Welcome to Week 6 and the start of Autumn! The first 5 weeks have flown by and this week our new Kindergarten students started attending school for full days. Although there were one or two cracks yesterday, most have adjusted well to the rigour of 5 days of school. I spent 20 minutes in Kinder Gold yesterday and was impressed that they were already attempting to write their first full sentences. With Kindergarten now attending full days, we will return to keeping our gates locked until 2:50pm each day. This has always been done with student safety in mind. Can I request that parents get into the habit of not entering the school grounds to collect children until 2:50pm.

This week, classes will conduct elections for their 2016 SRC representatives. Our guidelines are such that students are eligible to be an SRC representative from Year 2 onwards and they cannot serve two years in a row. To help SRC meetings be more efficient, classes have been asked to elect only one representative and it may be either a boy or a girl. The SRC will meet with me once a month during class time to discuss which charities our school will support in 2016, ways to improve our school and ways we can better serve our community. We will publish a list of the students elected in next week’s newsletter.

You may remember that in last week’s newsletter we included a slip for you to indicate your preferences in relation to parent-teacher interviews. Because our newsletter comes out in digital form, a couple of parents have asked if we could make it easier by providing paper copies of these slips. We have done so and they have been sent home with the students today. It would be appreciated if you would fill these out and return them by next Tuesday. We will use your preferences to determine the best time to schedule them.

Finally, we had one of those rare, once in every 4 year days yesterday – an extra day (leap year). Keen readers of the Newcastle Weekly would have spotted in last week’s edition that Cardiff South has its very own leap year baby – Halle Clemente. Halle celebrated her 2nd ‘official’ birthday yesterday but turned 8. Happy Birthday Halle, we have always said that you are quite unique and special!

Have a great week.
David Holland
NAPLAN 2016

Today a letter with information about the 2016 NAPLAN was distributed to students in Years 3 and 5. The assessment will take place in Term 2, from Tuesday 10th May to Thursday 12th May. All students in Year 3 and 5 are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect a student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Test exemptions and withdrawal from NAPLAN may be considered under certain provisions. If you wish to discuss access to disability adjustments, test exemptions or withdrawal from NAPLAN or if you know your child will be absent during the NAPLAN testing period, please consult Mr Holland or Mrs Lilley no later than Monday 8th March.

School Photos

A-One Fotomakers will be visiting our school on Thursday 17th March to take photos of all students in K-6 students. Photo day for the Kangaroos preschool group will be Friday 18th and Koalas will have their photos taken on Monday 21st March.

Next week, ‘purchase envelopes’ will be sent home with students in preparation for photo day. Parents and carers have the opportunity to purchase photos of their children by completing the details on the envelope and sending payment with the envelope on the day. Please do not attempt to send in the envelope before Photo Day, as it will be sent back home again.

A-One Fotomakers request that if you choose to pay by cash, the correct money be sent in as no change can be issued. Other payment options include credit card or cheque.

Students will be required to wear the new summer school uniform, including black polished shoes and plain white socks.

Stage 3 - Canberra Excursion Information Night

As is the school’s custom, all of the students in Year 5 or 6 this year will have the opportunity to participate in an overnight excursion to Canberra during Term 3. To assist families in planning for this event, we’d like to invite you along to an information session on Monday 14th March at 7pm in the school library. Even if you are not sure whether you would like your child to attend the excursion, it would be advisable to still come along and hear the information so that you can make an informed choice. Year 5 and 6 students are encouraged to attend with their parents.
School Counsellor

Over the past 12 months we have been quite fortunate to have the support of a wonderful school counsellor Mrs Bernadette Gordon. Quite a few of our families would have had the pleasure of working with Mrs Gordon during that time. Sadly, today was her last day with us. Due to a bit of restructure across the region, Mrs Gordon is one of a number of school counsellors being moved to try and accommodate the needs of all schools better. We thank Mrs Gordon for the terrific job that she has done at Cardiff South and wish her all the best as she takes on new challenges at her new schools. Our new school counsellor’s name is Mr Roy Lazarevic, we look forward to meeting him next week.

