PRINCIPALS CORNER

I was invited to speak a group of young leaders recently and a few things struck me when talking to some individuals after their speeches. Although they all spoke very well while on stage, there seemed to be some glaring differences in their communication skills when engaged in conversation. There are many aspects which we try to instil at school regarding effective communicating in the classroom and the playground. Most of these have behaviour implications while at school but also after school. If these are ingrained now, we can be sure these skills will be utilized in daily life. I have briefly outlined some key messages regarding communicating effectively.

Being an effective and polite communicator and engaging in conversations is something that most people would assume just happens. It certainly does not. It’s been my experience that the best way to ensure your child is able to communicate outside the classroom is to model these skills but also to reinforce the messages we deliver regarding communicating effectively with peers and adults.

First, make eye contact. It is important that children be taught to establish eye contact with the person to whom they are speaking. Looking directly at the other person in the conversation shows interest and gives respect. Children need to be taught that looking away is a sign of disinterest and is not good manners.

Second, speak clearly and correctly. Using good pronunciation, not rushing speech and using good grammar are all aspects of communication that parents should model for children. Parents should pay attention to how their children are speaking and gently correct without embarrassing. There

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is no need to correct mistakes in front of others. Doing so may cause children to feel self-conscious, inhibiting their speech in public.

Third, **take turns and don't interrupt.** Children must be trained not to jump into a conversation just because they feel like talking. It is important that parents curb this behaviour and teach children self-control. When a child interrupts, you should stop the conversation, firmly tell the interrupting child to wait their turn, and then resume the conversation.

Fourth, **pay attention and respond appropriately.** Modelling good listening skills to children is the best way to teach good listening. When conversing with children, parents should listen attentively and repeat key phrases back to the child so that the child feels heard. Ask appropriate questions of the child and allow the child to respond. Show interest in what the child has to say. The best conversationalists are those who listen well.

Fifth, **enter conversations politely.** There is a correct way to join a conversation that uses good manners. If parents consistently demonstrate how to politely enter a conversation, over time children will learn the practice. Parents should show children how to approach the group quietly, smile to those in conversation, listen to what people are saying, and wait until they are spoken to before speaking. It is also important for parents to teach children how to behave politely when someone joins an active conversation. Those in the group should smile and nod to recognise the person joining them, when the speaker finishes, the group can greet the newcomer and make introductions.

Finally, **ending a conversation pleasantly** is very important is ensuring you are listened to the next time you may be conversing with that person. Walking away from a conversation with good manners is a crucial skill to possess and one that parents should work hard at teaching to their children. Parents should encourage children to leave a conversation saying some pleasantry such as, "I promised my cousin that I would throw the ball with him and so I need to go now, but it was really nice talking to you." Other important skills that parents should focus on when teaching children basic communicational skills are controlling volume, not using vulgar language and leaving private matters for private conversations.

Parents should also help children to understand nonverbal communication
and cues. Rude facial expressions like eye rolling and grimaces as well as yawning at a speaker, hair twisting, turning one's back to the speaker, finger nail picking and checking one's watch, are all bad manners. Children need to learn that their nonverbal actions and behaviours can make people feel badly. Learning to read other people's nonverbal cues is an important lesson too, and with time, children will begin to understand when to end conversations, finish a story or change a subject.

The annual School Opinion Survey will be conducted between 29 June and 31 July 2015. Families, school staff and a random sample of students 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. Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey were sent home with students last week. If you haven’t received any survey access details, please contact the school.

Earlier in the term I wrote an article in the newsletter regarding student attendance at school and trying to eliminate unexplained absences. I would like to say thank you to our families for the increased usage of our absentee line, keeping the office informed of any student absences and the significant reduction in unexplained absences. To further enhance attendance rates, we have implemented an Attendance Award where the class with the best attendance at the end of the term, will receive a reward and formal recognition at an assembly. We hope this will boost the attendance rate as well as encourage students to work together to achieve something as a class.

