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?

Thursday, 1 December
The Water Fair - Summer Festival
Year 1 to Year 11
Last Day Term 4

Monday, 30 January
First day Term 1, 2017

SCHOOL HOLIDAY HOURS
The school office will be open between 9.00am to 3.00pm on the following days for uniform purchases and enquiries:

5 December – 9 December (first week of holidays)
16 January – 20 January
23 January – 27 January (closed 25 January for Australia Day)

School resumes Monday, 30 January.
FACILITATOR’S NEWS

It’s hard to believe this is our final newsletter for 2016 - where has this year gone!

In closing the year, a huge thank you goes to the 227 families who participated in the parent survey this year. That is the most engagement we have ever had, and with 227 comments about what we are doing well, and 227 comments on what we can improve, we have a good perspective on how our families feel about the school. Over the holiday break we will analyse this data to identify the things we are able to improve in 2017.

We can see from the comments we are doing a lot of things well... lots of big ticks for our Team 😊 We also noticed a few common themes for what people would like to see at the school. Some of these things come down to understanding the school’s development plans, philosophies and what the school can and can’t do due to Council Conditions, so I have complied the following information to help with understanding.

Silkwood’s unique learning program means we work to cater for a wide range of individual learning opportunities in our High School program and that we seek real world connections for this learning. For this reason, Silkwood is not setup in traditional ways where all the learning is provided on site and in the classrooms by specialist teachers. Instead, we seek out specialists who are working in the field of learning the students want to engage in, to mentor these students. These authentic learning opportunities can be in our local community or worldwide. The use of technology means mentoring can happen from anywhere. For this reason, the facilities and design of our school is very different to what people are used to in traditional schools. We require flexible learning spaces, good community connections and ways we can easily get our students out-and-about. So with that said, the following is some clarity on Silkwood’s future facilities.

1. The new High School will have:
   - A full-sized oval for sport
   - A science lab
   - A flexible art and technology space
   - Parking for an additional 70 car spaces
   - Outdoor shade and cover for ball games
   - A second sealed road entrance to the school for drop off and pick up

2. Our current school site will return to a Primary School site and over the following few years we will undergo a revamp. This will include the current School Hall which will have the addition of a Home Economics room for our Kitchen-to-Garden program and for school events use.

3. In negotiating the approval of the High School, the school has had to accept the following restrictions:
   - No new school hall – they required a reduced building envelope, which has only allowed us the space to build the classrooms we need.
   - A Restriction of whole school events – this means we are unable to hold whole school community events. This affects things like school concerts, which now have to be held off-site at alternative locations.
   - No Swimming Pool - environmental covenants on the land means we simply do not have any available building space to build addition things like a Swimming Pool.

4. There will be a new school entrance with the opening of the High School, so parking and school entry will be split across two entrances to the school next year. However, parking will still be limited, and pick off and drop off will still require a traffic management plan. For those seeking more parking, it simply comes down to limited space to build and a choice of using that space for classrooms or parking. We chose learning spaces, so parking will continue to be limited for these reasons.

PROGRESS OF THE HIGH SCHOOL...

On the High School front, we are delighted to say our Building Team are on schedule so we are still anticipating an April 2017, Term 2 opening... exciting times indeed!

As you can see from the latest picture, the framing has begun on the top level of the building. When the students return from holidays it will look like a proper building. We can’t wait to have the space for the students to spread out into. This does mean that term one is going to be very tight, so we are going to have to ask for understanding from everyone as things will not be as ideal as we would like. Managing parking and lunchtimes with a further 40 students in Term 1 is going to be challenging for us all. I would appreciate your support during this time as there are going to be limited things we can do to move, shift, and change to make things easier. The school team are preparing best they can for this challenge and have a good plan in place to manage this.

NEW THINGS TO COME...

Currently in the High School, Year 9-12 students are assigned to smaller groups of 17 students called an Advisory. This is much like a home group. Each Advisory has an assigned Advisor to work with the students (and their parents) on developing and progressing on their individual learning plans and personal and social development. The Advisor is part of the Year level teaching team that works together to develop a year level learning program that takes into account the individual learning plans of each student.

