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Teachers have been very busy collecting data, assessing students to determine progress across the learning areas and writing reports. At the moment there are issues statewide with all schools’ data management system which generates report cards. Our aim is to have report cards to you by the end of term, technology permitting.

**BULLETIN:**

- **CRAZY PANTS DAY TOMORROW (WED)!**
- **NDIS EVENT AT CLIFFORD PARK ON THURSDAY 5.00-7.00 (CHILDCARE PROVIDED)**

**MORE INFORMATION LATER IN THE NEWSLETTER**

**FOCUS ON CURRICULUM**

Our Miss Vivian hails from Brazil and more recently California. She particularly enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC week with her class last week across the Learning Areas. They coloured the Aboriginal flag discussing the significance of the colours and design, explored poems with Aboriginal themes and played a "spear" game in HPE.
PREPARING FOR THE NDIS

For people with disability and their families, the NDIS provides more choice and control over the support they receive. Clifford Park Special School is hosting an event to inform parents and carers about the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme). Corina Searchfield, Deputy Principal at Clifford Park informs me that this event will be delivered by a representative from the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency). This agency is involved with interacting with families, the consumers.

Preparing for the NDIS in Queensland

A representative from the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency) is coming to Toowoomba. The NDIA’s Queensland team is working with people with disability, their families and carers, as well as the disability sector, providers and the Queensland Government, to start preparing for the NDIS.

Date: Thursday 25th June 2015
Time: 6:00pm-7:00pm
Venue: Clifford Park Special School
Rob Street Toowoomba

Child minding available

For further details and to RSVP
Contact: Corina Searchfield
csear1@eq.edu.au
0439735258/4614533

This is more than an awareness-raising session. As future consumers, I am encouraging those of you who can attend to consider attending. As you can see, child-minding will be provided in order to make it easier for our families to attend. I know some of our parents have registered already. I look forward to seeing you there and learning more about the next phase of NDIS implementation in Queensland.

If you are attending, please phone Clifford Park Special School, especially if you require childcare on site – 4614 5333.

PBL: POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

We continue to implement our Behaviour Matrix this term. The matrix is a grid that includes behaviours we will be teaching which occur across the entire school day. Our three expectations (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe) are defined in each daily routine and the behaviours involved are taught explicitly each week.

Those of you who visit the school daily for drop-offs and pick-ups will have seen an easel with any important notices for the day or week. Included on the easel is our BEHAVIOUR OF THE WEEK. This week it has been ‘I LISTEN WITH MY WHOLE BODY’ (Be Respectful).

We use star stamps as rewards for desired behaviours. These are then transferred onto rockets with each rocket containing 10 stars. Students are able to access the reward menu each week when they accumulate a certain number of rockets.

Cameron achieved six rockets and chose “Mr Glenn’s Helper” as his reward.

Our PBL Team continues to meet fortnightly after school. In addition to Glenn and me there is Megan Thompson (teacher and Internal Coach), Laura Masters (our Curriculum Coordinator), Mary Evans (Teacher Aide) and Megan Apalais (our Parent Representative and Vice-President of the P&C). Amy Harding (our external Coach) attends meetings when possible.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Attendance at school results in maximised learning time and we believe that if students attend every day and every learning minute of the day, we are improving their opportunities for success.

Please send your child to school if they are well and there is no other reason for them to be at home. If your child is going to be absent for the day, please notify the school by phone. If your child has up to five unexplained absences, Glenn or I will be contacting you to see if there is anything we can do to help.

P&C BIZ:

✦ Our P&C recently spent $1,000 on upgrading sandpit toys, Tonka trucks and push toys. We also purchased a new bike and scooter.

✦ Our P&C is seeking donations for the multi-draw raffle for the Race Day on 24 October. Any parents and carers who are willing to do so are encouraged to visit their local shopping centres for donations. Letters of introduction from the P&C were sent home a while ago. If you need one in order to approach business for donations, please let the office staff know and we will give you a new one.
Our Race Day is one of our P & C’s biggest fundraisers for the year so we would appreciate your support. It is a great event, so book your respite / child care now!

Winter is here so get ready to order your V-neck, fleecy lined jumpers. These are priced at $24. We have plenty of other stock available. Payment will be required at collection of your uniform order.

**PRADER-WILLI AWARENESS DAY**

Many thanks to those families who supported this awareness-raising day for those who have Prader-Willi Syndrome.

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**PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME (PWS)**

Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) is a rare and very complex non-inherited genetic disorder in which several genes on the 15th chromosome are deleted or unexpressed. The common characteristics of PWS are small hands and feet, abnormal growth and body composition (small stature, very low lean body mass and early onset childhood obesity), hypotonia (weak muscles) at birth, insatiable hunger, extreme obesity and intellectual disability. In recent years, the syndrome has been genetically characterized as an abnormality of chromosome 15, and definitive diagnosis is now based on genetic testing.

