Teaching and Learning

Not a great deal has been discussed in this newsletter about what actually happens behind the classroom doors by students and teachers to improve learning. This is the job of educators and is often a mystery and sometimes a source of frustration for our parent.

At PHPS we endeavour to provide the best possible education for every one of our students. This means doing more of what we know works and seeking out better ways to make things work that don’t.

Everything that we do in the classroom to improve student learning comes from well researched practices and strategies. This has been a deliberate plan and one which has been embraced by our entire staff. Continuous learning is what we ask of our students and is what we strive to achieve as a learning community.

However, much of what we do is clouded in jargon and teacher talk that sometimes excludes our school community from really understanding what we do that makes a difference. We know that Pakenham Hills Primary School staff make a large difference and this is evidenced in much of the information we have on improvements made, including data that shows our students have made progress in their reading, writing and mathematics from year to year, from NAPLAN test to NAPLAN test, and from our own testing regime.

The following is what we know that has made a difference to our students’ learning outcomes:

- Catering for individual differences by really knowing what children can do and need to know next
- Teachers working closely in teams to plan comprehensive and engaging programs
- Explicit teaching methods that give students the ‘recipe for success’
- Small group focusses with like ability students
- Monitoring student progress through ongoing classroom assessments
- Feedback to students about their achievements and how they might improve
- Providing engaging activities that meet the learning goal/s of the lesson

These are only a sample of how curriculum is delivered, how teachers teach and how students learn best.
Virtues

One of the five strategies all teachers have implemented into their language and dealings with students is the setting of clear boundaries that are based on respect, peace and justice. These are like a fence of safety, within which there is freedom.

“The virtues of peace, justice, respect, caring, kindness, gentleness and so on are the guideposts. The consequences are the wire and wood. A student who breaks through the boundary meets the consequences and is then invited back to the safety of the boundaries. Establishing boundaries based on virtues helps to create safe havens, where students feel free to learn and teachers feel free to teach.” Taken from the Virtues Project Educator’s Guide.

Restorative Justice is an approach that we use to restore relationships that have been damaged. Virtues strategies talk about setting and resetting the boundaries using restorative justice. Consequences and punishments are sometimes necessary but unless the relationship between the parties is repaired the problem has not been resolved. All teachers have the skills required to hold restorative conversations with students. In our experience these conversations are a powerful forum for students to talk about what happened, how they feel and what needs to be done to repair the problem.

Next time in our newsletter we will discuss the topic of bullying and the school’s approach to this very serious societal issue.

Dale Hendrick  Christina Baker  Lynelle Broekhoff

Principal  Assistant Principal  Assistant Principal

Reminder to Parents / Guardians,

You must send **written authorization with any medication** that is required during school hours. Prepared forms are available at the front office. **NO** medications other than asthma puffers are permitted in the child’s school bag. They are to be handed to the office or the sick bay for safe keeping, and can be collected at the end of the day if required.

Please also ensure that all current phone numbers are up to date. This is very important. When a child is feeling unwell or has been injured we need to be able to contact their parents as quickly as possible. Some students become quite distressed if we cannot contact anyone and they have to remain in sick bay. It can be a very long day for them, especially if they are unwell. Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. The best place for them is at home.

Regards Rosina Rudd

First Aid officer
What’s been happening at PHPS?

The Pakenham Hills Primary School Choir travelled to Hisense Arena for the State Schools Spectacular.

Amazing work Choir! You should be so proud!

You can catch the State Schools Spectacular on Channel 7 on the 20th of October. Check guides closer to the date for the time.
Dear Parents,

Our formal 2014 Prep Transition Program has started!

Do you have a child starting school next year in Prep?
If so, it is that time of year again where enrolments are being accepted.

This transition program is especially designed to ensure the most positive and successful transition for your child into the school environment.

For more information regarding our Prep Transition Program, please come and visit us at the office and collect our Prep Information Packs for 2014.

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Story-time Thursdays

Come and join in the fun, every Thursday afternoon with Story-time in our school library. As part of our Prep Transition Program, this is a wonderful opportunity for children to visit the school, meet our current Prep Teachers and spend time in the library experiencing a typical school learning session.

Story Time sessions run from 2.30pm til 3.00pm, every Thursday afternoon (starting July 25th, August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and September 5th and 12th).

Please come to the office and sign in your child!
**Prep O**
Prep O  
For displaying fantastic behaviour while on our recent excursion to the Casey traffic school! I am proud of you all.

**Prep L**
Kurtland Fatuleai  
For demonstrating the virtue of **Justice**. You always think for yourself and make good choices in the playground and classroom.

**1/2 K**
Isaac Griffith  
For being fair and just at all times.

**1/2 D**
Danica Spencer  
For showing the virtue of **co-operation**. You respect the rules. You work and play well with others.

Ty Kuhnell-Pay  
For always treating everyone fairly. You try and solve problems so everyone wins! Well done!

Jaxon Schuback  
For showing the virtue of **Justice**. You treat everyone fairly and solve problems so everyone wins.

**1/2 R**
Ruby Anderson  
Using the virtue of **co-operation** Ruby often gives help when needed.

Taylor Barry  
For always trying to fix problems. You reflect on your actions and make positive adjustments.