Kumaridha AECG meeting

The next local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) is on next Wednesday at Edgeworth Public School starting at 5:45pm. New members from the Aboriginal community are always welcome and invited to attend. If you would like more information about the Kumaridha AECG, you can speak to Mr Holland or call the AECG president Mr Ken Weatherall on 49 043934.

School Clean-up Day

On Friday, like thousands of schools from around the nation, we will join in the ‘School Clean-up Day’. This is a great opportunity to make our school spotless and help our students develop respect for the environment.

Students will be given recyclable bags in which to place any rubbish but it would be a good idea for them to bring their own gloves (preferably not plastic disposable ones).

Disco

The school disco is scheduled for next Thursday the 10th March. The K-2 session will run from 5:30-6:45pm and the Yrs 3-6 session will run from 7:00 – 8:30pm. The cost of the disco ($7) was included on every family’s Term 1 statement, which includes entry, a packet of chips and a drink. Students who have not yet paid or brought in permission notes need to do so asap, we will accept payment at the door on the night (permission note still required), however it makes the job easier if you can pay via the office beforehand. Students must be collected from the disco by a responsible adult. Parents that have organised for a friend or relative to collect their children, should send their children with a note on the night providing permission for another adult to collect them on your behalf. A reminder that students with asthma are asked to bring and carry their puffers with them on the night.

Fruit and Veg Sense Parent Workshop

On Monday 7th March, a Fruit & Veg workshop is being held in the school library from 9.30am – 11am. The workshop is conducted by The Cancer Council’s ‘Eat it to Beat it’ program and is designed to educate, encourage and equip parents with some great nutritional information and helpful lunch box ideas. We have set aside a morning for this but will need you to register your interest. You can do this by letting the office staff know or by emailing eatittobeatit@nswcc.org.au. We hope to see you there. See Miss Murray for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Getting to know…… Cooper R

Class: K Gold
Favourite food McDonalds
Favourite TV Show? Henry Danger
How many siblings do you have? 1 younger brother, Nate &
1 Older sister, Maddison
Do you have any pets? 2 dogs, Mia and Bella
What do you do for fun? Play Lego and play on the trampoline

Library News

With our whole school home reading program up and running it gave me great pleasure to see the fabulous support so many families are giving their children through purchasing new and exciting books in the last Scholastic Book Club. Not only are you helping your children to open a world of possibilities through quality literature, our whole school also benefits. Through the support shown in the last Book Club, our school has received $200 worth of new books for the library! A huge thank you for your enthusiasm for reading. One of the best gifts any parent can give a child is the love of good books and the joy and benefits of good reading. Children who read at home, or are read to, have a head start on reading success in school. Our school participates in Scholastic Book Club approximately twice a term during the year. Borrowing is also another fabulous way to encourage and support home reading. Our library has an amazing variety of quality literature that children love selecting on their own. Please assist your children by providing a library bag (or plastic bag) to help protect the books and returning them each week to help establish good borrowing habits. Each stage have been engaged in different learning opportunities. Kinder are delighted when they are exploring the shelves and get very excited when they find a familiar book. Stage 1 have been discussing what makes a good picture book and writing book reviews. Stage 2 and 3 have been very busy using the laptops to search for books in our library catalogue, as well as participating in some Japanese language and culture lessons.

I encourage you to call into the library if you have any questions about your children's learning within this setting

Canteen Roster

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Mortgage Choice

Your local Cardiff Mortgage Choice is the ONLY office supporting your school.

Believe and Achieve
Social skills for children

School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills.

Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better.

More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don’t develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family.

Today’s children grow up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.

Parents can help kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

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.

Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

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.

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
... Social skills for children ...

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.

The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendships skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as: talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and wellbeing.

Michael Grose

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