5 June 2014

Principal’s Column

Our new Indoor Sports Centre (ISC)

Every time I go in the Sports Centre I’m amazed at what a fantastic facility this is. We are so lucky to have this area for our gatherings and sports education.

We received a small resources grant, which has been used for the sound system, stage, projector and screen. As a result we have no furniture. We are hoping all families will be able to contribute to our Chair Drive by each family donating $120 for one chair. As soon as we have 100 donations we will be able to put an order in.

Many thanks to those families who have already made their donation. All donations are tax deductible through our Gift Recipient Status. We already have 10!

Peregian Springs State School

BSB – 064 212
Account 1002 8912

Please state: Family name and Chair Drive as reference
Please email BSM@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au a copy of the payment once you have completed it. Thank you very much.

Japanese Visiting Schools

We have Japanese visitors coming again in July and we would love to collect the names and details of families happy to be Host Families and have one or two children stay. Please email admin@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au to express interest in being a host family for our visitors.

Student Illness

Many parents have a difficult time deciding whether their children are well enough to attend school. How many well-intentioned parents have sent their child off with tissues in hand, only to get the mid-morning ‘come and get your child’ phone call? As parents we have all been through the agonising decision making in the morning of whether to send them or keep them home. At the end of the day our decision to send them (rather than keep them home) affects the child, their class and the staff who have to deal with our sick child.

It’s not an exact science, and often there is no way of telling if you’ve made the right call, but asking yourself ‘can my child fully participate in class and playground activities today?’ and trusting your instincts helps.

We have had many students sent home during the past few weeks putting extra strain on the workload of staff and spreading viruses further through the school. It is also distressing to see children miserable and upset. As we head into winter we ask that you think carefully before deciding to send your child to school if they seem unwell.

Teacher’s Learning at the EduTech Conference

Last fortnight I wrote about how our teachers and other staff members learn. This week Chris Wise, Andrea Hall, Justin Dixon, Rose Marszalek, Jill Hamilton and I attended the EduTech Conference in Brisbane with 2000 other delegates. We heard many international level speakers such as Ken Robinson talk about technology, creativity, the future, teaching and
learning. It was so inspirational and these staff members have returned enthused and excited.

Ken is an amazing speaker and we all loved it. Parents may like to view his Ted Talk on the education revolution - http://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_bring_on_the_revolution.

Many of his ideas have inspired our own approaches to personalizing learning for our students and our use of technology for learning throughout all of the year levels.

mLearning Scholarships

All families would be aware of our mLearning Program which operates across the school. We have a focus on the use of technology to enhance learning starting in Prep right through to the end of Year 7. Students in Prep and up to Year 4 use iPods, iPads, desktop computers, laptops, cameras, document projectors and many other devices. When students go into Year 5 we ask parents to make an investment in their child’s education and purchase them a MacBook to bring to school every day to use in the classroom. Our one-to-one laptop program has been successfully operating since the beginning of 2011.

Last year I spent some time seeking community support for a scholarship program which Year 4 students could apply for. The scholarship provides the successful student with a MacBook and bag plus technical support and a mentor for their Year 5 year. We were successful in having 5 machines bought for the program by the Peregerin Lions, the P&C, Lightons/Aspire and the Independent Public Schools Program.

Three Scholarship Students from this year

The Peregerin Lions have again come to the fore in supporting our school with the donation of another machine, which will be allocated to a Year 5 student later in the year.

This year Year 4 students will be given the opportunity during Term 4 to apply for the use of one of the scholarship machines in 2015.

If parents would like to help with our scholarship program, please contact me. All donations are tax deductible through our Gift Recipient Status.

Reports

Teachers are in the thick of writing Reports for Semester One now. They are also continuing to assess children’s development – children at school are learning every day and at this time of the year ‘the penny drops’ for many students and we see some rapid progress. Sporadic absenteeism and long periods of sustained absenteeism severely impact on a child’s level of learning which can last well into the future. When they return to school they don’t just suddenly ‘know’ everything that has been taught while they were away. If your child has missed some school this year you may see this reflected in their Report.