Because of the success of this approach in the High School, we are working on a longer-term vision to include an Advisor approach for all students at Silkwood. We believe it is a positive way to enhance their learning experience, giving them more one-on-one time with a teacher, expanding their individualisation opportunities, and gives parents more opportunity to be a part of their child’s learning experience.

We are very excited to be on the journey of exploring how we can make this happen for all students at Silkwood... we will be keeping you updated on our progress with this project in 2017!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Finally, thank you for putting your trust in the Silkwood Team this year. We have loved bringing another fantastic year alive. May your holiday time be filled with smiles, peace and much love! We will see you in the New Year.

Valerie Campbell-Hogg
UNIFORM SHOP

9.00pm – 3.00pm during the holidays (limited days – see Page 1)
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.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to the children for a wonderful year in the library.

We have been amazed throughout the year at the many ways the children engage their learning and enjoyment of books in the library.

Some children find a quiet spot each day and happily read away. Others come in and volunteer to help with library tasks (age is no barrier when it comes to working in the library!) Parents, your children are so capable and it is a joy to see their willingness to help others. Sometimes it is an older child showing a younger child how to use the library and other times it is the other way around. We have also had several High School Students working in the library and their input has been valuable for all.

Our Silkwood library is a place to be proud of. It has students of all ages utilising, working and decision making in it.

Enjoy your holidays,

Fiona, Kate and the Library team

2016-17 SUMMER VACATION CARE PROGRAM

For information about summer fun activities at OSHC please click on the links below:

2 December 2016 – 20 January 2017
23 January – 27 January 2017

Helping Hands Network – Bookings/Enquiries
P: 0475 824 342 E: silkwood@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au

CLASSES IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS ISSUE...

YEAR 2 TALLOW NEWS

Year 2 has just returned from camp. We had an action packed 24 hours where we fed stingrays, watched a seal show, visited turtles in hospital, plus much more. It was great to see the students readily share their knowledge on saving wildlife.

We are in our last few days of our Pacific Nature Tales unit. During this Integrated Unit we learned songs and a Ti Rakau, a rhythmic stick game. As part of our final unit for Year 2, we finished off with an islander inspired feast complete with teachers in grass skirts. We give a big thanks to the parents who assisted in the food preparation and to Lauren who cooked the pizzas.

In our Math core lessons, we have been investigating money and fractions. Students have been bringing money in from all over the world; Israel, Sri Lanka, England to Fiji, to share with the class. This week we are using our knowledge to create our own restaurant. Students are designing their own restaurant complete with a menu. The challenge is a dimer must be able to order a three course meal plus drinks for under $50.00.

In English, we have been writing letters to the Queen to demonstrate formal language. We have also been writing information reports on ocean animals which coincided with our camp. Students are learning to choose the right word choice for the audience. Throughout this term we have been practising peer editing as well as editing our own work.

The class has just completed a three-week art project. The first week we learned to draw numerous ocean animals by following a sequence of steps. The following week we then created a stencil of these animals on foam boards. The secret was to be firm enough to create a stencil but not so firm to break through the foam. Lastly, we painted the boards and were able to print them on paper.

Very early on in the year the class established that they wished to perform a play. This term we put our dream into action and began the process of learning lines, rehearsing, using props and sequencing actions. Eagerly we shared our small production with the Year 1 and Year 2 classes, who gave us some wonderful feedback before our big day. On Tuesday afternoon we showcased the play to our families. I was so impressed by the dedication and hard work put in by all students. The result was a very entertaining production that we were all proud of. There are certainly some stars in the making. Big thanks to Madeline, who assisted behind the scenes.

A purple bag of toiletries has gone missing from camp. If you have found it, please return it to Jane in the office.

Please return all library books to the class room.

Kyra

The Staff of Silkwood would like to wish you all the peace, joy, and love of the season!

Keep the joy of family time alive by making this time of year simple and special, not by what you give but by what message you send your children about giving. Here is a great little way to think about it...

