

lion's roar

TERM 4 • 27 NOVEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 254



From The Principal

Mrs Nicola Taylor

In this penultimate week of the 2015 school year - the showcasing of what makes PLC Armidale such a unique school continues. On Monday evening, the String Soiree demonstrated the quality and diversity of our music program. Mrs Deidre Rickards has worked with the girls each week to nurture, correct, refine and inspire the girls to strive for excellence with their instruments. Watching Mrs Rickards conduct a recent rehearsal with the Senior Strings ensemble highlighted her knowledge of each girl, each instrument and each note in the score to be played. Mrs Rickards wove the group together so that the performance was a complete and unified work, not just the sum total of individual effort. The involvement of some PLC Armidale young "Old Girls" was a real highlight for our string players and their delight in being part of this event once more was evident. We appreciate Mrs Rickards ongoing commitment to PLC Armidale and look forward to what is in store for our strings players in the future.

Activities Week has been another highlight across the College. One expression of Christian faith is consideration of the needs of others

and a willingness to serve and help within our community. The College Chaplain Ms Jennifer Leahy has developed a very comprehensive Service Learning program whereby the girls are able to match their skills and interests with activities that demonstrate kindness and consideration of others. It is encouraging to see the girls themselves making the most use of each opportunity available to them motivated by a desire to help and serve. The attitude of entitlement and self absorption often reflected in the iGeneration is rarely, if ever seen across the student body at PLC. Thankyou to the staff who have worked with and alongside the girls this week in both the Junior and Senior School your willingness to be involved is a very positive role model to the girls also.

As this is the final Lion's Roar for the year, I wish to acknowledge once more the contributions of two long serving members of staff who are finishing their service to the College, but not I trust their connection with it. To Mr Stuart Pavel, thank you for inspiring and educating a generation of Musicians within the School. To Mrs Josephine Matherson, your contributions as classroom teacher, Senior School Coordinator

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and member of the Executive team have been valued and appreciated. I wish to thank the PLC Armidale Community for making my first year at the College such a memorable and rewarding one and to wish each family, student and member of staff a safe and refreshing break filled with the love, joy and peace of Christmas.



Curriculum Matters

Trent Donaldson, Curriculum Coordinator

A Day at UNSW

A huge congratulation to Georgina Hebblewhite and Ragavi Jeyakumar who have received an invitation to attend 'A Day at UNSW' on December 11th 2015. This opportunity was awarded to the girls after they both received a High Distinction in the ICAS Mathematics Competition this year.



calendar OF events

FINAL WEEK OF SCHOOL

Years K to 11 Lifesaving	30/11/2015
Boarders' Chapel	30/11/2015
Final Assembly	1/12/2015
Carol Service	1/12/2015
Speech Day	2/12/2015
Christmas Dinner for Boarders and Parents	2/12/2015
OGU Guild Drama Brunch	3/12/2015
Guild Drama	3/12/2015
Boarders Depart (PM)	3/12/2015
Last Day of Term 4	3/12/2015

String Soiree

On Tuesday night, PLC Armidale hosted its annual String Soiree. The quality of the performance was absolutely outstanding from the eight year olds in the Junior Strings to the "Strings Alumni" who returned from their respective Conservatorium and University studies to join in and share their expertise with the current students.

Sitting in the audience, one could have mistaken the stunning performances for that of a Sydney Symphony Orchestra, such is the standard and calibre of the music at PLC Armidale.

PLC Armidale congratulates the girls on a stunning year and sincerely thanks Director of the Strings program, Mrs Deidre Rickards for her exceptionally hard work and passion in preparing and mentoring the girls to achieve this level of performance.



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The Principal of PLC Armidale requests the pleasure of your company at the

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, 1 December 2015
6.00pm

St Mary & St Joseph's Cathedral
Dangar Street, Armidale

Speech Day

Wednesday, 2 December 2015
9.00am

Astra Arts Centre
PLC Armidale

Guest Speaker - former PLC Armidale Student
Rhiannon Rees (1985)
Author and Business Coach

Guild Drama

Thursday, 3 December 2015
12.15pm

Dorothy Knox Centre
PLC Armidale

Educating successful women of tomorrow in a Christian environment.



Hawkesbury Canoe Classic – Diebold Shield winners

Congratulations to Georgia Hutton and Emma Ranck who were awarded the Diebold Shield at the PLC Armidale's recent Sports Dinner.