Report Cards, Grades and Absenteeism

Teachers are expected to report against an achievement standard, which includes all a child is to have learned in a given time period. Therefore it’s obvious that absence is going to affect the overall grade awarded at the end of a semester.

At Peregerin Springs SS

Children who are new to the school and have missed significant pieces of work are awarded a grade based on their demonstration of achievement for the time of enrolment at this school.

Children whose families take extended holidays are awarded a grade for overall achievement. In many cases a higher grade may have been possible with complete attendance and an opportunity to complete all assessment tasks.

Children who are absent due to unavoidable family circumstances (not holidays) or long term illness are awarded a grade based on their demonstration of achievement for the time of enrolment. The teacher may also make a comment noting incomplete assessment.

Children who are away due to intermittent absence are awarded a grade for overall achievement. In many cases a higher grade may have been possible with complete attendance.

Report Cards for Semester One will be distributed on Friday 27 June (the last day of Term 2).

Internet Safety

We really can’t say enough about this topic. It’s imperative that every parent knows what their children are doing online. Please monitor your child’s activities by ensuring that you have access to their social media accounts and are in their friend list. If children have multiple accounts ensure they know how to change passwords and make sure they have a different password for each account – and they need to tell you when they change these passwords. Check their contacts lists and encourage them to delete anyone they are not friends with in person. The more contacts they have the greater likelihood of something going wrong. This is not about spying on them – it is about being the best parent you can possibly be, and it’s about protecting them.

Ensure your child knows how to screenshot – harassment and inappropriate behaviour is so much easier to deal with when they have the evidence. All children in Years 4-7 have been taught how to do this repeatedly. Please ask your child’s teacher if you need help.

At school we are constantly teaching children about the need to be esmart. It’s good for parents to also ensure they are esmart too. This website has a wealth of information for you - http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/index.asp

Remember: The Internet does not forget - It’s never too early to start talking with your child about privacy management, as their information could stay online forever. Effective privacy management skills are essential components of digital literacy and we all need to work together to ensure children and young people develop these important strategies.
One further note - nearly all social media sites (and certainly the ones being used by our children) require the user to be 13+ years old. Some state the minimum age as the age a person can legally hold a contract. In Australia that is 16 years old. If you are concerned about what your child may be exposed to online then uphold the rule of the social media sites and do not allow access until they are 13. If every parent did this only a handful of children in our school would have accounts, rather than most of the children in Years 6 and 7 and also a great number in younger year levels.

If you need any help at all with these issues please don’t hesitate to ask Rose, Dave, Sandy or myself or your child’s teacher. We are more than happy to work with you on this.

Reader’s Cup

Congratulations to our team who entered into the Regional Reader’s Cup competition at held at Emmanuel College last week.

Tyler Mohr, Faith Roche, Amie Taylor and Sophie Garrard have been reading five books over the last 8 weeks in preparation for the competition. They proudly came in at fifth place after missing the final by one point, that is half of one question.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with this group and their obvious love of books and reading was a joy to be part of.

Principal’s Blogspot

This last fortnight I blogged about our amazing new Indoor Sports Centre http://peregianposts.blogspot.com.au/

Until next fortnight …

Gwen

Dates for your diary

Keep an eye on the calendar in Schoolzine (our newsletter service) and on the website. All important dates and changes are recorded there.

Here are a few things coming up:

- Monday 9 June – Queen’s Birthday Holiday
- Wednesday 11 June and Thursday 12 June – School Photos
- Thursday 12 June – P&C Meeting 6.00 p.m.
- Friday 13 June – Sunshine Coast Show Day (Public Holiday)
- Friday 20 June – Dress as a Hero Day and bring a gold coin to support the All for Finn Foundation
- Friday 27 June – Semester One Reports distributed; Last day of Term 2; Uniform Free Day (bring a gold coin)
- Monday 14 July – First day of Term 3

Download the QSchools App and get these updates and more to your smartphone or tablet. See http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/qschools-app.html for more details

Make the call. Prevent domestic and family violence — don’t let concern become regret

The Queensland Government is implementing a Make the call campaign. Sadly, domestic and family violence is a serious problem. This campaign encourages people who are concerned for themselves or others to call the state-wide DVConnect Womensline on 1800 811 811 or Mensline on 1800 600 636 for confidential advice and support.

