PRINCIPAL’S COMMENT
Tuesday 10th June 2014

As the winter weather slowly takes a hold, especially in the mornings, children are beginning to wear school jumpers and jackets. It is always terrific to see so many of our students in full school uniform. It says a lot about how we feel about ourselves and the pride we have in our school. As the day warms up students often take their jumpers and jackets off. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with their name as we are already accumulating lost clothing which are unlabelled and no chance of returning the items to the correct owner. Just a reminder that coloured tops, caps and jewellery are not school uniform! The school has a uniform shop and you will find friendly faces in there each Thursday morning or pop into the office and Susan will be ready to help or assist.

The Southern Network Dance Festival is seen as a celebration of dance in our Public Schools. Kindergarten to Year 12 students are involved from schools throughout our area. This year, the festival is being held at Camden Haven High School on Thursday 19th June. Tickets are very limited for the evening show and are now available for purchase at the front office for $7 per seat and only 2 tickets per family at this stage. Get in quick!

Is This Over Reaction Or Misbehaviour?
By Michael Grose

At a recent parent seminar I spoke about the importance of parents helping their kids manage some of life’s challenges, in particular, handling disappointment, managing conflict and dealing with rejection.

Most parents’ questions revolved around how they should respond when their children over-reacted either to parental advice, or when relating to what may have happened at school. Listening to these parents it’s evident that sometimes children were clearly overstating problems, and sometimes, well……..they were being a little naughty.

Let’s look at some common issues:

- Miss 9 would often put herself and her work down when she did homework at night. When reassured by her mother that the work was okay, she would throw a tantrum, working herself into a ‘knot’.
- Mr. 10 when quizzed by his mother about some apparent bullying at school would reply that he was okay, and that nothing was wrong. Mr. 10’s mother wasn’t convinced, but she didn’t know why her son was clamping up.
- Miss 7 would harass her mother whenever she (her mum) said ‘NO’ to one of her requests. ‘No’ was met with a range of interesting responses including whining and guilt-inducing statements that had this mother doubting her judgement and thinking, “Am I being too tough?”
- Mr 10, like many boys, is probably a ‘cave-dweller’. That is, he likes to keep things close to his chest (spending time in his bedroom), mainly because he wants to process what’s going on. When he is ready he’ll probably talk. Besides, sometimes we as parents can read too much into situations and see problems that aren’t there.
- Miss 9 and Miss 7 behaviours have one thing in common – they were both person-specific. That is, neither displayed their ‘signature’ behaviours at school. They kept them for home, and specifically for their mothers. Both mothers felt annoyed by their children’s behaviours, which suggest that the behaviours were both purposeful and attention-seeking.

Yikes! Knowing this is one thing, but changing tack to manage the behaviours is another thing altogether. As a general rule, it helps to avoid your first impulse to children’s behaviour.
Your instinctive reaction will often ‘service’ the behaviour, ensuring that it’s repeated. Too many repetitions and the behaviour (whinge, tantrum and guilt-inducing statements) becomes the default response.

Second, you need to respond differently. If the behaviour is to get attention, then don’t provide it. If it’s for the purpose of having an argument, don’t argue. If it’s for the purpose of making you give in, hang tough. The concept of purposeful behaviour is relatively new for many people. Once you understand it, you begin to see your children’s behaviours (as well as your partner’s, friend’s and colleague’s behaviours) in a different light, and start to feel more confident and assured about managing them.

Dean Sneddon
Principal

******COMING EVENTS TERM 2 ******

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<td>Wed 11th</td>
<td>June – Hastings Headway</td>
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<td>Fri 13th</td>
<td>June – Athletics Carnival – Sports ground next to Westport High School. P&amp;C BBQ held at sports ground.</td>
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<td>Tues 24th</td>
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<td>Thur 26th</td>
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<td>Fri 27th</td>
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Chess Inter-School Lower North Coast Qualifier
This Wednesday we will be holding the LNC Inter-school Chess Qualifier at our school in the hall. The players are looking forward to continuing our dominance in chess and further enhancing their playing skills.

Musica Viva “Mara”
Another great Musica Viva Performance was held last Wednesday. “Mara” performed for us a blended traditional vocal and instrumental repertoire from many countries with modern jazz improvisation. They had the students and teachers clapping to the beat.

