Dear Parents/Guardians

NAPLAN:
There has recently been much debate and discussion of the NAPLAN program in the general media. The usefulness of NAPLAN is subject to a wide range of opinion.

The National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) was conducted 10-12 May and our Students in Year 7 and Year 9 were involved in testing. The results of those tests have recently been distributed to parents of those students who were involved.

From a school perspective, the collective outcomes of Year 7 and 9 students are pleasing. There was improvement across all domains (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy). Year 7 students have performed particularly well. Their achievement is higher than that of the National means in 4 out of 5 domains and higher than State means in all areas. Writing is an area where our students have performed very well, which is worthy of note considering the negative reporting in the media.

The NAPLAN results are consistent with the aggregated data from Semester 1 reporting, which revealed the highest attainment of A and B ratings for several years.

Drone Course:
I am pleased to confirm that Pittsworth is the first school in Australia to offer a Certificate II course for ‘Use of Drones in Agriculture’. The course will commence next week and is available for Year 10 and 11 students. Training will be conducted at school on Tuesday in partnership with Ag Training Pty Ltd, HB Training and Wellcamp Airport. There are limited places, still available. Students can register their interest by seeing Mrs Holmes.

Brick & Blocklaying Course:
Well done to students involved in the brick & block course which was conducted by the ABBTF (Australian Brick & Block Training Foundation) last week. Aside from the skills learnt and experience gained by students, those involved have constructed seating and garden beds around the school.

Year 10 SET Plan:
The Year 10 Career Conference was conducted on Friday 22 July. Students, along with Year 10 students from Millmerran, participated in a series of information sessions and workshops.

Year 11 subject offerings for 2017 have been distributed. I would invite parents to be a part of the Senior Education & Training Plan (SETP) along with students. It will commence 8 August continuing through to 19 August. Information has been sent home with Year 10 Students.

Enrolment Interviews:
Enrolment interviews for 2017 are set to start on 15 August, following the first Open Morning of the Year on 12 August. Appointments can be made on the School Online Booking System (SOBS) which can be accessed via the school webpage https://pittsworshs.eq.edu.au. Should you not be able to find a suitable time, or have other questions please contact the school to make alternate arrangements.

Year 12 Tertiary Entrance applications:
Students in Year 12 considering applying for a University position in 2017, should be familiarising themselves with the application process via QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre). QTAC booklets are now available.

Students should also be looking at what scholarships and bursaries are being offered via the school webpage https://pittsworshs.eq.edu.au. Should you not be able to find a suitable time, please contact the school to make alternate arrangements.

Cont’d page 2
Cup Cake Day
Many Junior students in particular, are excited about our upcoming Cup Cake Day Monday 15th August. Students are permitted to wear free dress on this day (theme is blue/animal) and homemade cupcakes will be for sale to support neglected animals in the Pittsworth region. Students, staff and parents are also invited to enter their cupcakes in a competition judged by Mr Kennedy. Great prizes are up for grabs. Over 500,000 unwanted animals are rehomed nationally on a yearly basis with many more being euthanised. The RSPCA Operation Wanted Campaign is currently underway with our local vet offering 20% off desexing. Pittsworth SHS is passionate about responsible pet ownership and strives to educate the community about an issue that could so easily be addressed.

Student Improvement Plans
Semester 1 reporting data indicates an encouraging improvement for our students which is excellent. Year 7, 8 and 9 students currently falling short of our school expectations will meet with their relevant Head of Year to establish a clear plan forward. This will be reviewed at the end of each reporting period. A large part of this process will focus on growth mindset.

Growth Mindset
Luke McKenna worked with many of our students in 2015 and continues to educate school communities about the value of growth mindset. A letter from his blog appears below.

