VISION
A community supporting young people to realise their potential: forever learning, forever teaching, in the service of humanity.

MISSION
To provide a unique, learning-centred environment that progresses young people through an integrated and developmental approach to education. Through meaningful student engagement in learning, we aspire to develop interpersonal, intrapersonal, physical and cognitive competencies, empowering young people to lead purposeful, fulfilling lives.

What’s coming up at Silkwood?

New Families Morning Tea
Date to be advised

High School Information Session (Year 7-12)
Tuesday, 14 March, 5.00pm – 6.30pm

Parent Introductory Course
Saturday, 25 March, 9.00am – 12.30am

Thursday, 30 March
Last Day Term 1, 2017

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL
Parents are asked to telephone the School before 8.30am on the morning of absence on 5655 0300 or email attendance@silkwood.qld.edu.au.

Unexplained absences will be investigated. The School requires a medical certificate when a student is absent due to illness for three or more consecutive days.

QUICK SCHOOL CONTACTS

Student Absentee Notification
P: 5655 0300 before 8.30am
E: attendance@silkwood.qld.edu.au

School Fee Account Enquiries
E: schoolfees@silkwood.qld.edu.au

Outside Hours School Care – Bookings/Enquiries
P: 0475 824 342 E: silkwood@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au

Class Matters
Please contact your Class Teacher or Syndicate Learning Manager through the School Portal.

UNIFORM SHOP
2.00pm – 3.00pm during term time
Pre-Order items through Qkr! phone app:
1. Download Qkr! app
2. Or visit http://qkr.mastercard.com/store
3. To register, select your country of residence as ‘Australia’ and follow the steps.
4. Find our School – SILKWOOD
If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

SILKWOOD COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION (P&F COMMITTEE)

What is the SCCA?
We are a group of parents and friends of Silkwood School who have united in the care of our school community.

What does the SCCA do?
We are involved in many areas within the school community. To facilitate our areas of activity we have developed seven specific small groups that are overseen by the Executive Committee. See attached SCCA Flyer.

Next SCCA Meeting
Thursday, 9 March – 9.00am @ Hinze Dam Café

The SCCA teams meet once a term to contribute positive ideas to the school, encourage community involvement and support the working groups.

Parents are invited come along for a coffee and morning tea and meet new parents and share your ideas!
For more information, please contact SCCA Secretary, Mandy Coates mandy@thewigoutlet.com.au
If you have an item to add to the agenda items please email Mandy before the meeting.
We look forward to seeing you there!
SCCA FACEBOOK COMMUNITY PAGE

The SCCA has created a specific Facebook Community Page to provide Silkwood Parents with updates on the parent working groups, when meetings are on and how to access minutes. Please like the page https://www.facebook.com/silkwoodscca/

BUSINESS GUEST SPEAKERS REQUIRED

The Silkwood Business Networking Events run in Term 1 and 4 and we are looking for guest speakers who can present for 20 minutes on topics related to business. If you are interested, please contact Mandy mandy@thewigoutlet.com.au or 0412 369 520

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The students are back and enjoying lunchtime reading. Currently encyclopaedias, record breakers and chapter books are creating a lot of enjoyment and laughter.

This term we are sharing our space more than ever whilst we all eagerly await the high school move. It is great to see a school Library that can accommodate students working with teachers and still be available for research, reading and study.

This semester the focus of the Library is to work on our current collection. After several years of kind donations coming into our space we have a lot of books. Currently we can’t accept more donations, so if you have any books you would like to donate please consider dropping them off to Lifeline books, they do wonderful work getting books out to the community.

Happy reading,
Fiona and Kate

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION SESSION

YEARS 7-12

We appreciate that choosing an alternative Middle/High school for your child is an important decision towards their future. We therefore encourage all parents/carers to come along to learn more about Silkwood’s exciting Year 7-12 programs, chat with teachers and view student work.

As with our Parent Introductory Courses, we offer these Information Sessions to deepen your understanding of the unique education offered at Silkwood.

Information session in Term 1

Tuesday, 14 March, 5.00pm – 6.30pm

Bookings essentials, please contact the school office – reception@silkwood.qld.edu.au or 5655 0300.

CLASSES IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS ISSUE...

