Principals Message
Welcome to Week 8. There are a few things to look forward to this week – Firstly, I’d like to wish the students and teachers involved in StarStruck all the very best as they put the finishing touches on rehearsals and commence performances. There have been lots of practices at school and work going on behind the scenes in order to be thoroughly prepared for this weekend. It should be one of those memorable activities for those involved. Also tomorrow morning, we will be hosting our next breakfast for our Aboriginal families. This is an opportunity for us to get ideas and suggestions from Aboriginal families about what we are doing well and how we can better meet the needs of both our Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal students. The breakfast starts at 7:30am in the library, I look forward to seeing you then.

Recently, the teachers have noticed an increase in the number of students attempting to share food with their friends during breaks. Our aim is always to support parents by insisting that students do not share their food, but this can be difficult to patrol. This problem has been particularly noticeable on canteen days when some students have been suspected of buying food for their friends. We’ve even had instances in the past where parents volunteering in the canteen have provided a canteen treat for their child and their child’s friends. Whilst the sharing is often well-intentioned, there can be serious ramifications around food allergies. It is important that the students do not share food. I feel that we get the best results at school when parents and teachers are working in partnership, so could you please reinforce the important message with your children that they are not to share food at school.

Have a good week.
David Holland

Maths
Each fortnight in the newsletter there will be a ‘Maths Problem’ to solve. Each problem will be directed to a particular stage group. Students are encouraged to answer the question(s), and return the cut-out to the office. Every correct response will be awarded a Southy Star and go into the draw for a free lunch at the canteen at the end of each term; one prize per stage group. The first problem is aimed at Stage 3 and can be found further on in this newsletter. Good luck kids!
Public Speaking
Public Speaking provides an opportunity to communicate knowledge and ideas to a wider audience, while developing and improving confidence and speech-writing skills. Students from early Stage 1 to Stage 3 have been presenting their speeches over the past few weeks in class. Two students from each class will be participating in a stage final this week - Wednesday 10th June for Stage 2 and Stage 3 and Thursday 11th June for Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 at 9.15am. Students who will be representing their class have been notified. From these stage finals, six students will be selected to represent our school at zone. The zone public speaking finals will be held in August at various locations.

Congratulations to: 1D - Alex V; Oliver M. 1/2Z – Emily R; Riley N. 2L – Madison D; Juliette R; Ava R. 2G – Matylda L; Lucas W; Ben H. 3S – Summer G; Ella A. 3/4BG – Liam N; Jillarnie A; Taylor R. 4G - Olivia C; Chloe W; Lilly G. 5E – Eddie M; Corey V. 6J – Jordan S; Josh L; Georgia B. 6C – Tiarne S; Abbie J.

Teachers have been informed, entertained and at times amused by speeches this year and are always impressed by the quality that the students produce. Well done!

Stage 2 Excursion – Awabakal National Park
This Thursday, Stage 2 students and teachers will be adventuring to the Awabakal National Park. A few last minute reminders:

- Bring recess, lunch and water
- Bring a small umbrella or raincoat
- Full school uniform with joggers that are appropriate for walking
- Be at school before 8.55am – no late arrivals please.

We are looking forward to a great day out!
Administration of medicines at School

It’s that time of year when noses start to run, coughs persist and children develop various viruses and infections. If your child is prescribed medication by a doctor that would need to be administered at school (for any medical condition), you must ensure that the medicine is clearly labelled with your child’s name, the correct dosage and the frequency of when to be prescribed. The medicine should brought to school in the first instance by a parent and that parent needs to complete a form which provides the school with permission to administer the medication to your child. We apologise, but we are unable to administer medication to any child without the correct forms being completed at school. It is **NOT sufficient to send in a letter with tablets in a plastic bag requesting that these be administered to a child.** Also, please be advised that within the Department staff cannot administer paracetamol or ibuprofen to any child not prescribed by a doctor.

Library News

**SAVE THE DATE:** Book Week is a highlight of Term 3. It is about promoting reading, literature and books, but there are other benefits. **The Book Character Parade** is scheduled for Wednesday 19th August 2015. It is a fantastic community event and it brings the whole school together in a fun, non-competitive way. There is always a buzz in the school as students are excited about dressing up and seeing others dress up. It encourages them to think about the stories they know and how they could be a character. Everyone who wants to be involved could be! So start planning your outfit and please don’t go to any expense. Fabulous character costumes can be made and found in your own wardrobe or dress up box!

