Dear Parents and Caregivers

As I supervised the students taking the NAPLaN tests last week, it seemed to me that the last two weeks have been all about challenge for some of us and in all different kinds of ways.

The students doing the tests certainly gave their best effort, of that I am sure. They were focussed and seemed to use their time effectively, from what I could see. And that’s where their challenge lay, putting in their best effort over 40, 50 or 55 minutes or whatever the time was. While they were working hard, I read the tests and answered the questions and I know I felt somewhat wrung out at the end of the session, so imagine how the students must have felt! Without knowing the outcome, I would like to say ‘Well done!’ to Milly, Jesse, Heidi and Hannah.

Congratulations, too, to those students who challenged themselves again this year to compete in local SAPSASA cross country and footy competitions. It is not an easy thing to nominate yourself knowing you are not necessarily going to make it through to the next level. As a small school, though, students have done very well in these competitions and, Sam, Jesse, Heidi, Sasha, Ross, Alister and Caleb should be proud of their efforts.

All students and teachers face challenges every day. For students it might be about working through a maths problem or learning those pesky sight words or letter-sound combinations, while for teachers the big challenge is ensuring the ‘right learning’ for each and every learner. My challenge is to support the teachers and staff to provide this ‘right learning’, through the implementation of an effective performance management program that involves training and development, analysis and monitoring of student data, observation and feedback.

I use the words ‘right learning’ deliberately, as it was an issue for discussion and a challenge that the sites in our Lower Mid North Partnership have also picked up on. I attended the ‘Partnership Portfolio’ days last week, Thursday and Friday at McLaren Vale, and it was an ideal opportunity for us, as leaders in the sites, to talk about our Partnership, how it was going and where to next. It was interesting to note that leaders felt it was going well, from our perspective. Where we face our challenges is in bringing staff and communities on board. We did not feel that we were there yet, in terms of staff and community ownership or ‘buy-in’ to the Partnership. This challenge, along with that of ‘right learning for each learner’ is what we will work through over the next months. Stay tuned!

My next, short term challenge is to get the next Maths card out to you before the end of the week! That, and getting everything else I need to do, done. Wish me luck.

Tracy Griffin
I believe that you should ride your bike. The first reason is bike riding is fun, because you can get fit and healthy. If you don’t get fit and healthy, you will get sick. The second reason bike riding is fun is because you can do jumps. If you find a big enough jump, you can get big air. The third reason bike riding is fun is because you can ride with other people. People can keep you company. In conclusion, bike riding is fun because you can get fit and healthy, you can do jumps and you can ride with other people. 

By JED

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CARTWHEELS

I believe that everyone should do cartwheels. To begin with, you have to be flexible. You have to be flexible, because if you are not flexible, you will hurt yourself. Another reason is that if you want to do a cartwheel, you have to be strong. You have to be strong because you have to hold yourself up. The third reason, is that you need to have a lot of space. You need a lot of space, because cartwheels are big so they take up a lot of room. To sum it all up, cartwheels are tall, you need to be strong, and you need to be flexible to do a cartwheel.

By MILLY

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To begin with, drawing is relaxing. Relaxing is good to refresh your brain when you’ve done some hard work. In addition, drawing is good to do when you have nothing to do, so if you’re bored, you’ve got something to do. The third reason is if you like drawing, then you can enter some competitions. If you enter competitions, then you could win more pencils to do more colouring. In conclusion, drawing is relaxing, good to do if you have nothing to do, and you can enter competitions. That’s why you should like drawing.

By LUCY

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Banksia Class

Persuasive Texts

We used Popplet on the iPads to write out the plan. After that we wrote it out in our Literacy Block Books. Then we were given a sheet with lines, and put a sheet of paper on top. We wrote it out on the piece of paper.

Lastly, we trimmed and stuck it on a piece of cardboard and used scrap paper to make pictures of what we were doing and wrote the title.

