Principal’s Column

Citizenship in the Digital Age

Congratulations to 5GH for highlighting this issue at last week’s Assembly. This class have looked at this issue extensively and have developed a catchy song to spread their message.

It has become really clear: For all its wonders, the digital age has also introduced its fair share of challenges. From social media and cyberbullying to cybercrime, Internet addiction and online privacy concerns, today’s students face a wide range of issues that previous generations never had to think about.

As a result, teachers, school leaders and parents are called on to add a whole new idea to our curriculum - digital citizenship. And yet, we don’t have to start from scratch. The elements of digital citizenship, it turns out, are not so different from the basic tenets of traditional citizenship. **Be kind, respectful and responsible, and just do the right thing.**

What’s new, for educators as well as students, is learning how to apply these ideals to the digital age. Just as all kids throughout the centuries have needed help from their parents, teachers and mentors along the path to becoming good citizens, our digital natives still need guidance as they learn how to apply the elements of citizenship to the realities they encounter in a connected world.

Look at the infographic here to guide your conversations with your children.
School Council

Are you looking for a way to be involved in our school? Maybe our School Council is for you. Jane Catterall has been serving on our School Council for two years and must now step down from her position in accordance with School Council guidelines. We are therefore looking for nominations from parents for a replacement. If you are interested please call the office for more information and you can collect a Nomination Form from the office staff.

I’d like to thank Jane for her work on our School Council. She brought with her a wealth of knowledge of the workings of councils and boards from schools interstate – we will miss your insightful observations and comments, Jane.

Pete Schumacher, our School Council Chairperson, is also stepping down and the staff will elect another member in his place. Thank you, Pete, for leading our inaugural Council with grace, humour and an eye on the important issues. The School Council meets four times per year. Nominations will be voted on at our next School Council in December.

A chance to say thanks to our tuckshop workers and volunteers

Tuckshop Day is coming up on Friday 7 November. Let’s give a big thanks to our tuckshop convenors and volunteers for their hard work in providing our hungry students with healthy, tasty food. Our tuckshop is always looking for volunteers to help out so if you’ve got an hour or two free, contact our convenors, Mel and Rae.

Additional information is available at the Tuckshop Day website: http://www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/tuckshop/index.html

P&C Disco

Thank you again to our P&C Executive for the Halloween Disco last week. It was great to see the kids (and teachers and other staff members) get dressed up and join in the fun.

Thank you also to parents who stayed and assisted with supervision. These events wouldn’t occur without the willingness of parents to pitch in and help.

Japanese School Trip

On Friday four Year 6 students (Faith Roche, Byron Little, Logan Gray and Zac Seagg) and myself are off to Tokyo for a week of fun and learning at the Sagami Women’s University Elementary School. We have been preparing for this trip all year and I’ve noticed these four children gain so much in maturity, independence, general knowledge and intercultural capability. We will post our progress throughout the week on the school’s Facebook page.

Our School’s Netball Team

Our netballers had a great experience at the recent Queensland State Titles (Primary Schools Cup). They came up against some serious competition but learned a lot of new skills from playing at such a high level. They also managed to meet some members of the famous Firebirds. Well done, Strikers - Mimi Campbell, Jamie Stanley, Eve Christopher, Kloe Lewry, Maria Wynne, and Keira Dunbar.

Festival Events

Congratulations to all students who competed in the Noosa Triathlon and the other Festival events over the last weekend. In amongst all the celebrities we spotted Amali Roberts and Lily Dupuy and I’m sure we also saw some of our boys. Well done for getting involved and having a go.

Hector

Next time you are passing the Resource Centre pop in and see Hector. He’s hanging above Meryl’s desk and watches all the goings on in the Resource Centre with his bright sharp eyes.

This gorgeous painting was donated by Brisbane based artist, Bev Teske, who specialises in oils and layering. Her work is on display in galleries in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs

The Great Results Guarantee from our government has delivered many benefits to our school this year – extra teacher time, Teacher Aides in all Year 1 and 2 classrooms and funds for professional development and resources for teachers.

We have also purchased school wide subscriptions of Mathletics and Reading Eggs which teachers and students will use in ways that suit their classrooms. These programs will also be available for students from their home computers via a log in. Please see your child’s teacher for more information.
End of Year Preparations

Please keep an eye on the Dates for your Diary section below as we start to ramp up the preparations for 2015. There are many things for parents to remember and do in Term 4 and we try to send as many reminders as we can.

Are you leaving us?

We are sorry to see you go… please let the office know if your child will be leaving our school at the end of the year.

