FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Last Wednesday I attended an Early Learning meeting. At this meeting the importance of Oral Language was emphasised with young children. Oral Language is the way we exchange messages when we are speaking and listening. It is the foundation for literacy development with reading, writing and spelling. Some ways we can help children grow their language skills is having an actual conversation with them. (consistent with the age level) Ask them about their day and get them to give more than 1 word answers. We can increase children’s vocabularies by having language rich interactions with adults (questioning, clarifying and extending); and reading frequently to children.

We attended the Arts Council on Friday and this, plus the activities following the performance, were very enjoyable and all had a very good time. Thanks to Kogan for hosting this!

There are some photos below of the arts council.

It was great to see the improvement in some swimmers in our lessons on Monday afternoons. For them to improve, though, all students need goggles. This is beneficial as pools are chlorinated and this tends to cause sore eyes.

Thanks!

Regards

Judy Angel

ATTENDANCE

A reminder to all parents and caregivers that it is your responsibility under Queensland Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 to have your child/ren at school every day. If they are not, a reasonable excuse needs to be provided. This does not include birthdays, shopping trips, holidays during term time, staying an extra day for a weekend trip away, etc. If your child is away, it is also a parent responsibility to inform the school of the absence, the reason for the absence and the expected time for a return to school.

On the other hand, it is our responsibility to ensure that students have their allocation of learning time, by starting at 9.00am every day. As well, it is your obligation as a parent to ensure your children are at school to start the day by this time. Late and early departures affect your child’s learning.

School at Warra starts at 9.00am but unofficially, Mrs Hauff and myself do a variety of activities such as sight words, homework or fitness activities.

Due to issues with supervision before 8.30 am, I would ask parents to arrange beforehand with me if they need to drop their children off earlier than 8.30am.

School finishes at 3.00pm and parents need to be prompt in collecting children. We do not provide after-hours care and sometimes have to leave very soon after 3.00pm to attend meetings.

P&C AGM

There will be a P&C AGM on Tuesday, 23rd March at 3.30 pm. All are welcome. There will be a general meeting to follow.

SWIMMING

Please ensure that your child/ren have all the equipment needed for their lessons (goggles, swim cap, swim shirt, togs, towel, sunscreen) Students are unable to progress with their swimming if they do not have the correct equipment. Swimming is on a Monday
afternoon, and if your child is not attending swimming, then they will need to be picked up or be supervised at the pool.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**
The following students were nominated by their peers for awards.
Student of the Week has been awarded to Cody Poulsen
Our school rule awards are:
Respect - Ashley Poulsen
Being Safe - Michael Wright

Congratulations to Cody, Ashley and Michael on receiving their awards.

**SCHOOL BANKING**
School banking is again on Tuesdays this year. Please ensure the bank books are at the school on these days.

**PIE DRIVE**
Pie drive forms and money need to be returned to the school by the dates shown. (16 March)

**BOOK CLUB**
Book club orders are due on the 11th of March. Please either write a cheque to Scholastic or fill in the credit card details, do not send cash.

**VISION/HEARING SCREEN**
I have included with the newsletter an envelope regarding students vision/hearing screening, for the younger grades. Please ensure you return this envelope to the school before the screening.

**PARENTING IDEAS**
The latest Parenting Ideas article is below:

**Social skills for children**
By Michael Grose

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. **Ask for what you want**
Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. **Good manners**
Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. **Sharing**
Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. **Holding a conversation**
Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

5. **Winning and losing well**
Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

6. **Approaching and joining a group**
The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. **Handling fights and disagreements**
Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

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DALBY MOTOCROSS CLUB

On Sunday, 6th March, 2016 we are having a membership practice day at the Dalby Motocross Club.

- Gates open at 7:30am and the riding will begin at 8am until 3-4pm
- The Track will be fully prepared and watered.
- We will split skill levels accordingly so that riders may have a little more comfort and confidence to ride the track
- There is two tracks at the club. There is a learner’s track that may be used at any time and a larger track that is used in intervals to rotate the different skill levels.

Memberships are as follows:

- Seniors $60
- Juniors $50
- Family $80

On the day, it will be $20 to ride for everyone who signs up for that day and they will also receive a free club polo shirt with the membership, or for an extra $10 a club hoodie. This is only for each individual that pays to ride. Individuals that do not wish to sign up for a membership are still welcome to ride for that day.

We will have a fully stocked canteen with drinks, hot chips, pies, burgers, etc. available on the day.

It will be a great day to get on the bikes with family and friends. Hope to see you all there.