

The Woody Point of View

21st February, 2013

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Parents/Caregivers Welcome Back

P & C Meeting

We had our first P & C Meeting of the year on Monday. We discussed plans for upgrading the Multi-Sensory Room, investigating a Senior Students' Shirt, and discussed ideas for 2013.

Next meeting will be the AGM to be held Monday 18th March at 9.30am in the staffroom. All families are welcome. Plans for the P & C activities for 2013 will be developed at the AGM.

Curriculum

At Woody Point Special School, all of our children have disabilities and significant learning problems. Our students are generally working at a less complex level than their non-disabled peers.

Our school curriculum is organised using the Australian Curriculum, Early Years Curriculum Guidelines and Kindy Guidelines. Many school students are working towards learning the content and skills of the Australian Curriculum.

Carnaval

On Tuesday, our Dutch students - Pim, Brott and Anke organised a Carnaval activity in the hall. Students were invited to wear masks and costumes and to join in with the music and fun activities. Students had lots of fun and enjoyed the opportunity to dress up and seeing the decorations in the hall. Thanks to our Dutch volunteers for organising the morning. ..2!..

DATES TO REMEMBER

P & C Positions held for 2012

President: Lydia Simmons
Vice President: Naomi Macquarie
Secretary: Sandra Turner
Treasurer: Sharon Booyen

The next meeting of the P & C will be 18th March, 2013 – AGM - ALL WELCOME!

Term 1

Last Day Term 1 – Thursday 28th March, 2013
Good Friday – 29th March, 2013
Easter Monday – 1st April, 2013
School Holidays – 2nd April, 2013 until 12th April, 2013.

Term 2

First Day Term 2 – Monday 15th April, 2013

Toy Library – Date to be advised

Di from the Toy Library visits the school approximately every month for Toy borrowing. This is a free service to students from Woody Point Special School.

School Assembly – 2.15pm Undercover Area
Friday 8th March, 2013

WOODY POINT STATE SPECIAL SCHOOL

Address: 85 Georgina Street
(PO Box 44) Woody Point Qld 4019
Phone: 3480 4333 Fax: 3480 4300.
Website: www.woodpoinspecs.eq.edu.au
Email: the.principal@woodpoinspecs.eq.edu.au



From the Principal's Desk *continued*

Newsletters on the Website

We have recently reviewed our school website and are now able to include the Newsletter.

In the newsletter, we include articles from teachers about their class activities and curriculum in the class. When your child's class is featured in the newsletter you will receive a colour copy.

Many families have not given permission for their child's photo or name to be included on the website, so some of the class articles will be deleted from the website version. In other cases, certain photos will be deleted from the website version.

Jan Baidon
Principal

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all those parents and friends of Woody Point who collected Woolworths and Coles Vouchers.

The orders have been completed and the resources from both businesses have arrived.

Below is a snapshot of the resources we received from both programs. We eagerly await your generous support of these programs for 2013.

Coles Sports for Schools

ECDP – Crawling Tunnel, Foam Dice, Parachute, Pebble Stepping Stones

Junior – Bell ball, Hippity Hopper, Junior Primary Sports kit, Tennis Ball kit

Intermediate / Senior – Hoop Target kit, Indoor games kit, Scooter boards

Woolworths – Modern Teaching Aids Earn and Learn

Various Knob puzzles, Lego kits, Spiderweb Steel climber set, Giant magnetic insects, Sand and Water pond, Big Books (Insects, Is it Alive)



Chaplain Article

Great Expectations

Welcome back to another year! Apparently Australians are incredibly optimistic about 2013; with over half believing it will be a better year than 2012, and just 1 in 5 (20%) believing it will be worse. And for every person that believes 2013 will be “about the same as 2012”, almost twice as many believe it will be better (McCrimble Research).

What are you expecting for 2013? If you're anything like me, you may be tempted to hope for lesser things. You know... if you don't get your hopes up, you're less likely to be disappointed.

But is this any way to live?

I make it a habit to write a list of goals at the start of every year. In December 2011, when I reviewed that year's list, I realised that I got exactly what I expected... and that was “not much”. I didn't have any right to complain because I didn't have high expectations in the first place.