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:

• Friday 14 November – Book Fair starts
• Friday 21 November – last day to order uniforms for January 2015 delivery
• Tuesday 25 November – 5.30 p.m. Parent Information Session for parents of Preps starting school in 2015
• Thursday 27 November – 6.00 p.m. P&C Meeting
• Thursday 4 December – Year 6 and 7 Graduation Ceremony and Awards Night
• Friday 5 December – Years 4-7 Swimming Carnival (some Year 3 students also attend this event)
• Monday 8 December – Year 7 Reports distributed
• Wednesday 10 December – End of Year Reports are distributed
• Thursday 9 December – Class Party Day
• Friday 12 December – Last day of Term 4 – clean up and moving day
• Friday 12 December – Last day to make SRS payments – $100
• Friday 19 December – Last day to order Book Lists from Office Max for delivery in the holidays
• School Office reopens on Tuesday 20 January 2015
• Meet your Teacher Afternoon Friday 23 January 2015 1.45 p.m.
• First day of Term 1 2015 Tuesday 27 January 2015

Partnership with Star Real Estate

Remember to mention our school if you or a friend is selling through Star so that our school can benefit from the $1000 donation when the property sells!

The donations will fund the building of adventure play equipment for our senior students.

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.

Deputy Principal’s Column

What an exciting couple of weeks we have had since the last Newsletter! The Halloween Disco was so much fun and it is wonderful to see the support given by the parents of the P&C and staff members. Friday’s Assembly was a sea of red showing that the Day for Daniel Messages are loud and clear. The student leaders demonstrated ways to recognise body signs that tell us it is unsafe and also what to do to protect ourselves when in danger.

Nude Food Day-Tuesday 4 November

Once again we asked students to think carefully about the types of foods they put in their lunch boxes. This time the rubbish was not collected or weighed but teachers and students talked about the contents of their lunch boxes and whether they were environmentally friendly. We would like to thank all parents for assisting their children by providing carefully chosen lunch items.

If you would like to explore this idea further you may find the following site quite interesting:


Remembrance Day Tuesday 11 November

All staff and students will acknowledge Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11 November at 11.00 a.m. by attending a short service conducted by several Year 6 and Year 7 students in the Central covered area facing the Remembrance Garden.

Two Year 7 students will also be attending the Remembrance Day Service at the Coolum RSL with Mrs Cathcart.

Student Leaders 2015

17 students have been short-listed and gave a speech on Thursday 6 November in the ISC at 9.00 a.m. All teachers and students in Year 4,5,6 and 7 were invited to listen to the speeches and vote. Parents were also invited to attend.

Tuckshop Worker’s day- Friday 7 November

This Friday on Assembly we will be acknowledging the wonderful workers in our Tuckshop. The Tuckshop provides a healthy and delicious lunch menu for many students on Wednesday to Friday. We really appreciate all the parents who volunteer their services and donate food items to ensure that it still successfully operates.
Family Emergencies Household Evacuation
Week next week

The Sunshine Coast local council have requested that we encourage our students and families to make a plan at home to prepare for an emergency such as a flood, cyclone, or severe weather.

We have been asked to encourage everyone to:

1. Prepare an Emergency Plan
2. Prepare an emergency kit and evacuation kit
3. Prepare your home and pets
4. Tune in, log in and listen out

You can access resources on the following website:

We would like to promote this on our school Facebook, School Newsletter and local Newspaper/ Television so you may wish to send me a photo of your Home Action Plan. The children may like to draw pictures to make it more personal.

Head of School

Maths in action

Over the past two weeks our classroom teachers have been visiting each other's classrooms to see Maths in action. Mr Rob Proffitt-White, an Education Queensland Principal Education Advisor for the Australian Curriculum, based in Maroochydore, has been working with us to further develop Teachers’ skills in this area. He has demonstrated activities teachers could use and expand on, with their classes, that allow students to deepen their problem solving, reasoning and ability to communicate their mathematical knowledge and understandings in a variety of situations.

Maths is no longer about regurgitating ‘times tables’ and completing pages of sums. The Australian Curriculum: Mathematics values the proficiency strands of understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning. Through these strands students use their mathematical knowledge to engage in their learning. More information on the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics can be found at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/mathematics/content-structure

Thanks to 1J, 2H, 76W (who were doing Maths on a Friday afternoon!), 4S, 32B and 5H for being willing volunteers for these visits.

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 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 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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<td>PAYMENTS FOR 2015 NOW DUE.</td>
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Student Resource Scheme

These funds cover costs associated with art, cooking and other 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. 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.

Music Program

Applications are now open for students in Years 4 - 6 in 2015 to join the Wind/Brass/Percussion Instrumental Music Program. Forms are available from the office or from our Instrumental Music Teacher, Mrs Guest.