Staying safe around bats

Children need to be aware that bats, including flying foxes, are protected species and pose minimal risk to humans provided they are left alone and not touched. However, children should not try to hurt or help sick or injured bats as they are putting themselves and the animal at risk. If you see a bat or flying fox that is hurt call:

RSPCA — 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection — 1300 130 372
your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.

If a child is bitten or scratched by any bat, they should tell their parents, teacher or responsible adult straight away, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and visit their local doctor immediately.

Deputy Principal’s Column

One of the most significant activities that has occurred during the past week, has been the commemoration of National Reconciliation Week. This week is dedicated to acknowledging two major events in Australian Indigenous history. The 27 May marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum in Australia, while 2 June marks the anniversary of the High Court of Australia judgment on the Mabo-v-Queensland case of 1992. The theme of National Reconciliation Week 2014 was ‘Let’s Walk the Talk’ and two of our students Ethan Oui and Jemima Bainbridge addressed the Assembly on Friday by proudly talking about their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander relatives. It never ceases to amaze me how confident and talented our young students are becoming - they certainly will be a generation of people who will make their mark in this World.

School Photos next week Wednesday 11 June and Thursday 12 June:

There have been a number of queries from parents, which I would like to clarify below:

- Photo packages are slightly different from previous years due to the need to change photographic companies and the option of the booklet has not been offered this year. Due to a number of requests, I will follow this up with the Company.
- All students need to wear their check shirts for the class photos.
• Family photos will be taken over the two days and the students will be collected from their classrooms at suitable times. The majority of these will be taken on Wednesday, however it may be necessary to continue into Thursday. If you require a particular day for this to occur, please write it on the envelope and/or alert the class teacher or office staff.

• Wednesday class photos will be PTW, PA, PW, PH, P/1AR, 1G, 1T,1H, 1D1J,2P,2M,2H,2G,3/2B,3C,3WB,3J,3G,4S,4G,4H,7/6W,7D

• Thursday class photos will be 5SH,5H, 3T,6S,6M,6/5C,4M,5C, Student Leaders and Sport’s Leaders.

National Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on an annual collection of data of school students with disability. From this year onwards, our school will be involved in the process. On 1 July we will submit the following data:

• Number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability.

• Level of adjustments we provide for those students.

• Broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure that you are aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. This occurs through our normal process of Parent/Teacher Interviews and/or other communication pathways.

Only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, but if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data, I encourage you to contact me directly.

Sandy Cathcart

Head of School – Student Support

Last week many of our talented Instrumental music students travelled to Coolum State Primary School to participate in the Fanfare music competition. Fanfare is a biennial state wide festival of bands and orchestras from Queensland state schools. The emphasis for Fanfare is on improving the quality of ensembles, promoting high standards of performance and encouraging participation.

It was exciting to watch the students prepare themselves for their performances. There were a few tears and a lot of nervous energy, but once our groups took the stage all their practice and hard work shone through. What was also fantastic was the support of many of our parents that attended and I could tell from the looks on their faces that they were amazed with the progress of our students, particularly those in our Strings Program that has only started this year.

Our Strings Group and Concert Group were both awarded gold certificates, but beyond the award was the satisfaction they displayed once they had finished their performance and were proud of what they had done. A big thank you to our amazing Instrumental music teachers Sharelle Guest and Peter Rickert for their efforts in promoting music in our community.

Regards
Dave Foxover

Head of School - Curriculum

P – 2 Parent Maths Workshops

Wow, what an amazing response we’ve had to these upcoming workshops. Both Term 2 workshops are now full. We will repeat these workshops for parents who missed out early in Term 3, so please keep an eye on both the Newsletter and the school’s Facebook page for when bookings open. A reminder to those attending that we are unable to accommodate younger siblings.

