

Watch Us SOAR in 2024

edition 5 - Brookton District High School



Principals Address

We cannot underestimate the importance of family and caregiver involvement in our children's education. Research shows children from families where families are highly engaged with their education and school, have more positive educational outcomes. Being engaged in your child's education does not necessarily mean you have to volunteer twice a week at canteen or speak to your child's teacher daily. It starts by demonstrating a genuine interest in their school day, don't ask what did you do today instead ask "what is something new you learned today, what was the best thing you learned today, what was the most surprising thing you learned today, what were you good at today or even what was the most boring thing you learned today?". These sorts of questions will show you are interested and alert you to any concerns or worries about school they may have.

Speak positively about school and education, if you say you hate Maths chances are your child will say the same thing. Try "I worked hard at Maths and now I can work out if the correct change in my head, without a calculator. Maths is so useful to me now."

Finally, please read with your child. To me reading is not homework, reading is parenting. Reading is the cornerstone to a positive educational experience and is a vital skill for all subject areas, you need to be able to read to solve a Maths problem, do a Science test and pass a Drivers Licence. If your child is not a confident reader, read to them instead. Hearing their much-loved family members read sets a wonderful example, even better if you put on a funny voice for the characters or make reading part of an after school or bedtime ritual. When your child reads to you, praise them for their effort and improvement.

We are inviting families from the host class of each assembly back to their child's classroom for morning tea and for reading because number one - you, the families, are the most important people in their lives and number two, reading is the most essential educational skill. By combining family connection with reading, we hope we can work together to set your children off on a rewarding educational experience.

Focus On: –

Tracy Wood High School Teacher for Brookton since 2015 specialising in Science, Maths and Technology

Where did you earn your degree? I completed my science degree at UNSW in Sydney and my grad Dip Ed at Curtin university.

Where were you born? Windsor, NSW

How did life lead you to Brookton? I didn't know WA very well so I told the lady from the Department I would go anywhere if there weren't crocodiles. (I didn't want my dog to get eaten). I was ready for a big adventure and ended up only an hour and a half from Perth.

Have you always been passionate about hockey? I had never played hockey until I moved to Brookton. I grew up playing soccer and was disappointed when I found out it wasn't an option. Lucky for me I was dragged along to training by Jane Mills, and I have loved the sport since.

What's your favourite meal? I pretty much love all food, but I like it best if someone else cooks it.

What has inspired you to retrain through the leap program? I've always wanted to be able to offer our students more of the subjects they enjoy. When students create, they apply skills and understanding learnt in core curriculum areas and produce something tangible, functional, and sometimes even aesthetically pleasing.

What is your favourite teaching memory? This is harder than the food question! I love my job and have a lot of fond memories. One from ancient history is when a group of Year 9 and 10 lads used my equivalent fraction cards to create a game of poker. Also, the crowd reaction when the Minions burst onto the stage in their hand-crafted costumes at a presentation evening. And most recently, guiding a class of 9/10s to complete their electronics kits and have them work on the first attempt.