**1/2 M**
Jake Shankland  
For showing the virtue of **Justice** and always treating everyone fairly.

**1/2 J**
Allison Hayes  
You are always co-operative.

Kayla Virgona  
You are a pleasure to have in the classroom.
### STAR STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Student 1</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/4 S</td>
<td>Nathaniel De Lorenzo</td>
<td>For displaying the virtue of <strong>Justice</strong>. You believe in being fair to everyone. You try and solve problems so that everyone's a winner!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Destiny Norman</td>
<td>For showing great <strong>co-operation</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 C</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Morrall</td>
<td>For demonstrating the virtue of <strong>co-operation</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jake Massey</td>
<td>For demonstrating the virtue of <strong>Justice</strong> and solving problems positively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4 L</td>
<td>Ethan Ross</td>
<td>For displaying the virtue of <strong>co-operation</strong>. Ethan, you work well with others and offer your help when needed. You follow the rules and help keep a happy and safe environment. Well done, Ethan!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 /P</td>
<td>Lochie Brooks</td>
<td>Showing the virtue of <strong>co-operation</strong> during our concert practice.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### HOUSE POINTS FOR THIS TERM

- **Kennedy** - 12
- **Murphy** - 6
- **Anderson** - 12
- **Adams** - 13
Reclaiming Pakenham Against Violence

AUGUST 24th at 10am.
A Walk In Honour of Kylie Blackwood.
Peacefully walk from Gloria Jeans car park to Bourke Park.
A $2 donation would be greatly appreciated to go towards the Blackwood Children's Trust.
6N ran a disco for the whole school in the old gym on Thursday last week. Each student was given a job to run the disco. Some of the jobs included sausage sizzle team, canteen organiser, publicity team and more.

This disco was a school fundraiser to help with our whole school concert and the Performing Arts Programs. On the day of the disco, 6N and their teachers worked very hard to clean and set up the old gym. That night, the juniors arrived first at 4pm. I was a part of the publicity team, so I had to help with everything. The seniors arrived at 6pm and during their disco, the glow stick team ran out of glow sticks so they packed up early and help everyone else.

During this process I learnt that everything doesn’t go your way and that you need to work together to achieve your goal and it will take longer than you think if you don’t work together.

We all had an awesome time at the disco and we raised $2021.15. Thank you to everyone who came to the school disco.

Destani 6N

On Thursday 15th August an amazing event occurred. As you all know, 6N organised a whole school disco. It was INSANE even though all 6N did was work! The juniors disco was amazing because it was non stop dancing, excitement and more…

The juniors loved it and so did 6N.

Afterwards, we cleaned continuously and got ready for the senior disco. When the clock hit 6pm, it was lights out, for the seniors had just arrived. Glow sticks sold out quickly, so did the pop tops and all that you could see was the bright colourful light and a bunch of people wearing glow sticks.

Altogether, we raised $2021.15. I had great fun and I would love to do it again.

Chantelle 6N

August 15th – a fantastic Thursday night. 6N held a whole school disco. The disco was divided into two. Grades Prep to Two were at 4pm until 5.50. Grades Three to Six were at 6pm to 7.30.

6N stayed all night and day. 9.00am until 8.00pm. What we did was worth it. We all worked very hard and on Thursday night it paid off. When the juniors walked in, the disco WOWED them to the max!

On behalf of 6N, we would like to thank Miss Kimber, our DJ, for a great job. I would also like to thank Mrs Noy and Nikole for making the night and thinking of such a wonderful project. We learnt in the classroom about organising events and also how to run them on the night.

Thank you to all the teachers who helped us out. We appreciated the extra helping hands and all the kids loved dancing with the teachers. THANK YOU.

Hope 6N
School Disco
School Disco
Helmets protect your brain

A bicycle helmet will only protect your head in an impact if it is the correct size and shape and is correctly fitted. A helmet should fit snugly on your head and be comfortable to wear.

Your new helmet will have adjustment pads; ask an adult or your parents to help you fit the pads, to make your helmet fit properly. If you need to put very thick pads in your helmet, then the helmet is probably too big or is the wrong shape for you.

Obey the law!

Did you know, that you are breaking the law, if you don’t wear your helmet whenever you are riding a bicycle or scooter?

You can be fined $146!

You should also be wearing your helmet for safety, whenever you are riding anything with wheels; skateboard, roller skates, roller blades, and rip sticks...

Wear your helmet – or you risk cracking it when you’re stacking it!

Psychology, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy on a Fee For Service basis

- Registered ATAPs and Medicare provider
- Registered provider of Helping Children with Autism and Better Start (FaHCSIA and Medicare)
- Private Health Care
- Privately funded

Specialties:
- Child, Adolescent and Adult
- Anxiety and Depression
- Family Separation
- Behavior Management
- ASD / Cognitive Impairments / Behavioral Disorders
- Bedwetting
- Sleep Strategies
- Aids and equipment

On Track Service Locations: Berwick, Cranbourne, Narre Warren
Phone: 1300 66 87 22  Fax: 9598 9597  Email: contact@getontrack.com.au  www.getontrack.org.au
3/4 B’s

Japanese Cherry Blossom Scrolls