



Woody Point of View

29th April 2016



From the Principal's Desk

ECDPs

Many parents have recently shared with me their concerns about the future of our Early Childhood Development Programs (ECDPs) during the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Woody Point ECDP has a long history of supporting children with disability through early intervention and we are awaiting further information from the federal agency responsible for delivering the NDIS, the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), on what kind of support will be available under the new scheme.



The Minister for Education Kate Jones has been meeting with and listening to parents, principals and school staff who have all expressed concerns about the transition. Like us, she is concerned that the NDIA has not provided information to principals, school staff and parents who rely on ECDPs.

An urgent teleconference with Queensland's school principals on Friday 15 April was held by the Minister so she could directly hear our views and answer questions. We explained to the Minister that the lack of information is causing distress and anxiety for families and staff.

Following the teleconference, the Minister wrote to the Federal Minister responsible for disability services, Christian Porter, calling on him to immediately act and start providing information directly to Queensland families.

The Minister called on Minister Porter to guarantee that children will receive the same, if not more support under the NDIS – as promised.

Along with Minister Jones, we all want the transition to be as smooth as possible.

The Minister wants to ensure every child receives the same level of care and support, or better, than they do now.

Minister Jones has committed to keeping ECDPs open until 2020 or until all children in ECDPs have transitioned to high quality schools or to other early intervention providers.

In 2020 we will be in a position to make a decision about the long-term requirement for ECDPs as we will know if the transition has worked and every family is supported.

During this four-year transition, ECDPs will continue to take new enrolments and operate as they are now until we know that the NDIS is able to meet the early intervention needs of Queensland children.

The Minister assured us she will continue to listen to parents, principals and staff and will advocate on our behalf to ensure we receive the information we need from the Commonwealth Government and the NDIA.

Facebook and other Social Media

Recently I have been dealing with a number of issues of concern brought to me by families regarding the use of social media in our community. At times these have involved reports to me from families about comments on social media (often through Facebook pages or groups) regarding staff, students or other families.

Sometimes these matters of concern are brought to my attention verbally, at other times people have forwarded screen shots of comments to me to take appropriate action.

Attached to this newsletter is a guide for families, *Social Media and the School Community*. I particularly draw your attention to pages 2 and 3 of this guide that deals with the civil and criminal ramifications of online commentary and provides some useful tips. I urge each family to read these carefully. In addition below are some of my other thoughts which may be useful on matters that frequently arise.

Social Media: The good the bad and the ugly

The good:

Social media sites (like Facebook) provide a great opportunity for families to network and provide valued supports to each other. As a school we value this.

In Semester 2 Woody Point Special will be initiating its own Facebook page as part of our continued commitment to improving communication opportunities for our families. I have had an initial discussion with our school P&C and I hope to develop a small working party of parents to help with this task. I look forward to working closely with families to try to develop a site that is useful and meets the needs of all.

The bad:

From time to time things in schools do not go as we had hoped. The appropriate method of raising any concerns you have in respect of the school, other students or staff is to discuss the matter with either your child's teacher, myself as the School's Principal, the Deputy Principal or the HOSES.

If you remain dissatisfied after talking to me you are entitled to complain to my supervisor through the North Coast Regional Office. Raising matters of concern on social media sites will not by itself cause your concerns with the school, staff or students to be dealt with or responded to. In fact it is my experience that taking to social media with a concern typically makes matters worse.

The ugly:

You should consider the potential of your comments to cause harm to the reputation and personal well-being of the staff members, students or other families you have mentioned. You should consider whether your comments may leave you open to legal action, which could potentially result in you incurring significant personal legal costs. Increasingly we see instances of inappropriate online behaviour being referred to police and the court systems to be dealt with.

Often people believe they are protected to say what they like by their privacy settings. However increasingly Principals (including myself) are receiving screen shots of comments or posts made on Facebook. Regardless of your privacy settings social media is just that, a form of media.

