Principals Message

After a very unusual start to the term last week, the students and teachers are very quickly getting back into routine at school. If you are visiting our site in the coming days, you’ll notice a couple of roped off areas which are out of bounds. These areas contain trees that have had branches come loose in the storms but which are still lodged within the tree at a height that we cannot safely get to. Our maintenance people are working flat out to address these issues as fast as possible, but in the interim please ensure that any little ones that are with you on-site are kept away from these areas for their own safety.

Today our senior choir are performing at Choralfest at the Lake Macquarie Performing Arts Centre. They have been practising hard and are really looking forward to this event - we wish them the very best as they do us proud. If they sound as good as they did at our school ANZAC service they will do well. Also this week, the postponed Zone Cross Country will take place (weather permitting) on Thursday. Good luck to all of the representatives in our team.

Today you will receive an envelope containing the permission notes and a statement of account outlining all of the activities and events planned for this term. There is a cover letter within the pack from me which I’d encourage you to read when you have a minute. We have a few more activities planned this term that incur a cost than I would have liked. This is as a result of the limited dates available later on for some activities and the unusual occurrence that each stage are planning an excursion to support classroom learning in Term 2. I believe that all of the activities planned are of a high quality and will be extremely beneficial to the students. As always, we respect your right as parents to choose for your child not to participate in any given activity. Please note that each permission note now has a tick box option for your child not to participate; if this is your choice, please mark the note as appropriate and return it to the office as you would if they were attending.

Hopefully, a better week for everyone.
David Holland
Principal

Mum’s Morning Tea

On Friday the 8th May our school will be hosting a special Mum’s Morning Tea to celebrate our wonderful mum’s. The invitation is extended to mums, grandmas and step mums. The morning will begin with some activities that you can participate in with your child in the classrooms followed by some light entertainment and morning tea in our school hall. We will also be using the event as an opportunity to raise funds for the Cancer Council by making it an ‘Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea’ event. Mums are invited to make a gold coin donation to assist this very worthwhile cause. Invitations will be sent home today, please RSVP by Tuesday 5th May.
NAPLAN 2015

The NAPLAN testing period is approaching. Below is a timetable informing you of days and dates that each test will be delivered. Your child will bring home a note today, if they are in Year 3 or 5 with more information. NAPLAN tests the skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. NAPLAN tests provide very valuable information, but there are no consequences for individual students for poor or good performance. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are already learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure that students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. Excessive preparation is not useful and can lead to unnecessary anxiety. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you are encouraged to make a time to speak with their teacher.

NAPLAN tests are constructed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate skills they have learned over time through the school curriculum, and NAPLAN test days should be treated as just another routine event on the school calendar. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12th May</td>
<td>Language Conventions (spelling, grammar &amp; punctuation) Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th May</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Yr 3: 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 5: 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 14th May</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>Yr 3: 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yr 5: 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th May</td>
<td>Test make up day to allow for student absences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information about NAPLAN: • visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au • contact your child’s teacher
Student absences due to storms
As you would be aware, our school was open and all classes 'operational' on both Thursday and Friday of last week. As such, student attendance records must still be maintained for those days. If your child was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances related to the storm, please write the class teacher a brief note explaining your child's absence (or alternatively use the Skoolbag app). Legitimate absences related to the storm will be recorded by the class teacher as 'leave' on the roll due to unforeseen circumstances. In line with the Department's policy all absences require an explanation from parents. If your child was unable to attend due to illness on Thursday or Friday - a normal sick notification is all that is required. Please note that because the school was closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, absence notifications are not required for these days.