**PROMOTING A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY (from Michael Grose)**

I’m often asked by parents how to develop a sense of responsibility in kids. The answer is simple – give responsibility to them! Let them feed the family pet, empty the dishwasher, clean up the living area at the end of the day. Most kids rise to a real challenge when it is sincerely given, and backed by realistic expectations. We tend to give responsibility to kids that don’t need it – the easy kids. But we often ignore the kids in our family who would really benefit from giving them some trust – the difficult kids, those that require some following up or parental work.

Kids belong in two ways in families - they belong due to their positive contribution or they belong through poor behaviour. The family pest has as much cache as the responsible child – their parent knows they are around!!!

It makes sense for parents to work hard to provide opportunities for kids to contribute to their family so they feel valued for what they bring to their family, rather than for what they take.

Here are three practical tips to promote a sense of responsibility in your kids:

1. **Start early:** children as young as three are to help and have some responsibility but we often push them away and say, ‘You can help when you are older’. Train your kids young to help themselves and others.

2. **If a child forgets then on-one else does the task:** If a child doesn’t empty the dishwasher then it is still there when they come home from school. Sounds tough but that is how the real world operates. When you empty it, it is your responsibility.

3. **Don’t give kids jobs when you have an emotional attachment.** Give them tasks that you know you can live without if they are not done, or are not done to your standard.

Another thing, many parents call this type of responsibility jobs or chores. I prefer to call it “help”’. It’s just a little rebranding, but it reflects what it is.

Michael is the author of 8 parenting books, including his new release ‘Thriving!’ and the best-selling ‘Why First-Borns Rule the World and Last-Borns Want to Change it’.

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Orange people on staff in the Orange Eating Area: supporting Prader-Willi Awareness Day on Friday 29 May
His popular parenting columns appear in newspapers and magazines across Australia. He appears regularly on television including Channel 10’s The Circle, and is a popular & entertaining speaker as well as a frequent columnist for a variety of written media. He also has a regular fortnightly half hour parenting segment on ABC radio Victoria.

Michael has an education background, and holds a Master of Educational Studies with research into what makes healthy families tick. He has conducted over 1,500 parenting seminars over the last two decades.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS

The annual School Opinion Survey will be conducted between 29 June and 31 July 2015. All families and school staff will be invited to participate. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve. The survey is online for all participants – it is not a hard copy form. For more information and your unique code, please read the attachment to this newsletter.

If you do not have access to a computer but would like to complete the survey, please let us know and Sandra in our office can arrange a time to set you up and log you on to complete the survey. If anyone needs additional support to read and complete their survey we will be pleased to assist.

Visits to Paediatricians:

If your child has a paediatric, neurologist or other specialist visit coming up, please let your child’s teacher know. This will enable us to provide an update about your child’s progress at school. Paediatricians and other specialists tell us that they find information from school to be extremely valuable e.g. in relation to a child’s behaviour, ability to concentrate, cognitive and physical skills, energy levels etc. while at school. It would be desirable to have at least one week’s notice for a report.

Call School Watch on 13 17 88

The School Watch program is a partnership between the Department of Education and Training, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

Keep the number handy and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and warm holiday period till school resumes on Monday 13 July.

Kind regards

Lea

********** Coming Events **********

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.06.15</td>
<td>Crazy Pants Day (gold coin donation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.06.15</td>
<td>Parade: School Leaders and Senior Shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.06.15</td>
<td>5.00pm-7.00pm NDIS Session at CPSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.07.15</td>
<td>Term 3 commences!</td>
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<td>28.07.15</td>
<td>MyTime morning tea with guest speaker</td>
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<td>29.08.15</td>
<td>Toowoomba Business disABILITY Awards</td>
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<td>18.09.15</td>
<td>‘Talk Like a Pirate’ Day (fundraiser)</td>
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<td>05.10.15</td>
<td>Labour Day public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.10.15</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.10.15</td>
<td>Toowoomba West P&amp;C Race Day</td>
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ACCESS TO A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Mr. Glenn, our Deputy Principal, is a registered Justice of the Peace (Qual.). Should you need the services of a JP (Qual.) please enquire at the office to make a time to meet with him.

CRAZY PANTS DAY

Tomorrow please feel free to send your child to school in crazy pants to support Children’s Health at the Toowoomba Hospital. A gold coin donation would be appreciated.

PLEASE KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL THESE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school (and other schools). If you see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Our arrival area in front of the Administration Block is about to undergo a transformation. Over the June/July holiday period, Martin’s Sand and Gravel will be doing landscape work to transform our front arrival area into a welcoming space. Many thanks for your patience, since we first removed our rockery and fish pond a couple of years ago. I know that the wait will be worth it.