

*Each striving for the peak*

HELLO!



## Principal's Report

Dear Whitfield State School Community,

### Welcome to 2026

Welcome back to all. With the first half of Term 1 already over, it has been an amazing start with mostly good weather for this time of the year. Our staff and students have hit the ground running and I'm seeing some great learning occurring every day in our classrooms. I'm also seeing lots of happy children, which is critical to me. It is so great to have our students back and loving learning.

The start of the school year is a really fantastic time for children to make new friends and to learn and then practise some of those really important social and emotional skills that we need to help us grow. Nobody likes change but it is a great opportunity for us as parents, carers and educators to help our children to be aware of their emotions, to focus on making plans to overcome issues and to practice the skills we need to do it. Helping children to be resilient and skilled problem solvers is a really critical role that we all play in the long run interests of our kids. If children don't learn these skills at a young age it can have serious negative effects for their whole life.

To this end, throughout this year, we will be offering a range of information sessions and webinars to help parents connect with what we believe, and what research identifies, as best practice about children's development. Please keep an eye out for these opportunities on our social media and in emails.

I'd like to give a heartfelt welcome to our new students, families and staff. Welcome to the Whitfield team! To our new Prep students and parents – I look forward to sharing this wonderful journey with you.

### Peak Academies Commence

Our Peak Friday Afternoon STEAM clubs and Peak Academies, Peak Clubs and our Musical practices have all commenced for the year. The excitement from children and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Friday afternoons, after academies, is one of my favourite times to be in the school - you can feel the connection and energy created by children who have had a wonderful afternoon participating in and building on their strengths. Having children connected with the future best version of themselves and to each other socially is a critical piece of culture at our school. Children who are challenging themselves and being successful is one of the most productive ways to develop responsible, resilient well-rounded young people.

I'm very much looking forward to again seeing the continued results of these programs for our children with improvements in their enjoyment, participation and performance.

### Strategic Plan – Initiatives for 2026

In 2022 we, as a school, developed our vision for our school. The strategic plan is available from our school's website and is enacted through our schools' Annual Improvement Plans, which are available as well as presented and updated on at our school's P&C meetings.

This year we commence/continue several pieces of the work connected to our strategic vision. One of the biggest and continuing pieces of work is how we can improve both children's wellbeing and their academic performance at the same time. We are continuing to focus on the ways that we operate to:

- Create classrooms that deliver an even stronger sense of belonging for our children from the moment they enter and throughout the day. We also want our children to know how to impact on their own sense of belonging by being skilled in social and emotional strategies.
- Ensure that our ways of teaching help children to be even more engaged by increasing the certainty that learning is occurring and that we are maximising participation and care in their work.
- Empower children to have success and meaning in their own learning is an important focus. Clearly this requires the knowledge but also the skills and personal confidence to be able to take action and be increasingly responsible as a learner. Ultimately, the aim is to ensure all students become engaged and contributing members of our school and community.

*(continued over)*

## Diary Dates

Week 8	
18 March	Readers Cup Selection Quiz
19 March	Strings Workshop
20 March	Uniform Shop Open 2:30pm
Week 9	
24 March	Parent Teacher Conference
25 March	P&C AGM 6pm, LRC
26 March	Principal Tour
27 March	Whitfield Cross Country
Week 10	
31 March	Prep to Year 1 Fancy Hat Parade
1 April	Cultural Dress Day
2 April	Year 4 String Camp Last day of Term 2



**SCHOOL WATCH**

LOOK • LISTEN • REPORT

PHONE  
**13 17 88**

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](mailto:WSSstudents@whitfieldss.eq.edu.au)

42-74 McManus St, Whitfield QLD 4870 PO Box 680, Edge Hill QLD 4870 Ph: (07) 4034 7333

E: [admin@whitfieldss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@whitfieldss.eq.edu.au) <https://www.facebook.com/WhitfieldStateSchool> <https://whitfieldss.eq.edu.au>

The Queensland Department of Education trading as: Education Queensland International (EQI) CRICOS Registration Number 00608A

## Principal's Report (continued)

### P&C – Parent Involvement

A huge thanks to the P&C for their efforts and support of our school. Each term the P&C aims to have one family friendly event; with the goal of adding to the vibrancy of our school for our kids. They are also focussed on advocacy and fundraising to ensure that our school's play and learning infrastructure is second to none.



