Thank You

Thanks for joining us for our celebration of Education Week. Students love having you join them in their classroom. It gives them a sense of pride and purpose in what they do everyday. Thanks to Mrs Hall for introducing Discovery Nights to our school and Mrs Coyle for organising our K-2 carnival.

Our next big celebration will be Book Week. This week of fun will begin on the 18th August 2014. Watch the school news for updates. Miss Mercuri is very busy organising the events.

Congratulations

Well done to Max Gaffney for winning an Encouragement Award in the Department of Health's Name the Crane competition. Thanks to Karen Salmon for coming along to present his award at our assembly.

Uniform

Thanks to all those children who are wearing school uniform to school on a daily basis. If your child does not have a school jumper please contact the school for assistance.

Our Bus is Here

We are so excited about the arrival of our new bus. It will have its maiden voyage today. It will take the touch players to Riverbank ovals and all we ask to cover costs will be $2. This is $1 down and $1 return. Bargain!

Thanks to our P&C and the Variety Club for making our bus dream come true.

Big Thanks to Woolworths

Thanks to Jason and the staff at Woolworths Riverdale for generously donating fruit to support our sports carnival on Friday.

This is a great article I found from Michael Grose.

When things go wrong at school.

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school. Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence.

During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance. Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes a huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers.

Here’s a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Stay calm and rational

It’s natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they’ve come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Get the all facts

Once you’ve calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there’s a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can’t see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It’s the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

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If your child has a recurring problem that he can’t solve himself, or you think adult intervention maybe needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting your child’s teacher or year level coordinator.

4. Go through the right channels
Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child’s teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it’s often easier to approach them directly.

5. Look for solutions rather than blame
Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child’s teacher as an ally, not a foe. “I’m really worried about Jeremy. He’s been acting strangely lately and I need some help” is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what’s best for your child. Listen to your teacher’s viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6. Stay in touch
Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can’t be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child’s teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other. Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.

Anne van Dartel
Principal

Special Ed Unit News
On Wednesday 6th August, 21 students from the Special Education Unit will be participating in a Multi-Sports day to be held at Sportsworld in Dubbo. They will be participating in 6 different sports, being instructed by trained coaches from Sydney. Approximately 100 students from Dubbo and surrounding schools will be involved. We will be taking plenty of photos and these will appear in the newsletter next week. All the students are looking forward to going and I am sure that they will all have plenty of fun on the day.

Joanne Hamilton (Rlg AP)

Library News
Book Fair is fast approaching. Start saving your money so that you can buy some fantastic books for your home library.

Miss Mercuri

Congratulations Class Captains
The new class captains for term 3 are:
Kinder Cobalt—Mathew Burrell
Kinder Honeycomb—Lachlan Dixon
Yr1 Indigo—Charlotte Leigo
Yr1 Ochre—Alexandria Kerin-Bayer
Yr2 Wisteria—Nahtia Shae Kelly
Yr2 Magenta—Jana Mendoza
Yr3 Fairy Floss—Shanele Jones
Yr3 Peridot—Courtney Simmons
Yr4 Bamboo—Jai Wilson
Yr4/5 Platinum—Jake Chandler
Yr5/6 Fuchsia—Dekquitah Taylor
Yr5/6 Lava—Trinity Lawrence
Special Education—Joel Ferguson-Howison

Buninyong Book Fair
Monday 18th August
Selling Morning/Lunch/After school
Hope to see you there!
Reading Centre Book Activities
Bookworm Guessing Competition

Buninyong Bucks are Back!!!
Earn Bucks by:
Coming to school on time every day, get a Buck on Friday.
Spend Bucks at the school office on:
Excursions, uniforms, performances and sport.

PBL FOCUS
We follow instructions the first time