A letter from a teacher who cares... October 18, 2015 - Luke McKenna
Dear Parents,
Your child does have natural talent, abilities and intelligence in some areas- but that’s not the end of the story. These things are not fixed traits. They may have a gift for story writing, art, maths or sport, but it needs to be grown.
They may not be good at science, history or working with others... YET! Whatever the case for your child- the reality is that natural talent, abilities and intelligence are developed over time. Through effort, persistence, practice and focussed attention.
The brain is a highly adaptive organ- it changes like a muscle through a process called neuroplasticity. From the cradle to the grave- our brains are always changing. The malleable brain is the most interesting, meaningful discovery of the last 15 years that has a huge impact on the education of your child. Help your kids, and help them to understand the growth mindset. Because smart is not something you are- it’s something you get. Fit is not something you are- it’s something you get. Good at sport is not something you are - it’s something you get. Jonathan Thurston had to learn to catch the football the same way everyone else does. Einstein learned how to start counting to 10, just like everyone else.
Every skill your child can perform has been acquired- through applying themselves to it. Reading, walking, talking, swimming, riding a bike. Stop telling your kids that they are smart, gifted, talented, bright, clever, or a “natural”. This might “pump up their tyres” and make them feel good for a moment- but it doesn’t help them keep growing their abilities. What happens when they get an answer wrong? Does that feel good for a moment? For the brain to function it needs to grow. And this will only happen through application. Good at something is not something you are- it’s something you get.

Help your kids, and help them to understand the growth mindset. A letter from his blog appears below.

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Every skill your child can perform has been acquired- through applying themselves to it. Reading, walking, talking, swimming, riding a bike. Stop telling your kids that they are smart, gifted, talented, bright, clever, or a “natural”. This might “pump up their tyres” and make them feel good for a moment- but it doesn’t help them keep growing their abilities. What happens when they get an answer wrong? Does that mean they’re dumb and lacking talent?
They can’t control how naturally gifted they are- so don’t praise them for it.
Instead, praise them for their efforts, persistence and the way they tackle challenges when they arise- they can control these things, and this will grow their abilities. Real learning only occurs when it is hard- when it stretches them. How do they respond to the struggle of learning? How hard do they work at growing their talent, abilities and intelligence? Let’s encourage the process of learning.
We should encourage the behaviour that we want to see the most. Value the process, more than the performance- then the performance will look after itself.
What parents understand and say makes a difference. Teach your kids the growth mindset, and help them thrive in learning and in life.
Sincerely,
Luke McKenna- a teacher who cares

Lou Mahon
Deputy Principal, Dean of Junior Secondary
Ueno Study Tour

July 2016
21 students, 2 teachers and 1 tour guide visited our school from 11 – 21 July. Our program for our visitors included many activities in school and also trips to Highfields Pioneer Village, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary and Holmes’ dairy farm. The group also integrated in various classrooms activities specially programed for them and some lessons with their buddies. Ueno students thoroughly enjoyed their time with us especially with their PSHS buddies.

PSHS was also very lucky and we are indebted to all the host families for taking students into their homes, however, I reckon it was an enriching experience for all concerned. Again I would like to thank all the host families and buddies for their support during the Ueno study tour.

Anna McGregor

Gold & Silver Awards

Term 3 Gold and Silver Awards Ceremony

This coming Monday 8 August will be our Term 3 Gold and Silver Awards Ceremony. Parents are warmly invited to the Open Air Theatre from 9:00am. New award recipients include:

Year 12 Silver
Jesse Embrey

Year 11 Gold
Scott Fitzgerald
Mitch Roberts

Year 11 Silver
Brendan Flynn
Kurtis Ruegg

Year 10 Gold
Lachlan Andrews
Jaidyn White

Year 10 Silver
Helena Keevers
Lachlan Thompson

Year 9 Silver
Tobias Hortopanu
Abbey Markey

Year 8 Gold
Meg Fowler
Rebecca Karlisch
Paige Lambie

Year 8 Silver
Cameron Cooper
Taylor Hohn
Sarah Kuhn
Montana Ridgway
Josh Somerset

Year 7 Gold
Akayla Brown
Hayden Cann
Emily Cavanagh
Beccy Cory
Shannon Cusen
Francesca Dichosa
Amity Gentle-Briese
Conor Hallmond
Beau Horn

Year 7 Silver
Zac Kahler
Maxine Lovell
Alexavier McEwan
Holly Pearce
Liam Peck
Lucy Rohde
Eliza Schulz
Madsyn Seage
Mikealene Vonhoff
Haylee Ziesemer

QParents

QParents is coming
Great news: Pittsworth High School is proud to be one the first schools in Queensland to offer QParents.