A massive thanks to those parents who attend our P&C meetings. At these meetings, we discuss what the school will be striving to achieve this year and provide updates on a range of matters as well. I strongly believe that decisions can only be made by people who turn up. Whilst fundraising is an important function of our P&C, it is the feedback, input and agreement of parents at the P&C that is the most important voice in this school to affect the direction and offerings of our school, for our children. An important piece of work we will do this year is a renewal of our student code of conduct and in addition to research informed practice; the voice of parents will be important in developing our future work.

There is sincerely no better way to contribute to your child's education than being involved in the decision making of its school. I hope as many parents and caregivers as possible will join the P&C to support their work and ensure that our school continues to go from strength to strength.

### Supervision outside of school hours

A reminder to families that before and after school supervision commences at 8:15am and ceases at 3:20pm. These duties are to support both the safe arrival of students in preparation for a smooth start before school and the departure of students in the afternoons by buses and at the exits where parent pick-ups occur. Neither of these duties, nor our school, are meant to serve as alternatives to outside school hours care.

There is no supervision outside of these times and students who arrive earlier or who are here after should either be in the care of their parents or attending an outside of school hours service. A number of outside school hours services including Camp Australia (the onsite provider) are connected to our school and are very reasonably priced.



Until next time

Yours in schooling

**Matt Thompson, Principal**

Save the Date

WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL

MUSICAL

DARE TO  
DREAM

A *Disney* MUSICAL REVUE

16 & 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL  
**Tuckshop**

Wednesday



**How to Order**

Order online via Qkr! app  
cut off time is 9pm Tuesday.

**SUSHI DAY**

\$5.00 per roll

- Chicken Teriyaki & Avocado
- Tuna & Cucumber
- Vegetarian



**WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**



WHITFIELD STATE SCHOOL

P&C

PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

**P&C  
AGM  
Wednesday 25  
March**

6pm, LRC - All welcome  
Executive Positions Vacant  
Contact P&C for descriptions



Whitfield State School P&C  
pandewhitfieldstateschool@gmail.com  
Ph: 4034 7333



From the Office

**Whitfield State School**

**Does your child require medication during school hours?**

If your child is required to take medication at school, please provide the office staff with:

- a completed and signed **Consent to Administer Medication** form;
- the medication in its original container; and
- medical authorisation (e.g. the pharmacy label, or a letter from the doctor, or a completed and signed health action plan).

If you have any queries, please contact the office by phoning 07 4034 7333 or email [wss\\_students@whitfieldss.eq.edu.au](mailto:wss_students@whitfieldss.eq.edu.au).