Achievement Scales

Our Teachers are working long into the night at the moment, marking and collating their data on your child’s achievements this semester, and then turning that into their Semester 1 Report Card. All students are graded on a 5 point scale, which looks a little different across the school. In Prep, the scale is Applying (highest level), Making Connections, Working With (at
8 Reasons For Teaching Kindness In School

1. Happy Children

Science explains that the good feelings we experience when being kind are produced by endorphins that activate areas of the brain that are associated with pleasure, social connection and trust, and it’s proven that these feelings of joyfulness are contagious, encouraging more kind behaviour by the giver and recipient.

2. Increased Peer Acceptance

Research on the subject has determined that kindness increases our ability to form meaningful connections with others. Studies show that kind, happy children enjoy greater peer acceptance because they are well-liked and that better than average mental health is reported in classrooms that practice more inclusive behaviour due to an even distribution of popularity.

3. Improved Health and Less Stress

It’s widely documented that being kind can trigger a release of the hormone oxytocin, which has a number of physical and mental health benefits, as it can significantly increase a person’s level of happiness and reduce stress. More recently, it’s been found it plays a significant role in the cardiovascular system, helping protect the heart by lowering blood pressure and reducing free radicals and inflammation, which incidentally speed up the aging process.

4. Greater Sense of Belonging and Improved Self Esteem

Studies show that people experience a ‘helpers high’ when they do a good deed, a rush of endorphins that creates a lasting sense of pride, well-being and an enriched sense of belonging. Even small acts of kindness are reported to heighten our sense of well-being, increase energy and give a wonderful feeling of optimism and self-worth.

5. Increased Feelings of Gratitude

When children are part of projects that help others less fortunate than themselves, it provides them with a real sense of perspective and helps them appreciate the good things in their own lives.

6. Better Concentration and Improved Results

As it increases serotonin, which plays an important part in learning, memory, mood, sleep, health and digestion, kindness is a key ingredient that helps children feel good. Having a positive outlook allows them greater attention spans and enables more creative thinking to produce better results at school.

7. Less Bullying

Teaching kindness and compassion in schools, not only fosters the positive behaviour that creates warm and inclusive school environments, but helps children feel that they belong. It’s documented that the effects of bullying can be significantly reduced by integrating kindness based programs in schools.

Ideas to help with Maths at home

You will soon see a new page on our school website that will contain links, resources and ideas that parents can use at home to support children’s Maths development.

Rose Marszalek

Catering For All Learners

Kindness Is Something Students
Learn By Feeling It

Food for thought…..
We thought this article was worth sharing.

Most people have heard the phrase ‘random acts of kindness’, which refers to a selfless act of giving resulting in the happiness of another person. Terms like this are increasing in popularity around the world as more people identify a deficiency in their lives that can only be fulfilled by altruism.

Scientific studies have shown that kindness has a great number of physical and emotional benefits, and that children require a healthy dose of the warm and fuzzies in order to flourish as healthy, happy, well-rounded individuals.

Patty O’Grady, PhD, is an expert in the area of neuroscience, emotional learning and positive psychology with special attention to the educational arena. She believes that “kindness changes the brain by the experience of kindness. Children and adolescents do not learn kindness by only thinking about it and talking about it. Kindness is best learned by feeling it, so that they can reproduce it. Kindness is an emotion that students feel and empathy is a strength that they share.”
8. Reduced Depression

Dr Wayne Dyer, internationally renowned author and speaker, says research has discovered that an act of kindness increases levels of serotonin (a natural chemical responsible for improving mood) in the brain. It’s also found that serotonin levels are increased in both the giver and receiver of an act of kindness, as well as anyone who witnesses that kindness, making it a wonderful natural antidepressant.