The QParents web and mobile application provides a more convenient, easier way for parents and legal guardians of Queensland state school students to interact with their child’s school. Parents will have secure, online access to their child’s student information, anytime, anywhere, through a smartphone, tablet or computer.

QParents allows parents to connect instantly with their child’s school to access and manage their child’s student information, including:
• Attendance and absence details, as well as the ability to notify the school of an absence
• Academic report cards
• Class timetables
• Viewing unpaid invoice details, payment history, and making payments online
• Viewing and updating personal student details, including medical conditions and address
• Enrolment details

QParents will assist both staff and parents in sharing and responding to information in an efficient and effective way.

We will be sending out invitations for parents to register for QParents on 12 August.

QParents won’t replace the traditional ways you communicate with our school, but it will provide another way to communicate with us.

More information about QParents can be found at https://qparents.qld.edu.au/#/about

Amnesty

The 40 hour famine is just around the corner with some ten students having shown interest in this fundraiser. It would be great to have some further involvement from our school community. If you are interested in donating you can do so on the Famine profile page and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Our team name is Pittsworth SHS Amnesty and soon students will have their profile linked to this team. Every little bit helps; $10 could help train two mothers how to improve child health and nutrition.

Mrs French
Amnesty teacher

Many thanks

A huge thanks to the following for their help with running the canteen during the two recent sports days: Dierdre Degnian, Janelle Weir, Cathy Cronin, Janene Berghofer, Mary-Lou Holuin and Jeanna Lee along with Jillian Pukallus (who volunteered for both sports days). Without these wonderful volunteers this huge undertaking would not have been possible.

Thanks also to the students who assisted in setting up, Jordan Mylonas for manning the BBQ and the students and staff who supported the canteen over the two days.

The P and C also provided a lunch for the Year 10 students who attended Careers Day on 22nd July. Thanks to Maree Holmes and Janene Berghofer for supplying some lovely sweet treats and once again to Mary-Lou for volunteering her services for yet another full day.

The canteen is still in desperate need of volunteers to help out throughout each week. If you can spare three hours once a term, or every six weeks please contact Kaye on 4619 8125.
Orienteering

Two Pittsworth High students recently attended the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships which were held at Kingaroy. Both Maxine Lovell and Benjamin Cavanagh were selected to represent the Darling Downs at this year’s event, enjoying success in their respective categories. Benjamin competed well in the Junior Boys Standard Individual Event placing third overall. Maxine Lovell also enjoyed success, coming away from the competition with a complete set of medals. She won gold in the 13 Years Girls relay, silver in the 13 Years Sprint, and bronze in the 13 Years Individual event.

Congratulations to Ben and Maxine on their excellent representation both of the region and Pittsworth State High School.

THE LATEST FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

New Books

I discovered last week that we were missing one of the books in the Brotherband series and, as I love these novels and had just purchased the 6th in the series, I felt it was a priority to address this issue. We bought this novel, a student had requested another in a series and, so as to make the postage cost worth our while, I looked at the Top Ten booklist of the moment and also bought the two Jojo Moyes novels, ‘The Dry’ and ‘All the Light We Cannot See’ by Anthony Doerr. The last novel won a Pulitzer Prize in 2015. I urge students to borrow these books before the teachers monopolise them.

Subject Selection Night

It was terrific to see so many staff, parents and students making use of our resources at the Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection evening. Our teachers are very competitive when it comes to showcasing their subjects and there is always strong demand for the perceived ‘best spots’ in the Resource Centre – the Home Economics staff are ‘quick off the mark’.

The Olympics

Like everyone else, we are on the countdown to the Rio Olympic Games. We have a display of our resources on the games and will be running a competition each day culminating in the presentation of our own gold medal – a $20 tuckshop voucher. Depending on the television broadcast times, we will also be showing the Olympics at first break in the library.