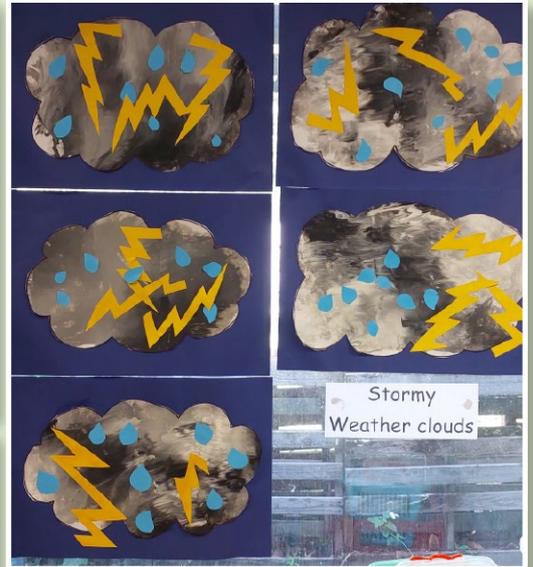
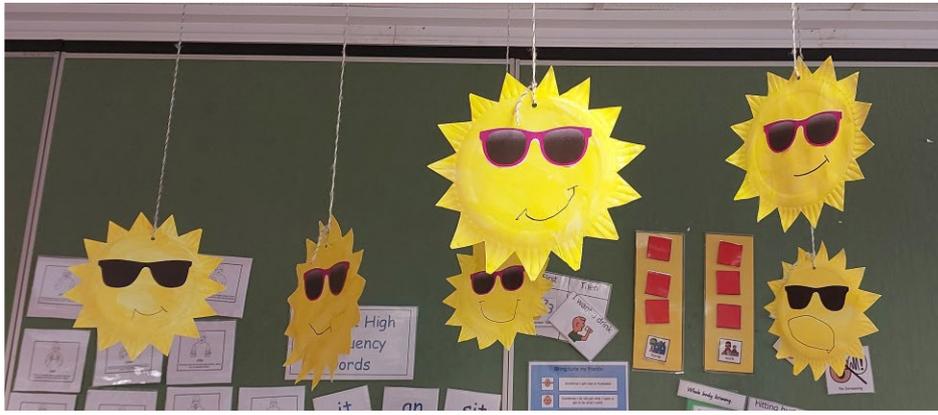
The Consent to administer medication form is available on the school's website: <https://whitfieldss.eq.edu.au/supportandresources/formsanddocuments/documents/parent%20notices/consent-administer-medication-form.pdf>

## IEC

IEC-I students have been learning about the weather as part of their Science studies. The students are exploring and observing the weather in their local environment and noticing that the weather can change from day to day. They are identifying different features such as sunshine, wind, clouds and rain.

Through discussions and activities, the students are also thinking about how changes in the weather affect people, including the clothing we wear, the shelter we use and the activities we do.

The students have been representing weather in various art forms. These are displayed around our classroom.



# Prep

Prep students have had an exciting start to big school this term! We have been busy learning the expectations and routines at school and jumping straight into our learning. We have been practicing writing our name and learning our first letters and sounds, numbers 0-6, patterns and all about the weather. We have also been making new friends and having lots of fun!



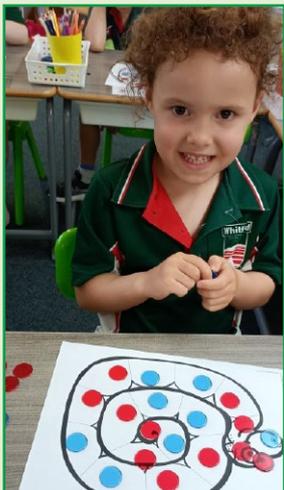
(continued over)

Prep (continued) ★ ★ ★



## Year 1

This term in Year 1, students have been exploring patterns in a variety of fun and hands-on ways. We worked both inside the classroom and outdoors, giving students the opportunity to create and investigate patterns using different materials and environments. Students enjoyed making their own repeating patterns and completing patterns that had already been started by a classmate. This helped them think carefully about what comes next and recognise the rule in a pattern. Working outside was a highlight, as students used natural materials and playground equipment to design creative patterns with their peers. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and growing confidence as they experimented with different pattern ideas.



## Year 2

This term in Science, our Year 2 students have been exploring the forces of push and pull. Through hands-on investigations and everyday examples, students discovered how pushes and pulls can make objects start moving, stop moving, speed up, slow down, or change direction. They experimented with different objects in the classroom to observe how forces work in the world around them.



For their Science assessment, students will design and create a simple object or toy using recyclable materials that demonstrates a push or pull force. Through this hands-on task, students will investigate how their creations move and explain how the forces work in their design.