Conclusion

Maurice Elias, a professor at Rutgers University Psychology Department says that “as a citizen, grandparent, father, and professional, it is clear to me that the mission of schools must include teaching kindness. Without it, communities, families, schools, and classrooms become places of incivility where lasting learning is unlikely to take place.

Kindness can be taught, and it is a defining aspect of civilized human life. It belongs in every home, school, neighbourhood, and society.”

It’s become quite clear that modern education must encompass more than just academics, that in order for children to develop into happy, confident, well-rounded individuals, matters of the heart must be taken seriously and nurtured as a matter of priority.

by Lisa Currie, Ripple Kindness Project

Lisa Currie is the founder of Ripple Kindness Project, a community program and school curriculum that aims to improve social, emotional and mental health, and reduce bullying in schools through kindness. The ongoing whole school primary curriculum teaches children about their emotions and the impact their words and actions have on others, and provides opportunities for them to notice and show kindness in everyday situations.

http://www.teachthought.com/teaching/8-reasons-for-teaching-kindness-in-schools/

Special Education Program Staff Team:

Jane Thiselton, Hilary Dean, Janet Crow, Amanda Tinney, Melissa Martin, Maree Burgess, Natalie Trappett, Trillian Wansbrough and Jodie Dennis

Resource Centre News

Year 6 Readers’ Cup

Congratulations to the members of the Year 6 Readers’ Cup Team (Faith Roche 7/6W, Sophie Garrard 7/6W, Amie Taylor 6M and Tyler Mohr 6S) who represented us last Wednesday 28 May at the Interschool Competition held at Immanuel Lutheran College in Buderim. Not only did they have to read 5 books (4 novels and one picture book) but also they had to be able to answer questions about very specific aspects of each book. They were a ‘whisker’ away from making the finals and made us very proud. That is a great achievement considering that there were 24 school teams from the Sunshine Coast and we were close to being in the top four! Faith and Sophie elected to miss out on the class theatre excursion to be part of the team and I commend them for that. All four students were presented with participation certificates on assembly last Friday.

Thank you to Gwen who encouraged their preparation, drove them to the event on the day and then cheered them on while I was presenting in another room. Thank you also to Faith’s parents who attended the event and gave them moral support.

The photo shows them hard at work, in last minute preparation, at the competition venue.

National Simultaneous Storytime

Since the last newsletter, many classes throughout the school participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime at 11 a.m. on Wednesday 21 May. We read Ursula Dubosarsky’s amusing picture book Too Many Elephants in this House. It was the biggest National Simultaneous Storytime ever with 3,100 schools, libraries, childcare centres, preschools and communities across Australia participating and over 460,000 adults and children (plus one elephant) taking part. One of the most entertaining podcasts that we viewed was the Auslan version of the story. The students loved watching the storyteller sign the story for deaf children.

New Library System

At present we are preparing to upgrade to a new library system, Oliver 5 which will work better with Macs and improve our services to students, including access to the library catalogue Olly, on student laptops. We plan to ‘go live’ with stage one of the new system Tuesday 17 June. This may mean that your children may not be allowed to borrow on some days in Week 8 or 9 but we hope that only a few classes will be inconvenienced. They will be allowed to borrow later in Week 9 if all goes to plan.

Thanks for your patience while all this is happening.

Maree
Sports news

Representative news

Congratulations to Jackie Doyle who was selected in the Sunshine Coast Regional Girls Football (soccer) Team. Jackie is off to Mt Isa from the 24-27 July. We wish her the best of luck.

Regional Cross Country

On Tuesday 3 June Peregian Springs had 4 runners who competed at the Regional Cross Country Trial as part of the Noosa District Cross Country Team. All boys ran very well coming up against some very fast runners from other districts. Lucas Klajcin came 12th and Jack Conroy came 14th in the 10 Years boys. Ryan James came 14th in the 11 Years Boys and Joel Sidney came 20th in the 12 Years Boys. Well Done boys on an excellent effort.