Pageturners

Our mission this month is to read a book with some sort of French or Turkish angle. I am reading ‘The Tournament’ by Matthew Reilly and it really is a page turner. I had my doubts having read a couple of Reilly novels and although this is not literary masterpiece, the bringing together in Turkey of medieval chess champions from all over the known world, is intriguing. The main character is ‘Bess’, the future Queen Elizabeth I, who is gaining an education on the continent and caught up in the investigation of murder most foul.

Year 12 assessment

This term is the most demanding for our Seniors and we would like to assist your student with any resources that they may need in order to complete their assessments. We have a comprehensive list of resources that can enhance the completion of any task.

Readers’ Cup

A key aspect of the Readers’ Cup final is the completion of a trailer to promote one of the books read. Similar to a movie trailer, the creation of this piece is worth ten points. The team viewed several of the trailers from previous years on Youtube and last weekend the goal was to play around with the techniques required on the technology and decide on the book to promote. We have 5 weeks to read 5 books and complete the trailer.

Favourite Books

The Democratic and Republican nominations have been given so I thought it timely to reflect on the favourite books of both candidates. Hillary Clinton said in one newspaper that her favourite book is Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s ‘The Brothers Karamazov’— a 19th-century Russian philosophical novel that hits on big questions of morality, faith, and free will (we have it in the library on display) and Donald Trump’s favourite is the Bible.

P & C Meeting

The next P & C Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th August commencing at 6:00pm in the Administration Building.
Understanding Our Youth

Since commencing this role in 2015, I have certainly learned a lot! What has been reinforced the most is that our young people are living in a totally different world to the world I grew up in. Facebook, mobile phones, texting, sexting, parties, drinking and the list goes on...At the risk of revealing my age, I remember my only after school communication with friends being either face to face at the local swimming pool, or on the telephone, which was NOT cordless, and was conveniently located smack bang in the middle of the kitchen so that the entire family was privy to every single word! Needless to say my conversations were generally fairly short. Sound familiar? This has led me to think about what life is really like for young people today? What do they value? What are their biggest issues? How do our young people feel about the future? I have been looking for a snap shot into the collective mind of a generation. Thankfully, in Australia, we have the chance to have a have a pretty good look.

Mission Australia’s Youth Survey is the nation’s largest online annual ‘temperature check’ of teenagers aged between 15 and 19. Run every year since 2002, this highly influential survey gives young people the chance to have their say. A total of 18,994 young people across Australia aged 15-19 years responded to the survey. Below is a snapshot of the key findings from the 14th annual 2015 survey.

What do young people value?

Consistent with previous years, friendships and family relationships were ranked as the two most highly valued items, followed by school or study satisfaction, physical and mental health.

• Friendships were highly valued by 75.8% of respondents, and family relationships were highly valued by 72.7% of respondents.
• Just over two thirds of respondents highly valued school or study satisfaction and six in ten highly valued physical and mental health.
• Around 4 in 10 respondents placed a high value on financial security and getting a job was also considered extremely important.

Issues of Personal Concern

The top four issues for young people were:
1. Coping with stress – 38.4%
2. School or study problems – 33.6%
3. Body image – 16.2% very concerned, 10.3% extremely concerned
4. Around one in five respondents were extremely concerned about depression and family conflict.

How do young people feel about the future?

Overall, one in ten young people felt very negative or negative about the future however just under 2/3rds of respondents felt either positive (46.8%) or very positive (15%) about the future. Thank goodness for this!

One last interesting fact, that I am sure will not shock you…

Where do young people go for help with important issues?

Young people were asked to indicate from a number of sources where they would go for help with important issues in their lives. The top three sources of help for young people were friend/s, parent/s and relatives/family friends.

• Friend/s, parent/s and relatives/family friends were the three most commonly cited sources of help for young people.
• Over half of respondents indicated that they would go to the internet for help with important issues in their lives.
• Around one third of respondents indicated that they would go to their teacher or school counsellor for help with important issues. I think this reiterates the importance of schools working alongside parents/families to help our young people reach their full potential.

I have listed the link below if you would like to further investigate…


Take care and bye for now

Kerri

From the YSC

What is depression?

The word ‘depression’ gets thrown around a lot, but there’s actually a lot more to it than many people realise...

