Principals Message

An interesting topic in schools over the past few years has been whether or not teaching children handwriting is still important and relevant in the digital age in which we live. Various commentators in the media have expressed a number of opposing views and even amongst teachers, views differ. Last Wednesday the teachers and I looked at what the most current research says about handwriting and we discovered that there are quite a few benefits to teaching handwriting explicitly in school.

These benefits are summarised as follows:

Students who learn to write proficiently by hand:
- Show increased brain activation which stimulates learning
- Develop stronger fine motor skills
- Write faster and in more complete sentences
- Display improved academic performance in reading and writing
- Are better able to generate and evaluate ideas, judge responses and organise their thoughts
- Take better notes and remember conceptual information for longer periods than students who take notes on a laptop (tested at university level)

After considering the research, the teachers and I have renewed our commitment to teaching handwriting explicitly in class at CSPS. The research also indicated that for a handwriting program to be effective, teachers are best to spend approximately 10 minutes per day developing handwriting skills; this will be our aim. Further on in this newsletter, I have summarised (if you are interested) the handwriting skills being taught at each stage of development.

Although it is a separate issue, we are also looking at ways to raise the standard of the students’ general book work.

Thank you to the many people that returned surveys in relation to your preferred time for parent-teacher interviews. From the responses, 64% of parents preferred parent-teacher interviews towards the end of Term 2 and 73% of parents preferred interviews to take place in either the afternoon or evening. As a result, interviews have been scheduled for Week 9 of Term 2 (20-24th June). …continue over page…….
Our students continue to do great things in the sporting arena. Congratulations to Ella Daly and Jillarnie Ahoy in Year 5 who both represented our school at last week’s zone netball trials. Both girls have been selected to represent the Crossroads Zone at the Hunter Trials. A great result girls, well done! Also, our ‘super-swimmer’ Chloe Scanlon competed at the regional swimming carnival last Thursday. Her best results were finishing 6th in the 50m freestyle and 50m breaststroke finals (she swum a PB) and 7th in the 50m butterfly. Congratulations Chloe!

Finally, there are some important updates on a variety of matters from the P&C’s uniform committee further on in today’s newsletter. Can I encourage all families to make sure they spend a few minutes reading through this information. I’m sure that you will find it helpful.

Have a great week.
David Holland

### SRC Representatives

Last week, each class from Year 2 upwards elected one student to represent them on the school’s Student Representative Council (SRC). Congratulations to the following students who were nominated and elected by their peers:

1/2 Aqua – Bo Gordon
1/2 Orange – Ebonie Humphries
2/3 Blue - Tasha Banek
3/4 Purple – Matylda Luck
3/4 Silver – Summah McPherson
4/5 Maroon – Ella Andrews
5/6 Jade – Jacqueline Hanlon-Thompson
5/6 Ruby – Tyson Reeve

These students will be presented with their SRC badges at our regular assembly on the 24th March (2:10pm). Parents of the elected representatives are invited to attend. The students will have their first monthly meeting with Mr Holland soon.
Absence from School

Parents are reminded that in the event that your child is absent from school, it is a legal requirement that parents provide an explanation for any school absence within 7 days of the first day that a child is away. This is best done by providing your child’s class teacher with a short written note or sending a notification via the Skoolbag app. It may also be done by providing a verbal explanation to the class teacher or phoning the office. If the school does not receive an explanation, it is our practice to send a reminder letter 2 days after the student has returned if there has been no explanation received. If after 7 days, an explanation is still not received, we are required to follow up an unexplained absence with a phone call. This may be by Mr Holland or our AP Wellbeing, Mr Carlin.

P&C Uniform News

The P&C uniform committee is continually looking at ways to improve how the uniform shop is operated. After a recent meeting, they have decided to make a couple of small changes that they hope will work well for families. Please read the following points for an update on matters to do with the uniform shop.

1. **Uniform Shop drop box** – Starting next week, you will notice a lockable mailbox installed to the wall outside of the uniform shop. This will be placed there so that parents or students can place uniform orders in the box at any time during the day (no longer to be left at the office). Please ensure that orders are clearly labelled, in a sealed envelope or zip-lock bag and contain correct change. The box will be emptied by uniform shop volunteers at 3:10pm each day. Orders can then be collected from the uniform shop the following Wednesday or delivered to students in their classrooms.

2. **After hours** – For those families that find it hard to physically get to the uniform shop on Wednesday mornings, the P&C will now open the uniform shop after hours between 6:00-7:00pm once a month on the same night that P&C meetings are scheduled. The next P&C meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 24th March.

