Mid-Term 4 – Our Priorities to Finish the Year Successfully

“So much time and so little to do! Strike that, reverse it.”

_Illustration: Quentin Blake_

Those classic words of Gene Wilder playing the crazy genius Willy Wonka, based on the character in Roald Dahl’s brilliant novel _Charlie and the Chocolate Factory_ echo loudly around this time every year for me as we really start to feel like we’re battling against the clock.

Although the end of the school year is a time filled with excitement and special events, we need to ensure that we don’t lose focus on what is most important – learning and progress. A lot of what will happen in the next few weeks will be directly related to assessment of learning. Students will be completing tests and assignments and will also continue to learn new material and importantly, revise work that has been covered but requires further study. Therefore, it is crucial that student attendance remains a strong focus.

Homework and classroom effort must remain as top priorities as we must aim for all students to gain as much as they can from their programs of instruction. A continued, solid effort over a month can really make a big difference in learning outcomes. It could mean improvement in reading levels, mastering skills in mathematics or even achieving a great mark in an assignment.

Finally, ensuring that our school culture which is based on the ideas of _Wheatlands kids are have-a-go kids_ and high expectations must be upheld at all times. This means that our policies for the effective running of the school will not be relaxed. Uniform, respect for others, safety and a positive attitude will continue to be enforced by our staff so that quality learning can occur and everyone in our school community can enjoy the wrap-up of 2014 and reflect on our successes for the year.

**Student Resource Scheme Update**

Thank you parents for returning your SRS Participation Forms so promptly. We are placing orders this week and expect that pending your 50% deposit being paid, exercise books will be available for collection before the end of the school year. Invoices will be sent home next week and we will notify you when the books are available.

**Very Interesting…**

* Could this be the longest trip ever—6.5 billion kilometres and 10 years in space? For avid or budding scientists and astronomers—check out www.abc.net.au/science/news/- look for _Europe makes space history as Philae probe lands on comet surface._

* G20 Putting Queensland on the World Stage—The Group of Twenty (G20) summit will transform Brisbane over the weekend as 20 world leaders meet to discuss the biggest economical (financial) challenges facing the globe. Heaps of resources and information at www.g20.org/.

* _Parenting Ideas: Insights_ this week—10 Research-backed tips to raise happy kids.

**Attendance for 2014**

Well done Year 3-4—You’ve reached our school attendance target of 95%!

Please ensure you contact the office or send a note to explain any absences from school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep-1</th>
<th>Year 1-2</th>
<th>Year 3-4</th>
<th>Year 5-7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92.43%</td>
<td>94.59%</td>
<td>95.03%</td>
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Joel Batson—Principal

School Behaviour Focus

Week 35—Self esteem

Week 36—Communication/Positive Support
Prep—1 Class News

In Science we have been exploring the way in which toys move and make sounds and light up. Next week, Prep/One students are expected to bring in a toy from home to discuss instead of Show and Tell. They are required to tell the class what the toy is made from and how it moves, also any lights and sounds the toy makes. A note went home to parents at the beginning of this week. This activity will form part of the assessment for our Science Unit. In Maths we have been looking at 3-D objects and we are rocketing through Mathletics units.

In History we have been examining primary source photographs of our school and comparing daily life 100 years ago with the present day. The children were really stunned to learn about ‘thunderboxes’ of the past!

Swimming continues next week and so far no one has lost or forgotten their swimmers. Remember that banking is Tuesday and library borrowing Wednesday. Please return library books on the following Wednesday instead of carrying them backwards and forwards in bags for the week.

