Fanfare

Week 8 Activities

Weekly Awards
Principal’s Note
Hello and welcome to my Principal’s Note for Week 8.
It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another school term. With ten days of teaching and learning to complete, I expect that our school community will be making the most of every teaching and learning opportunity over the coming two weeks. Over the past week, teachers have been finalising assessment and writing Semester 1 Report Cards as part of our school’s reporting requirements.
Below is an article that may help parents interpret the Student Report Card when it arrives home with students on Thursday June 25.

Report Card Time
An important point that deserves clarification is that the 5 point scale has some subtle differences these days. When we see a “Working With, Sound or C” on our child’s report card it means something a little different to what it used to on our own report cards, many years ago.

In the past the achievement scale used a “Bell Curve” distribution which means that a small group of top students in the class got an “A”, the next group got a “B”; the majority of the class were given a “C” and so on until the whole class represented a distribution from A-E. This means that it was harder to get an “A” in a school filled with academic students and easier to get one in a school with less academic students.

The new system works on “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria” such that, what constitutes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined. Any student who shows evidence of meeting that level deserves that grade.

This is where we consider the difference in what a “Working With, Sound or C” really means:

- A “Working With, Sound or C” no longer means that the student is simply in the middle of the class, it means that the student has met the criteria for a learner at the appropriate age level.
- A “Working With, Sound or C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level.
- The best description is that a “Working With, Sound or C” means a student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be – A “Working With, Sound or C” is ON TARGET or AT YEAR LEVEL STANDARD.

With all of this in mind, we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or a “B” than it used to be. These grades are no longer awarded simply to the top students in the class; they are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria for their year level.

So what does all this mean?
- Many parents are likely to see more “Working With, Sound or C” grades on their child’s report cards.
- The “Effort” grades are a really important reflection of whether your child is achieving the best they can. This grade should be celebrated with students because they have worked hard to be where they need to be.

How to Read your Child’s Report Card
Many parents on receiving their child’s report card for the first time are unsure of how to read it. All parents of children enrolled in a Queensland State School receive the same formatted report card twice a year.

These written reports are a culmination of how a child has achieved in their academic studies over a school semester. The report cards contain the following information:
- An overall academic achievement for each subject
- An effort achievement and
- A comment

The academic and effort achievements are consistent across all Queensland State Schools however; each school is permitted to use the comment box how they see fit. Currently at Surat State School, teachers comment on what the children have studied in each subject area.

As mentioned previously, the end of semester report card is a culmination of your child’s results over the semester. With parent teacher interviews being offered to all parents and our open door policy, parents will already be well informed of their child’s academic progress.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child’s progress, please see your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Under 8’s Day
On Friday June 26, our school will be hosting an Under 8’s Day morning from 9-11am. The morning will be filled with fun activities for children aged 0-8. All children from our community and surrounding area are most welcome to join our school for a memorable occasion. For further information, please contact the School’s Office.

Promoting a Sense of Responsibility in Kids
I’m often asked by parents how to develop a sense of responsibility in kids. The answer is simple – give responsibility to them! Let them feed the family pet, empty the dishwasher,
clean up the living area at the end of the day. Most kids rise to a real challenge when it is sincerely given, and backed by realistic expectations. We tend to give responsibility to kids that don’t need it – the easy kids. But we often ignore the kids in our family who would really benefit from giving them some trust – the difficult kids, those who require some following up or parental work.

**Kids belong in two ways in families** - they belong due to their **positive contribution** or they belong through **poor behaviour**. The family pest has as much cache as the responsible child – their parent knows they are around!!!

It makes sense for parents to work hard to provide opportunities for kids to contribute to their family so they feel valued for what they bring to their family, rather than for what they take.

**Here are three practical tips to promote a sense of responsibility in your kids:**

1. Start early: children as young as three are to help and have some responsibility but we often push them away and say, ‘You can help when you are older’. Train your kids young to help themselves and others.