This award was kindly donated by the Diebold family and was initially presented in 2010. Until this year, it was awarded at Speech Day, but this year was presented at the Sports Dinner for the very first time.

The award recognises "The fastest PLC Student team to complete the 111km Hawkesbury Canoe Classic". Congratulations Georgia and Emma.

Order for Guild Performances

Macquarie
Forrest
Gregory
Wentworth

START-TIME 12.15PM

Starry Night of Drama

Now in its second year, Starry Night of Drama was held in the Astra Arts Centre on 27 October. The evening was started to showcase the fantastic work that PLC Armidale's thespians undertake in the extracurricular Speech and Drama lessons offered by Mrs Patterson and the timetabled elective class with Ms Foster. Mrs Patterson and Ms Foster would like to thank all the parents who came and supported the event which presented selected prepared and improvised works to the community. On behalf of the school, we would like to thank Mrs Kumar and Mrs (Janet) Paterson for all their hard work preparing the delightful supper with the help of year 11 students; Jessica Tan, Emily McLeod and Syrana Glen who also gave up their afternoon to assist in the kitchens. We would also like to thank Mrs Kylie Alcorn who judged the theatre sports competitions and would like to pass on her congratulations to all the winners. Year 9 have already started thinking about what they will showcase next year and it looks to be a great evening. See you in 2016!

We would like to sincerely thank the PLC community for your support, love and generosity after our recent house fire.

The words of support, cards, and donations we received were overwhelming.

The support Lilly received from her classmates, friends and teachers was touching, it helped her through a very difficult time.

Many of you we know, some of you we don't. We are so very thankful to be part of such a wonderful community.

Your kindness will be remembered, you have helped us more than you will ever know.

From our family to yours, thank you.

The Person Family



PLC Junior String Orchestra

Deidre Rickards, Director of Strings

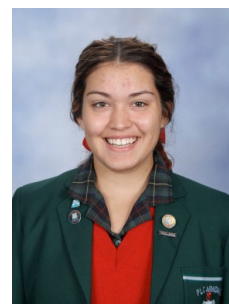
PLC Junior String Orchestra entertained Senior Citizens in the CWA Hall on Tuesday 17 November. Solos were presented from Lucy Caldwell (harp), Abigail Thompson (cello), Pip Constable (cello) and our Junior String Trio made up of Emily Thompson, Gabrielle Cotterell and Laura Smitham.

The programme was well presented by all of our girls who later stayed and chatted with the audience. It was a very pleasant experience and I was very proud of our string players. Congratulations girls.



Syrana Glenn

Syrana Glenn has been a student at PLC since Kindergarten and now enters the HSC Course as a 2 Unit Course 2 Extension Music student. She is a cellist and a talented Soprano and recently participated with the Indigenous Gondwana Choir and sang at the Sydney Opera House where she met the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Next Year as a result of a successful audition she will sing with the Gondwana Choir. Her recent performance in Grade 6 Trinity College of London examination where she sang in French, Italian and English (Shakespeare and Roger Quilter) was also very impressive.



Thank you



Premier's Reading Challenge

Kate Clynych, Library Coordinator

Congratulations to the 87 students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge this year. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. PLC Armidale students have taken up this challenge with great enthusiasm in 2015, and it wonderful to see so many students expanding their reading horizons. Well done!