Uniform
The School Council is currently in the process of finalising the School’s uniform guidelines to accommodate the recent change of uniform. Although the final draft has not been released yet, it may be helpful for you to know the following points from that draft, particularly with Winter approaching:

- A plain, navy - skivvy, spencer or long sleeve shirt may be worn underneath the school polo shirt for additional warmth
- For girls - navy stockings underneath skorts or shorts are permissible
- Girls are not permitted to wear navy leggings in place of pants (bootleg pants are OK)
- Girls hair accessories must be navy in colour

It is hoped that the finalised uniform guidelines can be released early next term to help guide families with understanding our updated uniform requirements. Please remember that all families have until the end of Term 1 2016 to have transitioned over to the new summer and winter uniforms. With the new sports house shirts having only just arrived, families will have an additional year (until Term 1, 2017) to have transitioned over to those.

Ukulele - Term 2
Getting a good music education is great for kids' literacy, be it English, Maths or Music. Give them a head start with Ukulele at Cardiff South in Term 2.

New students are welcome for Wednesday mornings before school.

Re-enrolling students are also welcome for the Wednesday after school class, or for students who wish to take it up again in Term 2.

Or contact Mark Jackson on 0430434291, email him on mark@ukestra.com or go to their website at www.thesumoftheparts.com.au.
PSSA Soccer and Netball training
Training for soccer and netball will take place during lunch as indicated below, weather permitting.

**Soccer** – Every Wednesday during lunch – boots and shin pads are not needed.

**Netball** – Every Tuesday during lunch; girls to bring their joggers in their school bag

Year 5 Opportunity Class Placements - 2016
Parents interested in seeking an opportunity class placement for their child in Year 5 2016 are required to submit an online application now by the 15th May 2015. Generally, students are currently in Year 4 when applying for Year 5 entry in 2016. All applications must be made online now by going to [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement). Information packages are also available from the school office. If you would like further advice about the opportunity class placement process, please make an appointment to speak with Mr Holland. **Please note:** these opportunity classes are established externally in other school settings.

P&C Easter Raffle
On the last day of Term 1, members of the P&C Fundraising Committee drew the winners of the Easter Raffle. Congratulations to the following people:

- Lani Buckton
- Isabella Rose
- Cooper Frith
- Michael Copas
- Scott Hanlon
- Lanna New
- Keanu Hall
- Tracey Freinberger
- Mackenzie Agland
- Jaydan Thompson
- Alex Butler
- Fran Storey
- Riley Collins

Uncollected Raffle Prize
Despite our efforts on the day, we were unsuccessful in our attempts to locate Jaydan Thompson who was a winner of an Easter prize. If you sold a ticket to Jaydan Thompson, would you please have him contact the school office to collect his prize.

Entertainment Books
The Entertainment books have arrived at the school office. This is a great gift idea for Mothers Day, so why not pop in and grab one for you and your mum; just $60 available in book form or the app. Order forms are available through our Skoolbag app.
2016 Enrolments
Parents, please be advised that we are now taking enrolment applications for both Kindergarten and Preschool for the 2016 school year. The information outlined below is included to assist you with understanding our processes:

Preschool Our preschool is a one-year only program, designed for children who will be commencing Kindergarten the following year.
1. Collect an ‘Expression of Interest’ form and Enrolment Policy from the school office
2. If applicable, collect a yellow ‘Non-Local Application’ form with your EOI (office staff will advise if this is needed)
3. Complete all sections of forms before returning to the school admin office no later than Friday June 12
4. On return of your form an appointment will be made for a pre-enrolment interview with Mr Holland and/or Miss Brook
5. The Preschool placement panel will meet to consider all applications. First round offers for placement will be made by Week 8 of Term 3. Successful applicants will then need to complete an ‘NSW DEC Application to Enrol’ form
6. Enrolment complete by the end of Term 3 pending completion of ‘NSW DEC Application to Enrol’ form and all relevant documentation tendered
7. Second round offers made in Term 4 depending upon demand for places

