

Running Group Race Dates for 2015

Sunday 22 March – The Orroroo Half Marathon

Sunday 29 March – The Broken Hill Desert Dash

Sunday 7 June – The Mallee 12

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July – The Gold Coast Air Port Marathon

Sunday 20 September – The Adelaide City to Bay

All family members are welcome to join us, there are 5Km, 10Km and 21Km running and walking races for all fitness levels.

Training is every Tuesday and Thursday from the front ramp at school –

7am start, returning by 8am.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

The following link will connect you to our online school calendar for up to date information including term dates, school events, excursions etc.

<http://web1.willyama-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/webcal/calendar/1>

EMAIL ADDRESS

If you would like the Willyama Whisper emailed to you, please let the Front Office know and we will put you on our email distribution list.

THE FAST CENTRE

The FAST centre is open for all Willyama students on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.00pm and provides a great opportunity for students who may be having difficulty with assessment tasks or class work to receive extra assistance and tuition in any subject in a relaxed and resourceful environment.



WILLYAMA WHISPERS

Principal: Grant Shepherd
PO Box 708
BROKEN HILL NSW 2880
Phone: 08 8088 1055
Email: willyama-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
<http://www.willyama-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Term 1 Week 5

27 February 2015

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It has been a great start to the year for Willyama High School students and I would like to welcome all of our new students and parents on board.

Already a number of important events have taken place including our school swimming carnival, leadership induction ceremony, Year 7 orientation day and school photos. So it has been a very busy start to the year.

We have five new teachers this year: Ms Wendy Sherman-Bryson (LOTE), Mr John Westacott (TAS), Mr Scott Mateer (PDHPE), Miss Caitlin Taylor and Mr Luke Neal (both day-to-day relief teachers). I know that you will all make them feel very welcome.

Mr Simeon Kloczko has taken up the position of Head Teacher PBL for this year (based at district office) and will be working across a number of schools.

I would like to thank the entire school community for your valuable feedback into the evaluation of our school and input into the directions we need to head in for the next three years.

Our school strategic directions for 2015-2017 are:

1. Challenging students to think and become literate and numerate learners.
2. Developing and embedding a positive school culture and inclusive curriculum.
3. Fostering quality teaching and dynamic leadership.

We will continue to work together to develop strategies and resourcing in our new school plan to try to best achieve these. The school plan will be available on our school website from the end of term.

Our library has had a much needed paint job over the holidays and looks very bright and cheery. I would like to acknowledge and thank our GA Mark Leonard for all of his hard work above and beyond to get this done and our P&C association for funding this project.

It was great to be involved in the school swimming carnival last week where a number of our students excelled in breaking records. It was a great day in terms of participation and behaviour in the novelty events as well. Congratulations to all students and good luck to those students who have qualified to represent the school in the upcoming West Darling swimming carnival.

Congratulations also to our student leaders who were recognised at our student leadership ceremony this week. I am confident that our school captains Whitney Smith and Cooper Murray will do a fantastic job ably supported by Caitlin Lee and Connor Esling as vice captains. Well done also to Sophie Morrison, who has always had a high level of involvement and led from the front, on being elected president of our Student Representative Council. We look forward to working with the SRC this year in our efforts to improve our great school even further.

We are proud to have six students who have been selected to participate in the new virtual selective school Aurora College. These students Sophie Morrison, Josh D'Ettorre, Maighan Mashford, Lauren Fisher, Jayden Polak and Luke D'Ettorre attend English, Mathematics and Science subjects via Aurora and their other subjects here at Willyama High School.

Please remember that if students choose to bring a mobile phone or other electronic device to school they required to abide by our electronic devices policy (attached). This policy can also be found on our school website. It is important that these devices are only used during scheduled breaks and that students do not take photos or videos of other students without permission.

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child's health

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter's health needs or as otherwise required by law.



A freshly painted Library.—bright and colourful. The Library has welcomed us all for an exciting new year. *Mrs Adams
Teacher Librarian*

NSW School Vaccination Program 2015

Each year NSW Health works with schools to offer the vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). In 2015, the following vaccines will be offered:

Year 7 students

- dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
- varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months for male and female students.

Students will be given Parent Information Kit, which contains a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised. Parental/guardian consent is required for students to be vaccinated. Please ensure the consent forms are returned to the school as soon as possible. A 'Record of Vaccination' will be given to each child. The first session of immunisations will be offered on Tuesday 10th March 2015.

Alison Jones

MUSIC EQUIPMENT

The music department is offloading some old equipment. There are a couple of pianos and acoustic guitars available. Free of charge but you will need to organise to transport them.