2. If a child forgets then no-one else does the task: If a child doesn’t empty the dishwasher then it is still there when they come home from school. Sounds tough but that is how the real world operates. When you empty it, it is your responsibility.

3. Don’t give kids jobs when you have an emotional attachment. Give them tasks that you know you can live without if they are not done, or are not done to your standard.

Another thing, many parents call this type of responsibility jobs or chores. I prefer to call it ‘help’. It’s just a little re-branding, but it reflects what it is.

**Michael Grose**

Remember, at Surat P-10 State School “**we always do our best and treat others with respect**”.

Enjoy the weekend.

**Mr Justin Washington**

**Principal**

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**School Mission Statement and Motto**

Proposed new School Mission Statement: **The Surat State School way is to commit to our learning, strive for excellence and succeed in all we do.**

Proposed new School Motto: **Commit, Excel, Succeed.**
**Important Dates**

**JUNE**
- 23rd: NAIDOC Celebration Day
- 25th: Report Cards Issued
- 26th: LAST DAY OF TERM 2

**JULY**
- 13th: School Resumes
- 18th: Netball/Football Home Game
- 24th: Athletics Carnival

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**Premier’s Reading Challenge**

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is an annual state wide initiative for all schools across Queensland to foster a love of reading.

For a student to successfully complete the challenge they must read or experience the allocated number of books for their year level during the reading period. Students who complete the challenge have their efforts recognised through the receipt of a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Premier of Queensland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>Number of books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep – Year 2</td>
<td>Read or experience 20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 3 – 4</td>
<td>20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 5 – 9</td>
<td>15 books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All books reads between now and **28 August** can be recorded on a Reader Record Form.

Good luck and happy reading!!

Miss Ludik

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**P & C Notice**

Homestyle Bake order forms and payment were due in today. If you have a late order please call Chris Packer ASAP on 0428 265654. No orders will be able to be added after Sunday 14th June. Pies will be available for pick up from school on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd June (last week of school).

If you are available to help with the sorting of the orders please let us know. There is usually a limited time for us to do this so the more help, the better. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance for your support.

**NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting is Tuesday 16th June, 3:15 in the high school building. All are welcome.

Cheers,

P & C Executive
Healthy Cooking ON A BUDGET

This four hour class offers a practical hands on cooking experience with healthy recipes the family will love.

When: Tuesday 16th June 2015
Where: Surat State School
Time: 9.30am to 1.30pm

Participants are required to wear long pants and closed in shoes (i.e. jeans and joggers)

Bookings are required. For more information or to book call Council’s Coordinator – Family Support Service on 1300 007 662.

This is a collaborative workshop brought to you by Be Healthy Maranoa (an initiative of Maranoa Regional Council), TAFE South West and the Department of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services.
Surat on Balonne Gallery

is associated with the artist, invite you
to afternoon tea in celebration of the opening of

Beyond the shears

An exhibition of works, by Chantel McAlister, that captures the modern day shearing shed and all the characters, hard working dogs and sheep that make the shearing industry what it is today

Saturday 13th June | 2pm
Cobb & Co Changing Station, 62 Burrowes Street, SURAT Q 4417

RSVP to 4626 5136 for catering purposes
WANT TO BE A SHEARER?

Get the skills you need for jobs in the wool industry, such as Shearer, Wool Handler, Wool Presser, Roustabout, Farm Hand

Indigenous shearing contractor, Ian Bateman and his team will teach you the skills you need.

Three week pre-vocational course to commence

On 24th of August 2015

Followed by

13 week intensive Shearing School as paid employment

Leading to a Certificate II in Rural Operations

Live at Merriman Station & earn a wage while you learn

Applications close 24th July 2015
For more information go to:
www.merrimanshearingschool.com.au
or phone John Whitty on 0428367955
Send Resumes to:
Rachael.clarke@megt.com.au

Australian Government
Indigenous Land Corporation