To quote verbatim from my post on Facebook, ‘The Tennis Court Looks Great!!!!!’ I just wanted to give a huge Shout Out to Mr Harris, Mr Jackson, Mr O’Loughlin, Mr Shaw and Mr Rowen for joining me on Saturday morning to paint the tennis court. It was a great effort and will last for a very long time.

Regards

Cliff Powys
Congratulations to our Students of the Week.

Week Ending 17/7/15
Prep: Lochlan and Parker
Prep/1: Reece and Tristen
Year 2: Jordan and Jemma
Year 3: Lyndal and Mia
Year 4/5: Max and Larissa

Week Ending 25/7/15
Prep: Darcy and Stella
Prep/1: Will and Annabell
Year 2: Aimee and Zoran
Year 3: Johnathan and Jack
Year 3/4: Cooper and Jessica
Year 4/5: Jazmyn and Brayden
Year 5/6: Dakota and Ashlee

Keep up the good work!

ILLNESSES
Many students have been affected by various illnesses in recent weeks. We would encourage parents to keep ill children at home until fully recovered if at all possible. This hopefully will reduce sickness rates affecting both students and staff. We appreciate your understanding in this regard.

WHAT ARE YOU WEARING?
Our Bookweek Fancy Dress Parade will be held on Friday 14th August at 9am.

Come along dressed as a character from your favourite book (fiction or non fiction). The theme for Book Week 2015 is “Books Light Up Our World”. All students, staff, parents, brothers and sisters are encouraged to take part in this annual event.

As always, we encourage the use of imagination more so than the outlay of dollars when creating your costume.
MONEY COLLECTION

• LIFE EDUCATION:
  Life Education is a health promotion charity and the major non-government provider of drug and health education in Australian schools. The Life Education program is highly relevant to the needs of children as they make everyday choices that can impact their heath and wellbeing.
  The Life Education Van will be visiting our school on 31st August, 1st and 2nd September. Each class will attend one session. Cost is $6 per student. Please send payment to the office in a clearly marked envelope as soon as possible. Payment can also be made into the school account as follows:
  Glenella State School
  BSB: 064-707
  A/C: 00090677
  Use your Surname & “Life” as ref.

• SWIMMING
  Students in Prep to Yr7 will commence swimming in Term 4 from **THURSDAY 8th October**. We will swim once per week (Thursdays) over an eight week period. Our swimming carnival will then be held on Monday 7th December (last week of term).
  Lessons will be given by qualified instructors at Pat Wright’s Swim School.
  Cost is $75.00 per child. P&C have kindly agreed to pay for bus costs. To make it easier, we would like to offer you the option of payment in instalments. Invoices will be sent home shortly. Preferred payment is by Direct Deposit.
  School details are as follows:
  **Glenella State School**
  BSB: 064-707
  A/C: 00090677
  Ref: “Surname” Swim
  Payment can also be made by EFTPOS in the school office.
  Parents please note there will be NO REFUNDS for non-attendance of any student for the duration of the swimming program for 2015. Our school is required to pay upfront for this program and as such we would appreciate full payment by all students by the end of Term 3.

• BOOKCLUB
  Forms have been sent home today. Please take advantage of the online ordering system. Orders to be in by Friday 7th August.
**HOY ROSTER**

6/8/15  Jane Manicaro  
        Sheryl Miles  
Shoppers Annalees Jackson  
        Paula Mudge  
M/Tea Jane Manicaro  
        Mandy Treloar

13/8/15 Linley Maddy  
        Jodie Lindsay  
Shoppers Jane Jones  
        Kylie Garton  
M/Tea Michelle Burgess  
        Liddell Baker

**CRAFTY CLUB**

Our Crafty Club is held every Friday from 1.15pm-1.40pm in the school art room. All children are invited to participate in a variety of fun craft activities.