So last year I did things differently. Since I have faith, I decided to believe for extraordinary things that normally wouldn't happen. I headed my list “Prayer Expectations for 2012” and then wrote things that I really wanted to see happen. For instance, instead of writing something like “Enough money to pay the bills, including kid's braces etc”, I wrote “An abundance of funds to pay all the expenses, with enough left over for giving, saving and investing”.

Anyway, last week I was looking back through my journal and came across my 2012 list. I was amazed to see that every one of my expectations came true. I had a few obstacles in the first half of the year, but by Christmas every one of them had come to pass. Amazing!

Needless to say, this really perked me up and I was quite excited as I wrote my goals/ expectations for 2013. How about you? Do you need to raise your expectations for 2013?

Sharon Booyen
School Chaplain





MyTime Parent Support Group

Yoga & Relaxation

**School Hall
Wednesday 27th February
9am til noon**

Feeling a bit stressed lately?

School mum and yoga instructor Colleen Ryan will take us through a relaxing session of beginner level yoga and deep breathing.

Back by popular demand- this was a special session in our group last year.

MyTime is your group!
It's a great chance to make good friends, have fun "Me Time" and learn new things with parents/ carers who are in similar circumstances.

***Child Care & Morning Tea supplied
All welcome!***

Free goods available!

- Battery operated toddler quad bikes.
- Nappy liners & pull ups size extra small available. Good brands.
- WPSS royal blue school shorts size 6.
- Brother DCP- 145C printer available.

Do you have the following items to donate?

- Sofa bed or lounge suite
- Dining table and chairs
- Chest of Drawers

Sharon Booyen ph 3480 4333 or sbooy1@eq.edu.au



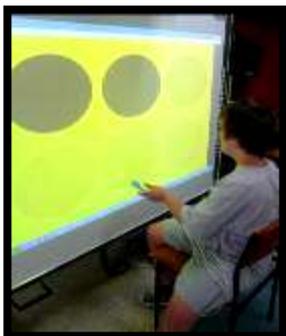
~ ICT in Intermediate 1 ~

Technology Article

In Intermediate 3, technology is a crucial part of the way we learn! Also we can independently demonstrate how smart we are to our families, teachers and friends! ☺ Just some of the equipment that we access regularly include switches, switch interfaces, powerboxes, the interactive whiteboard, iPads, intellikeys boards and a modified joystick mouse. We use a range of access methods including direct access, one switch with auditory scanning, 2 switches with auditory scanning, one switch with visual scanning and computer access via a modified joystick!! Phew! Let's hope the power never goes out!! ☺

Our Favourite Programs:

Gene recommends 'Senswitcher!' This is a ready-to-go online program that has great sensory feedback and is relaxing ...while still doing work! Gene really enjoys this program and will independently move himself to the whiteboard in order to play it! Gene accesses this program by touching a pen to the classroom Interactive Whiteboard and is beginning to respond to pop-ups on the screen. (Gene's teacher likes this program as it gives a clear outline of teaching students to move through technology from cause and effect to encouraging students to attend and respond to visual and auditory cues on the screen.)



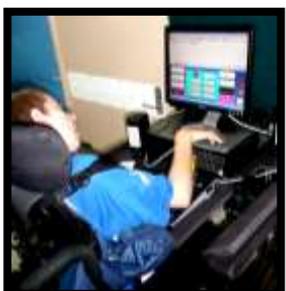
Matthew recommends 'Choose It Maker!' This is a program where Matthew can show off how well he can use his two switches! This program allows the teacher to set up questions which Matthew can answer using his switch. Matthew accesses this program by carefully listening to the auditory cues as he scans through the options with one switch and selects the option he wants with another switch. Matthew particularly likes playing the 'listening game' using this program! His teacher has set it up so that Matthew hears a familiar sound (Matthew's favourites are the drill and lawnmower), he then scans through the options and selects the name of the sound he heard!