Lost Valuables

Various items of value have been found and handed in to the office during the year.

Many of these remain unclaimed.

If Parents know of an item of value that has been lost, please call in and check out our trinket box.

All items unclaimed by the end of the year will be sent to a charity.
Coolum State High School

Brilliant Musicians Program 2015 Applications Closing

Many students have participated in the first round of auditions for this new extension program and have been successful in winning a place in the program.

We currently have some places available in the program for students who are currently in year 6 and 7. The final round of Auditions for the 2015 program will be held on Wednesday 26 November from 3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at the High Schools Performing Arts Theatre.

If your child is interested in auditioning and being part of the Brilliant Musicians Extension program please return your application form to Coolum High school no later than 17 November 2014.

Please return this application to audition form to:

Emma Clarke
Coolum State High School
Havana Rd East
Coolum Beach QLD
4573

Coolum SHS will contact you via email or phone to confirm audition time. All applications received by the school will be granted an audition. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their audition.

Application forms and further information about the program can be obtained by contacting Emma Clarke, Head of Department: Creative Industries by phone on 5471 5333 or by email eclar78@eq.edu.au

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2015!

School Movie!

Chris Cashman and I are in the process of filming a school movie to showcase our wonderful school.

It is being filmed and edited currently. We can’t wait to share it with you all!

Danae Steer

Children involved in the school movie

Catering For All Learners

Starting School resources from KidsMatter

Over the past few Wednesdays I have enjoyed joining our Pre-Prep program, and meeting our new 2015 Prep students and their families while they shared a Pre-Prep session at Peregian Springs. These Pre-Prep sessions are a great opportunity for children and parents to become more familiar with the Prep program, Prep staff and classrooms. The sessions will continue over the next few Wednesdays from 9.00-10.15 until Wednesday 26 November and bookings can be made by contacting the school office on 5351 2222.

We shared this Starting School resource when it was first released last year, but thought it worthwhile to share again this year. Please send the links to any interested friends or family who have a child transitioning to school in 2015.

The Starting School resources, featuring KidsMatter ambassador and mum, Tracey Spicer, include a series of online videos, easy-to-read information sheets and practical tips. These resources are available to help children transition from early childhood education and care settings to primary school.

Starting school involves a big change for your child and family. It can be a time of great excitement, but also a time of potential challenge and stress.

Families play an important role in supporting children to manage the transition to primary school. The resources below will give you practical ideas and strategies to help your child make a successful start to school. You will be able to watch a series of KidsMatter videos, as well as access information sheets and other practical resources.

To get the most out of the videos it can be helpful to watch them in sequence (1-6) or you might prefer to choose the ones most relevant to you.

The information sheets are also available to download

https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school/understanding-behaviour-video-3
https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/starting-school/change-whole-family-video-6
Being the Parent You Want to Be

Please note: the following workshop is almost full!

Parenting workshop

You are invited to be part of a brand new Parenting Program developed by our very own Behaviour Support Specialist, Gerard O’Brien. Gerard will run the program at no charge for parents of Peregian Springs students this term, before releasing it state-wide next year.

The program is called Parenting with Choice Theory Psychology – Being the Parent You Want to Be and runs over four weeks.

Some of the topics we will cover include:

- recent discoveries in neuroscience and their implications for parenting
- an introduction to Dr William Glasser’s Choice Theory psychology which gives us insight into ourselves and our children’s personalities, needs and behaviour (Choice Theory is the underlying psychology at Peregian Springs State School)
- raising happy, resilient and healthy children – preparing them for the world ahead
- building and maintaining our relationship with even the most difficult child
- navigating the difficult times calmly and in control
- adjusting our parenting as our children mature
- being the parent you want to be
- how to put this all into practice
- time to create a personal plan
- how to find out more

A comprehensive parent workbook is part of the program.

We will meet for 4 x 2 hour sessions at the school. This term we thought we would offer an evening program from 6:00-8:00pm for those parents who can’t make it during the day.

Dates: Tuesdays – 11, 18, 25 November, 2 December
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Venue: Peregian Springs State School staff room (Admin Building)
Cost: Free

To register: please contact the school on 5351 2222 or email us at admin@peregianspringss.eq.edu.au

or

Click the link:

This program is highly recommended for all parents.

‘The whole program is brilliant. I truly hope all parents get to participate and I thank you for bringing it to us.’

‘Thanks so much Gerard, it has given me some real tools that I could use straight away, that are making a big difference for me and the whole family.’

