Leader’s Report

STAFF CAR PARK

A reminder that the staff car park is not to be used to drop children off and collect them at days end. Governing Council is quite adamant about this for safety reasons and as a result has asked that a chain be placed over the entrance. This is now in place from 8.15am to 9am in morning and 3pm until 3.30pm in afternoon. Again I ask parents not to use staff car park to drop and pick up kids!

REPORTS

Staff is now in the process of organising the writing of semester 1 reports. These will be going home on the last day of this term. If you do need to collect your child’s report before this date (eg leaving early for holiday) please contact the school.

ATTENDANCE

As part of our duty of care to the students at Ascot Park, we are very concerned when students are frequently absent or late. We are required to address issues of attendance and make reports to DECD when children’s punctuality and non-attendance frequently occur. We are also required to enter reasons for absences and late arrivals into the system which goes into the Education Department.

Therefore, we are asking you to respond to your child’s teacher’s request for reasons for your child’s absence or lateness.

Failure to comply, will force us to make a report to Attendance. It is your responsibility as parent or guardian, to ensure that your child attends school as required. We understand that illness or family occasions are unavoidable. However, the likelihood of success in learning for all students is strongly linked to regular attendance and appropriate participation in educational programs. It is crucial that students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

Research shows that students who are absent for more than 10 days per year are disadvantaged both educationally and socially.
**Family Maths Challenge**

The Maths Challenge is intended for the family to do together. Talk about Maths and see how you all solve the problems. Record how you do the challenge and then bring it into school (with name and class) and post it into the Maths Box in the office by Friday.

We will acknowledge students’ and family efforts in the next newsletter.

**Challenge #2 - STEPPING UP**

This stairway is made of cubes. How many cubes would be needed to make the steps 9 steps high?

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**#1 Answer - Thursday 1st May 2014**

How did your family go with solving last time’s problem?

The day with the largest sum of dates is Saturday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Sum of dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>$1 + 8 + 15 + 22 + 29 = 75$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>$2 + 9 + 16 + 23 + 30 = 80$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturdays</td>
<td>$3 + 10 + 17 + 24 + 31 = 85$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundays</td>
<td>$4 + 11 + 18 + 25 = 58$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mondays</td>
<td>$5 + 12 + 19 + 26 = 62$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>$6 + 13 + 20 + 27 = 66$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>$7 + 14 + 21 + 28 = 70$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE**

The School Dental Service is the major provider of dental services for babies, children and young people under 18 years in South Australia. Around 130,000 children attend every year.


All children are very welcome to continue to access dental care at the School Dental Service. Dental care is free for most children and the School Dental Service will bulk-bill Medicare.

Children who do not qualify for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule can also attend – a small fee will apply for each course of general dental care provided.

School Dental Clinics are located across Adelaide and regional SA. To locate your local School Dental Clinic, and for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, visit [www.sadental.sa.gov.au](http://www.sadental.sa.gov.au)

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**DANCE PARTY - FRIDAY JUNE 27TH - 6.30PM - 9.00PM**

**BAY FUNCTION CENTRE - GLENELG FOOTBALL CLUB**

9–13 YEAR OLDS - $5.00 PER TICKET

FACE PAINTING AND LOTS OF GIVEAWAYS

FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

LOCK IN - NO PASS OUTS

ENQUIRIES - 8207 4820

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT FROM THE VENUE
Canteen News!

Available on Fridays at the school Canteen.

A CUP OF OVEN BAKED WEDGES

With Tomato/BBQ or Sweet Chilli Sauce

Only $2.00

WE NEED YOU

DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF SPARE HOURS EACH WEEK?

Would you like to spend some time helping out at the school?
Volunteering in the canteen is not only fun and rewarding, but also a way to get to know some other parents and carers involved in our school.
We may even be able to open the canteen more days if we can enlist the help of some volunteers.
If you are able to help out please let myself or the front office know.
Kym

Instilling good character in students

Many researchers have concerns that society’s focus on boosting self-esteem leaves many struggling to cope with failure on leaving school.

Over-praising means children are less able to cope with disappointments they face later in life.

As well as teaching academic subjects, schools need to help students develop life skills, such as the resilience and persistence they would need to survive in the real world.