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NSW GOVERNMENT

2015

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations

Maitha Al-Shammari	Macey Wake	Emily Thompson	Chloe Lawson
Tala Aldadi	Ruby Broun	Lucy Young	Lucy Martin
Hayfa Alenazi	Sophie Hardin	Nina Breckenridge	Elinor Warwick
Fajer (Fefe) Alghamdi	Lucy Lynam	Rochelle Peet	Alexandria Wright
Jana Alshammari	Annabelle Pennington	Harriet Beynon	Darcy Campbell
Charlotte Coupland	Sophia Ruig	Natalie Brennan	Julia Chambers
Rhidima Das	Sophia Smart	Sienna Catterall	Jessica Hughes
Kate Loxley	India Smith	Eva Goswell	Paige Jackson
Sophie Lynam	Amelie Van der Werf	Arrawyn Gow	Gabriella Parsons
Grace Robertson	Alannah Williams	Rachael Kenrick	Askey Sarah
Grace Ruig	Sophie Young	Sophie McRae	Sarah Tremont
Amaal Shahid	Olivia Lockett	Charlotte Thomas	Hannah Van Roy
Georgia Smitham	Charlotte Portell	Eliza Ward	Sarah Vivers
Annie Wake	Maggie Ryan	Lucinda Ball	Helen Waters
Asayil Almagheeb	Abigail Thompson	Alice Berry	Amber Whibley
Arwa Alshammari	Catherine Alcorn	Charlotte Caldwell	
Noshin Anbar	Poppy Broun	Lily Coleman	
Angela Cai	Gabrielle Cotterell	Ella Conway	
Jade Foster	Harriet Gilpin	Molly Dooner	
Isabella McKay	Beatrice Henzell	Jessica Li	
Annabelle Mills	Jenna Marquardt	Indiana Smith	
Lailah Nelson-Straub	Zoe Martin	Isla Biffin	
Lilly Person	Chelsea Mullen	Holly Butler	
Elsie Wake	Makenzie Robertson	Ria Kealey	

Principal Partner: **DYMCKS CHILDREN'S CHARITIES**

Technology Partner: **Microsoft**

Innovation Partners: **accenture** and **avanade**



PLC Armidale's Pet Parade

By Nina Breckenridge and Diya Mundasad (Year 5)



On the 12th November, PLC Armidale said hello to many animals from dogs to lambs, to ferrets and everything in between for our second annual pet parade hosted by PLC Action Group!

This year Action Group were raising money and awareness for a very important cause. The Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service or better known as WIRES. WIRES is a group of volunteers who generously give up their own time to help save native Australian animals. They take the native animal into care

for a few months and then let it back into the wild. This year PLC raised almost \$150 for the cause and hopefully it will save some native Australian animals.

It was really nice to see all the girls having fun and showing their pets to friends and families. All the pets were beautiful and Action Group are sure that they had just as much fun as we did!! Thank you to all the families and friends who took some out of their day to come to this special event and a big thank you to all the pets too! Last but not least, a huge thank you to Mrs Tania Hardin and Action Group for putting together the event! We couldn't have done it without you!!

P&F Report

Whilst the P&F events for 2015 are over the P&F have already been active in planning for 2016.

We have held our first meeting to plan what we may have in store for next year with a number of next year's Liaison Parents in attendance. At this stage we are planning on one BIG event for 2016. It will be a new event to the school and we are very excited with the idea that we have come up with. All year levels will be involved in planning and running the event. More details will be relayed to everyone early next year.

The P&F will still be involved in smaller events throughout the year such as catering the Swimming Carnival – next year will see a whole school carnival, so Years 5 & 9 will both be involved. We will also host Athletic Carnival canteens for both our school and other schools that will require assistance from parents and friends.

Items from the School 'Wish List' (funded by the P&F fundraising initiatives) have been arriving and we look forward to seeing the items in use.

Thank You

We sincerely thank all the parents and friends of the School who have assisted the P&F this year. We have been able to make some significant contributions to the School, as a result of the efforts of our Liaison Parents, sponsors, executive and all those who have supported our events this year.

We hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and a restful holiday and we look forward to catching up with you next year.



Junior School News

Ainslie Breckenridge, Head of Junior School

The end of the school year is upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Junior School community a very happy and safe Christmas and holiday break.

2015 has been a wonderful year and I would encourage you to reflect on the year with your daughters by discussing with them the highlights of 2015 and how they think they have grown academically and socially and some areas that they could focus on for next year.

On behalf of all the staff here we would like to thank all families who have come and helped us this year. Your assistance covering books, going on excursions, presenting talks to helping on the BBQ is so very much appreciated. We look forward to establishing our 'volunteer army' once again in 2016.

Presentation Evening

On November 19, we enjoyed a wonderful night of celebrating the diverse talents of our girls and listened to our wonderful strings and choir groups. The girls loved receiving their books with their well deserved citations. Gratitude is a wonderful character trait- being thankful for what you have and what you been given. Our Junior School girls really do demonstrate a high level of gratitude at this event. It was a wonderful evening to listen to our talented choirs and ensemble but also to reflect on how far each and every student has come this year academically, socially and spiritually.

