FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Things that are coming up this term

- Peninsula Fun Run-Fri 15/11
- Premier’s Reading Challenge activity day and assembly-22/11
- PEP Awards-Thurs 31/10
- Enrolment Meeting for 2014 Yr 1 and Prep-6/11
- Senior Formal-Sat 23/11
- Volunteers Afternoon Tea-Thurs 5/12
- Junior Twilight BBQ & concert Wed 11/12

Lions Children of Courage Awards
Last Saturday Redcliffe Central Liosness Club hosted a Children of Courage Awards in our school hall. As usual, it was a great afternoon with 10 young people being celebrated.

Students from our school who received awards were - Christian Brennan, Alexander Beatson, and Mitchell Telfer. Awards were also given to Jessica Alback (Matthew’s sister) and Skyela Beatson (Alex’s sister). Congratulations to everyone involved.

DATES TO REMEMBER

P & C Meeting
Monday 18th November, 2013, in school staff room at 9.30am. All Welcome!

Term 4
- Last Day Term 4 - 13/12/13
- Peninsula Fun Run (NEW DATE 15/11/13)
- WPSS Senior Formal (Sat) 23/11/13
- Junior Twilight BBQ & Concert 11/12/13


School Assembly – Friday, 2.15pm
Undercover Area – All Welcome!

Week 4 – Friday 1st November, 2013

Week 7 – 22nd November, 2013 (Certificates handed out for Premier’s Reading Challenge) (New Date due to Fun Run postponement)

Week 10 – 13th December, 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
Peninsula Fun Run
Unfortunately we had to postpone the fun run last week as the weather was too windy. We have rescheduled for Friday 15/11. We will be short of volunteer helpers as TAFE students who were booked up for the original date will not be able to attend. If any family members or friends would be able to assist with face painting, temporary tattoos, water pistols, art work or beach sports, please let us know.

We will assume that families who have completed approval and sent money for the previous date also approve the new date. If this is not the case, please contact school on 3480 4333.

We would love to have as many families and friends as possible join us for the fun run.

End of Year Multi-draw Raffles
Once again this year, we will be having raffles that will be drawn at ECDP and school end-of-year functions. We would appreciate any donations of festive foods, wine, toiletries, toys etc. ECDP classes have donation boxes outside their rooms and the school has a donation box in reception. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Jan Baildon
Principal

.........from the Numeracy Committee

Children learn about the properties of (and relationships between) things and people by exploring their environment. While they are exploring their surroundings, children are actually learning the basic concepts and processes of mathematics. They are learning about quantity and the shape and size of objects from different perspectives and by using different senses. Children experiment with the consequences of their actions and enjoy the rhythms and patterns in rhymes, songs and finger plays. At our school we extend these ways of learning numeracy by providing students with opportunities to explore different colours, shapes, sizes, tastes and textures. We talk about the properties of different objects and about their similarities and differences and give them opportunities to sort collections of items. To develop number sequences we recite and sing number rhymes and songs. At home, children can act out their experiences through imaginative play and by playing with a variety of materials such as sand, water, containers for filling and pouring, playdough, blocks and balls.

To get you started here is a recipe for playdough. It uses boiling water so is strictly not one the children can help you with; instead they can enjoy playing with it once it has cooled down!

PLAYDOUGH

3 cups plain flour
1 cup salt
1 tin cream of tartar
3 cups of boiling water
A few drops of food colouring

Place all the ingredients in a bowl and mix together.

Store playdough in an airtight container.
Speech-Language Therapy Services

Education Queensland provides Speech-Language therapy services for students with special needs in communication enrolled in state schools or registered for Early Childhood Development Programs and Services. Sue O’Brien is the Speech-Language Pathologist for the ECDP and Lidia Culpo is the Speech-Language Pathologist for the school.

Communication is essential for learning, literacy and numeracy development, interacting with others, participating in all class and school activities and positive self-esteem. Just because a student can’t talk doesn’t mean they can’t communicate. Our intention when we communicate is to transmit our message, to be understood and to understand the messages of other people. Communication messages may be expressed intentionally or unintentionally using informal communication behaviours (e.g. gesture, facial expression, tone of voice) or more formal systems (e.g. signs, symbols, verbal language, written language).

Speech Language Pathologists provide communication support for students, including those who require augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems and strategies. Our goal is for students to learn that communication is powerful and helps them to get what they want/need.

At Woody Point Special School and ECDP there are many systems and strategies used in classrooms that encourage and support communication including:

- Verbal Communication
- Written Communication
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- Speech Generating devices
- Symbols
- Signing
- Symbol Communication Boards e.g. Aided Language Stimulation (ALS) Boards
- Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Communication Books
- Intensive Interaction
- Visual schedules
Occupational Therapy Services

Education Queensland provides Occupational Therapy services for students with special needs enrolled in state schools or registered for Early Childhood Development Programs and Services. Narelle Drinkall, Teresa Emblen & Elizabeth Maden are the occupational therapists who work at Woody Point Special School & ECDP.

Occupational therapists work towards maximum independence of students in their activities of daily living (ADL) including: eating, dressing and toileting. An example of an occupational therapist assisting with ADL's is teaching students to tie their shoelaces.