3. **Returns Policy** – Our uniform supplier LW Reid have a very clear returns policy and they take returned garments very seriously. They have a dedicated team who assess potentially faulty garments and who decide upon the appropriate course of action. If any families feel that a garment they have purchased is faulty, please return it to the volunteers in the uniform shop and they will send it to the returns team at LW Reid for assessment. All decisions regarding replacement garments or refunds lie with the supplier and not the P&C.

4. **Supply update** – Due to overwhelming demand this term, the uniform shop has sold out of the school polo shirts in sizes 6, 8 and 10. The uniform committee apologises for any inconvenience caused and are working to ensure that there will always be sufficient stock on hand in the future. There are currently 3 orders that have been placed with the supplier, the first of which is expected to arrive in the first week of the holidays ready for the start of Term 2.

5. **Pre-orders** – Families who are waiting for the arrival of new polo shirts in sizes 6, 8 and 10 are invited to pre-order before the end of the term to ensure that you are the first to receive the garments you require. Please pre-order by placing order forms in the new drop box outside the uniform shop before the end of the term. **DO NOT INCLUDE ANY MONEY WITH YOUR PRE-ORDER FORM.** Payment for pre-order can be made once the garments arrive at the point of collection.

6. **Girls bootleg pants** – After some consultation, the uniform committee has decided to sell navy bootleg pants specifically for girls to wear in Winter. They will be available for $20 and a message will be published in the newsletter and on the app when they are available for sale.
Kumaridha AECG meeting
The next local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) is on tomorrow afternoon 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.

P&C - Change of Date
The next P&C meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday 16th March. Because this date clashes with Cardiff High’s Yr 7 Parent Information Night, we have rescheduled it to the following Wednesday, 23rd March. It will be at the normal time of 7pm in the library.

School Disco
The Term 1 disco will be held in the school hall this Thursday, 10th March. The K-2 disco will commence at 5.30pm and conclude at 6.45pm and the 3-6 disco will commence at 7pm and conclude at 8.30pm. Please aid us by dropping your child and picking them up at the correct times.

To help us on the night could you please ensure that the disco payment ($7) has been made to the office prior to the night.

We look forward to having a fun night. Please remind your child that they need to act in consideration of others.

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 next 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.

The Aunty Peach Show
On Tuesday 15th March, we are having a visiting performance from Young Heart Enterprises called ‘The AUNTY PEACH Show’. The Aunty Peach show provides students with a fun-filled learning experience that supports Drama, Literacy and Personal Development units all in an enjoyable, interactive environment. The show centres around the magic of Roald Dahl’s wacky and humorous, twisted fairy tales. Along with the animated storytelling, magic tricks and humour, Aunty Peach also passes on to students many tips for drama and classroom presentations. The cost of this performance is $6 and it was included in the Term 1 statements. For your child to attend, permission notes and money must be received by the payment deadline – 3:30pm Thursday, 10th March.

Getting to know...... Catherine K
Class: 3/4 Purple
Favourite food Tacos
Favourite TV Show? Teen Titans
How many siblings do you have? 1 older brother, Hayden & 1 baby sister, Mia
Favourite CSPS memory? Year 6 Fun Day
Hobbies? Reading
**Handwriting from the Syllabus**

The table below summarises the key handwriting skills being taught in each stage based on the English Syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Handwriting Skills – from the English syllabus</th>
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| Early Stage 1 – Kinder | - Use foundation movements as a basis for the introduction to using formal letters  
                         - Develop basic writing skills, including correct pencil grip, good posture and accurate use of writing tools  
                         - Write from left to right and leave spaces between words  
                         - Produce some lower case and upper case letters |
| Stage 1 – Yrs 1 & 2  | - Develop clear and consistent writing using NSW foundation style (printing)  
                         - Write legibly and with growing fluency using *unjoined* upper and lower case letters  
                         - Understand that the position and size of letters supports consistent handwriting  
                         - Use appropriate strategies when writing, eg maintaining correct body position and correct use of writing tools |
| Stage 2 – Yrs 3 & 4  | - Write using NSW foundation style *cursive*, as appropriate, and explore joins that facilitate fluency and legibility  
                         - Write using clearly formed letters and develop increased fluency and automaticity  
                         - Recognise that effective handwriting and presentation of work is required in order to communicate effectively |
| Stage 3 – Yrs 5 and 6 | - Develop a handwriting style that is legible, fluent and automatic and varies according to audience and purpose |