People often use the word “depression” when they’re talking about moments or periods of time where they feel sad or down. When life gets full on and deals you things like stress, disappointments or grief, it’s really common and normal to feel down about it. However, if you continue to feel lower than usual for a really long time, or if you’re not really sure why you’re feeling that way in the first place, there might be something more serious going on.

The official use of the word depression, is used if these feelings persist for longer than two weeks and start to get in the way of your everyday life. Keep in mind that depression is a condition that can only be diagnosed by a health professional.

Depression ranges from mild to severe, and whilst everyone who suffers from depression will experience it differently, there are some common signs and symptoms.

Signs and symptoms

If you have depression, some of the possible effects on your mental health could be that you:

• Experience a lower than average mood for longer than two weeks
• Lose interest in activities that you used to really love
• Don’t get as much pleasure out of things
• Can’t concentrate
• Have a negative image of yourself
• Feel like you don’t have any energy
• Have feelings of worthlessness or guilt
• Have thoughts of self-harm or suicide or thoughts of death
• Have feelings of hopelessness and helplessness
• Have trouble with your memory

Many people don’t realise that depression doesn’t just affect someone’s mind and mood – it also affects their body. Some of the physical signs of depression may be that you:

• Sleep or feel sleepy all the time, or you can’t fall asleep and wake up at normal hours
• Eat much more or much less than you usually would and experience weight loss or gain as a result
• Get headaches
• Have a sore or uncomfortable stomach

What to do about it

If you think you’re experiencing symptoms of depression, it’s worth visiting your GP or a mental health professional to get a check-up. The good news is, if you are diagnosed with depression, it’s able to be treated.

• Visit your Doctor/GP or a mental health professional
• Headspace Toowoomba – a FREE mental health service for young people. Based at 1 Snell St, Toowoomba. Ph: 4639 9000
• Child & Youth Mental Health Service (Toowoomba Hospital) for Pittsworth & Millmerran Area Ph 4616 6843 (during business hours)

In an emergency contact your General Practitioner/Doctor or closest hospital Emergency Department.

Fiona Flegler
Youth Health Nurse

Tuckshop Roster

| 8 | Kristy Bradford |
| 9 | Dianne Steffens |
| 10 | Cathy Cronin |
| 11 | Christine Williams |
| 12 | Help Required |
| 15 | Help Required |
| 16 | Help Required |
| 17 | Sue McKenna |
| 18 | Help Required |
| 19 | Help Required |
| 22 | Help Required |
| 23 | Help Required |
| 24 | Jacki Cunningham |
| 25 | Help Required |
| 26 | Help Required |
| 29 | Janelle Weir |
| 30 | Dianne Steffens |
| 31 | Help Required |
Excellence in Art

At the end of term 2 2016, a number of Pittsworth State High school grade 7 to 12 students participated in the Toowoomba Art Society Competition achieving some outstanding results.

The Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery opened their new building on April 2009. They organised weekend workshops and Friday lectures and exhibitions. The Toowoomba Art Society was established in 1925 by a small group of women in the studio. In the 1930s the city art gallery opened in 1938 in the City Hall, Ruthven Street.

Pittsworth State High school entered prints, paintings and drawings into the 2016 Toowoomba Art Society Competition. Children from year 7 to 12 participated in the competition.

The Toowoomba Art Society received approximately 700 entries but they could only display about 100 works.

Incredibly from the 700+ applicants, 3 students from Pittsworth State High School had work chosen for the exhibition. These were Year 12 student, Breanna Stower, Year 10 student, Yvonne Awayan and Year 11 student, Marcus Allen.

A member of the teaching staff at Pittsworth State High school stated “how fantastic it is to see our students reaching such great achievement”.

The image presented above shows the gallery where the chosen students’ prints, paintings and drawings were displayed.

Please congratulate all of the students who participated in the Toowoomba Art Society art competition, specifically the three students whose works were chosen to be displayed in the gallery. The exhibition ran until 24 July.

Athletics Carnival

It took a while to get to it, but our 2016 Athletics Carnival was fantastic. Beautiful weather allowed our talented athletes to show off exactly what they could do. Some records were broken on the day, and all who participated had a great time.

The overall winning house was Condamine, and the House Captains expressed their gratitude to the other houses for their efforts and congratulated their own house on a winning attitude and performance.