MOONLIGHT PREP NEWS

Our year is off to a wonderful start in Prep Moonlight! We are gradually becoming familiar with new friends and a new environment, and have all adjusted very well to the expectations of a school classroom. We began our first week of school in smaller groups so we wouldn’t feel too overwhelmed about coming to this new place. The second week saw us come together as a full class of 28 eager little faces who seem very keen to grow and learn with us in class.

Starting school can be a little bit scary (for parents as well as children), so we have started exploring our feelings; including how to appropriately show others what we are feeling, and different techniques to help calm ourselves down. Here are some of the responses we have had in class:

- “When I am feeling angry, I calm myself down by reading a book and then my Mum comes to tickle me” (Ella).
- “I can show that I am kind when I get a Band-Aid and put it on my sister’s foot when she is hurt” (Lilliana).
- “If I played a didgeridoo at the beach I wouldn’t be angry anymore” (Elijah).
- “When I feel scared about coming to school, I just go into my cave until I calm down” (Sebastien).
- “I feel sad if someone says that I can’t be their friend anymore” (Nalinii).

We have had so much fun meeting our new friends, starting to learn the routines of school, and trying so many activities in our classroom and playground over the last two weeks – it’s going to be a great term!

Miss Olivia and Miss Louise
YEAR 1 TALLOW

Year 1 Tallow is a curious and exciting class to work with. We have been enjoying exploring ideas and conversations in our Advisory time, talking about everything from playground problem-solving, silly rhyming words, our vast collective knowledge about wildlife (mostly of the venomous variety!), how we know we ‘belong’, and the best way to practice our sight words. Advisory is an important time in our day, when the children are invited to set the agenda and discuss what is important to them. It is early days, but we are getting the hang of it!

Our Integrated Unit has invited us to explore counting patterns through a quest with Corys, our classroom elf, who has been asked to find and record nature’s magic patterns in his book. Helping Corys has found us exploring the gardens, school and bush, looking for nature’s magic counting patterns.

In our Core lessons we have been talking about numbers, revising our skills from Prep. We have been counting to 100, recognising numbers, ordering numbers, making groups and writing numbers.

In English we are revising our knowledge of the alphabet, particularly upper and lower case, and exploring different kinds of texts.

YEAR 2 WATTLE

Year 2 Wattle has been so busy since school started!

We have begun our new Irish Tales Integrated Unit and have been loving learning all about those pesky leprechauns, the songs, Irish jigs, games and some complicated Celtic knots.

We have also been studying biodiversity and animal habitats. We have been talking about how some animals are able to live in the snowy tundra. We found out through an experiment of our hands in icy water, that a good layer of blubber (vegetable shortening) is a great way to keep the chill away.

We have also begun planning our “Seed to Sandwich” gardening project which will start by picking out our desired greens, growing them in our own designed and constructed greenhouses, keeping our seedlings alive till the end of term, making the bread and finally assembling and eating our sandwich.

In English we have started looking at non-fiction text features. We are using things like the contents page, index and charts to help us hone our researching skills.

We have been spending our Wednesday afternoons doing Bush School down by the creek. We are learning about the five senses of our Silkwood bush. Last week we were able to sample native bee honey from our own hives and use native fig leaves to sand wood and sticks. We also got soggy feet in the creek!

Cynthia

The children ask every day when they will play outside – even in this heat! We try to visit the Learnscape, creek or school gardens regularly, timed around opportunities to stay cool in this weather. We have been practicing our habit of gaining information through all our senses in our ‘sit spots’ along the bush track, where we sit quietly to look, feel, smell, listen and think about our place here and the changes we see, and have started recording our observations in our group book.

Geira Jen
**YEAR 4 NEWS**

Year 4 has got off to a great start to the year with our Norse Myths Integrated Unit. We had an amazing all day incursion with Living History who taught us about many aspects of Viking life and historical facts. We explored some replicas of Viking swords, armour and clothing, learnt a dance, played some traditional games and even had a go at archery. It was a jam-packed day filled with amazing information. Ask your children about what a real Viking helmet looks like!

The children have been allocated their Core Learning class and can tell you who their English and Maths teacher is. If you have any questions about your child’s learning in English or Maths, please email your child’s teacher directly.

Big Picture learning takes place every Monday afternoon and is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn through their interests and passions. Big Picture is similar to the Passion Project where your child chooses a project they wish to work on during the scheduled time. Please talk with your child about what their interests and passions are that they are inspired to work on. It may be something they already love or something they have always wanted to learn about. All children are expected to do research, produce an end product such as a model, a speech, a booklet or video, and participate in an exhibition. Big Picture encourages children to develop the skills of planning and managing their own time and taking responsibility for their learning journey.

