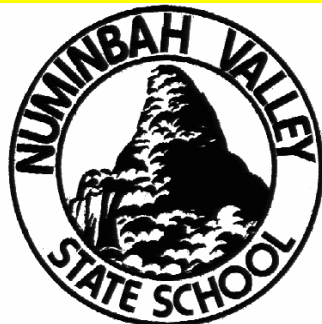


Week Beginning

8/06/15



Numinbah Valley State
School

Numinbah Valley State School NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Hello Again Numinbah

As week eight slips quietly by and the days become shorter, winter and that infamous influenza season commences another annual march toward springtime. Parents as a matter of necessity need to be vigilant about protecting their children against colds and flu like symptoms that continue to develop becoming more difficult to evade as the various strains of bugs and bacteria change and evolve. I believe there is no simple solution to our children avoiding and for that matter ourselves suffering some form of cold or flu during the winter months. However we need also to consider how these bugs can be passed on especially at schools, kindergartens and day-care environments. While I acknowledge the need for students to attend school every day it is important that when colds and flu like symptoms emerge that parents consider weighing up the benefits of a day at school against the real need for isolation at home with some tender loving care. I trust parents are quite capable of making that decision in the best interests of their child and a day at home can sometimes be the ticket to a more rapid recovery.

Permission / Payment / Function Response

Just a reminder about the prompt and timely return of permission slips, participation consent forms, payments and other compliance / obligatory paperwork. I request your support in ensuring all this paperwork and payments are returned and paid promptly to assist us with facilitating, planning and finalising school events and functions. We will always provide a return date and go to great lengths to set that date in consideration of impact on parent's time.

Report Cards

Report cards are currently being completed with only a few assessment items yet to finalise as supporting evidence. I will be emailing them out to parents during the last week of school this term. Any parent who still wishes to have a discussion about their child's progress please don't hesitate in giving me a call.

IN THIS EDITION

- Principal's Report
- P&C News
- 2018 Commonwealth games
- Quote of the week
- Gardening news
- Gardening
- Michael Grose-Reading your child's report

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

- 15 P&C Meeting
- 15 ICAS-Writing
- 16 ICAS-Spelling
- 16 Japanese Dinner
- 23 Athletics Carnival
- 26 Last day of term 2

July

- 13 First day of term 3
- 18 Kokoda Challenge

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONTINUED

Website

I have recently spent time maintaining our website and are placing news worthy events on the front page. You will notice the event yesterday at Metricon is now on the news section of the front page. Each newsletter is uploaded each fortnight and we are working hard to keep things up to date. I am looking to print new brochures advertising our school and aiming to have them delivered at the beginning of term four. We are anticipating 2016 will commence with 12 students enrolled and while I would prefer a slightly higher number I am confident it will grow. It is important to attract new parents we need to maintain the currency of our website.

Staffing

Heather is heading off to Europe during term three and a contract will be drawn up to take over her position for the duration of term three. Mali Barrie has agreed to take the position. Mali comes to us with a wealth of experience specialising in art and drama. She has taught at schools from Coomera to Murwillumbah including close neighbours over the border Chillingham and Crystal Creek. Mali will join forces with David Delaney on Tuesdays to deliver the science and art components of the curriculum. She will join us at Pizzey Park for the athletics carnival and I'm sure you will make her feel welcome. I will have Nathalie Dalmasso another teacher filling in as TRS for us periodically and for Thursday and Friday this week and the PD I'm attending on Monday at Bond University. This is a compulsory day for group 2 Principals around future improvement targets.

Classroom

Students in 3-6 are presenting their technology presentations tomorrow with the title "How has technology improved our lives?" During this week they will also be commencing maths investigations that will round out the term in numeracy. We have ICAS testing next week with spelling and writing for the 3-6 students. In addition they will also be giving a persuasive speech next week which they are currently in the process of completing the preparation. Our juniors are almost finished their maths investigations while they are working to present an oral retell of a chosen story. The 'The Very Blue Thingamajig' was a big winner while 'Crunch the Crocodile' ran a close second and while the students dictate their individual retell the eventual retell will be recorded on the iPads for assessment.

Until Next Time

Have a productive week

Regards

Warren

P&C NEWS

Kokoda Challenge

Our major fundraiser 'The Kokoda Challenge' is just around the corner and we are going to need all hands on deck! Over the coming few weeks the Kokoda Committee will be meeting and organising a roster. It would be great if everyone could make themselves available on Saturday 18th July. This event runs all afternoon and evening so it would be greatly appreciated if you volunteer some of your valuable time on this day. We will email the roster out as soon as it is organised.

Tajska and Chloe attended the breakfast launch for the '2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Schools Connect Program'. Initiated to engage and connect with students and the wider community on the Gold Coast ensuring you are informed, excited, and involved in GC2018. They managed to capture a selfie with Education Minister Kate Jones and Deputy Mayor Donna Gates.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“The ability of a group of people to do remarkable things hinges on how well those people pull together as a team.”

— Simon Sinek



GARDEN NEWS

We have saved a few battery hens from the caged factory where they were going to cull over 3000 hens. Students are reciting a poem written by Pam Ayers, 'The Battery Hen'. The students are learning about free range and certified eggs compared to the eggs labelled 'farm fresh eggs'. Our new happy hens are now laying and the eggs are used in baking some after school sports treats.

Jodie

Battery Hen, by Pam Ayres

Oh. I am a battery hen,
On me back there's not a germ,
I never scratched a farmyard,
And I never pecked a worm,
I never had the sunshine,
To warm me feathers through,
Eggs I lay. Every day.
For the likes of you.

*

When you has them scrambled,
Piled up on your plate,
It's me what you should thank for that,
I never lays them late,
I always lays them reg'lar,
I always lays them right,
I never lays them brown,
I always lays them white.

*

But it's no life, for a battery hen,
In me box I'm sat,
A funnel stuck out from the side,
Me pellets comes down that,
I gets a squirt of water,
Every half a day,
Watchin' with me beady eye,
Me eggs, roll away.
I lays them in a funnel,
Strategically placed,
So that I don't kick 'em,
And let them go to waste,
They rolls off down the tubing,
And up the gangway quick,
Sometimes I gets to thinkin'
"That could have been a chick!"

I might have been a farmyard hen,
Scratchin' in the sun,
There might have been a crowd of chicks,
After me to run,
There might have been a cockerel fine,
To pay us his respects,
Instead of sittin' here,
Till someone comes and wrings our necks.

*

I see the Time and Motion clock,
Is sayin' nearly noon,
I 'spec me squirt of water,
Will come flyin' at me soon,
And then me spray of pellets,
Will nearly break me leg,
And I'll bite the wire nettin'
And lay one more bloody egg.



Reading your child's report

By Michael Grose

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . .
a pleasure to teach . . .

Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child's abilities. A quick check of your child's last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends' children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child's self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child's progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child's report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don't dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child's efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.