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart – Helen Keller

SILKWOOD NEWSLETTER 25 NOVEMBER 2016
YEAR 5 NEWS

What a term in Year 5! What a great opportunity to reflect on what we’ve been up to as we begin to wind down from an action packed term.

This term our Year 5 students have worked through their Botany Integrated Units and are currently finishing their Australian Landscapes projects.

The students had the opportunity to put their scientific skills to good use throughout Botany, whereby they set up numerous plant experiments and observed and recorded their progress. We are fortunate that our surrounding landscapes provided ample opportunities for students to see what they were learning throughout the Integrated Unit happened every day around them.

Throughout their Australian Landscapes IU, students have investigated the diverse landscapes of Australia and researched how these landscapes have affected the societies that live there.

We are incredibly lucky to live on the Gold Coast! The students have been working on numerous projects throughout their practical session activities, with one of their favourites, their ‘Animal Welfare League’ Project. The students have been busy raising awareness and sourcing monetary donations as well as donations of food, blankets and toys to donate to the Animal Welfare League, particularly in the lead up to Christmas. We’ve also taken the opportunity to align our social skills topics for discussion around animal behaviour and non-verbal communication, investigating just how important our body language can be! Our class expert, Sam the Border collie, has been joining us on Wednesdays to help students observe and apply what they have learnt. Sam has also featured in some of the students Animal Welfare League Awareness videos.

Year 5 has experienced many other things this term, including Bollywood Dancing, tree planting, Skipping challenges, Environmental Story threads and creating their own smash journals, to name just a few!

It has certainly been a busy and exciting term. The students have certainly earned their holiday over the Christmas break!

We are looking forward to an equally exciting term in Year 6 2017.

Nikki and Paulette

YEAR 7 NEWS

The learners in Year 7 packed a huge amount of creating, connecting and discovering into Term 3. We cooked up a storm with KTK, developed our mini-Big Picture projects and sailed away on Tall Ships camp. We all came back from the holidays a little tired and needing to calm things down to make it through this term. With this in mind, we have really enjoyed our gentle investigation of the stars, planets and forces in the Astronomy IU and finished with our journey through the Renaissance and art techniques in the Perspective Art IU.

Our excursions to the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium and the Spaceflight Academy inspired and entertained our budding “Space Cadets” and our time at both venues engaged our students in hands-on application of our learning, as well as awesome nerdy fun! Flying in the simulator games, launching the capsule in Mission Control and building the Mars Rovers were fun, but the highlight was the G-Force Centrifuge and racing each other on the ‘fixing things in space’ simulator. Oh my stars!

HPE this term has taken us to ‘Bounce’ for the Year 7 Dodgeball competition and never have we seen such a high percentage of competitive involvement in a sport challenge. The students have all really pushed themselves to improve their accuracy in target games and have developed their knowledge of the game as well as teamwork strategies.

Last Friday, we spent a lovely day at the QAGOMA complex in Brisbane. Our Year 7s are all so grown up now, as they travelled on the train, wandered around the galleries and questioned, as well as observed, the pieces on display. Their questions and discussions drew wonderful comments and compliments from other gallery visitors and we were incredibly proud to be their teachers and guides for the trip. Sitting in the lovely sun, drawing the scenes along the Brisbane River, under the shady trees, without a care in the world, was a truly Renaissance moment for us all to share.

Joh and Alana
YEARS 9 & 10 NEWS

BODY MECHANICS & POSTURE

At Silkwood we believe in educating both mind and body. It was a welcome and fun learning experience for both teachers and students of Year 9s when TriBreath Coach, Brett Hayes, came in and shared a wealth of knowledge and techniques for better posture, with an upright posture having so many positive effects that can be felt and seen on many levels.

Shared, were simple techniques that can be used for the betterment of health and utilised at any age. Students saw firsthand how holding their shoulders in an Up, Back and Down, position, while pointing their thumbs in the direction they’re going, that it is nigh impossible to slump.

