Principal’s Message

I was disappointed to be unable to call in to Speers Point Pool last Thursday and cheer on our Zone Swimming team. Unfortunately a number of other pressing commitments required my time, but from all reports our zone representatives did a fantastic job. The teachers reported how well-mannered the students were throughout the day and how well they cheered one another on. Congratulations to Chloe Scanlon who has qualified for the regional carnival in 6 individual events, which is quite an achievement!

Although most of our students have settled into routine and are busy learning and enjoying all that school has to offer, there have been a couple of unusual incidents in the playground over the past week that concern me and for which I seek your help. One of them is in relation to sharing food and accessing the canteen. Our school policy is such that students are not permitted to share food nor are they permitted to buy things at the canteen for friends. It is our belief that you as parents should have influence over what your child eats each day and when they are permitted to visit the canteen. Although it is often out of kindness that students share, there are some risks associated with this, particularly for students with allergies. There has also been one instance of an older student asking another younger student for money. This is unacceptable for obvious reasons and we will respond quite firmly with any students that act in this way. We will go over these rules at school this week, but I’d appreciate if parents would assist us this week by reinforcing them home.

Finally, parent teacher interviews are an important means by which you as parents can touch base with your child’s class teacher. Schools have different philosophies about how best to utilise parent teacher interviews. For the past 2 years our school has offered them at the beginning of the year, in Term 1 with the intent of providing the opportunity to meet and discuss your child’s needs early on in the school year. This also allows for early communication with the new teacher around any concerns you may have in relation to your child’s academic or social development. An alternate approach is to hold them in the middle of the year around the time of mid-year reports. This allows for a touch base on how your child is progressing midway through the year. Because parent-teacher interviews should be about meeting your needs, we are seeking feedback in the form of a short survey to ascertain your preference. If you have time, please complete the slip attached to today’s newsletter and return to the office by Friday 4th March. We will use this feedback as the basis for planning this year’s parent-teacher interviews. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

Have a great week.
David Holland
Woolworths Earn and Learn

Today we had a visit from two staff members of the Woolworths Glendale team. They came to present the school with certificate thanking us for our support of the ‘Woolies Earn and Learn’ promotion in 2015. In a kind an unexpected gesture, they brought 2 additional donations - a box of office supplies and a box of fruit which were distributed today. They informed us that the rewards that we earnt last year should be delivered in the next couple of weeks. Once they arrive we will include some photos in the newsletter with a list of what we have received. Thank you to Woolworths Glendale for these donations and your ongoing support of our school.

Preschool

We will be holding a Preschool information afternoon for all our Preschool families on Tuesday 23rd February from 4.00pm to approximately 5.00pm. This will give you the opportunity to come along and learn more about various aspects of our Preschool and meet other families who attend the service. On the afternoon we will be discussing the play based program that we provide in line with the Early Years Learning Framework, as well as providing general information about Preschool and ways in which you can become involved. Hope to see you all there!
Getting to know…… Annalise S (Annie)

Class: 5/6 Ruby
Favourite food Lasagne
Favourite book? Dork Diaries
How many siblings do you have? Twin brother and sister
(Brayden and Katelyn)
Do you have any pets? Cat, Sammy & Dog, Raph
Hobbies? Swimming at the beach

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maddison R</td>
<td>3/4 Silver</td>
<td>26th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph C</td>
<td>5/6 Ruby</td>
<td>27th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob G</td>
<td>4/5 Maroon</td>
<td>28th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halle C</td>
<td>2/3 Blue</td>
<td>29th February</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent/Teacher Interview Survey 2016

Family name: ____________________________
Child/ren’s classes: __________________

Please **tick one of the following.** I would prefer that:

- [ ] Parent-teacher interviews take place early in the year in Term 1
- [ ] Parent-teacher interviews take place at the end of Term 2 around the time of mid-year reports

**Tick all that are applicable for you.** The most suitable times for interviews for me are:

- [ ] Before school
- [ ] Anytime during the school-day
- [ ] In the afternoon after school
- [ ] In the evening
Zone Swimming Report

Last Thursday, 18th February, eighteen students from Cardiff South attended the Crossroads Zone Swimming Carnival at Speers Point Pool. The students were accompanied by Mr Jardine and Mrs Pulo. The weather was kind and the sun was shining, making it a pleasant day to be poolside! On our arrival at the pool we were greeted with the fantastic news that Chloe Scanlon had swum brilliantly in the stroke races which were held before 9am. Chloe made the regional times for all of the stroke events; 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, 50m Butterfly (all 11yrs age group), open 100m Freestyle and open 200m Individual Medley. What a fantastic achievement Chloe, well done!

The rest of our team hit the water from 10am in the heats of the 50m Freestyle for each age group. Once again all of the students swam their hearts out against strong opposition, with Chloe leading the way placing second in her age group and achieving the regional qualifying time. Other strong swims in the 50m age races included Tasha Banek (8yr girls), Ava Roberts (9yr girls) and Hannah Brown (10yr girls) who were placed in the top four of their age group. To wrap up a long day we had teams in all of the relay events. Unfortunately we didn’t earn a placing in these events, but all students gave their best effort! Congratulations to all the students who attended, you did yourselves and the school proud with your effort and level of behaviour! Thank you also to all of the wonderful parents who attended and cheered for their children and other members of our team. We look forward to seeing how Chloe goes at the regional carnival at Maitland on Thursday 3rd March.
**Movie Night**

The Hunter RSPCA is hosting a movie night on Saturday March 19th at Event Cinema Glendale of the Disney animation *Zootopia*

Come at 5.30pm for raffles, stalls and lucky door prizes. The movie starts at 6.15pm.