We really need two helpers per day to help set up and work with students. **If you could spare an hour on a Friday we would love to hear from you.** Please leave your contact details at the office. Glenella SS P&C

**SPORT REPORT**

Congratulations to all Northern Suburbs participants at the recent selection trials. The behaviour and attitudes on display were a fine representation of everyone at Glenella State School. The following students performed exceptionally well on the day with most continuing on to the Mackay District Trials on July 29 at Pioneer High School; Chloe (12yrs 800m), Claire (10yrs Discus), Page (11yrs Shot Put), Jackson (reserve 11yrs 200m), and Ella (reserve 11yrs High Jump and Long Jump).

In addition, our up-and-coming nine-year-olds did us proud with some stunning performances; Drew and Rylan (High Jump), Nathan (Shot Put), Declan (Discus). Watch this space – champions in the making.

Well done on a fine performance!

Miss Balchin ☺

**Update:** Congratulations to Chloe, Page and Claire who competed at the Mackay District Sports Carnival on Wednesday. Well done to Jayden for making the Capricornia team for soccer. Jayden competed in Brisbane at the state trials over the weekend. Fantastic effort Jayden!
PREP 2016
Do you know of any families who have children who will be eligible for Prep in 2016? To be eligible the child must have been born between 1 July 2010 and 30th June 2011. We are currently taking enrolments and would love to hear from any new families that are interested. Please contact the office for an enrolment pack.

EMAIL
NEWSLETTER
We, the ____________________ family would love to receive our newsletter by email. Our email address is below:
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
(Please print clearly)

SCHOOL BANKING
The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program continues to run at our school. Application forms are available from the office. Our school banking day is Monday. Books are returned to students on Thursdays.

WAKAKIRRI
Good luck to our participating students for your performance on Thursday 6th August. Extra tickets are available from the MECC from Friday 31/7 at a cost of $34 each.

DATES TO REMEMBER
August:
06 Wakakirri Performance
14 Bookweek Parade 9am
16 Year 5/6 Canberra Camp
21 Camp students return
28 S/Council Sausage Sizzle
31 Life Ed

September:
01 Life Ed
02 Life Ed
11 Spooky Disco
18 S/Council Sausage Sizzle

October:
08 Swimming Commences
**FUNDRAISER**

Woolworths Earn and Learn.

Collect stickers every time you shop at Woolworths, put them on a sticker chart and bring into the school office. We need as many completed charts as possible to enable us to receive resources for our school. Spare sticker charts are available from Woolworths, the school office or by visiting [www.woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn](http://www.woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn).

**CLEANERS DAY**

On Tuesday, 28th July we celebrated Cleaners Day. We are very fortunate to have Sue and Margi working hard at our school. They do a great job cleaning up after all of us and keeping our school looking wonderful. Thank you for all of your hard work!

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE DAYS**

Our Student Council will be holding a number of sausage sizzle days over the coming months (generally the last Friday of the month). Order forms are available from the office.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES:**

Please note that all notices in this section are provided purely as a service to the community and that Glenella State School does not necessarily endorse the contents therein.

Mackay North State High School Year 7 enrolments are currently open and the first round of enrolment acceptances have been sent out. Enrolment forms, information and scholarship applications are available on our school website. There will be a school tour on the 8th August at 6pm. We encourage you to attend if you would like to find out more about our school and the wide range of academic, sporting and cultural opportunities available to students. Please refer to our school website for further information or contact the school on 4963 1666. Early enrolment will provide certainty for you and your student’s high school education.
MOTOR CO-ORDINATION PROGRAM

For much of first semester, junior school staff and I have been running a motor co-ordination program for the students in Prep-Year 2.

After completing some extra study in this area in 2015, I was shocked to learn that as many as 15% of students in some city schools have poor balance and co-ordination. Luckily, we do not have many students with difficulties at this school but all students will benefit from the extra work on climbing, balancing, catching, throwing, skipping and hand/eye activities.

We set up a circuit each Wednesday in the hall. Students rotate around the activities. Enjoyment levels are high and District Office has sent a senior staff member to observe and try to encourage other schools to start similar programs.

Mr Powys has been very supportive, with extra funding being provided for equipment. This term we hope to build a bouldering (horizontal climbing) wall to help improve student agility. Watch this space!

Mick Rowen
SWD Teacher
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