Sam recommends 'Slideshow Maker!' This program allows the user to scan and select from a range of different options and when selected will play music and pictures. Sam likes to use this program in order to be our class DJ! When Sam is choosing for himself, we tend to hear lots of Justin Bieber songs! When he is choosing for his friends in the class we hear lots of Elvis and One Direction!! Sam listens carefully and watches the interactive whiteboard as it scans through the options available to him (often we will hear an enthusiastic 'Nope!!!' if it is not a song he wants to listen to! Sam uses his switch to select his choice!



Liam recommends 'Doorway Online' ... (well to be truly honest, his teacher told him to say that!! ☺). This is an online program that allows students to practise their literacy and numeracy skills. Liam is working through the spelling lists and he is able to print out his scores which show how well he did at the end of each list! Liam is really motivated by bettering his score each time!! This program is also switch accessible, so if Liam gets tired using his modified joystick mouse, he can also use a switch with auditory and visual scanning!! Liam also recommends iPads as a highly motivating piece of technology!!



Chance recommends 'Balanced Literacy.' Balanced Literacy is a program that anyone can use, but is able to be set up so that it is fully accessible using a single switch. Chance is able to independently access the whole program using her head switch and visual scanning. This program allows Chance to demonstrate how great her literacy



The Newsletter of the Woody Point State Special School.

skills are and also her navigation skills of familiar programs. Chance is really good at finding crazy songs to annoy her teacher!! ☺ Chance is also beginning to use 'Clicker 5' to make sentences using her switch!



INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



Help your child **ACHIEVE!**

One way to help your child achieve at school is to work together with your child's teacher. The parent-teacher partnership takes work from both sides to become a reality. Here are some ideas that will help.



There's no doubt that the best outcomes for kids happen when teachers and parents work together to support children's learning. Here are 10 ways you can work with your child's teacher to maximise your child's chances of school success.

1. Know what your child's teacher is trying to achieve.

Like children, every teacher is different with their own specific expectations, goals and interests. Get to know your child's teacher and gain an understanding of their approach and aspirations for your child's class.

2. Keep your expectations reasonable and positive.

If your expectations are too high they may give up. Too low and they will meet them! The trick is to keep your aspirations for your child in line with their ability and their interests. Also be realistic about what your child's school can deliver. Sometimes our expectations of schools are not in line with their capabilities or their roles.

3. Support your teacher's expectations & activities at home.

One practical way of supporting your child is to take a real interest in their home-based learning tasks and follow the guidelines laid out by teachers.

4. Send kids to school ready to learn and on time.

Maximise your child's chances of success by sending them to school in a good frame of mind, with plenty of sleep and a good breakfast. Also make sure they get to school on time. It's estimated that many kids miss up to two weeks of school a year when they are routinely late by just five minutes a day.

5. Inform teachers of your child's challenges and changes.

Life's not always smooth sailing for kids. Family circumstances can alter. Friends move away. Illness happens. These changes affect learning. Make sure you keep your child's teacher up-to-date with significant changes or difficulties your child experiences, so he or she can accommodate their emotional and learning needs at school.

6. Skill children to work with others.

Schools are social places requiring children to work and play with each other much of the time. Teaching manners to kids, as well as encouraging them to share their time, space and things with others are practical ways to help kids with their social skills. Talk through any social challenges they may have, helping them develop their own strategies to get on with others.

7. Respectfully seek joint solutions to problems and difficulties.

Resist the temptation to solve all your children's problems or think you have the only solution. Most learning and social problems can be resolved when teachers and parents work together in the best interests of the child.

8. Participate fully in class & school activities.

There is a huge body of research that points to the correlation between parent involvement in a child's schooling and their educational success. Quite simply, if you want your child to improve his learning then take an interest in his learning, attend as many school functions as you can, and follow the lead provided by your child's teacher. This simple strategy will have a massive, long-term impact.

9. Trust your teacher's knowledge, professionalism and experience.

Your child's teachers are your greatest allies. Their training, their experience around kids and their objective professionalism puts them in a strong position to make judgement calls about your child.

10. Talk up what happens at school.

Your child will take their cues from you about how they see their school. If you want your child to value learning, and enjoy their time at school then you need to support your school and make sure he or she hears positive messages about learning, teachers and the school itself. You can set a strong educational agenda at home by talking up your school.