What was also conveyed by Brett was how correct structure is paramount to good nerve and respiratory function. With an eyes-in-the-back-of-the-head approach to watch for the elbows being pulled back, what was discovered was this action automatically opened up the chest (allowing for greater expansion of the lungs) and lifted the head up from the back of the skull (releasing pressure in the neck and upper back). So simple, yet so effective! We look forward to keeping you up-to-date with the services that Brett is offering with more information being found on the TriBreath website, www.tribreath.org

YEAR 11 NEWS

This Tuesday was an extremely exciting day for our high school journey – our first proper graduates! We have three students exiting at the end of Year 11 to start the next chapter of their journey. They are going on to degree courses in Nursing, Marine Science and Business/Design. We have been able to identify multiple routes for University entrance that do not rely on subject centred learning and the resultant OP (overall position) score. In an intimate ceremony with family and friends, we shared the journey of these young ladies – which paralleled the growth of our school – and celebrated their milestone. We are so proud of their efforts and commitment to the school and thank everyone for their trust and support.

Exhibition season is in full swing and it is wonderful to see the fruits of all their labour on display in student exhibitions. I have been pleasantly surprised to note that the students and parents are wholly disinterested in my opinion of their work! This is a wonderful development, as it represents genuine ownership and empowerment in their learning. The journey is truly theirs and they don’t need my third party validation to know what they have done well or need improvement on. This is a wonderful outcome and ultimate aim of The Silkwood Way – independent, self-determining learners.

We are looking forward to 2017 as it represents many things – the first year of a full Prep-Year 12 school, as our pioneering Year 11s become our pioneering Year 12s. We will move to our new site – FINALLY – and we will welcome a new staff member, Rosalie, to take some of the load in Senior. I am sure she will feel most welcome within our amazing community. Have a wonderful and safe break and see you in the New Year.

Alicia

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/
SCCA SCREEN SAFETY TEAM UPDATE

Welcome to the Silkwood Screen Safety Team Update. This photo is from the last, extremely helpful three minute video about Posture, Children and Computers made by our very own Silkwood Dad and Registered Osteopath (and Computer Coding Club coach) Jonathan Evans. Here are the others:

- Video 1: Computers, Children & Posture: [https://www.parentbe.com/p/computervideo1](https://www.parentbe.com/p/computervideo1)

If you missed us in previous Newsletters, take another peek because there are lots of interesting articles, tips and links.

This time, we just have one question:

**Do you have a child in Year 5 or above?**

If so, parents of younger children are keen to learn from your family’s experiences of your child transitioning to technology. Please email [becshawcrompton@gmail.com](mailto:becshawcrompton@gmail.com) with your responses to one or more of the following questions. All information extremely gratefully received and will be kept completely anonymous in case of sensitivity:

- What information did you find particularly useful in helping your family prepare for your child’s transition to increased device use?
- If you had to do the transition over again, what would you do differently?
- What tips do you have for parents of children in younger years to help them prepare for their children’s increased device use through the BYOD program and generally?
- What are some of the pitfalls and positive aspects of your child using devices?

We’ve had the last Screen Safety Meeting for 2016, but will be reconvening in early February 2017. Look out for the date in the next Back to School Newsletter. If you’re interested in being kept up to date with Silkwood’s Children and Technology conversation, please:

- Email [dennzom1@bigpond.com](mailto:dennzom1@bigpond.com) and ask to be added to the Updates List (we only send 3-4 emails per term)
- Join the new SCCA Facebook Page
- Keep reading the Newsletters.

**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/](https://www.facebook.com/silkwoodscca/)

**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**

**UPPER COOMERA AREA**

Carpooling wanted in Upper Coomera area, to share drop off and pick up. If you able to help please call or text Steph 0410 817 979.

**SPRINGBROOK AREA**

Lift home to Springbrook:

We are facing a big decision to leave Silkwood School next year as we have moved to Springbrook and Gus (Year 5) has a new puppy he would like to get home to after school to walk. If anyone has a spare seat in their car to give Gus a lift home to Springbrook after school only, Gus’ mum, Tania, is able to drop to school five days a week and has three seats in her car free in the mornings.