BY JED
May 7th, 2015
Dear Australian Citizens,

Composting is an activity that is free, fun and beneficial to soil, plants and people. Everyone can contribute to composting by learning about what can be composted, by collecting and saving ingredients, and by making a homemade bin.

Adding compost to soil –
- Holds nutrients in the root zone of plants for a long time
- Helps to clean bad soil
- Saves water because it helps store water and release it more slowly
- Keeps water deep in the ground and slows down evaporation.

Well composted soil doesn’t need bought fertilizers which have chemicals in them. Plants are happy and do not contain poison. People who eat the plants enjoy organic, tasty, nutritious produce.

Please take composting seriously. Up to 50% of all the rubbish we throw away in Australia could be composted. The organic materials get trapped in dumps. With no air flow it can’t decompose normally. Gases are produced. These gases trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere causing temperatures to rise. People who compost are environmentally responsible.

Are you a composter?
Yours sincerely,

Waratah Class
Manoora Primary School
“Better soil, better life, better future”
International Composting Awareness Week, 2015

We held a brief but very important event at school on Thursday, May 7th. We officially launched our new compost bay as it arrived just in time for International Composting Awareness Week. The Waratah class designed it last year in Design and Technology after researching the effectiveness of various styles of compost heap. Our Waterloo Wind Farm grant funded its construction at Clare Metal Fabrications, along with two more large garden beds. The students installed these and two smaller beds (for strawberries!) and filled them with soil in Week 1. We enjoyed planting out some more vegie seedlings (which we grew from seed) during the Open Day in Week 2. We have a small number of vegetables still to plant, and will have a full range of winter/spring vegies to enjoy. And so our garden is complete! On Thursday 7th, each of the students placed an ingredient into the new compost bay as we spoke about all the benefits of composting, ingredients we can add and celebrated the completion of the project. The enthusiasm, speed of learning and effort by the Waratah class during these weeks has been a delight to watch. Included today is an Open Letter they wrote to all Australians as part of our International Composting Awareness Week activities (May 4 – 10). Very special thanks to Tracy Nicholls and her team at CMF!

Does anyone have a spare small, light pitchfork they would be happy to donate for turning compost? Please let Belinda know if you do. Thanks!
Have you ever really looked at a $50 note? It is not valuable because of its colour, nor is it valuable because of what it is made of, and it cannot do anything of its own accord so it is not valuable because of what it can do. Why is it valuable then? It is valuable because of what it is. You can take the $50 and scrunch it up, jump on it, or say that it’s a pathetic piece of plastic, but it is still a $50 note, and it is still valuable.

The same is so true of each of us. People are valuable, not because of our abilities, but because of whom we are. Sometimes life can distort us out of shape and we feel that we have been trampled on, but we are still who we are despite our crumpled feelings, and we are still valuable.

Many books written today speak about this very thought and encourage us to hold on to fact that whether we are rich or poor, larjish or smallish, athletic or not, we are valuable in our own right. The next time you look in the mirror give yourself a smile, stand up tall and remind yourself that you are valuable.

Kristy Adams
Pastoral Care Worker
BEDWETTING
A DVD based program, Bedwetting Cured, has been developed by Dr Mark Condon, and Physiotherapist, Margaret O’Donovan. It outlines a successful program for parents to implement at home with their children.
For more information and a free Bedwetting Fact Sheet please visit the website: www.bedwettinginstitute.com.au or phone 1300 135 796 – 12 noon to 6pm

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Only 4 weeks for $45

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Register before 15th May and you get to keep:
- Kookaburra Hockey Stick and bag
- Hockey ball
- Shin Guards & Mouth guard
- Replica Australian playing top
- Umpire cards, wallet and whistle

http://hookin2hockey.hockey.org.au/
Find-a-Club
for registrations
Contact Jayne 0400 384 292
Only 30 spots available
The weather was slightly better at Burra this year! Once again our students performed very well! Congratulations to Sam for coming first in Under 12 boys, and to Caleb for qualifying for Oakbank along with Sam in this age group.