This type of 10 point plan is easy to read but hard to put into practice, particularly when you get busy or your child has significant difficulties. Choose two or three ideas from this list to really focus on in the coming year and you'll find that the rest will fall into place. Good luck and nurture the partnerships you have with your child's teachers.

parentingideas.com.au parentingideas.co.uk parentingideas.co.nz

Michael Grose Presentations

PO Box 167, Balmarring, Vic. 3926 p + 61 3 5963 1798 f (03) 5983 1722 e office@parentingideas.com.au

All rights reserved. For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges please visit our website.

facebook.com/michaelgroseparenting

twitter.com/michaelgrose



INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

parentingideas.com.au | parentingideas.co.uk | parentingideas.co.nz

Michael Grose Presentations

PO Box 167 Balaclava Vic 3926 p + 61 3 5963 1798 f (03) 5983 1722 e office@parentingideas.com.au

All rights reserved. For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges please visit our website.

facebook.com/michaelgroseparenting

twitter.com/michaelgrose

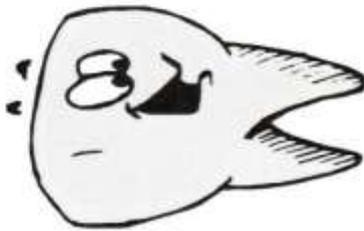




Metro North Oral Health Service
Metro North Hospital and Health Service



IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE WE ACCEPT TEEN DENTAL VOUCHERS



You need to be either:
Year 7 to 10

OR

Year 11 & 12 and a current healthcare card holder*

Call 1300 300 850 between 11am - 2pm Wed-Friday

We will book an appointment for your examination, professional clean and radiographs** at one of our clinics or vans.

There are no gaps to pay and this includes a full course of general treatment.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR VOUCHER WITH YOU TO YOUR APPOINTMENT

**Proof of current healthcare card is required for students in year 11 & 12*

***Radiographs would be taken if considered necessary*

Further information available from: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/dental-teen>



Redcliffe Community Wellbeing Day

Saturday 23rd February 2013

9am - 2.30pm

Scarborough State School, Garsden Street

FREE ENTRY



Book an appointment with a local professional therapist

• Acupressure (a form of acupuncture) • Bowen Balance • Massage • Reflexology • Reiki •

COST: Taster session \$15 for 15 minutes or treat yourself and book a 30 appointment for \$30

Why not book a reading with one of our gifted psychics?

COST: Taster session just \$15 for 15 minutes for a more in-depth reading \$30 for 30 minutes

Sign up for a class in Yoga, Pilates or Tai Chi **COST:** A 30 minute class for \$5

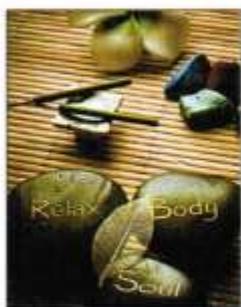


FREE Information presentations in homoeopathy for children, Ayurveda, Nutrition, and more

Pick up a special gift from a selection of stalls & don't forget to get your tickets for a huge raffle

FREE lunchtime entertainment - divine sounds of crystal bowls played by the gifted Judy of The Third Eye Healing Centre

While you enjoy a massage your children can enjoy a fun exercise class with the crew from AIYA, dig for crystals or take part in a stretching, relaxation class with stories

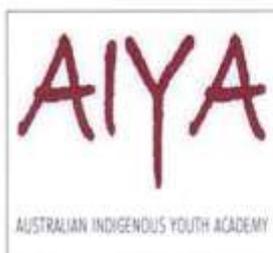


FREE sample bag for the first 100 visitors on the day

TO BOOK text your name, contact number and treatment to **0448 230 480** or email wellbeingday2013@gmail.com and we will be happy to arrange an appointment time. **Places are limited so book NOW!**

Supported by

Sponsored by



Come & support local business & two great causes
Raising money for Cure Cancer Foundation Australia &
a sensory garden for children with special needs