## Year 3

3G have been busy developing their data and statistics skills by conducting their own statistical investigations in Mathematics lessons. Students investigated staff car colours and collected the data by walking around the staff car park to observe and record the car colours. After collecting the information, they carefully collated the data and represented their findings using bar graphs or pictographs. This activity helped them practise collecting real-world data, organising data sets, and visually represent information to identify patterns and compare results. The investigation sparked great discussion as they analysed which car colours were most and least common.



# Year 5



## Year 6

6MC has had a fantastic start to the year and has quickly settled into our classroom routines. Students have shown a positive attitude towards learning and have jumped straight into their work across all subject areas. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, thoughtful discussions, and willingness to challenge themselves as we begin our learning journey together. Recently, we experimented with watercolours to create a stunning sunset artwork. We loved the chance to learn more about art and watercolour techniques.



## Sport

Welcome back to Whitfield! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday. It's wonderful to see so many students returning this year. To our new families, welcome to the Whitfield community – we hope you are settling in well.

This year in PE and Sport at Whitfield, we have many exciting opportunities for students to be active, develop their skills, and represent our school. To stay up to date with everything happening in sport, please check the Whitfield State School Facebook page regularly.

If you require further information, please don't hesitate to contact the HPE Department or drop in and see us. Our office is located at the end of the CAWMPEF (green door).

### Whitfield's Sports Coach

Hi all! My name is Steve Finitis and I am a former professional squash player who had the honour of representing Australia at the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Outside of school, I enjoy watching and playing all kinds of sport. This is my second year working at Whitfield State School as a Sports Coach, and I love helping students build confidence, improve their skills, and enjoy being active.

I look forward to seeing you all out on the court or on the field throughout the year.

**Coach Steve**



### PEAK Sport and Fitness Academy (Years 5–6)

The PEAK Sport and Fitness Academy focuses on developing students' fitness, sport-specific skills, and personal leadership qualities.

The aims of the program are to:

- Improve students' fitness and develop sport-specific skills, strategies, and tactics.
- Empower students to pursue sporting opportunities in high school through mentoring and training.
- Develop leadership, self-discipline, and a strong work ethic.
- Provide opportunities for students to connect with local high schools.

The academy runs every Friday from 2:00pm–3:00pm in the CAWMPEF.

This semester, the focus sports are AFL and court sports. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in local and state gala days to demonstrate the skills learnt in the Academy.

### SPARK

SPARK is a before-school fitness program open to students from Prep to Year 6.

The program provides high-intensity, fun and challenging workouts in a safe, supervised and non-competitive environment.

SPARK runs in the CAWMPEF on:

Monday and Wednesday – 8:30am to 8:50am.

### Sporting Excellence Program

Students who demonstrate advanced skills may be selected into a Sporting Excellence Squad.

These students participate in skills-based testing, with a target group invited to take part in the Sporting Excellence Program each term.

Term 1 focus sport: AFL.

### TCC District Sport Trials

Students aged 10–12 years have the opportunity to trial for TCC (Trinity Coast Central) District Teams across a range of sports.

Students selected at the district level may progress to represent Peninsula at the State Championships.

Information regarding upcoming trials and nomination forms will be shared through the Whitfield State School Facebook page. Please come and see the HPE team if you have any enquiries.

### User-Pays Programs

Throughout the year, Whitfield's sporting partners run sport-specific programs outside of school hours.

These programs cater for students of all abilities and focus on fundamental skill development and fun.

These are user-pays programs, meaning families pay a participation fee directly to the service provider (not the school). Please check the school Facebook page for upcoming program information.

### Cross Country

All students from Prep to Year 6 will participate in the Whitfield Cross Country, which will be held on:

**Friday 27 March**

**12:30pm – 3:00pm**

Students are encouraged to attend training sessions in the lead-up to the event. Training days and times have been shared on the school Facebook page.

Parents and families are warmly invited to come along and support their child and all Whitfield students.



Have a great term!

**Mr Archie & Mrs Ginnaw**