Holidays

As the school years draws to a close, a lot of parents ask me whether they should be doing anything for their daughters academically throughout the holidays? My answer is; always keep them reading!!!! The power and knowledge that comes from books is incredibly underrated. Books are the windows to the world. They increase vocabulary, encourage imagination and increase a person's general knowledge without even leaving the lounge! Talk to your daughters about what they are reading, take an interest in the genre they are reading of the author they are enjoying. The second thing I would encourage over the holidays is to get outside. Research has recently suggested that the amount of screen time for children is affecting eyesight, vitamin deficiencies and social interactions. How about trying to have a time limit on daily screen time? Most of all use the holidays to enjoy the time you have together. Our PLC families work so hard to send their girls here so being able to share in some 'down time' together is priceless.

Strings Soiree

The Junior Strings performed beautifully at the PLC String Soiree. I sat proudly as I watched our girls from Years 2-6 play so confidently. It was a lovely display of generational players as our Junior Strings watched the seniors who in turn watched the string alumni members. A wonderful example of PLC multi age activities.

2016

As we say goodbye to 2015, we are very excited with what 2016 will bring. School will resume on Thursday 28 January. Our Welcome BBQ will be held on Wednesday 27 January. We look forward to welcoming quite a few families into the Junior School and I look forward in seeing everyone again in the new year.



Boarding House News

Margot Ball, Head of Boarding

As we draw closer to the end of the school year, I am reflecting on our year in the Boarding House. I am always astounded at how resilient the girls are in boarding and how they learn to be independent very quickly, going about their days in an organised manner with only a gentle nudge and reminder every now and then to get things done.

Our staff are very committed to helping the girls live happily away from home and the girls recognise this and are respectful of the staff. They are respectful and careful in their living environment and this makes it easier when we are requesting items for the comfort of the girls.

With ongoing maintenance in the Boarding House in 2016, the biggest upgrade will be new dining furniture. In addition, the P&F have generously allocated funds to the Boarding House and we expect to purchase a trampoline at the boarders request.

We encourage the girls to be active in sports and other activities so the Boarding House is a busy place after school and on weekends. We attempt to transport girls to their activities in a timely manner and appreciate it when the girls are patient and understanding.

Our Boarder Representative Council has been engaged this year discussing boarding matters such as behaviour, routines, maintenance, food and organising activities such as the Harry Potter Night. They are busy organising the Boarders Christmas Dinner so we are looking forward to catching up with parents then. Thank you to Zoe, Freya and Simone who have taken over the reins of Boarding House leadership with enthusiasm.

Dates to remember:

Boarding House Dinner 5.30pm Wednesday 2nd December

Coffs Boarder Weekend 5-7th February 2016

We have sent out the paperwork to be completed and returned before the end of term to assist with our organisation.



2016 Boarder Forms

You will be receiving all the other forms for 2016 to be completed and returned also by end of term preferably.

The Boarder and Parent Handbook.

All families will be given an updated version of the 2016 Handbook when collecting your daughter on the last day this term.

We wish all boarder families a Happy Christmas and a safe and fun holiday.



Visit from PLC Old Girl, Megan Bearup

Shona Eichorn, Director of Development

Some of our Senior D&T students were treated to a visit this morning from Old Girl (1984), Megan Bearup.

Megan has been working as the Milliner for the English National Opera in London for the past 11 years.

She spoke about her work, her passion for millinery and the process of design selection for the various Operas she has been involved with, some of which have included: The Phantom of the Opera, Mikado, Queen of Spades and Force of Destiny.

The girls were very grateful to Megan for sharing her expertise and experience with them.

Megan chatting with 2015 Year 12 student Kirby Moore, who is off to the UK on a gap year and is interested in pursuing a similar career.





Development and Enrolments

Shona Eichorn, Director of Development
Sally McCook, Enrolments Manager



Thank you for your support in 2015

Merci, danke, tack, grazie, spasibo, arigato, gracias . . . no matter the language, the meaning is universal! We at PLC Armidale very much appreciate the support of our families and wider community. We also appreciate the staff and students who go above and beyond each day to

welcome new girls and their families to the school and help in so many other ways in ensuring each girl flourishes. On behalf of the Enrolments & Development team, Sally and I sincerely thank you.