Week 5
Green Slips—Shaelee, Amber W
Bookwork—Natalie

Week 6
Green Slips—Ruby, Amber Mc
Bookwork—Xavier

Mrs Alex Brimblecombe

Year 3-4 News

We have been working very hard on our Lectureettes about animals and have found out some very fascinating information. Here is what some of us have discovered:

Kyle – Blue-faced Honeyeater – The young ones have a yellow ring around their eyes and the adults have a blue ring.
Mikayla – Little Penguin – When they are fully grown, they weigh 1.2kg and are 35cm in length.
Madison – Goat – A baby goat is called a kid. Nanny goats can only give birth once per season.
Lawson – Lion – The record weight of a lion is 375kg.
Nick – Sea Anemone – They can grow up to six feet in diameter.
Kai – Tasmanian Tiger – They are extinct, which means there are none left.
Alysse – Elephant – An Elephant’s gestation period is 22 months.
Molly – Bilby – They are only pregnant for 22 weeks.
Samantha – Glow worm – They live all over the world and they are found even in Antarctica.
Harry – Elephant – The younger they are, the closer to the centre of the group
Willow – Red Panda - They can have a baby when they are a year old.
Jordan – Giraffe - Their legs alone are longer than most humans; about 6 feet.
Brooke – Human – They have little bones in their hands and toes called phalanges.
Elly-Mei – Fox – They live in burrows.
Larissa – Dingo – They look like a domestic dog.
Amy – White Tiger – There is only about 500 left in the wild.
Hannah F – Capybara – They have a nose at the top of their head so when they go under water they can breathe.
Jackson – Tyrannosaurus Rex – They were about 14 metres long.
Denim - Western Pygmy Possum - Their average weight is 8-20 grams

Lectureettes are due in week 9. We are looking forward to hearing them.

Erin Hubbard
I would like to congratulate all of the 1/2 class for completing their final lecturette for the year. We shared plenty of laughs from the Fractured Fairy Tales that were chosen 😊

**TRANSITION DAY**

Last Tuesday, our school held our Prep Open Day. What an exciting day it was! I had the pleasure of spending the morning with the Prep/1 class 😊 We shared plenty of laughs, drawings, writing, collage, lego play, drawing on the whiteboard and a photo session.

**ENGLISH**

Today we completed our villain’s wanted poster and chose a fairy tale to write all of the causes and effects within the story line. The class will complete the unit by comparing a traditional fairy tale with the fractured version of the fairy tale they chose for their lecturette. Half of the class continue to type up their "Information Reports" into PowerPoint slides. Check out the front of our classroom for new photos and fun fairy tale pictures.

**MATH**

This week, Year 2 have been completing practical activities from the unit of work "Measurement". We completed our measurement of “Length” in a fun way. Students were able to use snake lollies to stretch, bite into etc and measure them using centimetres. Students have been using hefting and scales to make equivalent weights and making distinctions about heavier and lighter. Next week, students will complete practical activities on capacity. We will be cooling off in our maths lessons with measuring during “water play” (which will be nice after all this hot weather).

Year 1 students have continued working on the “Space and Shape” unit of work. Students have been sorting 3D shapes according to their properties and grouping them according to similar attributes. Next week, we will be looking closely at positional language, giving directions and revising shapes.

**SCIENCE**

Students have been completing some investigations on gravity. We enjoyed making predictions and testing to see if we were correct. Next week we will be observing floating and flight - completing a number of experiments and inventing products that will best demonstrate forces in motion.

**HISTORY**

Students will begin their final piece of assessment next week. A compare and contrast of how the materials we use today in our classrooms are different to those used in the past.

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS HANDWRITING AWARD**

Week 5 – Pixie Gilbert
Week 6 – River Cook

**GREEN SLIPS**

Week 5 – Clair Anderson, Cooper Mollenhauer
Week 6 – Hannah Mollenhauer, Dallas Gordon

**READING AWARDS**

Week 5 & 6

125 Nights of Reading – Jorgia
150 Nights of Reading – Clair Anderson and Julia Kerkow
175 Nights of Reading – Erin Kunde, Tamika and Matthew Kunde
200 Nights of Reading – River Cook
225 Nights of Reading – Charlie Gilbert and Pixie Gilbert
250 Nights of Reading – Dallas Gordon
275 Nights of Reading – Dustin Ramke