**Expo Day and Parent Info Night – Cardiff High School**

Next Wednesday, 16th March, students in Year 6 will be attending Cardiff High School for the ‘Expo Day’. The Expo Day is designed to help prepare the Year 6 students from the local schools to transition to High School in 2017. On the day, students will have the chance to explore some of the courses on offer in Year 7 and onwards. Parents are to drop their children off at the high school hall at 9am where they will meet Mr Carlin for roll call. Parents are encouraged to attend the information session being held in the evening at 7pm at the high school.
School Clean-Up Day

Last Friday all the students spread out across the playground in search of rubbish. Decked out in gardening gloves and carrying recyclable rubbish bags they had to look really hard to find rubbish. Unfortunately for them, there was not a great deal to be found. This shows that most students do care about their environment and appreciate how lucky they are to have nice ovals and play areas.

Earth Hour

Earth Hour begins 8.30 on Saturday 19th March. This is when we are asked to not use devices like computers, TV's and lights. By ‘switching off’ for one hour we are showing our support for initiatives to reduce global warming whilst getting people to talk about how we can reduce our environmental footprint.

During ‘Earth Hour’ you may wish to hold a candle-light dinner, play board games, charades or camp outside and use torches. I am sure the whole family will have fun while supporting a worldwide campaign. Now is the time to start planning what you will do to support Earth Hour.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class/Group</th>
<th>Birthday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jayden G</td>
<td>1/2 Aqua</td>
<td>9th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper R</td>
<td>K Red</td>
<td>11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kai R</td>
<td>K Red</td>
<td>11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linden J</td>
<td>K Gold</td>
<td>11th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah E B</td>
<td>2/3 blue</td>
<td>15th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma A</td>
<td>5/6 Jade</td>
<td>15th March</td>
</tr>
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Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 9</th>
<th>Friday 11</th>
<th>Monday 14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. Reilly</td>
<td>K. Catalozski</td>
<td>D. Reilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Lambert</td>
<td>E. Daly</td>
<td>L. Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Thompson</td>
<td>M. Howe</td>
<td>M. Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Scanlon</td>
<td>C. Redpath</td>
<td>L. Walter</td>
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"Persistence and patience have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish." — John Quincy Adams

The ability to persist at a task and see it through to the end is one of the most important success attributes that you can develop in a child.

There are numerous times every day when children must persist rather than give in. A young child learning to tie shoe laces must persist. A primary aged student must show determination to finish tasks and a secondary student needs to work through difficulties, particularly those he doesn’t understand or complete right away.

They need to be able to persist when work gets hard or life gets tough. They need the ‘stickability’ to work through difficulties and hang in there when things don’t go their way.

Some children are more naturally predisposed to persist than others. They have a determined, even competitive streak in their temperament that doesn’t allow them to give in. These children and young people can drive themselves very hard to succeed.

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The results of the Australian Temperament Project show that persistence is the one temperamental factor that can be improved over time.

Parents and teachers can develop persistence in children and also impede its development by making life too easy for children so that they don’t have opportunities to persist or hang in there.

Parents can promote persistence by encouraging their children to keep going and not give in at the slightest hurdle or difficulty.

Parents can be a sounding board for children’s gripes but they should show confidence in their ability to cope and get through their difficulties. “You can do it” is far more powerful in terms of promoting an attitude of persistence than “If it is a little too hard then try something else.”

Let children know that there is a correlation between effort and success. In fact, they need to learn that by GIVING EFFORT they will more than likely experience more success. The ability to persist in the face of difficulties maybe an old-fashioned quality but it is one of the best success attributes that children will ever develop.

Here are four practical strategies you can use to promote a sense of persistence in your children:

1. **Develop a vocabulary for persistence**
   Words like “Hang tough”, “Work Hard” and “Hang in there” can become part of their every day vocabulary.

2. **Point out to children when they stick at a task**
   Most parents know it pays off when they catch their children being good but it also pays off to catch them being persistent. The behaviours you focus on as parents expand so let them know when they have been persistent. Also remind them that persistence generally pays off.

3. **Help children to remember times when they experienced success by HANGING IN when they were younger.** Let them know that persistence has paid off before and it will again.

4. **Talk about HARD WORK with your children**
   They need to understand that to be successful they need to do things that are NOT fun or easy. While it would be good if all work and learning was fun, in reality, this is not always the case.