



# WILLYAMA WHISPERS

Principal: Grant Shepherd

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Term 1 Week 4

19 February 2016

## From the Principal's Desk

**It has been a wonderful start to the school year as we have all welcomed our new teachers and students into our great school. We have been very pleased with how students have quickly settled into school this year so we can all focus on our core business: student learning.**

It has been exciting for our school to be invited to participate in the FIRST Robotics competition with a two day workshop held by Macquarie University personnel at Willyama last week. This has been an ideal opportunity to foster and develop higher order thinking skills in our students as they participate in the various teams to build our robot for competition in Sydney next month. More details inside.

School photos will be held on Friday 26 February. Information and envelopes have been sent home with students this week. Students are asked to come to the front office if they haven't received these. These photos will also be used for student photo identification cards. These cards are used to sign in and out of school as well as gain student concessions on public transport and certain merchandise.

Student Leader Induction Ceremony will be held in the school courtyard on Thursday 3 March 2016. At this ceremony, we formally induct our school captains, vice captains, SRC members and house captains into these important leadership positions. Invitations will be sent home to families of students involved next week. Please contact the school if you have any queries.

We are currently looking at designs to re-badge our school using our new banner statement 'Connect, Inspire, Excel – Together'. These proposed designs will be sent out to the school community for input. Parents and carers please come along to our next P&C meeting on 9 March for more information and to have a greater say in how our school operates in general. We would love to see you there.

Some key positions in our school that you need to be aware of this year are:

**Deputy Principals:**

Mr Rick Sweet (Years 8, 10, 12)

Mr Ross Mackay (Years 7, 9, 11)

**Year Advisers:**

Miss Rebecca Millsteed – Year 7

Miss Katherine Firman – Year 8

Mrs Megan Clark – Year 9

Mr Scott Mateer – Year 10

Mrs Lyndsay Kubiak – Year 11

Mr Mark Harris – Year 12

**Upcoming events:**

25 February Year 7 day

26 February School Photos

3 March Student Leaders Induction Ceremony 12:15pm

4 March Swimming carnival

9 March P & C meeting – school library 7:00pm

Grant Shepherd

Principal

## YEAR 7

**Year 7 have started 2016 with a “Big Bang” with students from 7 Cooper, Wolowitz, Hofstadter and Koothrappali joining the Willyama High School community.**

During Term 1 Year 7 students will be involved in the Peer Support Program. Each week, small groups of students will meet with their Peer Leaders and work through a range of activities that focus on resilience. Meeting in small groups allows meaningful connections to form, assisting students with the transition to secondary school. Over a period of 8 weeks students will acknowledge their strengths and achievements, identify people who support them and learn how to view challenges as opportunity for growth.

For additional reading and resources to support your child please visit the parent tab on the Peer Support Australia Website. [www.peersupport.edu.au](http://www.peersupport.edu.au)

## Newsletter

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

## 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>

## Science News - Robotics, Questacon and other crazy science!!!

**This year is already shaping up to be jam packed with exciting competitions and visits from brilliant scientists and engineers.**

On 8 & 9 February 2016 Year 10 Science and 11 Computer students worked with members of the Macquarie University Engineering (Robotics) faculty.

The Macquarie University Engineers conducted a two day robotics workshop that provided students with a practical scenario requiring hands-on engineering applications as well as team building and problem solving skills. During this two day robotics workshop students were given the materials and skills required to build a computerised robot.

On 15 - 19 March 2016 the Year 11 Computer Software Design and Development students will travel to Sydney to compete in the USA-First Robotics international competition. If our robot is victorious over the three days of competition our Year 11's may travel to America to compete on a global scale.

Once again QUESTACON will be visiting Willyama on Wednesday 2 March 2016 to conduct workshops introducing students to STEM Educational Philosophy. STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. STEM Philosophy encourages students to engage in real world problem solving scenarios while developing creativity and team work.

In the spirit of STEM education the Outback Science and Engineering Challenge is once again being held in Cobar on Tuesday 24 May 2016. This event is held annually by the University of Newcastle and is part of a state-wide competition for Year 9 and 10 students. The school team from Willyama High School will be split into eight teams of four students. Each group will participate in a full-day or two half-day activities, with points being awarded for each.

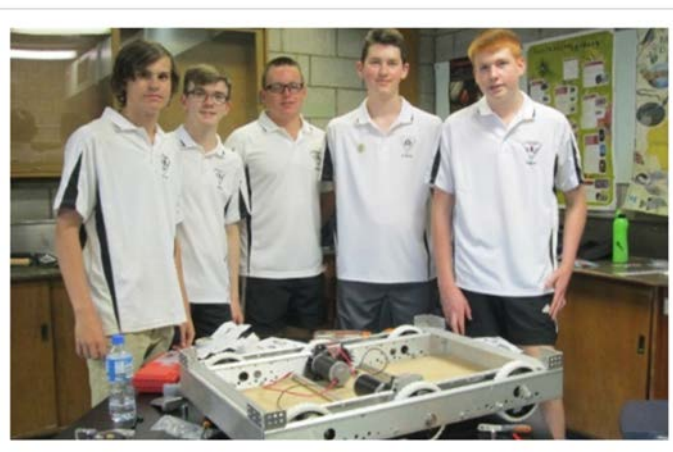
All students who are interested are reminded to return permission notes to the Science staff room as soon as possible because numbers are limited for these events.



