Hello Again Parents & Community

Term four 2016 and while I can appreciate that time marches on it’s the speed at which it moves that keeps me wondering where it went? After spending 6 weeks at Nerang State School I must say it is great to be back in the beautiful Numinbah Valley.

On reflection, one thing really resonated with me during my tenure at Nerang was that we have a wonderful environment here in which to support our student's learning amidst the sound of running water, fresh valley air, limited traffic or noise along with wonderful parental and community support.

No two schools are the same. Each school is managed differently. Each school has a very diverse level of staff experience, staff age, staff styles and importantly, staff enthusiasm. Each school caters to variety of students from hugely differing socio-economic origins, family combinations, familial support and level of encouragement.

Here at Numinbah we have an encouraging combination maintaining sound individual learning support, high expectations, dedicated staff and very supportive parent body and community. For this support each student’s progress toward continually achieving improved levels of achievement.

Christmas Tree
Our Christmas tree event this year will be held on Saturday 3rd of December. Our students are eagerly practising for their presentations with Mrs Barrie already doing a marvellous job in tailoring a play to suit our student cohort. She has also enlisted Mr Shelton’s support around some musical segments with the students of which I am sure you will be immensely proud. You have already received a note regarding costumes and practice and it is vital that the students keep up the practice to avoid both disappointment and to a lesser extent, embarrassment. I thank you in advance for your support in this regard.
Attendance
For semester one our school’s daily attendance was a reasonably pleasing 92%. However due to some illness we have dropped to 88.2% so far this semester. However as the term progresses I’m hoping we can pick that percentage up seeking a target of 95%.

Acknowledging that everyday counts in a child’s education and, when ill, it is advisable to keep your child at home to prevent the spread of an illness where applicable, it can impact on continuation of curriculum delivery. That is we tend to put off certain lessons or activities for that day rather than do it twice or double up. This naturally lengthens the time it takes to complete set units and specific classroom tasks particularly with specialist teachers who are here only once per week. This concept is even more pronounced in a small school context due to student numbers and the impact even one student absent can have on program delivery.

Please ensure you contact us via the school phone (0401783812) to advise us of your child’s absence or any other issue you may have pertaining to your child’s attendance at Numinbah Valley State School.

Classroom
Across the school this term our students from P to 6 are engaging with and appreciating poetry in various but simple forms. We are looking at poetic devices, rhythm, rhyming patterns, humorous poems and analysing how the poet uses some of these devices to construct humour in verse. Each group will be investigating how these poems entertain with many examples of word play with puns, similes, metaphors even nonsense words from nonsense poems such as ‘The Quangle Wangle Quee’.

Oral presentations are prepared and presented each fortnight. Students are advised of the topic a fortnight before it is due. However students still demonstrate a notion that you don’t need to commence planning, preparing and practising until the night before? This has proven to be a complete disaster and the standard of presentation is continuing to plateau rather than improve. Our expectations are that they work toward making each presentation better than the last. Each week feedback is provided while the results are recorded in their weekly progress charts in their homework books. The topic for the next presentation on Thursday of week 5: Choose a natural resource and explain what it is used for. Tell us whether it is renewable or non-renewable and describe how some people use it in an unsustainable way. Then explain some ways it can be used sustainably.

As you are aware we’ve had new storage cabinets and doors installed under the admin building. We are installing also a shelf on the science room veranda and adding an overhead cabinet under the building to finalise our storage in that area. This process has necessitated the removal of shelving, steel lockers and a variety of boxes, chairs and an assortment of desks. In addition we have recently purchased new adjustable desks and will soon have quite a few more available for parents. They will be stored in the shed and available for inspection should you be interested.

Computers: We have recently had 6 laptops decommissioned and they have been formatted and Windows 10 installed. They are being offered to parents (one per family) at a very reasonable price of $150 under a buyer beware policy. While these laptops were operating well on our school system it is important for those who purchase are aware that there is no warranty and no back up, therefore you purchase at your own risk. The way to acquire one is to pay cash only on collection of the device. We are not holding one because you said you’ll be in next week. This is strictly cash up front with first in first served.
We are currently arranging quotes to have our playground upgraded. Our existing playground is more than 13 years old and I have had discussions with some parents with a view in mind of installing a refreshing new and exciting playground to see us through another 13 years; perhaps. We are offering the existing playground to any community group who are in need of such a facility and willing to remove it at their own cost. We would prefer to see it used by a non-profit organisation who may not be able to afford such a structure but are willing to remove it at their expense.

Audit
During week 9 we are being audited by Mr Garry Buckler, a Principal Internal auditor for the Department of Education, Training and Employment. He will be here for approximately two days going over our records ensuring compliance and conformity. This audit was initially planned for term three but has been postponed twice now due to staffing issues.

