with WSS staff
- Players need hair done at Performance standard
- Filling breakfast
- Wear musical blacks & performance shoes
- No costume Required
- Packed lunch & water bottle

Evening Performance

Doors open at 5:30pm

Start at 6pm

Matinee Performance

Doors open at 10:45am

Start time: 11:15am

Wednesday
16th September 2026

Full Day- Dress Rehearsal Filming

Location: Trinity Bay State School

- Whole Cast
- Drop off 8am-8:15am, collection, 2pm
- Students need a filling breakfast
- Students arrive to Trinity Bay in full costume (performance ready: Hair, Make-up, performance shoes)
- Students to bring uniform & shoes to get changed into following dress rehearsal
- Parent collection required by 2pm

Evening Performance Arrival:

4pm players and 4:30pm Remaining cast

Reminders

Tuesday & Wednesday

REHEARSAL DAYS

- ☐ Parents are responsible in Transporting students to and from Trinity Bay State school
- ☐ Drop off & Pick up times are different to a normal school day
- ☐ All students MUST be signed in & out with WSS staff
- ☐ Filling breakfast, packed lunches

Wednesday & Thursday

PERFORMANCES

- ☐ Students are to arrive to every performance in costume, hair & makeup
- ☐ Parents MUST sign in & out at every performance

Thursday
17th September 2026

Matinee Performance - Whole Cast

Performance time: 11:15am-12:15pm, Trinity Bay School

School Bus
Arrive to Whitfield SS by 8:50am
Return to WSS by bus, 1:30pm
Normal school day continues

Parent Drop off/Collection
Parents to drop student to Trinity Bay by 9:30am
Sign in with WSS Staff at PAC
Collection at 12:30pm
Sign out with WSS Staff at PAC

All Students:

Filling breakfast

Arrive in full costume: Hair, Makeup & Performance shoes

Bring a clearly labelled bag with packed lunch, water bottle and school uniform

Evening Performance Arrival:

4pm Players and 4:30pm Remaining cast

Friday
18th September

Normal School Day
PACE Day

P&C

Term 3 is always busy and this one has been no exception. We have hit the ground running preparing for our fabulous Father's Day Stall which was a raging success! A huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers who assisted on the day. It's always such a rewarding experience seeing the happy smiles on the children's faces as they browse and make their choices. I'd like to sincerely thank the wonderful community members who were incredibly generous with their donations of items for the stall as well as time spent crafting to embellish items and make them extra special. Special thanks to Hannah Lane for sharing her Cricut talents!

We are busily trying to build our resources in order to be able to fund some outdoor seating for the senior school and we are grateful for the opportunity to host a Bunnings Community Fundraising BBQ on Sunday 13th September. If you can spare an hour or two to support our fundraising efforts, please follow this link and sign up to your preferred time: <https://volunteersignup.org/JEPKA>.

If you are heading to Bunnings Cairns Central on the day, be sure to stop by for a sausage!!

Another unique fundraising activity that we have coming up will give you the opportunity to purchase custom tea towels and other items featuring your child's artwork. These high quality items will make excellent Christmas gifts for your family and friends and will be available in Term 4. Keep your eye out for more information on this exciting project.

Of course, we must not forget our biggest event of the year... PACE Day!! The excitement is already building and the fundraising efforts of the students has already led to multiple teacher slimings! We are seeking volunteers to help with the P&C BBQ and other tasks on the day so, if you have time to spare, please follow this link:

<https://volunteersignup.org/L4RHC>.

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the incredible group of volunteers who are active within the P&C helping to bring all of these events, as well as the Dare To Dream brochure together. We have an absolutely wonderful team this year putting so much effort into enriching our school community in a multitude of ways. Thank you all so much!

Have a wonderful, relaxing school holidays and please join us for our next P&C Meeting on Monday 19th October at 6pm in the LRC. Everyone is welcome!!

Eve Elliott-Smith

President - Whitfield State School P&C





WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL

P.A.C.E Day

MINI FAIR

FRIDAY 18 SEPT

JUMPING CASTLE • FACE PAINTING
COLOURED HAIRSPRAY • TEMPORARY TATTOOS
Games & Prizes • SAUSAGE SIZZLE

MORE P&C ROOM OPEN HOURS!

	BEFORE SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
TUE 8 SEPT	8:15 - 8:45AM	
WED 9 SEPT	8:15 - 8:45AM	2:30 - 3:30PM
THU 10 SEPT	8:15 - 8:45AM	
FRI 11 SEPT	8:30 - 9:30AM	
MON 14 SEPT	8:15 - 8:45AM	

PRE-PURCHASE YOUR P.A.C.E DAY DOLLARS & BBQ LUNCH

OR ON 

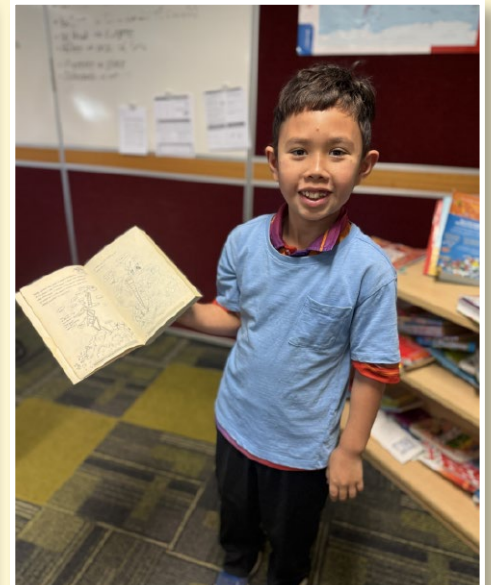
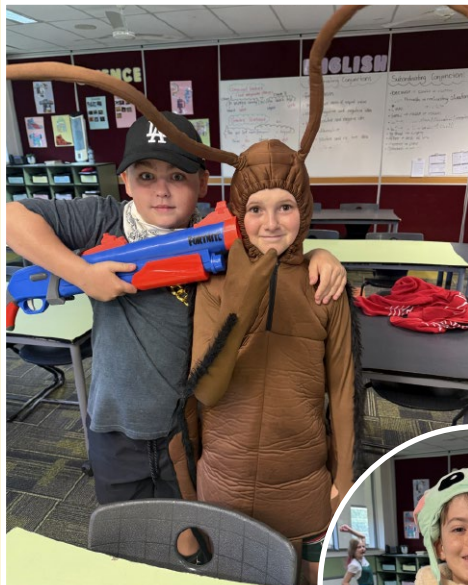
REMINDER: STALLS WILL BE CASHLESS.



Golden Ticket Lunch



Book Week



Cairns Festival