Sports Honour Roll

As part of the entrance to the new ISC we are in the process of ordering a Sporting Honour Board that recognizes the success of the athletes of our school. All athletes who have represented in a Regional or State Team will be acknowledged on this board. I believe that I have all the students who have represented since I have been at Peregian. However we would hate to miss anybody. If you have a son or daughter who has represented the Sunshine Coast or Queensland in the past 5 years can you please flick me an email chutc21@eq.edu.au.

Yours in Sport
Mr Hutchins

Uniform Shop

Please remember children need to be in a check shirt/blouse for their school photos on Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 June. If they don’t have one they can be purchased from the uniform shop beforehand – we have plenty in stock. I’ll try and get any last minute Flexischools https://www.flexischools.com.au orders to the children before their photos if you email me a copy of the order on Monday 9 June at the latest.

If anyone would like to help out in the uniform shop please let me know by sending an email to uniforms@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au. It’s a great opportunity to meet new people, learn some new skills and help the school out.

Current open hours are:

Wednesday 2.00 – 3.15 p.m.
Friday 8.30 – 9.30 a.m.

Sonia Sheridan
Uniform Convenor

Scholastic Book Club

June Issue 4

Brochures have been distributed to your child’s class. Please place your order forms and payment in the Green Lock box at the office. Credit card & cheque payments are preferred, cash payments of up to $10 are also accepted. Thank you for your support...Take a look. Read a book!

JUNE ORDERS DUE: TUESDAY JUNE 10

Hi School Bankers!

For the rest of this year Nat and I have decided to choose a Student Banker of the Week.

As a reward for their support to our school banking program, and to encourage students to further develop good savings habits, they will receive a certificate and a prize. The previous lucky winners were Ava Teissel and Ava Sweeny. So remember your bank books every Tuesday to be in the draw.

Could parents please ensure deposit slips are filled out correctly with Full name, Account Number, Student ID and correct amount of the deposit. School banking is a big job every week and this saves a lot of time for us co-ordinators if filled out correctly.

There have also been some issues with missing bank books. We apologise for this and suggest to check with the class teacher to ensure any books have not been left in the class banking bag from the previous week.

Thanks and Happy Banking
Kim and Nat

Student Celebrations

We have amazing kids in our school achieving in their chosen interests at high levels. If your child has achieved something wonderful outside school please let us know either through the office, your child’s teacher or email the.principal@peregianspringsss.eq.edu.au

We love to hear about what our kids are doing!

Payments Procedure PSSS

Please ensure when you are making a payment to the school for an Excursion or Camp by EFT or Cash/Card that the permission forms are also forwarded to the office. We are then able to match payment to permission forms and stamp them paid and hand them on to the teacher concerned. Please do not send any money to your student’s teacher. All money is to come directly to the office. Payment times are 8:00 – 12:00 every week day.

Due to the requirements of Education Queensland with regards to banking and cash on premises, the school office is unable to process payments after 12.00 p.m. each day. Payments can be made online.

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**Student Resource Scheme**

As we are well into our second Term, payment of your SRS would be appreciated. These funds cover costs associated with special activities including Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter and other special events.

The Student Resource Scheme payment can be made at the school office or directly into the school bank account. Did you know that PSSS is registered with Centrelink and you can arrange through the BSM to have payments deducted directly each fortnight from your nominated benefit. If you wish for this to happen please make an appointment to speak with the BSM Jill Hamilton.

**UNIFORMS**

Please ensure students have the correct uniform at all times by ordering items from the Uniform Shop.

All children require black shoes with black or white socks. We recommend black joggers as children are engaged in a lot of physical activity at school. Currently there are many children wearing shoes of other colours or wearing shoes that do not support vigorous activity.

Our school community is proud of our school uniform and takes pride in the way children present themselves. We note that children who present at school in clean and tidy uniforms are often better behaved and more attentive in class.

Your cooperation in ensuring your child is wearing the correct uniform is appreciated.

**Follow us on Facebook**

Search Peregian Springs State School and click ‘Like’. We are regularly posting news and reminders. Our feed also appears on the opening page of our website. This service is for parents. Children must be 13+ to be allowed a Facebook page.