Lost Property
We currently have 20 jumpers/jackets of various sizes all with No Names. Could you please ensure that your student’s name can be written on all clothing items so that they can be returned to the student when handed in. Thank you.
Friday Night Touch Rugby
Friday the 30th night’s game was a bit wet unfortunately but the team played as well as they could under these conditions. They continue to improve each week as a team and their conduct on the field is exemplary. Thank you again to all the parents and helpers for your ongoing support.
Mr Tedd

P&C Sports Carnival BBQ
On Friday the 13th June the P&C will be holding a BBQ during the Sports Carnival between 9.30 and 2.00. The following items will be available:
  Sausage sizzles $2.50
  Snacks from .20c to $1.50
  Poppers and Water $1.00 each
Hope to see everyone on the day
Westport Public School P&C

Attention Junior, Stage 2 and Stage 3 Dance Groups
Great news! Our 3 Dance groups will be performing in the Southern Network Dance Festival on Thursday 19th June at Camden Haven High School at Laurieton. The children go for the whole day with a Matinee Performance at 12 midday and the night performance starting at 7:00pm.
Tickets are on sale at our school in the front office. They are $7 per seat. We have been advised in the last couple of days that due to the overwhelming response to the Dance Festival, tickets will be restricted to 2 per family for this performance. The previously advertised Family Ticket for $25 will no longer be available. Sorry for any inconvenience or disappointment this may cause but this is needed so as to meet Work Health and Safety guidelines.
An alternative is to attend the matinee performance which will be $3 per seat payable at the door. This is a fully costumed and staged performance with full lighting and effects. The matinee will commence at 12 midday and be over by approximately 2:45pm.
We will only be given a limited number of tickets and once these are sold no further tickets will be available at this stage.
Thanking you for your understanding.
Toni Lawes, Amy Harland and Kerry Bendall

Festival of Choral Music Sydney Opera House Excursion
6th August - 8th August
Choir students were given notes with all relevant information regarding our trip to Sydney. At this stage all members of the choir are invited but payment of $190 and good behaviour leading up to the excursion will secure a spot on the bus.

Tickets for Endeavour Concert
These tickets go on sale on the Thursday 19th June. Make sure you call the booking office if you intend on going to the concert. Tickets will sell out fast and are not available from our school.

Book Club
Issue 4 order forms were handed out last week. If you wish to order please return the order forms with payment in a sealed envelope the Office by Thursday 12th June 2014.
Payment can be:
o in cash (correct amount please);
o by cheque made payable to “Scholastic Australia”;
o by credit card over the phone or internet and completing the credit card payment form.

Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC)
The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.
All students at Westport Public School are encouraged to enter the Premier’s Reading Challenge which runs from 1 February to 22 August 2014. Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge.
To experience a book a child can listen to the book, participate in a shared reading of the book or read part/all of the book independently.
It is a condition of entry that students entering and successfully completing the Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll.
Students in K-2 will receive a slip when they borrow a PRC book from the library. Please fill it in and return it with their library books so we can record it for them.
Any books read at home or from the Town Library can also be included on their reading lists. Students in Years 3 to 6 are responsible for recording their books and entering them online. They will be given a time at school to enter their books but they can also do this at home by going to
https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/logon.html or using the link on the school’s webpage and logging in with their DET Portal user name and password. More information about the Premier’s Reading Challenge can be found at
https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html or ask at the library.

Bernadette Cassidy

Homework Centre
Any students needing help with their homework or home reading are welcome to come to the Mingaletta room every Tuesday first half of lunch and we will be happy to help them.
Michelle Meehan

Emergency Uniforms
If your child has been given emergency uniforms from the office could you please send them back as we no longer have any spare uniforms available for students who may be in need.
STUDENT BANKING
Get your child involved in a fun way to learn how to save money. Student banking is every Thursday morning between 8.45am and 9.00am at the banking window, look for Pat the dog. Applications can be made online, in person at the Commonwealth bank, or collect an application form from the banking co-ordinators on Thursday mornings. Happy banking!
Donna & Michelle

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Friday Afternoon Rugby Under 8’s
The Under 8 (Year 2’s) training and games are held on Friday afternoon at Stuart Park Port Macquarie between 5.00pm and 6.00pm.
Cost: $40 per player includes insurance cover provided by the Australian Rugby Union (ARU)
Competition: 14 weeks excluding holiday weeks
Term 2 - Friday 9th May to Friday 27th June
Term 3 - Friday 18th July to Friday 29th August
If you would like to know more please contact:
Under 8 Age Group Rugby Co-ordinator:
Jack Pike (w) 0407 205 994

It is my pleasure to announce that Newcastle Youth Orchestra will tour to Port Macquarie, performing “Kids Classics: The Places You’ll Go” at the Glasshouse on Saturday 28th June at 2pm. Presented by Mid North Coast Conservatorium, NYO will visit a range of countries and present an array of classical music for audiences of all ages! The young orchestra will perform alongside Celtic fiddlers “Pumpkin Juice” and giant sized puppets, in a one hour-length concert.