Miss Sarah Sullivan.
SCHOOL BANKING

The Commonwealth Bank is running a promotion to reward regular saving. Prizes are:

- 40 x GoPro HERO3 White Edition Cameras
- 150 x Slip ’N Slide Double Wave Riders

To be in the running, students simply need to make a school banking deposit between 20 October—30 November 2014, regardless of the value. They will then be automatically entered into the competition. The more times they deposit, the more chances they have to win (up to a maximum of 6 entries).
**Messages from the Minions**

**English**

*The Forests of Silence*, has proven to be a popular story. We are now looking carefully at the characters in the story and identifying how authors ‘build’ a character. This will help us create characters in our fantasy chapters.

**Maths**

We will start our last unit of study next week – Data Representation. This will see us working on various types of graphs. We continue to encourage children to complete Mathletics tasks at home.

**Independence and Work Habits**

We continue to work towards our children becoming independent, responsible learners. The lecturette is one of the tasks that require children to manage their time to complete their research and outline in preparation to deliver their presentation on time. All children have chosen their topics for this term’s lecturette around our theme “An Event that Changed the World”.

Some interesting facts we have found out so far

**Shiannah** The naval attack on March 18 1915 was a disaster, **Tommy** People panned for gold in Ballarat, **Teai** The first man on the moon was Neil Armstrong born on the 5th of August 1930, **BJ** The bombing of Hiroshima was carried out B-29’s and was called “little Boy, **Claire** Steamboat Willy was the first animated film by Disney Studios, **Grace** When the volcano erupted in Pompeii it was more than double the size of Mt Everest, **Matthew Cook** The man who made the first TV was Philo Farnsworth, **Kenzie Teagan** The Rosetta Stone allowed historians to translate hieroglyphics to Greek, **Claudia** Fleming initially called Penicillin mould juice, **Damian** An asteroid killed 90% of the dinosaurs, **Matt** The Wright Brothers were the first people to fly a plane, **Chris** A total of 2471 people were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbour, **Kaylea** It took 20 horses to transport the main anchor of the Titanic, **Clancy** The Song “I Was Only 19” was written about the Vietnam War, **Ella** 2996 people were killed in 9/11.

**Rewards Day**

We are planning our rewards day trip for the end of year to Aussie World! We have reminded children of the rewards day criteria and are supporting them to meet our expectations for homework, task completion and behaviour. Please help your child by encouraging them to complete tasks, attend school every day and advise the office of reasons for absence.

**Leadership Accreditation**

Please support your child to work the process of nominating for a leadership position in our school for 2015.

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**Mrs Meikle**

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*Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!! Secret Project*

We are working on a secret project and need your help to collect short jars – Salsa, jam etc. We don’t need the lids! Please drop at the office or bring to the 3-7 classroom!

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**ICY CUPS $1**

Sarsparilla, Orange, Raspberry, Lime
RECYCLE FOR THE SCHOOL!
Do you have any old automotive Batteries lying around??
Please drop them off at Murgon Tyre & Auto who can recycle them for you and all proceeds will be donated back to our School.

Thank you to Murgon Tyre & Auto for this great program!
Donations already received—$650
KEEP RECYCLING!

P & C NEWS
Next General Meeting - Tuesday, 18th November 2014 @ 6.30pm
If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda for the next meeting, please add it to the form at the front office counter.

TUCKSHOP
Please note that the LAST TUCKSHOP for this year will be Friday 28th November. Thank you to the parent helpers who provide this service.

Lost and Found
FOUND—Child’s plush toy “Henry the Octopus” - please see Mrs Allan in the office to claim him.

Student Resource Scheme for 2015 – Thank you to all families who responded promptly. Payment is not needed until families collect the books to be covered, which we expect in last week of Term 4. Individual invoices will be sent home shortly. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter. Any questions please see Mr Batson or Mrs Allan.
I have just returned from a research trip to the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence near New York. The Yale Center is home of the RULER Program, the world’s best emotional intelligence program for children and families. I visited the Center in preparation for the introduction of the RULER Program tools to all Parentingideas Club members. We’ll be doing that soon – and I can’t wait!