*Lucy and Clare*

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**YEAR 7 NEWS**

Our Year 7 totem is a butterfly and much of our start-up week was spent exploring the significance of this symbol and in finding out more about the butterfly. In the words of one our students the butterfly is symbolic of our transition into high school and our personal growth.

Jo, from Gold Coast Butterflies, gave an interesting presentation about the monarch butterfly. We enjoyed seeing the full life cycle of this creature from the chrysalis, caterpillar and butterfly stages. A highlight was seeing the male butterflies unfurl their proboscis and drink a mixture of honey and water from a cotton bud. They were so content with their breakfast they didn’t fly away even though they were out from their net.

Our class has the opportunity to observe this cycle in its entirety with our own butterfly kit. We have two baby caterpillars and four mature caterpillars who are all busily munching their way through bunches of milkweed.

Our Integrated Unit is called “The Age of Discovery” and is covering geographical and historical skills from this fascinating period of exploration and voyages. As part of ‘living’ history, our class has been learning to sing a sailors’ shanty, “Roll the old Chariot”, and it is quite a rousing way to start our morning. This week we have been adding further verses and have been attempting harmonies in our best pirate accents. We have also learnt about timelines using our bodies for a kinaesthetic approach, positioning ourselves along a skipping rope.

*Zoe and Hayley*
YEAR 12 NEWS

Year 12 is off to a fabulous start with many exciting initiatives and opportunities underway. It is also THE year – we complete our P-12 ambitions and have a graduating cohort. We are beyond thrilled.

One of the initiatives we are proudest of is the implementation of The Rite Journey, a 12-month personal development and transition journey that takes our young people into their adulthood in a deep and respectful way. On Sunday morning we held the Departure ceremony for this program and it was incredible. The vast majority of Year 11 and 12 and their parents got up before dawn and made their way to the magical Tallebudgera Beach.

We watched the sun rise as parents shared letters with their children on their hopes and wishes for them as they begin the journey to adulthood. We heard a beautiful welcome with wise words from traditional custodians and indigenous school mentors, Linda and Paul, and had a smoking ceremony to cleanse us all.

Dan and Alicia then took the boys and girls separately to start their transition to adulthood Journey that will happen over the next 12 months. There were so many symbols and feelings and then laughs together over breakfast.

We are so proud of these young people and the wonderful families that support us in our work. Thanks Kalindi, for being an invaluable wing woman in organising the ceremony.

I would encourage you to look at the High School Facebook page for more pictures.

Alicia

PARENT EDUCATION ARTICLE

Make this year your child’s best ever at school

By Michael Grose

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are seven ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time.** One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well.** A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time to get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work and study habits.** The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep.** Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their wellbeing and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bedtime and get-up time each day. Have a 45-minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. **Insist kids exercise.** The old saying about ‘a healthy body and a healthy mind’ is so true. Exercise releases the chemicals needed for learning and wellbeing. Yet kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage your child to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.

6. **Focus on being friendly.** Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social situations each day. Yet we often only focus on academic learning. There are
strong links between social success, and academic success and wellbeing. Encourage kids to be open and tolerant; to be friendly; to be sensitive to others; to be involved in plenty of activities and to be social risk-takers. These are all characteristics of socially successful kids. At the same time, discourage anti-social behaviours such as over-competitiveness, self-centredness and lack of sharing.

7. Develop self-help skills. Successful students are often well organised, self-directed and self-motivated. Personal organisation seems to come more naturally to girls than boys, however, both genders benefit from coaching in this important area. You can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-appropriate self-help skills related to their everyday lives. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and organising after school schedules, can be great lessons that impact on how kids perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are likely to adopt changes than at any other time. Make the most of the opportunity by really focusing on two or three areas and you’ll find that the rest will fall into place.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

DISCLAIMER

The advertising sections of this newsletter have been submitted by individuals. Silkwood School does not take any responsibility for the content. The opinions expressed in the advertisements and notices do not necessarily represent the views of the school.

2016 PARENT BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Click here to view the current directory and to access an application form to advertise in the directory.