Email: [truespirit70@gmail.com](mailto:truespirit70@gmail.com)
Phone: 0403 655 860

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**CYBER SAFETY TIP #4**

*(Brought to you by Silkwood Screen Safety Team)*

It has become commonplace to see children, even toddlers, with laptops and tablets on their laps, or clutching onto smartphones. Did you know that devices should always be kept away from the body? The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in America recommends that computer laptop devices be placed at least 20cm from the body.
A MINDFUL FROG UPDATE...

Both Prep classes and Year 1 Wattle have played them during class time, and the kids love them!

Free holiday listening!

There are five Mindful Frog episodes out already, all free to listen to, with a new one being released every two weeks.

These make a great free entertainment resource for the holidays. The Mindful Frog adventures are audio-only recordings to help children aged 3-8 become more mindful every day. The idea is to encourage them to constantly notice things around them in the world using all of their five senses.

During these adventures, Simon (an Australian green tree frog), guides them to look, feel, taste, listen or even smell, all in their imagination. No screens to watch, just relaxing and listening with their eyes closed. There are lots of atmospheric sound effects to help them feel like they're actually in the scene.

Listen or download them free at: www.amindfulfrog.com

On iTunes just search for "A Mindful Frog"

On any podcast app on your android device search for "A Mindful Frog"

If you sign up for the newsletter on the website, you can also download a free "Getting to Sleep" audio.

Have a Mindful Holiday!
PARENT EDUCATION ARTICLE

How to Raise Grateful Children

Don’t forget to say your please and thank yous.

How many times do we hear that in a lifetime?

What does it mean to give thanks?

Saying thank you says good manners for sure but teaching children to truly be thankful is an art. We’ve been trying hard to perfect that art in our house. Gratitude, showing up for people when they are in need and kindness are not easy to pass along to some children. Our twins are polar opposites in this department. One is a natural. The other, well, let’s just say it’s a learning curve for her at times. She demonstrates all of these character traits but at times they slip her mind. But, she’s only 6 so she has some time yet.

Because of this, we try and stress the importance of grateful hearts each day. Here’s a few of the ways we do that. Please share your own ideas below in the comments.

Here are 6 Ways to Raise Grateful Children:

Be a Gratitude Role Model. When you spend every night writing all your blessings into a journal, you’re bound to pass along the gratitude basket to your children. Saying these blessings out loud to them only reinforces this type of modeling. “I’m so happy you are in my life.” “I’m so honored to have good friends.” “Your Dad is the best Dad in the world.” “I am so grateful to get to spend my day with you.”

Simplicity matters. Keep things simple and children are bound to start noticing the little things in life. We don’t have a lot of fancy things. We only just got our first big-screen TV this year and that was a really big deal. When we bought our newish minivan, it was another really big deal. We aren’t splashy. We aren’t contrived. We just live and try to make a difference in our community every day. The rest is a bonus. We are passing this along to our children delicately while also helping them achieve their own dreams.

Talk about the world. Talk about how the rain is important to the flowers. Talk about how we get our food. Talk about the importance of Sunday morning pancakes. Talk about what matters to your children. Help them see the world from a different perspective. Help him understand that things on the other side aren’t always how they appear and that we must be thankful for what we have and not yearn for what others have. Help your children see life from all sides. Be grateful for it all.

Teach actions. Saying thank you is fine. It is. But in these busy, crazy times of social networking and little connection to real people, it’s important to teach children to SHOW UP and give thanks. Have them write out their thank yous daily in a journal. Call instead of emailing. Give cookies to the school janitor.

Give thanks. For all children, writing or drawing a picture of the things they are thankful for is a great way to get them thinking about being thankful. For the ones not quite ready for that kind of daily devotion, a simple bedtime ritual works wonders. Ask your child what she is grateful for today? Share your own idea or two with her as well.

Make cards. Every now and then, I buy blank cards and let the girls go crazy with decorating them anyway they want. We send those cards to the people in our life that need a lift. Thank you cards are a lost art that some of us really wish we could get people to spend more time on. Make a card. Give thanks daily. Spread joy weekly.