The thing that I love about the RULER Program is that it’s totally evidence-based. Its effectiveness is backed by mountains of scientific evidence, so credibility is assured. But that’s all I can tell you about the program now – you’ll just have to wait.

In the meantime, there are plenty of other evidence-based tips for parenting that I can share with you. Here are 10 research-backed tips for raising what most parents want: happy, successful kids.

1 **Birth order matters**
   Birth order is something parents need to work with. If you disregard the birth order of your children you are overlooking a vital piece of your parenting puzzle. For instance, research has shown that eldest children tend to experience greater mental health problems, particularly anxiety, than children in any other birth position. Happiness can be elusive for this group so they require a parenting style that is cognisant of their drivers, and that releases pressure rather than placing extra pressure on them.

2 **Positive peers matter**
   Your child’s friends impact heavily on their wellbeing and frame of mind. When peer relationships are smooth, children seem to be happier, more content and even learn better. Recent research I was involved in demonstrated that the wellbeing of teenage girls is highly influenced by their peer groups. A positive peer group usually equated with high life satisfaction regardless of what other factors were at play.

3 **Parent mental health matters**
   If you want happy kids then you need to get yourself happy. Parent anxiety and depression is linked to behavioural problems in kids; it also makes our parenting less effective.

4 **Sibling relationships matter**
   Research shows that over the long haul healthy relationships makes kids happier. But how do you go about teaching kids to get on? Start by encouraging children to build small acts of kindness, which builds empathy. Help them mend relationships that have broken down. Start this with siblings first. With only-children, make sure you build these skills through plenty of interactions with peers.

5 **Developmental matching matters**
   A number of studies have shown that much of what is considered ‘poor parenting’ has more to do with poor developmental matching. Put simply, parents who raise an eleven-year-old like they did their eight-year-old may find that conflict and resistance become their constant companions, and unhappiness accompanies their child.

6 **Good parenting matters**
   Permissive, laissez faire, autocratic or authoritative parenting? These are parenting styles most parents use at some point.
If you want your child to be happy and succeed over the long term, then extensive British research shows the way. The links between authoritative parenting (a mixture of firmness, warmth and family participation) and children’s happiness and wellbeing are well drawn.

### 7 Family dinners matter

Yes, you’ve got to eat. But you need to eat together. Significant research links family strength and children’s wellbeing with regular family mealtimes. Importantly, there is a high correlation between teenagers who eat with their family at least five times a week and good mental health.

### 8 Fun matters

Many kids get too little unstructured time these days. Play that is not initiated by adults is more than just mucking around: kids learn and grow through such play. Researchers believe that the dramatic drop in unstructured play time is in part responsible for slowing kids’ cognitive and emotional development. Unstructured play helps children learn how to work in groups, to share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, regulate their emotions and behaviour, and speak up for themselves.

### 9 Helping others matters

The Positive Psychology movement know what they are talking about when they put volunteering at the forefront of an individual’s wellbeing. Helping others makes you happy over the long term. The same applies with kids. Just don’t let their grumpiness put you off when you expect them to help.

### 10 Emotional intelligence matters

Emotional intelligence is a skill, not an inborn trait. Believing that your kids will just naturally come to understand their emotions (let alone those of others) doesn’t set them up for success or happiness. Kids learn best when they have concrete tools to assist their learning, whether learning to read (books come in handy), playing sport (a ball and some goalposts helps) or learning to dance (some suitable music helps). The wonderful tools in the RULER Program toolkit make learning emotional intelligence accessible for kids.

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**So let’s recap - to raise happy, successful kids:**

1. Birth order matters
2. Positive peers matter
3. Parent mental health matters
4. Sibling relationships matter
5. Developmental matching matters
6. Good parenting matters
7. Family dinners matter
8. Fun matters
9. Helping others matters
10. Emotional intelligence matters

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Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NEW Parentingideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.