Please see Mr Mullard or Mr Devoy if interested.

Science and Engineering

The Cobar Outback Challenge for Years 9 and 10 will be on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 April 2015. There will only be 32 spots. Please direct any queries to Miss Kelly and Mr Harris.

We have been advised by police that they have observed a number of cars travelling toward the school along Murton Street and illegally turning right into Brooks Street across the double lines during drop offs and pick ups in the morning and afternoon. Please be aware that the police have indicated that they will issuing fines to those who continue this practice.

Important upcoming dates:

4-6 March	Year 10 work experience block
10 March	Year 7 parents 'meet and greet'
11 March	P&C meeting
13 March	West Darling swimming carnival
24 March	Willyama concert

Grant Shepherd
Principal

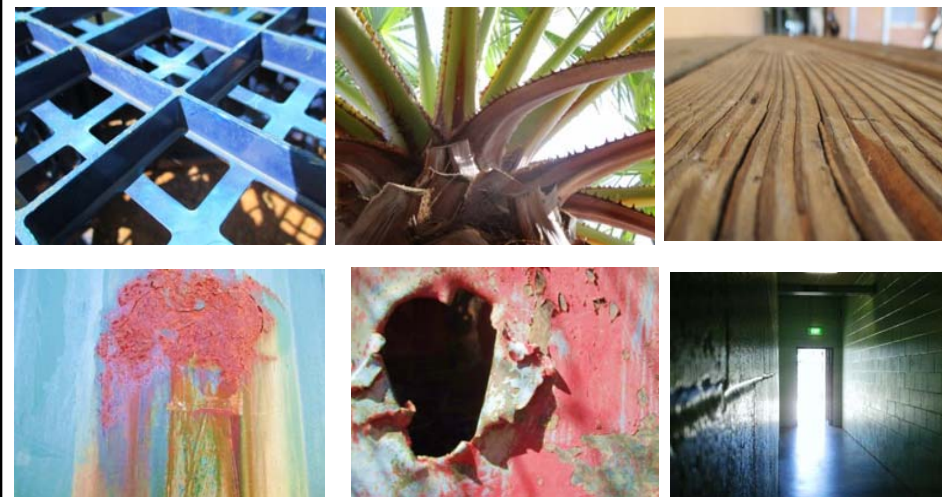
END OF YEAR INCENTIVE TRIP

In December 2014 a group of students boarded a bus early in the morning and headed to Mildura for the school's annual end of year incentive trip. Accompanied by 4 staff, the 42 students enjoyed participating in a variety of activities with Laser Tag and Aqua Coaster being stand out favourites. All attendees had a fantastic time and our school's Student Action Group is already planning this year's trip—this will be bigger and better. To earn your place keep following our school values of **Respect, Responsibility and Cooperation**.

In other news, Champ tickets have switched to E-Champs and the Student Action Group have been busy deciding the different incentives that students will be eligible to receive as they earn more and more E-Champs. A draft list of incentives will be presented to all students and everyone will be invited to provide feedback before the final decision is made. If you would like to join the Student Action Group please contact Mrs Gauci.

Year 9 Photographic and Digital Media

As an introduction to the Photographic and Digital Media course, students in Year 9 will be selecting specific art and design elements like line, shape, rhythm, repetition, texture, pattern and taking photographs, concentrating on only one of these elements in each photograph. They will explore an ant's eye view of the world, a bird's eye view and look for examples of linear perspective. Apart from a few feet, fingers and shadows in some photographs all students have created interesting sharp photos, that, at times are almost abstract in nature. In the coming weeks they will crop and look at some basic editing techniques using photoshop. Below is a selection of work by Ben Morrison, Caitlyn Bloomfield, Danni Fry, Jessica Elston, Shaylan Kingdon, Tasmin Martin, Katie Lee Crowe, Colby Stenhouse and Lakayla Bird.



FAST Centre 2015

One of many exciting programs that Willyama High School has run over the past few years is the FAST (*Free After School Tutoring*) Centre, and it is with great delight to announce that the FAST Centre will be up and running again in 2015. In the past, a number of students have used the centre and received expert tuition in subjects in which they were experiencing difficulties, utilised the great number of resources available to them in the school library, or have simply studied in a relaxed, educationally friendly environment.

So, if your child is experiencing difficulties with his or her work, or if they are having difficulty completing their homework at home with all the distractions of home life, then the FAST centre is there to help. The FAST centre will start again in Week 4 this term on **Monday 18 February**. It will be open every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-5:00 pm in the school library. For further information about the FAST centre, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Cameron Wells (*FAST Centre Coordinator*)