Tickets are $20 which includes a small popcorn and drink and are available from Dr Hayes Surgery, 50 Harrison Street Cardiff or phone Kathryn on 0405 922 919.

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**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 24</th>
<th>Friday 26</th>
<th>Monday 29</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.Reilly</td>
<td>C.Strong</td>
<td>D.Reilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K.Gordon</td>
<td>J.Matheson</td>
<td>L.Wellings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.Thompson</td>
<td>C.Rose</td>
<td>M.Thompson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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This week your child will bring home a sheet of raffle tickets for the upcoming Easter Raffle. Apart from raising funds for your school, the raffle provides the chance for 12 lucky people to win a bag full of Easter goodies (all calorie free of course!). Your child has been allocated 1 sheet of 10 tickets which they can sell for $1 each. If you require additional tickets, they are available at the office.

This year there will be prizes for those selling the most tickets - one each for infants and one for primary. **Each winner will receive their own bag of Easter goodies plus a $30 Smiggle voucher!**

This is a fantastic fundraiser for your P&C, which relies heavily on your generosity: Please send donations of Easter goodies to your child’s classroom – your donations will help towards making 12 exciting Easter prizes.

The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24th March at the end of the School Assembly in the hall (at about 2:40pm)

**Good Luck!!**
Conferences and meetings between parents and professionals offer an opportunity to discover a child’s progress, share information or resolve social and learning challenges. They can also be the source of conflict and stress as views can differ so it helps to remember that everyone’s goal is to work from the best interests of a child or young person. Here are some tips to help make the meeting or conference more productive and less stressful for everyone involved:

1. **Confirm the meeting**
   - If the meeting has been called by someone at the school then confirm that you will be attending. Confirm also if someone such as another parent, family member, friend or professional will be attending the meeting. If in doubt, find out if more than one person will be attending from your child’s school, including an outside professional such as a speech therapist or other specialist.

2. **Work from a fresh slate**
   - Sometimes meetings can be marred before they start as negative past experiences can carry residual resentment. Every new meeting offers a fresh opportunity to create better outcomes for your child.

3. **Prepare well**
   - Before a meeting or conference, list any questions that you want to raise. Keep the questions short and to the point. Similarly, it may be useful to list some of your child’s strengths and areas of improvement that you’ve seen at home. Writing information down in advance ensures that your point of view is expressed and that critical information is covered. Similarly, make sure you take notes during the meeting so that vital information isn’t missed.

4. **Listen first**
   - Give the teacher a chance to make an assessment of your child’s progress or behaviour. This may sound obvious but some meetings never get off the ground because an enthusiastic parent takes over.

5. **Ask specific questions**
   - Clarify the information you don’t understand, asking for concrete examples. Drill down to get a clear picture of any issues involving behaviour or learning. “So he doesn’t listen in class. Specifically, when does he seem to tune out?” If your conference is student-led then take your cues from teacher and your child. Be prepared to ask specific questions that show your interest; display your understanding of what your child is showing you and also may help you form a true picture of your child as a learner.

6. **Stay solution-focused**
   - If your child’s behavioural or learning challenges are discussed it’s tempting to be defensive or sceptical. Ask for concrete examples to help you gain a clear understanding from the teacher’s perspective. Look over the proof offered such as observational records or testing results using these as the basis for moving towards a solution. Ask the teacher and other professionals what any test results may mean in terms of progress, strengths, needs and further support.

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Have you signed up for Michael Grose's NEW ParentingIdeas Club yet? Visit **parentingideasclub.com.au** to stay ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join today!
... Michael Grose’s top 10 parenting tips for school meetings ...

7 Remain calm
If the meeting doesn’t go well, stay calm. Meetings involving your own child can be very emotive because you and your child’s teacher are often discussing issues that are outside your direct control. Calmly stating your needs and views is far more effective than general accusations or inflexibly taking a stand. Ask for a break if you need one, even suggesting you meet at another time if your emotions are taking over.

8 Consider there are many ways to be right
Keep in mind that everyone wants the same thing—your child to make progress. Teachers view your child through a different lens than you and their conclusions and solutions can seem at odds with your own views. It may be at these times that you need to trust the professionalism of your child’s teacher who has more than likely experienced these same challenges before.

9 Ask what you can do
Show your commitment to producing better results by asking for exercises that you can do at home to develop skills. It may be a good opportunity to ask for recommendations for outside resources to help you and your child. Often teachers know about camps, activities, organisations or events that can encourage educational and social growth.

10 Consider how to discuss at home
Once a meeting is over consider how you will talk about it with your child. Discuss areas that need work in positive, specific terms. “We talked about your reading and your teacher suggested that we need to...” Involve your child in discussing plans for improvement. Make sure these plans are doable rather than overwhelming him or her with an exhaustive list of suggestions. Small inroads in progress or improved behaviour have been found to have a snowball effect, impacting on broader areas of improvement.

Parent teacher meetings and conferences take many formats including the direct involvement of children. Regardless of the format you will be more effective if you go in with a positive attitude, an approachable demeanour, and a willingness to work collaboratively with your child’s teacher to reach the best outcomes possible for your child.