Our Alumni - invitations

We have emailed an invitation to the Old Girls (those we have emails for) encouraging them to come along to a morning tea on Guild Drama day then to stay and watch this year's performances, wearing of course a touch of their old Guild colour in support. Should you know any PLC Armidale Old Girls please encourage them to join us on December 3 from 10.30am.

Scholarships for 2016 & 2017

Applications open next week on December 1 for the Academic, Music and Visual Arts Scholarships for 2017. The examination date is on Monday 22 February, 2016.

Applications have now closed for Round 4 of the All Rounder & Boarding Scholarships for 2016 and will be determined in the

next week or so. You will receive notification in the post by Friday 11 December. These Scholarships are for both current and future students. Should you wish to know more details at this stage, please contact Enrolments Manager Sally McCook, on 6770 1727 or send an email.

Special Bursary - 2016

A special bursary is currently still available specifically for rural families (current or future) in 2016. Talk to us before next Monday November 30. Please contact our Business Manager, Rita Brissett for further details or email businessmanager@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au

Publications

The Spring / Summer edition of the Green Tartan is out now! Should you prefer this to be emailed to you, please let Sally know. And last but not least the 2015 Ad Astra is currently with our Graphic Designer, and with a few additions to be included before Christmas should be printed and back to us by the start of the new school year in January.

Wishing all our wonderful girls and families a "flourishing Christmas and New Year!!

As always, if you hear a whisper of an enrolment enquiry, then shout loudly!

Foundation Report

Brett Constable

The Foundation has had a very busy year. Our signature event, the "Successful Women's Seminar" was well attended in March with Imelda Roche being an engaging and interesting presenter. We had our Annual General Meeting in April with a changing of the guard in executive positions. We have had some Board members retire during the year and we have welcomed new members and we continue to be on the lookout for additional people to join the Foundation.

Through our "Building Fund Trust" we were able to support the School during the year with a donation of \$40,000 to help kick start the Science Lab refurbishment project.

Through our "Scholarship Fund Trust" we have been able to support the school with funding for scholarships offered by the school.

I have had parents ask me why they should donate to the above Trusts when they already pay school fees.

Our role as a Foundation is to help financially secure and grow the school. Specifically, our goal is to help improve the capital facilities of the school and to help increase student numbers. The increase in student numbers from the provision of scholarships has a multiplier effect on cashflow for the school once additional school fees and government funding is considered. Our daughters therefore benefit from the increased revenue the school has with which to maintain and improve the educational offering.

I would therefore encourage you to support the Trusts if possible, which can be easily done by selecting the option to donate to the Trusts on your school fee invoices.

I would like to thank Deb Martin for her incredible leadership of the Foundation Marketing Committee, Joel Ruig for his leadership of our Investment Committee, and all Foundation Board members for their contribution in 2015.



Thank you to the PLC Armidale Old Girls' Union who donated \$5000 to the IGNITE project last week. A very generous

contribution from which our current and future students will benefit from in 2016 and beyond!

Thank you Kylie Alcorn and the OGU Committee for your continued support of PLC Armidale.

Thank you to all the generous purchasers of various elements on the PLC Armidale Periodic Table to date. There are still elements available, so please make sure you check in on our website sooner rather than later and perhaps even purchase an element in your daughter or granddaughter's name for Christmas.

In continuing the Science theme, the PLC Armidale Foundation is hosting its annual Successful Women's Series on Wednesday 9 March, in a changed format with a Q&A featuring numerous profile women to commence from 5pm after work. The topic for discussion is "The Future of Science is Everyone's Business" and the event will be held in the Astra Arts Centre, Hospitality area and DKC.

Calling all
SUPERHEROES

Who's the
greatest
superhero:

**There will be Bible Stories,
Cooking, Crafts,
and much, much more.**

WHEN: 11th January - 15th January, 2016.

WHERE: Armidale District Baptist Church
Cnr. Rusden and Jessie St, Armidale.

TIME: 9.00am - 3.00pm • YEARS: K-6

COST: EARLY BIRD OFFER -
IF BOOKED & PAID FOR BY 31ST DECEMBER 2015.

\$7.00 a day or \$30.00 a week

OR AFTER 31ST DECEMBER \$10.00 a day or \$40.00 a week.

Morning and Afternoon tea provided.

Children to bring their own lunch, drink bottle and hat.

Please make sure everything is labelled.