Equally people are sometimes wrongly under the impression that as long as you do not use a person's actual name, then they can say whatever they like. This is incorrect. Any words that identify a person / group or refer to them in some way such that "a reasonable person would take the words to refer to them" can pursue a case for defamation under the Queensland Defamation Act 2005.

Social media is a great tool. I encourage all families to use it responsibly. As always if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss.

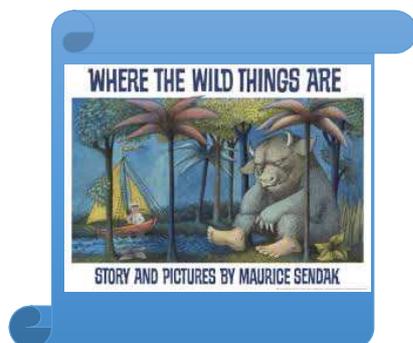
Ric Day
Principal

Junior 2/3

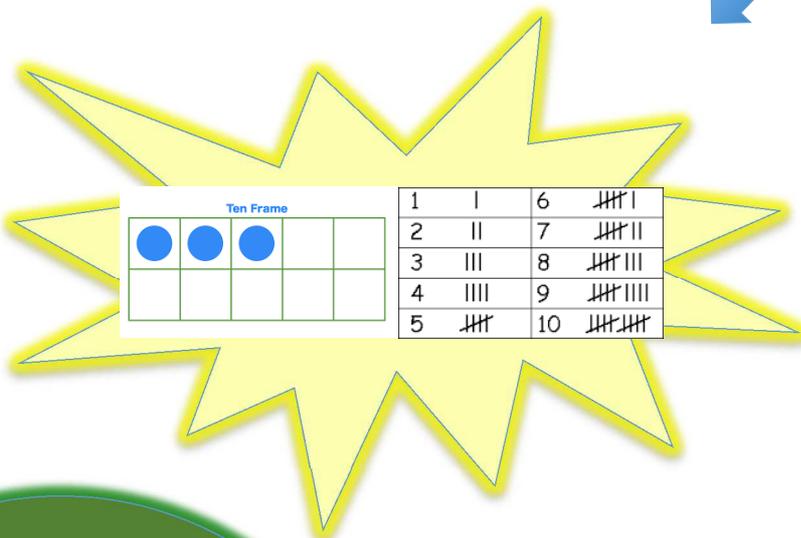
Term 2!!! How did we get here so fast!

We had great first Term and we are settling in very nicely into Term 2. This Term we will be focusing on Science, Geography, Maths and Literacy. We are enjoying our literacy groups and love engaging with peers from different classes.

In Literacy we are learning about the book 'Where the wild things are'



In Maths, we are learning about representing quantities



Junior 2/3 have been working hard with our school rules with a focus on 'I can be safe' for this term.

We have started swimming and the kids are just a little excited! We will continue with the library, sensory room, gym and the highly popular cooking! We have had an amazing term 1 and we are very much looking forward to Term 2!

Candice, Erin, Sally, Kirstie and Bev!

In Geography we are learning about places we visit in the Community



In Science we are learning about different Animal Habitats



Dates to Remember

Monday	2 nd	May 2016	Labour Day Public Holiday	
Friday	13 th	May 2016	School Assembly	2.20pm
Monday	16 th	May 2016	P & C Meeting	9.30am

Junior Sector – Donations Required

Our Junior Sector is seeking donations of size 2, 3 and 4 shorts to have in the classrooms for spares. If you can assist; shorts can be left at Admin or sent to school with your child. Thank you.

Looking for a fun night out.....

21/05

Pop Culture

Breakaway would like you to put on your thinking caps and join us for some food, fun and friendly competition! \$20 a head (table bookings available)

May 21st at 7 pm
Redcliffe RSL
Irene Street, Redcliffe 4020

TIME 7 PM

RSVP

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