Our last newsletter for 2016!
West has had another fantastic year.
Our Awards Evening acknowledged the efforts and achievements of so many of our students, and as a school we continue to strive for teaching excellence. We are very proud of them all.

School captains
Congratulations to our 2016 school captains; Brad Shorter, Hayley Simmons, Payden Cooper and Madelynn Shillito. They have been outstanding role models and have grown in their leadership admirably.
School captains for 2017 were announced on the evening with Erika Ravalo, Matthew Simmons, Jayme Gynn and Natali Kelly the successful candidates. We are confident they will represent the school well.

Staff Farewells
This year we say farewell to Mrs Heather Robinson. Heather has had a wonderful career in education and many a West family can proudly say she made a difference. Heather plans to spend more time with her daughters and grandchild, and enjoy not being managed by a bell. Thank you Heather for your dedication and compassion. Enjoy retirement Heather ...and yes...you can do anything anytime now! All the best.

Farewell also to Ms Aishah Abdullah. Aishah has supported students in our Special Education Program for many years and has worked hard to connect families with external services. Aishah will be based at Norville State School from 2017 and we wish her well.

HUBs and flexible groupings
We will have quite a few new staff at West in 2017 and it will be an exciting year as we continue to strengthen our support strategies for students. This year teachers have used flexible groupings across a HUB, e.g. 1/2 HUB, 3/4 HUB and 5/6 HUB and within our support class to tailor learning to student needs. Aides have been trained to assist with in class and intensive intervention to help plug the gaps in learning as early as possible. Next year, all HUB teachers will work together and change groups as required to ensure student progress is maximised.

Our Head of Curriculum will be working in HUBs for guided reading and specifically to extend our higher achieving students to ensure they are challenged. Our Prep HUB will focus on developing oral language, letter sound knowledge and sight-words to assist students to become good readers.
Our 1/2 HUB will be introducing students to more digital learning opportunities with...
each class having 12 ipads to use throughout the day. It is important we continue to find ways to engage students in ways that reflect how society is changing.

Our 3/4 HUB will be introducing coding and robotics and developing skills in multi-modal (digital) ways of interacting with and representing knowledge. A significant number of intervention programs will be established in this HUB to ensure students continue to make 12 months of progress each year and perform strongly by Year 5.

Our 5/6 HUB will focus on student leadership and development of skills necessary for success at high school. Being independent learners, competently using digital tools, is our goal for all students. Extending our partnership with the high schools to facilitate successful transitions for our students is important.

2017 Class lists, office hours, uniform shop
Classes will be placed on the notice board near the student entrance to the admin building (A Block) on Friday 20 January. The uniform shop will also be open on this day. The office will open from Monday 16 January for new enrolments to our school. Staff will be participating in 3 full days of professional development and organisation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week to ensure a smooth start to the year.

E-mail – notices & newsletters will be emailed in 2017 Please ensure you have provided the office with a current email/g-mail address to ensure you receive notices and newsletters from the school in 2017.

School Uniform – black shoes a MUST in 2017
Please ensure you purchase black shoes for 2017. We will be enforcing this part of the uniform strongly.

Holiday construction – D block (3/4 HUB)
The verandah on D block will be closed in over the holidays to provide a secure and expanded environment. New furniture has been purchased to facilitate 4 class groups in this HUB next year.

Staff dedication and commitment
Bundaberg West is a family school with teaching and non-teaching staff that are compassionate and dedicated to supporting your children to receive a great education. It is so important to acknowledge their efforts and thank them for another great year of teaching and learning. I encourage you all to take the time to pop in, send a note or email to thank your child’s teacher to show your appreciation. A positive word goes a long way in strengthening the relationship your child and family has with the school. Our staff are awesome!

P&C and volunteers – thank you
Once again I cannot speak more highly of the fabulous parents who assist in our tuckshop and classrooms each week. Your ideas and support have been welcomed and your commitment to working together to benefit all students has been outstanding. The positive culture is welcoming for any parent to come along and know their contributions will be valued. Great job! Thank you Leila and the executive team of the P&C – you have been amazing.

Report Cards
Have you kept in regular contact with your child’s teacher?
Email will certainly assist parents to touch base with teachers more regularly about student behaviour and progress. Students behave and perform better when they know parents and teachers are working together. Teacher work emails are published at the beginning of each term in the newsletter.

Has poor attendance affected your child’s progress?
Please take the time to consider the impact regular days away or lateness to school has on the future of your child. Absence affects confidence and increases anxiety, and this affects performance long term. Please ensure you make every effort to meet your legal obligations to have your children at school on time every day in 2017.

Has poor behaviour affected your child’s progress?
Parents often question the effectiveness of suspensions. Suspensions enable the learning of the other students in the class to continue. They have the right to access teaching and learning opportunities each day so if poor behaviour is affecting the learning of others, then suspension is effective. Missing a day of learning from school is a huge consequence and its effectiveness in the home environment is the responsibility of parents.

Finally, thank you to parents for your continued support. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Appointments to speak with me are made through Kim in the office.

Leanne McNamara
Principal

P&C Uniform News!
Uniforms—parents who placed orders for uniforms will be contacted in the week before school starts for 2017 to arrange a date and time for collection. The uniform shop will be open on Friday 20th January 9am to 3pm. Please remember CASH ONLY!!

RSPCA DONATIONS!
DATE CLAIMERS for TERM 4, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report cards sent home</td>
<td>Tuesday, 6th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Concert</td>
<td>Wednesday, 7th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Parade</td>
<td>Thursday, 8th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break Up Day</td>
<td>Thursday, 8th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean Up Day</td>
<td>Friday, 9th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>School office opens for 2017</td>
<td>Monday, 16th January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform shop open</td>
<td>Friday, 20th January</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017 School Year commences</td>
<td>Monday, 23rd January, 2017</td>
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</tbody>
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SUPER WESTIES - Confidence

PrepR  Daniel Spencer
PrepSC Lachlan Rogers, Lakeisha Habermann
1S Layla Eves, Xavier Denny
1C Miley Maidens, Lily Dale
2G Daniel Jancauskas
2SB Darnell Saunders, Dominic Duffy
3B Seth Burki, Tahlia Williams
6P Joshua Russell, Krysta Arkinstall

EXCEL PROGRAM—BUNDABERG HIGH

SPORTS AWARDS!

SUPER WESTIES - Resilience

JUNIOR & SENIOR CHOIR CHRISTMAS EXCURSION!

CHAPPY’S FRIENDSHIP AWARDS!