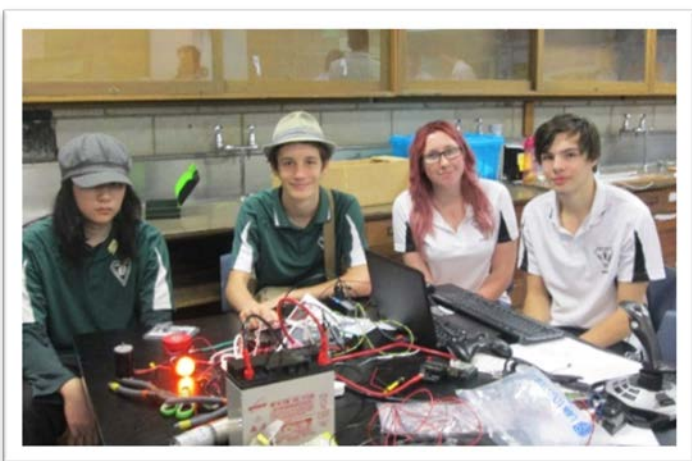
Chelsea Regan, Caitlin Fulham, Brittany Regan, Caitlyn Bloomfield and Kylie Borlace.



Sienna Sulicich, Hannah Evers, Lachlan Edwards-Neal, Ethan O'Meara, Katie-Lee Crowe, Tasmin Martin, Emmie Olds and Jacob Crawford



Jasper Jones, Conner Rogers, Jesse Cochrane-Adolfson, Mason Ravlich and Alex Braes



Alex Lyons, Ethan O'Meara, Emmie Olds and Harrison McIntyre



Ali Baton



# NSW School Vaccination Program 2016

**Each year NSW Health works with schools to offer the vaccines recommended for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).**

**In 2016, 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 issued with a parent information kit.

*The Parent Information Kits contain 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.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school or telephoning the school.

The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation). Consent forms will only be accepted if they are completed using blue or black pen and are original (photocopied or faxed consent forms will not be accepted).

## Willyama Running Group

The Willyama Running Group is up and running in 2016. Training is every **Tuesday and Thursday** mornings from **7am to 8am** meeting at the bottom of the school's front entrance ramp. Permission notes /medical forms for training may be obtained from and returned to the Science staffroom during recess or lunch times. Students are to dress appropriately and bring a hat and water bottle to training. Parents and siblings are encouraged to participate.

The Broken Hill YMCA annual **Desert Dash Fun Run** is on **Sunday 13 March 2016**. There are 5 km and 10 km walking and running events that are open for participation. Students do not need to be part of the regular running group to participate in the Desert Dash which is a fun way to enjoy the outback and be part of the Broken Hill community.

The Willyama Running Group will be participating in the -  
**Orroroo Fun Run** (21 km, 10 km and 5 km walk or run) on **Sunday 20 March 2016**  
**Adelaide City to Bay Fun Run** (12km run or walk) on **Sunday 18 September 2016**.

The Willyama Running Group is more than just a bunch of fitness fanatics – in fact it does not matter how fit you are. This is an opportunity to be part of a team working towards common goals and aspirations. Being part of a team allows students to demonstrate cooperation and support of others in social, recreational and other group contexts, including adopting roles and responsibilities that enhance group cohesion.

Running team shirts may be purchased from JADE Signs, Blende Street. With the Desert Dash and Orroroo trip soon approaching it is recommended that orders be put in as soon as possible. However, it is not compulsory to wear a team shirt. Congratulations to Miss Harlum and Miss Kelly who participated in the Hobart Cadbury 10 km fun run in Tasmania on Sunday 10 January 2016.

# Fundraiser

## YMCA Swimathon

Help the Broken Hill YMCA raise money to support local children and adults with disabilities learn how to swim! The annual YMCA Swimathon will be held on Sunday 28 February. All funds raised stay within Broken Hill - get involved and support your community by participating as an individual or team. It's all about having fun and making a difference, participants do not have to be athletic swimmers to jump in and participate. Registrations can be made online through <https://ymcaswimathon-brokenhill2016.everydayhero.com/au/sign-up> or by filling out a Registration and Sponsorship application (to return to the Broken Hill Regional Aquatic Centre). Register, collect donations and splash out at the YMCA Swimathon to support those with disabilities learn how to swim. Any questions, don't hesitate to call 8080 3510.

### 2016 Living Desert Dash Fun Run

When: Sunday 13th March 2016

5km and 3km events start time is 9.30am sharp. 10km event starts at 9.00am

Buses will collect participants at Picton Oval between 7.30am and 8.00am. No buses will leave after 8.00am.

There will be no entries on the day

#### How to enter

Registrations are to be made in person at the Broken Hill YMCA 78 Chloride Street

Payment is required at the time of registration

Payment will not be accepted at the event

#### Entry Deadlines

Entries will open from Feb 8 and be accepted until 12pm March 12.

#### Receiving your race number

Race numbers are to be collected on the morning of the event at the marshalling area.

#### Entry Fees

Adults 18 years and over - \$15.00

Children aged 17 years and under - \$10.00

Families (2 adults and 3 children) - \$35.00

Entry fee includes: Finishers medal, race bib, transport from Apex Park to the event and back, activities & prizes.

For more information contact YMCA Broken Hill on 8088 1999.

Regards,

**Jacinta Simmons** | Frontline Coordinator

**Broken Hill YMCA** | 78 Chloride Street Broken Hill | p 08 8088 1999

**Broken Hill Regional Aquatic Centre** | 336 McCulloch Street Broken Hill | p 08 8080 3510  
m 0419 586 280