**ENROL NOW**

**Kindergarten and Preschool**

We have been taking enrolments for both Preschool and Kindergarten throughout Term 2. To help with organisation and the transition process, we ideally would love all applications to be in by this Friday, 12th June. If you have a child or know someone in your area who is intending to start Kindergarten next year, please contact the school office as soon as possible for some enrolment forms. Our preschool is also taking enrolments; again, please visit the office to pick up an Expression of Interest form asap. A detailed summary of the enrolment process is in the Term 2 Week 2 newsletter.

**Miranda Hole Unplugged**

- **Class:** K Gold
- **What makes you laugh?** Mr Bean
- **What is your favourite book?** Little Red Riding Hood
- **What do you want be when you grow up?** Singer
- **What do you do for fun?** Play with my toys
- **Do you have brothers or sisters?** 1 older brother
- **Favourite thing about school?** Reading Groups
Wannabees

Last week Stage 1 went on an excursion to Wannabees. Wannabees is a place where you can find out what you want to be (Wannabee) when you grow up. You can work at a hospital, TV studio, gym, police station, fire station, bank and a lot more. We went on a bus to get there. My favourite place at Wannabees was the green room because we found out how to make a movie and how the news works. Wannabees was fun. Most of Stage 1 liked the police, TV studio and the hospital. At the fire station there was a pretend fire across the road. We used a real hose to put the fire out. Stage 1 liked going to Wannabees!

By Mackenzie, 2L

PSSA

The weather finally allowed our junior and senior PSSA soccer teams to take the field last Friday at Ulinga against Edgeworth. The juniors went into battle first and had to withstand lots of pressure from their opponents in the first half. The team defended superbly, most notably Lachlan Redpath and Ben Cornish, to keep the scores level at nil all at the break. Unfortunately, the constant pressure wore down our youngsters and Edgeworth were able to score four unanswered goals to win 4-0. The senior game was very competitive and a re-match of the knockout game last week. Edgeworth came out firing and had two goals on the board midway through the first half. It could have been more but for goalkeeper Jayden Ritchie making a couple of great saves. The game then evened out and we had some good chances to get on the board at the end of the first half and early in the second. Our pressure was rewarded when Ryan Healy scored to make it 2-1 with 10 to go. Unfortunately we couldn't find an equaliser and Edgeworth scored a late goal to make the final margin 3-1. Thank you to all the parents who came and supported and hopefully we will see you again in Week 9 for our next game.

Please note that due to Starstruck - Crossroads Zone have not scheduled a PSSA round for this Friday. As a result, the PSSA students will participate in regular class sports activities on Friday.
Research Study for Cardiff High School
Parents of students in Year 4 and Year 5 have been asked to assist Cardiff High with some input and discussion around perceptions of high school. The discussion will be run by an independent research company and the aim is to eventually improve communications between high schools and primary schools and their families. The group will meet in the computer room this Thursday, 11th June at 2pm – just before pick up. Although the feedback will be anonymous, registration is important for catering and organisation, so if you can make yourself available, please contact the office by Wednesday afternoon.

Wannabees
We went to Sydney so that we could go to Wannabees. We went on the bus and watched Rio. We went in groups. They were blue dinosaurs and purple dinosaurs. In 1D the blue dinosaurs went to the police station, the fire station, the hospital and the construction site. We got to have free play at the end. Then we went back to school and back home. The best part of the day was having free play at Wannabees. By Eva, 1D

When we were going to Wannabees we went to the hall and then we marked the roll. Then we went on the bus and watched Rio and some people read a book. It was a long drive. When we got to Wannabees we had recess and then started to play. We went to the police station, the fire station, the hospital and the restaurant. After we played we had lunch and then we had free play. After free play we had lunch and went back on the bus and watched another movie. When we got back to school we went back to the hall and marked the roll again. Then I went with Mum and Dad. I liked everything but I loved the free play. By Yaegan, 1D

Maths Problem of the Week – Stage 3
Of the 42 000 spectators at the Knights last home game, it was estimated that 1/7 had free passes.

Q. How many were admitted for free?

Q. If the admission price was $5, how much would have been received from the paying spectators?

Name: ___________________________ Class: ___________

Answer: _______________________
______________________________
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . . Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

- **Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- **Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask for any more than that, regardless of the grading.
- **Broaden your focus away from** academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.
- **Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Michael Grose


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