For Bookings or enquiries please ring: Ben Pratt: 0438 562 641



In conjunction with Walkley Golf

School Holiday Fun Weeks

Golf & Tennis Camps

Armidale Tennis Club & Golf Course, Golf Links Rd Armidale

Spend the morning playing tennis (9:00am-12:00noon) followed by lunch at the Tennis Club then spend the afternoon playing golf (1:00pm-3:00pm).

Week 1 Mon 7 th -Fri 11 th Dec	½ Day Tennis Only \$35	Full day Tennis & Golf (Includes lunch) \$60	½ day full week Tennis Only \$150	Full day-Full week Tennis & Golf (Includes lunch) \$250
Week 2 Mon 14 th -Fri 18 th Dec	½ Day Tennis Only \$35	Full day Tennis & Golf (includes lunch) \$60	½ day full week Tennis Only \$150	Full day-Full week Tennis & Golf (includes lunch) \$250

Tennis Only Camp in December 2015/January 2016

Week 3 Christmas week Mon 21 st - Wed 23 rd Dec	½ Day \$35	Full day (includes lunch) \$45		
Week 4 (Jan) Mon 18 th - Fri 22 nd Jan	½ Day \$35	Full day (includes lunch) \$45	½ day full week \$150	Full day-Full week (includes lunch) \$200

- Lunch is provided for those staying for the full day
- Children under 8 must choose the tennis only or ½ day option
- Learn sports from highly qualified, professional coaches
- Loads of fun and prizes

Bring a hat, sunscreen, water bottle something for morning tea and a racquet if you have one.
Racquets can be borrowed free of charge. All golfing equipment will be supplied free of charge.

Contact 0417 957 982 or email peterlesurf@optusnet.com.au

lion's roar

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2pm
Sunday 29 November 2015
Lazenby Hall, UNE

TICKETS: www.trybooking.com/IWHC
• Family: \$35 • Adults: \$15
• Pensioners/students \$10 • Children \$5





Pastoral Care Conversation

Anna Caldwell, Director of Pastoral Care

The Gift.

What were you doing this time last year? Where were you living? What was your favourite food? Colour? Movie? Song? So much has happened over the last twelve months, it is taking a bit of effort to remember it all.

This time last year I was excitedly planning for my second year as Director of Pastoral Care. I was getting ready to move house. My favourite food has changed as I am now gluten free, my favourite colour is still green and I have never been able to pick only one movie or song as a favourite as I like so many.

I recently went over my incredibly long list of goals, ideas and activities that I had planned for this year and was really pleased with how much I could tick off as having done or put into place. As you all know I love challenges and setting goals, and my plans for next year so far are no different in this regard. What were the goals that you set for yourself for this year? How successful have you been in achieving them?

For some of you 2015 has been filled with happiness and success. For others it has been challenging and more of an emotional rollercoaster. No matter what your circumstance, I would like you to think about the positive to negative ratio. During every day we have many good things happen, but it only takes one bad thing and that is what we tend to focus on and remember at the end of the day. It is what we talk about and mull over in our minds, unless we train ourselves to turn our thinking around and focus on the positives.

Research has found that it takes 3-5 positive thoughts to outweigh 1 negative thought. After you have read this, I would like to challenge you to think of all the positive things that happened first, and let them be the things that you share with your family and friends. Too often we share the negative things first, in fact we often don't even remember to share any of the good things as the bad things have completely consumed us. When you start with the positives, the negatives are often put into perspective and you will feel so much better and mentally healthier and fitter to cope with everything that life throws at us.

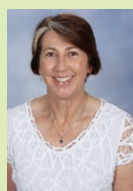
The summer holidays are a wonderful time to relax and enjoy the company of friends and family. I would like to share with you one of my favourite sayings:

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, which is why we call it the present." Take this gift, enjoy it, focus on the amazing things that are happening in your lives right now. When you acknowledge and focus on this gift you can be truly grateful for everything that you have.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my conversations with you all at school, on the sporting field, through email and over the phone. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your enthusiasm, inspiration, feedback and support and I look forward to many more conversations with you in 2016.

I wonder what we will be doing this time next year? The possibilities are endless and very exciting.

Wishing you all a relaxing, healthy and happy summer holiday.