CARPOoling WANTED

Please contact the school office to advertise if you are looking for someone to carpool with in your area – reception@silkwood.qld.edu.au

Panamuna is a sustainable and ethical surf wear label that is run by Alana, Year 8 teacher, and her husband. They are participating in CUSP: a RAW artists’ showcase that supports emerging artists and designers from the Gold Coast and surrounds.

The event is being held this Thursday, 16 February at the Southport Sharks Event Centre from 6.30pm. It should be a very fun and exciting event with an eclectic mix of artists - something to suit everyone’s taste.

Tickets are $20 presale or $25 at the door, with children under 12 free. To purchase tickets please follow visit https://www.rawartists.org/goldcoast/cusp, click BUY TICKETS and pick Panamuna as your artist.

If it’s all too confusing but you would still like to come along, please contact Alana through the Parent Portal and she will arrange to purchase the tickets on your behalf.

We are hoping to see some friendly, familiar Silkwood faces there!

The Silkwood School has a Buy Swap and Sell Facebook Group where parents can sell or giveaway their second hand goods including second hand school uniforms. Please click on the link to join. This is an SCCA initiative.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/700798820062787/
GIRL’S AFL GALA DAY

This year the AFL Gold Coast Juniors are starting girls’ only competitions for every age group starting from U11’s.

To help promote girl’s AFL on the Gold Coast and try to gain some interest for our new competition, we are running a Girl’s AFL Gala Day for girls in Grades 4, 5 and 6. The Gala Day will be held on Tuesday, 14 March at Carrara AFC, Nielsen’s Road, Carrara. To help with numbers, we will play 9-a-side football (9 on the field, up to 3 interchange players).

We will also be playing by the U11’s modified rules which include:
- No tackling, a hold and release to allow the player to dispose of the football (they have 2-3 seconds after being released)
- No kicking off the ground (unless accidental)
- No distance for a mark

To help encourage the girls with their AFL, the Gold Coast SUNS are providing each registered student that takes part a family pass (up to 4 x tickets) to the Round 5 game against Adelaide Crows on Saturday, 22 April.

Please RSVP your team(s) to Shaun Jasper (Shaun.Jasper@afl.com.au) by Tuesday, 28 February. Once you have confirmed the number of teams you have, the Gold Coast SUNS will send out your welcome pack with details on how to redeem the family passes.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Tyson.Kulari@afl.com.au

The Mountain Bike Australia Schools National Championships which is being held on the Gold Coast this year with 3 MTB events over three days (2-4 June) for students aged 13 - 18 years.

My son Tobi will be entering for the individual events but it would be great if we could get some teams of four together for the school teams’ event.

Event information:
http://www.mtba.asn.au/event/schoolchamps/


I am happy to be the contact for interested students and Team Manager if required.

Please contact me if you are interested.

Chris Thompson
Mob. 0406 375 951
Email. cjthomo71@gmail.com
GIVE OUR GAME BACK

SIGN UP TO NORTH GOLD COAST FOOTBALL CLUB

At the Warriors we believe in letting the players play.

We also want to make sure that the reason for playing at games is for fun. All games will be played at Peregian State Secondary College.

We will enter for U11 to U19 in 2017. If you’re interested in joining the Club please e-mail your details to secretary@gfc.com.au

Special Offer: If you’re eligible to receive the $550 Get Started Voucher season 1 is free of charge.

NORTH GOLD COAST FOOTBALL CLUB

Join our new Club and reap the benefits of playing in an internal competition. Players sign up to play games only 10 weeks at a time. This allows players to join at any point in time during 2017.

Venue: Peregian State Secondary College
Age: U5, U6, U7, U8, U9
Time: 10.00am to 12.00am
Cost: $150 per 10 week block
Kit: Shirt and Shorts $40 – Socks $15 - Optional.
Day: Saturday
Season 1: 18, 25 February - 4, 11, 18, 25 March - 1 April, 22, 29 April - 6 May
Season 2: 13, 20, 27 May - 3, 10, 17, 24 June - 13, 20, 27 July


“it’s impossible,” said pride. “it’s risky,” said experience. it’s pointless,” said reason. “Give it a try,” whispered the heart.”

— Unknown

Where can I play MILO T20 Blast?....

Surfers Paradise Cricket club - Friday
Helensvale Pacific Pines Cricket club - Friday
Palm beach Currumbin Cricket Club - Wednesday
Girls MILO T20 Blast - Malaya drive - Sunday
For all School based MILO T20 programs , Visit.....

VISIT PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU TO FIND OUT MORE...