Uniform Shop

For Prep uniforms the shop will be open on a Wednesday morning between 10.00 and 11.00 a.m. after the Pre-Prep playgroup (Term 4 only).

This is an appointment only session so please contact the office in Term 4 to make a 20 minute appointment.

The shop will also be open at the usual times: Wednesday 2.00 – 2.15 p.m. and Friday 8.30 – 9.30 a.m.

Thanks
Sonia Sheridan
Uniform Convenor

P&C News

Ongoing ways to help our School

Entertainment book

The Entertainment Book is now available from our school, they are packed with lots of discount vouchers for local restaurants, attractions and more. There is one on display in the office and can be purchased from Elaine or ordered online via our special link


Discounted Movie Tickets


Purchase adult movie tickets from $10.50 and children’s tickets at $10.00 and help raise money for our school, please copy the above link into your browser, the school receives $1.00 per ticket purchased.

Sticky name labels

If you need to buy labels for your children’s books, Bright Star Kids Labels do provide the school with a donation for every order, so when you’re ready to purchase please try www.FDR000.brightstarkids.com.au or call 1300 668 997.

Til next time
Dawn Shelton
Acting President
Please ensure deposit slips are filled out correctly with Full name, Account Number, Student ID and correct amount of the deposit.

Thanks and Happy Banking
Kim and Nat

Student Celebrations

Thomas Van Bruggen has received an A (Honours) in his Grade 2 Classical Piano exam and Eline Van Bruggen received a B+ for Grade 2 Flute (while suffering with a head cold!). Well done to both of you!

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@peregianspringssss.eq.edu.au

We love to hear about what our kids are doing!

UNIFORMS

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

All children require black shoes with navy 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.

From the desk of Michele Juratowich

Transformation

On my desk, I keep a small pewter polliwog. No bigger than the first joint of my thumb; I bought the polliwog in an art gallery in a mid-western city in the US at a time of significant personal and professional change. It is an important reminder of the power of transformation. A polliwog is often referred to as a tadpole and my pewter symbol captures the phase where the long tail of the tadpole is still in place but the legs have begun to form. It shows the point of metamorphosis from the totally aquatic stage to the land based frog that it will become. Awkward and strange, the polliwog is neither one form nor the other as it undergoes significant change, growing legs and absorbing its own tail as it changes its way of moving as well as its habitat.

Similarly, the chrysalis stage in the life cycle of the butterfly symbolizes for us the transformation that occurs in nature and in our lives. Captured in children’s books such as Eric Carle’s much-loved The Very Hungry Caterpillar and in the classroom as a way of understanding nature and science through the life-cycle of the butterfly, the caterpillar emerges as a butterfly following a dormant period in the chrysalis. This is another potent symbol of transformation. There are times when we may crave some time away, to retreat and be dormant for a while. Except for brief holidays, in our busy lives, we don’t usually have the luxury of a dormant period.

Children who have heavily scheduled extracurricular activities rarely have time to retreat to an inner world and be dormant for a time. It is interesting to note that in a study of high achieving women, Barbara Kerr found that a period alone (through illness, geographic or social isolation) was a common experience in the formative stage for these women. Some religions place great
importance upon the need for regular religious retreats and the re-emergence of meditation and mindfulness demonstrates the need to find stillness and focus in frenetic lives.

The chrysalis and the beauty of the emerging butterfly have their place, but for me it is the strangeness and awkwardness of the polliwog that best captures the transformation that takes place in childhood. There isn’t always a smooth transformation from one form to the other. Physical growth, cognitive development, academic and personal skills emerge while other indicators of developmental delays remain. Asynchronous development is particularly apparent among children with heightened intellectual abilities. Their cognitive development will be ahead of chronological peers while those areas of development, such as physical development, which are usually aligned with chronological age, may appear to lag behind their intellectual skills, rather like the tail of the tadpole that is already forming legs and is ready to leap ahead.

As new habits form, there can also be a regression to old, unpalatable habits. Just when a parent thinks a child has made a big, developmental frog-like leap, there is evidence of a ‘tail’ that reminds us that the transformation is not yet complete. Development through childhood is characterized by enormous changes but the transformation is rarely smooth. The child experiencing this transformation often feels strange and awkward, different from those around them. Patience, perspective, guidance and support from parents can help to nurture polliwogs through their transformation.

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AIIU is seeking host families for a group of Japanese students visiting the Peregian area from the 29th December to the 4th January. Families will be paid a stipend of $30 per student per night for hosting. Students will attend English Communication Sessions daily from 9am to 3pm. If you are able to assist with hosting or would like more information please contact Tracey on 0418 433 517 or email tedurham67@gmail.com