Cattle Team Report

Judy Miller, Cattle Team Coordinator

Four members of the Cattle Team will be heading off to Dorriggo Show with Cattle Team Leaders Tim and Briony this weekend,

for what will be the last show for the year. It is rewarding to see how the newer girls have come along in leaps and bounds, gaining confidence in all aspects of cattle handling and husbandry. We wish all the girls much success.

The Team's show dates for 2016 have now been finalised and are as follows:

Tenterfield Show - 5 and 6 February (Friday, Saturday)

Glen Innes Show - 12, 13 and 14 February (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Guyra Show - 19 and 20 February (Friday, Saturday)

Armidale Show - 26 and 27 February (Friday, Saturday)

Inverell Show - 4 and 5 March (Friday, Saturday)

Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) - 30 July to 6 August (Saturday to Saturday)

Dorriggo Show - 25, 26 and 27 November (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents who have supported the team in so many ways this year. Your assistance is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful holiday break with your daughters and I look forward to seeing you next year.



Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose



How to raise a child to be a giver

Michael Grose highlights why it is so important to teach your child to be a giver not a taker, and gives five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids.

Young children are egocentric by nature. As any three-year old knows only too well the world revolves around them. "I want..." "Give me..." "It's mine!" and other variations are the mantras for this age group. This self-centredness is developmental, which means it's something they grow out of...or they're supposed to.

But some kids never bridge the gap from self-centredness to generosity. They become takers with an inflated sense of entitlement rather than givers who do all they can to accommodate the needs of others. While it can be argued that some children maybe self-centred by temperament I'm not convinced that we can blame Mother Nature entirely. There is no doubt that parenting impacts enormously on a child's propensity to give rather than take.

In the eagerness to get kids off to a good start in life, a spirit of generosity is one quality that parents can easily overlook. Developing children's personal competencies tends to be higher on most parents' wish lists for their kids than developing a generous spirit.

But developing a sense of sharing in kids has plenty of positives. Children who are able to share their time, their space and themselves generally have more friends and experience more success than those who are self-centred and mean-spirited. Quite simply, they are leadership material!

Like most facets of child rearing developing a community ethos in kids can be a frustrating task but perseverance, modeling and expectations are parents' greatest allies when it comes to things that really matter.

Here are five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids:

1 Expect kids to help

With families shrinking, kids get fewer opportunities to help at home than before. With this in mind expect your kids to help without being paid. Regular chores and activities that benefit others such as setting the meal table or helping a younger sibling get dressed teaches them that their contribution is valuable and very much required.

2 Think 'gang'

It's a quirk of modern life that parenting is an individual endeavour. "What's in the best interest of my child?" has replaced "What's in the best interest of the family?" as a key parenting principle. Encourage children to make allowances for each other which may mean everyone watches a sibling's special concert rather than some children missing it because 'it's boring!' 'We put ourselves out for each other' is a wonderful family strength that often needs to be reinforced by parents.

3 Don't let them get away with meanness

Children wear L-Plates when it comes to behaving generously. They don't always get it right, which means that parents as the wise adults need to remind children when their words and actions are intolerant or mean-spirited, or when they need to put their own needs behind the needs of others.

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... How to raise a child to be a giver ...

4 Develop a sense of other

Children and teenagers don't live in a bubble. The socialisation process demands that kids be accountable for their poor behaviours. "What does this social situation reasonably require of my child at his or her age and stage of development?" is a great question to ask yourself to develop a sense of other, rather than entitlement in kids.

5 Encourage giving

During the Victorian bushfires a few years ago I heard the story of a nine-year old whose mum went into his bedroom to growl at him for being up too late. She found him busy emptying his moneybox into little plastic bags, ready to donate at the school bushfire appeal next day. There were plenty of stories like this showing the generosity of Australian kids, we just need to encourage them in everyday life, rather than wait for a tragedy, to give their generosity a kick start. You can begin by encouraging them to give toys, books and clothes away when they have finished with them, or doing a good deed by a neighbor or friend.

The skills that kids need for future success are changing as technology, greater flexibility and mobility, and new economic forces are transforming workplaces at an astonishingly rapid rate. But the basic attitudes and character traits needed to succeed such as teamwork, initiative and generosity haven't changed too much over time. Ask any employer and I'm sure they'd say they'd hire a giver over a taker any day as they are just so valuable to have on a team. Hopefully they are not becoming a rarity as well!

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