Kindergarten
1. Collect a ‘NSW DEC Application to Enrol’ form and Enrolment Policy from the school office
2. If applicable, collect a yellow ‘Non-Local Application’ form with your enrolment form (office staff will advise if this is needed)
3. Complete all sections of forms before returning to the school admin office no later than Friday June 12
4. An appointment will then be made for a pre-enrolment interview with Mr Holland
5. In-zone applications confirmed by Week 7 Term 3
6. The placement panel will meet to consider non-local applications. First round offers for non-local placement will be made by Week 8 of Term 3.
7. Positions accepted and enrolment complete by the end of Term 3 pending completion of ‘NSW DEC Application to Enrol’ form and all relevant documentation tendered
8. Second round offers for non-local enrolment made in Term 4 depending upon demand for places
One Hundred Years Ago

By

Josh Lowery – 6J

One hundred years ago,
The ANZAC fought the foe
In darkness, they lurked
As they fought the Turks
One hundred years ago

In Gallipoli they fought
But in Egypt they were taught
Landing on the wrong beach
Was the only scenario they didn’t teach
One hundred years ago

Landed at dawn
On the Turks front lawn
Bombs raining from the sky
Like birds, they would fly
One hundred years ago

Landed on April 25
But only very few survived
Taking cover in the trenches
And repairing guns with wrenches
One hundred years ago

They experienced all the grief
And in their honour, we lay wreaths
Men wear medals on their chests
And for their service, lest we forget
One hundred years ago
24th April 4:15am

To my dearest Mary,

War. I am scared. Today we are meant to land at Gallipoli. Being on this ship is horrible. It is all bumpy and wavy. Today as usual we got woken up at 1am to have our hot meal and a nice hot drink. I miss you. Every night I am sitting wondering how long till we get there, how long till we meet the enemy? I wonder if they are on the land waiting for us to arrive and then BOOM! War will start.

Being on this ship is different than what I thought it would be. I thought this would be an adventure but it is a nightmare. I am scared that I will die before I get to the land. I heard the older men saying that the enemy is strong, fierce and ready to fight. Every night I hear the men talking about how they are going to kill as many enemies as they see but I feel sick just thinking about killing those people that have not done anything to me. Still, I have to do what is right for the country, which is to kill. Apparently we are called the Anzacs because we are going to fight this war with New Zealand troops. There are not many people on this boat. We just moved from an even larger ship called the London. Many people have already died at sea from many things but luckily not me. But enough about me, how about you, how are my parents? I miss you and all the things we did together especially having picnics by the shore. Oh how I miss you! I’m scared that the enemy are just watching waiting for us to arrive and then they will ATTACK! I wonder whether the enemy are large or just a small group. We seem fairly large but not as big as I thought it would be. Some boys seem older than me but some seem younger, I know I am only seventeen but they seem about thirteen. I hope that they don’t get killed, those boys don’t deserve it.

I am getting very scared because we seem to be getting closer to some unknown thing that was in the water I wonder if it was a group of the enemy surging though the water ready to fight, or maybe just a load of rocks.

I’m sorry but I have to go. I am always thinking and dreaming about you. As soon as I get another chance I promise I will write to you. I love you my beautiful, sweetheart.
All of my love, John.

By Grace Luck – 5E
It's that time of the year where we recognise all those wonderful people who play the role of mother to our school's students. Once again we shall be running our famous Mother's Day Stall with all sorts of gifts for Mum. This event has always been a favourite with the kids and in the past people have been most generous with their donations of gifts and time - and now it's time for Mother's Day 2015!

If you wish to donate gifts for the stall we ask that you wrap them nicely in clear cellophane and leave them at the office. Also, we're really keen for helpers on the day of the stall between 9:00 and 11:00am as without them, the day won't happen. Please call/text Kevin Sinclair on 0405724906 if you're able to help on the day:

Let's work together to make this a great day for the kids and to help make Mother's Day a great one for all those wonderful mums!

Your P&C
Be careful what you wish for as a parent

The focus on success and achievement doesn’t have to come at the expense of our children’s empathy and wellbeing.

What would you wish for? A caring child or a successful child?

If pressed to choose, which would you prefer?