Occupational therapists can assist in creating fine motor programs for students. There are many benefits of fine motor programs, including: development of the arches of the hands, the thumb and its webspace, separation of the 2 sides of the hand which helps with in-hand manipulation, bilateral integration, and the development of hand and finger strength.

Occupational therapists can create a “sensory diet” for students who have difficulty with sensory processing. When occupational therapists talk about using a sensory diet we mean an individualised program of daily activities that help the child with sensory difficulties become more efficient, focused and adaptable. An example of things we might use include: use of weighted vests, gym balls and chewy tubes.
Physiotherapy Services

Education Queensland provides Physiotherapy services for students with special needs enrolled in state schools or registered for Early Childhood Development Programs and Services. Barbara Wales & Jodi Ford are the physiotherapists who work at Woody Point Special School & ECDP.

Standing frames are important for our students who are able to stand independently. As well as giving them an opportunity to do different activities they facilitate good health.

Assessment of gross motor skills is needed to identify a student’s strengths and weaknesses. From this an appropriate program can be developed to enable a student to access the curriculum.
Moreton Bay Families Workshop
Redcliffe Cultural Centre

Tuesday 19 November 2013

If you are looking to be involved in inclusive sport and active recreation activities in the Moreton Bay region, this free Sports CONNECT Queensland workshop is for you.

The workshop is designed to support people with a disability, families, teachers, disability service staff and sports organisations to open up conversations and work together towards inclusive sporting opportunities.

Participants will:

- discuss a range of playing and non-playing roles that may match the interests and skills of a person with a disability
- explore examples of good practice in inclusive sport
- develop the skills needed to build relationships that will lead to involving people with a disability in sport and active recreation
- connect with local sports organisations or the disability sector

Workshop details

When: Tuesday 19 November 2013
Time: 4.30 - 7.30pm (including supper)
Where: Shillam Room, Redcliffe Cultural Centre, Downs Street, Redcliffe

RSVP: By Tuesday 12 November along with access and dietary requirements to Kylie Walker, Administration Officer, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association

Phone: (07) 3253 3333
Email: sportsconnect@sportingwheelies.org.au

Wear comfortable clothes for light physical activity
Parenting when you don't see instant results

The results of your parenting often don't come until adulthood but you've got to keep doing your best in the meantime. That's one of the great frustrations of being a parent.

There aren't too many activities you do where it can take years to see the results.

**Parenting is one of them**

As your kids grow up, you put in a lot of groundwork teaching them how to behave, how to be confident, how to treat others well and so on. But you don't always see the REAL results of all that effort until your kids are adults.

Nevertheless, you've got to keep doing the right thing regardless, even though it takes a lot of faith.

I was reminded about this when speaking to a mother recently whose son had struggled at school all his life. She'd put so much of her emotional and physical energy into helping him learn, jollying him along and nursing him through the ups and downs that only struggling kids seem to experience.

Her son, now a teenager, was about to give up trying. And I could see that his mother felt like giving up too!

She asked: "When do you stop being a child's coach and cheer leader?"

The answer, of course, is that you can't!

She knew that but, like her son, she needed some encouragement to keep going:

We all do from time to time.

That's why it useful to remind yourself that parenting is a long-term activity.

**The Einstein Factor**

All parents should be aware of the **Einstein Factor**. Albert Einstein was one of the preeminent scientists and thinkers of the 20th century, yet he maintained that he was no smarter than anyone else. He believed he just **stayed on problems longer** than most people.

In the same way, there are some children with whom you just have to stay on the job longer than you would with others:

- If you have a shy or socially-challenged child you might have to stay on the job until adulthood, when she finally finds her own way of building a network of friends and colleagues. Until then, it's all about supporting, coaching and cajoling.

- If you have an ADHD-type child you might have to keep on the job longer to keep him out of trouble. You may not see the results until his mid-20s when all that energy goes into starting up his own business or doing something absolutely amazing. In the meantime, explain, teach and be firm!

- If you have a late bloomer you probably have to keep him interested in learning until he learns the practical skills needed to succeed in the workplace or in business, just as many kids who struggle at school end up doing. In the meantime, encourage, scaffold and model learning.

We all want instant results in whatever we do. Parenting is no different, except that instant results are rare!
That doesn’t make it any easier when you don’t see results for the effort you put in. But you’ve got to keep on doing the right things, and making the best choices for your kids. In other words, you need to bring the Einstein Factor into your parenting. To help do this:

1. Get support and feedback from your partner, or a colleague. Feedback frees you up.

2. Keep building the skills and knowledge that will help your kids be successful or overcome individual challenges. Kids get lifelong learning from parents more than school.

3. Be around people who fire you up and energise you. It’s no coincidence that great parents hang out together. Support keeps you grounded.

Small hinges swing big doors

A former parenting mentor used to say, “Small hinges swing big doors”. He meant that it’s the little things done by parents on a regular basis that make the biggest difference to kids.

You’ve just got to choose the right actions and keep doing them ... day after day. Have faith that the results will come eventually!

NOTE: Get your Kids’ Chores & Responsibilities Kit when you subscribe to Happy Kids, Michael’s FREE weekly parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au