Until Next Time
Have a Great Week
Warren
Hi to all our fantastic Parents,

Firstly thank you to all of our amazing volunteers at the Raw Challenge the weekend ran smoothly and was a great success.

Cent Auction:

♦ Our annual Cent Auction will be held on Saturday, 29th October commencing at 5pm. On the night we run our normal BBQ & bar as well as the cent auction (which will involve drawing around 22 raffles) and a Melbourne Cup sweep. We have been informed that the hall has been hired out on Sunday so we will need to have the hall tidied and cleaned before we leave Saturday night. The whole community is invited and we will need all hands on deck to assist with the night!

♦ Donations— If you have cleaned out your cupboards or managed to collect any donations please bring them to the school asap. If you are providing home baked, made or grown just bring your items along on the night but please let us know so we can include the in our tally.

It would be great if all families could try and attend our next meeting as we will mainly be discussing and organising the Cent Auction.

That’s all for now. Thanks again to all of our amazing parents, we couldn’t do any of this without you.

Sam

Our next P&C meeting is on Monday 24th October starting at 3.30pm. If anyone has any agenda items for discussion please contact Sam.

All community members welcome!
This term in Geography the Juniors will look at how places have distinctive features, investigating what places are like and how their features have changed. The concept of environment is introduced, as students study the daily and seasonal weather patterns and natural features of their own area and of other places, including how seasonal change is perceived by different cultures. They will investigate some of the important activities located in a familiar place as well as an examination of where these activities are located and why. This will start their thinking about the concept of space. The idea that people can organise space will be introduced by investigating how space within a familiar place can be arranged differently for different purposes. They will further develop the idea of active citizenship by being prompted to consider how places can be cared for.

Senior Geography

This term the seniors will be looking at the topic of Sustainability. The unit focuses on how the Earth’s environment sustains all life, and develops students’ understanding of the ongoing capacity of the environment to sustain human life and wellbeing. Students will recognise that people have different views on how sustainability can be achieved. They will learn that sustainability means the careful use of resources and the safe management of waste, and they will explore some of the other functions of the environment that support their lives and the lives of other living things. They will get opportunities to consider the sustainable use of environments and resources and to apply this information to develop a plan for appropriate action that people could take to improve environmental quality.

Senior Art

The Seniors will be doing Visual Arts for the whole of Term 4 while the Juniors take their turn at Technology. During the first part of the term they will investigate Aboriginal Art, looking at the purpose these artworks were made and the various symbols that create a story in Aboriginal pictures. They’ll have the opportunity to create their own Aboriginal artworks using these symbols. Later in the term the Seniors will practice the skill of Printmaking. They will make a variety of pictures using various printing forms such as sponges, wood, thumb prints, newspaper and leaves as well as design their own engraved foam print. They will also have the opportunity to print a T-Shirt with their own design.

- Mali Barrie

Seniors Science

Space

In this unit students will describe the key features of our solar system. They will discuss how people have contributed science knowledge to space exploration. A possible space mission to a planet will be proposed, considering planetary data.

Changes around me

In this unit, students will describe the observable features of a variety of landscapes and skies. They will consider changes in the sky and landscape, and the impact of these changes on themselves and other living things. Students will represent observable features and share ideas with others about changes in the sky and landscapes and how they affect everyday life.

- Tracey
Teach kids to problem solve

By Michael Grose

When parents solve all children’s problems we not only increase their dependency on adults but we teach them to be afraid of making mistakes. That’s fertile ground for anxiousness and perfectionism, which often go hand in hand.

Kids get used to bringing their problems to parents to solve.

Of course, if you keep solving them, they’ll keep bringing them. “Mum, my sister is annoying me?” “Dad, can you ask my teacher to pick me for the team?” “Hey, I can’t find my socks!”

It’s tempting if you are in a time-poor family to simply jump in and help kids out.

Alternatively, you can take a problem-solving approach, cuing them to resolve their own problems and take responsibility for their concerns. “What can you do to make her stop annoying you?” “What’s the best approach to take with your teacher?” “Socks, smocks! Where might they be?”

Here are 5 questions you can ask kids to encourage them to resolve their own problems:

1. “Can you solve this yourself?”
   Get kids thinking they can do it.

2. “What do you think needs to happen?”
   Start kids thinking about solving problems.

3. “What’s the first step?”
   Sometimes just getting kids started is enough to get them working out issues themselves.

4. “How would you like me to help?”
   Get kids considering the type of assistance they need.

5. “What’s the best way to do this?”
   Get kids assessing and prioritising.

Problem-solving is one of the four major skills (optimism, social skills & independence being the others) that resilient kids share, yet it’s the one that many of us aren’t equipped to develop. Start by stepping back and asking good questions when kids bring you their problems to solve.