If you were like the parents of kids in a recent study you’d go for successful rather than caring.

In a fascinating Harvard study referred to in a recent Age article, 10,000 kids were asked whether achievement and success, rather than caring for others, were their parents’ main priorities. The kids overwhelmingly said their parents opted for success rather than caring.

I suspect Australian kids would come up with a similar response if asked. In my work with parents and schools over nearly 40 years I’ve never seen the educational and parenting landscape so competitive as it is today. The standard belief of ‘Everyone can get ahead and be successful’ has been replaced by ‘my child needs to get ahead and be successful.’

Parents rightfully will go to great lengths to make sure their kids don’t get left behind, but now academic success increasingly means achieving at any cost. Even at the expense of a child’s well-being, and in extreme cases, at the expense of other children’s success.

A sign of the times

This is very different from even a generation ago when caring and respect for others were drummed into kids. “Do the right thing by others”; “Respect your elders”; “Take good care of each other” were common mantras that many of today’s parents grew up hearing.

Now that these kids have become parents themselves they use achievement mantras rather than the empathetic statements they were raised on. “Always do your best”; “Think confident thoughts”; “Set your goals and work hard to achieve them” are typical of the comments that kids hear in today’s more competitive environment.

We can have both

This is a controversial view based on the assumption that you can have either successful kids or caring kids. I believe you can have both. Parents and teachers can encourage kids to achieve, but also emphasise the importance of looking out for your mates, and taking care of others. Individual success doesn’t have to come at the expense of well-being and the success of others. It does mean that we need to put caring for others firmly on our parenting agendas.

Develop a language for caring

Parents invariably develop a deep language around the things they value. If caring is important then you need to develop language for caring (look after your brother; do the right thing; do unto others) just as you have probably developed a language around success (persist, work hard, do your best).

The price of success at all costs

Washington Post parenting writer Ashley Tresler argues that putting happiness and success before caring and empathy is raising a generation of bullies. She claims that parents unknowingly encourage bullying through their focus on success at all costs, as kids are being encouraged to pursue power at the expense of empathetic behaviour.
Parenting Ideas

... Be careful what you wish for as a parent ...

2 Model caring behaviours
Parents need to model caring, relational behaviours if they want children to develop these behaviours. Positive displays of intimacy such as a kiss and a hug for every family member as they walk out the door each day is a great way to teach healthy caring behaviours. It's the small acts of kindness and caring that happen on a consistent basis that has the most lasting impact on kids.

3 Focus on co-operation rather than competition
It's easy to develop competition between kids. As a parent all you need to do is praise one child and criticise another and you've established the conditions for competition. It's far harder to develop cooperative behaviours, but it's worth the effort. Encourage kids to help each other; ask them to do jobs in pairs so they learn to work together; and teach older children to give way to younger children rather than always have their own way. Caring kids learn that not everything goes their way and that they need to compromise and give way to others in the name of being social and getting on.

4 Encourage nurturing behaviours
In the past families were larger than today and they had a natural advantage in developing caring and empathy. Elder kids would invariably have to look out for, or look after younger siblings, often at the expense of their own interests. In an era of small families kids have fewer natural opportunities to look after each other. However parents can develop nurturance by encouraging children to look out for younger friends and relatives; to care for pets and also to be respectful of older relatives and friends.

3 Pay attention to children's emotions
Now more than ever it's important for parents to be attentive to children's emotional lives, and also to develop an awareness of their own feelings and the feelings of others. Empathetic kids rarely use power and bullying to get their own way. Empathy always starts with an awareness of a child's own emotional state.

As parents we want our kids to grow up to be successful and achieve their full potential. It's the default position for most parents. But that doesn't have to come at the expense of caring for others. In these times of small families and a more competitive landscape parents need to work harder than ever to develop nurturance, caring and respect for others in kids.

Michael Grose

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's NEW ParentingIdeas Club today at parentingideascanada.com. You'll be so glad you did.