The following records were broken:
- Open boys Shot Put: Lachlan Degnian
- 14 boys Long Jump: David Woodbridge
- 12 boys Shot Put: Hayden Cann
- 12 boys Discus: Campbell Macdonald
- 12 boys 100m: Mac Flegler
- 12 boys Long Jump: Reece Crighton
- 13 girls 100m: Monique Porter
- 12 girls 100m: Eliza Schulz
- 12 girls Shot Put: Stephanie Quinn
- 12 girls Discus: Emily Caesar

Students who qualified after the PSHS carnival attended the Inner Downs trials later that week. Those who qualified further are now going on to represent Inner Downs at the Darling Downs trials.

Good luck to all competitors.
Young Endeavour

STS Young Endeavour - 2016 Australian Circumnavigation
Youth Crew Applications Now Open

Final applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Young Endeavour Youth Development Program.

All young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for voyages by heading to www.youngendeavour.gov.au. Youth Crew are selected by ballot, and no sailing experience is required.

The 2016 circumnavigation is a fantastic opportunity for youth from Indigenous, regional and remote communities to participate in the youth development program in north Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia - sailing Young Endeavour to Cairns, Gove, Darwin, Broome, Exmouth or Fremantle.

At every port, Young Endeavour will change-out the 24 strong youth crew, with the aim to include six Indigenous Australians in each crew.


The youth who join each eleven or thirteen day voyage will learn the skills to sail a square-rigged tall ship. They will keep watch and take the helm, cook in the galley, navigate using the ship's charts, and climb the 30 metre mast to set and furl the sails.

Each participant will also be encouraged to pursue personal and team goals and challenges. By the end of each voyage they will have the skills and confidence to elect a leadership team and take command of the 44 metre brigantine, sailing Young Endeavour along the Australian coast.

Marsha Riley, of the Western Aranda and Warlpiri tribes near Alice Springs, sailed Young Endeavour from Cairns to Darwin during the 2009 circumnavigation of Australia, and said it was a truly unique experience for her.

“The personal experience that I had aboard Young Endeavour developed my inner strength, both mentally and physically. I made friends with different people from different age groups and, in doing so, I discovered the strength of my interpersonal skills - that I have no trouble meeting new people in an unfamiliar environment.

“The voyage also taught me the importance of having positive role models. I now try to be someone that other students look up to, showing leadership and encouraging teamwork. I also support people to take every opportunity that comes, just as I did”.

Young Endeavour is operated by a professional Royal Australian Navy crew who ensure the highest standards of safety and care, and teach the youth crew everything they need to know to sail the ship.

Since 1988 the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, has provided challenging training voyages for more than 12,000 young Australians in the tall ship Young Endeavour.

In 2016 Young Endeavour will sail to Cairns, Gove, Darwin, Broome, Exmouth, Fremantle, Esperance and Adelaide, before returning to the east coast in 2017.

(Mobile) Women’s Health Nurse
Kathryn Anning
Thursday 29 September 9:00am - 3:00pm
Will be at Allied Health Room
Beauaraba Living, Pittsworth Hospital
This is a FREE service
For information and bookings please phone
Beauaraba Living (07) 46198422

Astronomy Night

Science Week 2016

When: Wednesday 10th August with Sausage Sizzle from 5:30pm and Telescopic star gazing after sun down
Where: Oval in front of administration
Bring: Binoculars and picnic rugs
Entry Cost: $5/P5HS student
RSVP: Monday 8th August to Science Staff
(See Science Teachers from RSVP Form)
Limited to the first 50 students to return their name and money. Weather permitting

PITTSWORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL
Year 7, 2017
Open Day

9:00am, Auditorium
Welcome

9:30am
Scavenger Hunt/Ice Breaker
Team Building
Transition Shirt Design

11:45pm
BBQ lunch
Pittsworth SS returns to school

12:30pm
Small Schools Challenge

2:45pm
Presentations and close

9:30am - 10:30am, Admin Block
Parent Meet and Greet

Shaping futures

12th August 2016
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Sat 8:30am to 12 noon

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Sat 8:30am to 12 noon

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