PRINCIPAL’S NEWS—Sue Gibson

As usual we are off to a flying start as today we welcomed our new Kindergarten students for 2016! Our orientation will continue over the following two Tuesday mornings where we will provide information to our new parents and get to meet our lovely newcomers.

Boating Safety

Yesterday we had a visit from the NSW Maritime Division of Roads and Maritime Services to help educate our students on enjoyable and safe boating. It was great to see all the kids participating in some fun and important activities.

PBL Focus

This week we are reminding our children to use the toilets correctly and wash their hands. Leaving the classroom to use the toilet can become a very time consuming issue with some students. We always encourage the students to use the toilets in the breaks, but we as teachers do understand that this is sometimes unavoidable.

A Quick Reminder about PaTCH

Would you like to help in your child’s/grandchild’s classroom? Are you interested in learning how to be a fantastic classroom helper? If so, in Term 4 Lisa Noble, the Instructional Leader at Boolaroo P.S, is conducting a program called PaTCH (Parents as Teachers/Classroom Helpers). This course will demonstrate how to support students in their learning in areas of literacy and numeracy whilst at the same time help to keep in touch with what is happening in schools. This presents as an excellent opportunity for parents to become more involved in their children’s learning.

The program will consist of 4 x 2 hour professional learning sessions held on the Boolaroo P.S school grounds from 9am – 11am.

Fridays
Basketball

***15th October
P and C meeting

20th October
Kinder Orientation

***24th October
Raw Art

27th October
Kinder Orientation

28/29th October
Year 3/4 Camp
Morisset

3/5th November
Year 5/6 Camp
Sydney

9/20th November
Swim Scheme

**Any Item in Term Calendar with an asterisk needs to be added to your fridge Calendar.
Session Times:
Week 4 Wednesday 28th October 9am -11am
Week 6 Wednesday 11th November 9am -11am
Week 8 Wednesday 25th November 9am-11am
Week 10 Wednesday 9th December 9am-11am
Please see the EOI included in this newsletter.

Board of Studies Parent Guides
Last week, I purchased a set of 4 books from the Board of Studies for each classroom, titled “Helping your child to read”, “Helping your child to do mathematics”, “Helping your child to learn about grammar” and “Helping your child to write”. These sets of books will be available from your child’s class teacher on a borrowing basis. Please take the opportunity to borrow these resources sometime so you can play a greater role in your child’s learning.

Selective High School Placement 2017
If you are interested in applying for a selective high school placement for your child in 2017 please see the following information.

Important information:
· Parents must apply online at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement
· Applications for entry in 2017 can be made online between 13 October 2015 and 16 November 2015. Applications will not be accepted after 16 November 2015.
· All applicants are required to sit the Selective High School Placement Test to be held on Thursday 10 March 2016.
· Regular updates information about selective high school entry and placement procedures regularly on the Unit’s website at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

If you need to, contact the Unit by email ssu@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 880 367 or fax (02) 9266 8435.

You will need to give the student number (please see your local school) and other identifying information when talking about a particular student. For email enquiries, you should use the original email address used in the application.

Ask your child’s teacher if you want advice about whether your child might benefit from attending a selective high school.

Find out about courses and programs offered by specific schools using the list of school websites at the end of this document.

3/4/5/6
The class will be working on their drumming over the next few weeks in preparation for their Grandparent’s day performance. Make sure you don’t miss the chance to see some up and coming musical talent.

The performance may rock you!

P and C
The monthly meeting is on this Thursday 15th October. 5.30pm in the school library. If anyone has an agenda item please contact Aleena or leave at the office. All are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Canteen
Canteen is now open Wednesdays and Fridays for a nutritious and delicious lunch. A menu is available on the website or come into the office for a copy. Helpers are also always welcome.
The community acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the school is located.

We are a proud Pondee Konara Community.

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### Weekly Awards

#### TERM 4 - WEEK 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Harvey Young</td>
<td>An amazing effort learning his sight words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Sasha Gardner</td>
<td>Settling in well to school and class routines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Reece De-Miller</td>
<td>Working hard to improve his reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Noah Scott</td>
<td>Having a great attitude in all area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>Angelina Lobien</td>
<td>Writing an impressive sports story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5/6</td>
<td>Daniel Pettit</td>
<td>Displaying Excellent basketball skills</td>
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HYPERFOCUS

Everyone knows that children with ADHD struggle to focus and concentrate, especially on something that doesn’t interest them. But, “hyperfocus” (which is common to ADHD) is the ability to “focus very intently on things that do interest them”, usually because instant feedback is provided. It is this aspect of ADHD which has led to some people believing that “they can concentrate if they want to!”.

Unfortunately this is not how hyperfocus works. Most kids with ADHD cannot always control it and therefore their performance can be quite scattered. A child that used “hyperfocus” to create an impressive and detailed dorama on rainforests, may then struggle to recall and use this same information in a class quiz.

Hyperfocus can definitely be a positive aspect of ADHD, however it needs to be monitored carefully (especially in children) to ensure that they don’t end up playing computer games all day oblivious to other tasks that need to be done and at the expense of interacting socially. Most children who hyperfocus will be unaware that they are doing it, it is almost like a trance. Which means to break this trance the parent/teacher needs to gain their attention – eg speak to the child (perhaps standing in between the child and what they are doing), they may need to wave a hand in front of them, tap them on the shoulder, etc, and certainly allow a few minutes for them to shift to the next activity.

Ensure you don’t raise your voice, as the child is not being intentionally disobedient, their brain just needs time to register the change.

Parents/teachers can set up guidelines beforehand about how long the child will be allowed to do the activity, this way the child has warning that there is an end in sight. It’s always worthwhile talking to your child about “the way his or her brain works” so they can understand and hopefully harness this positive trait in the areas they need it.


Have you read this article...


Have you seen this book...

100+ Ideas for Supporting Children with Dyslexia, by G Reid & S Green

Have you googled this website...

http://LanguageDelayNetwork.com/

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- A Quarterly Newsletter
- Fortnightly Member Updates relating to LD.
- Discount on LDC resources
- Discount on entry to LDC seminars

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT

ADHD TOOLKIT
This booklet on ADHD covers areas such as the nature of ADHD, Behaviour Management, Learning Support & Social Skills. It includes strategies for parents, teachers and health professionals.

$10 for LDC members
$15 for non members

See www.ldc.org.au for details