What we’ve found now is that some children can’t cope with criticism or the fact they didn’t get a sticker for participating.

Social researcher and author Hugh Mackay said "We’re beginning to understand that it actually damages children to constantly praise them, constantly tell them they’re special and build up their self-esteem"

"New research is demonstrating that it’s not self-esteem but self-respect and self-control that really are the best predictors of how well kids are going to perform in school."

Mr Mackay said society’s obsession with the pursuit of happiness and self-esteem was driving the idea that everything had to be fabulous - avoiding pain, suffering and disappointment.

At Ascot Park we are striving to build good character in students, where they can work hard to achieve academically because it is in their best interest.

Not because they will be rewarded with a prize. The reward is the feeling of satisfaction that comes from achieving your goals, the feeling of pride when you gain respect from others.

Successful students are not afraid to make mistakes, but to constantly learn from them to find better solutions.

“Failure is simply an opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.”

Henry Ford
Performing Arts – Heather Smith

We continued our unit on Hamlet with a lesson called ‘Potted Plots’. Each group of students had to act out the main action from one of the Acts of Hamlet using their own words.

The guards, Horatio & Hamlet meet the ghost of Hamlet’s father.

Polonius tries to find out why Hamlet is acting strangely. King Claudius is asking Rosencrantz & Guildenstern to watch Hamlet & find out what’s wrong with him.

Hamlet talks to Rosencrantz & Guildenstern and soon realizes they are there to spy on him.

Ophelia tries to give some letters back to Hamlet. He refuses to accept them and they fight.

Hamlet goes to his mother Gertrude, who wants to know why he & Ophelia have argued. Polonius spies on them.

When Polonius calls out from behind the curtain in Gertrude’s room, Hamlet thinks it’s Claudius and stabs him.

Ophelia goes mad with grief. She gives everyone flowers and later drowns.

Claudius has a cup of poison wine for Hamlet but Gertrude drinks it and dies. Laertes nicks Hamlet with the poison sword and Hamlet mortally wounds him.

Laertes tells him of Claudius evil and Hamlet stabs him with his sword. They’re all dead in the end except for Horatio, Hamlet’s friend.

Hamlet lasts for 4 hours. We managed to get it done in 10 minutes. We think we got the gist of the story!!
“A is for apple.” This is one of the most well-known phrases of the English language. It is taught to every young child when they learn to read and write. Apples are one of the most common and most well-known fruits as it is the most widely cultivated fruit. The apple is famous in English literature from the Old English translation of the story of Adam and Eve eating the “apple” (the word meaning fruit in Old English) to the famous fairy-tales of Snow White eating an apple and Little Red Riding Hood taking apples to her grandmother. The apple is the fruit which fell on Isaac Newton’s head leading to the discovery of gravity. The apple is highly nutritious and associated with good health - hence the well-known saying: “an apple a day keeps the doctor away”. Education is also highly nutritious for the brain and leads to good health. Hence the apple became synonymous with the teaching profession and students of yore used to present their poorly paid teachers with apples to help support them. Apple - health and education: it is no wonder that one of the most famous and successful companies in the world today is called Apple.

Mind you, as another saying goes, “it ain’t all apples” and even the giving of an apple can be misused. Some children of yesterday tried to gain favour from the teacher by giving them a highly-polished and luscious looking apple. This gave rise to the derogatory term “apple-polisher”. The problem then is that “one bad apple spoils the whole barrel” meaning that the good apples can be spoilt by the bad apple.

As I write I am focussing on an apple that is under my hat in my office. The special thing about this apple is that it is half-eaten and that it was hidden under my hat just over ten weeks ago by a person or persons unknown! When I first discovered this apple I was shocked, surprised, angry, annoyed and sad. I could have thrown it in the bin and complained. But I have been curiously watching this apple for 10 weeks now as it has dried out and shrivelled and got smaller. Who had put this apple there? Why had they done that? What was their story? Are they happy or are they shrivelled up inside and dying? Is there hope for the future? Well, actually, yes there is! The seeds of the apple are still alive and, under the right circumstances, could be planted to grow into a brand new tree producing lots of new apples. Well, my little apple and your mysterious owner - what will your future be? Thank you for the opportunity to look after you. I wish you all the best.

Til next time
Karen Tromans

CPSW