Dear Parents,

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are focussing very strongly on improving the attendance and punctuality of our students. Thank you to those families who have already made a strong commitment to being here each day, and on time. More often than not, the first session of every day is a reading, writing or maths session. Students arriving 20 minutes late will have missed the explicit teaching component of the first lesson, which makes the rest of the day a catch up exercise. If they are late often, this compounds the problem. Likewise if they miss days from school, it can take several days or even weeks to catch up. Please ensure your child is here on time each school day, unless of course they are ill.

In the past it had been an accepted practice to phone in if your child was away. Whilst you are still most welcome to call and let us know as a courtesy, parents must supply a signed note explaining their child’s absence. Parents who forget will be given an ‘Attendance Note’ by their child’s teacher requesting the explanation for the school days missed. Please assist by supplying the note in the first instance which you can do via a handwritten note, or by emailing the school newport.gardens.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au with your child’s name, homeroom and reason for absence. We are exploring options to have this capability through the Parent Portal and on your handheld device. Hopefully we can share more on these options in the not too distant future.

Tonight we hold the first of four information nights this week and we hope to see as many of you as possible. Information sharing is a key component of a successful home-school partnership and these nights provide a perfect opportunity for us to share with you the goings-on at the school and for you to ask questions of us. Times and dates for each group are on the right hand side of this page.

Good luck to the 28 students from the school who will be representing us at the Altona District Sports Association Swimming Carnival tomorrow. I have no doubt you will do a marvellous job and we wish you all the very best. Thank you also to the parents who will be assisting on the day and to Mr Maisey for organising the team.

Next week at assembly we will be announcing both the School Captains and Vice-Captains for 2015. This can be a very exciting and rewarding time for students who apply, yet it can also be a difficult time for students who are not selected. Rest assured, we congratulate all who apply for the positions and we consider putting yourself through the process a mark of a developing leader in and of itself. Good luck to all and please join us at assembly next week for the announcement.

A reminder that our curriculum day will be held on Tuesday March 10th, the day after the Labor Day public holiday making it a four day break for students. The professional learning for the staff on that day will be centred on the explicit teaching of writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.

Finally a reminder for prep parents to sign up for a coffee and chat with their child’s teacher at the information night tonight. These conversations will be conducted over the coming four weeks and are a great opportunity to have a discussion about your child’s transition to school in a relaxed atmosphere.

Simon McGlade
Principal
STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

GROWTH: Zachary Collyer, Grace Cox, Jack Munro, Jessica Rider, Kira-lea Grant, Cody Williams.


INCLUSION: Stella Henstridge, Willow Quick, Tyson Oil, Lasse Maertens, Max Collyer, Amelia Wright.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to the following:
Oliver De Blank, Mohamed Kamareldin, Zachary Collyer, Lillian Smith,
Seth Polson, Elyse Rider, Guncha Saxena, Dakota Price, Flynn Crawford,
Caleb Fowler & Jonah Makin.
We hope you all have a wonderful day.

STUDENT BANKING

Dear Parents,

Please Note that the Student Banking has resumed.
Please remember Student Banking is on Wednesdays only.

Thank You
EVERY DAY COUNTS

In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Coming up on the 3rd March is our Japanese Cultural Day!
It will be a dress up day with many fun Japanese inspired activities for all students.
Parents will be welcome to watch the dress up parade and also partake in the activities.

Your child will receive a sushi lunch order form for you to fill out and return to school by Wednesday March 25th, 2015. Extra forms will be available at the office.
TERM DATES FOR 2015

TERM 1 - Grade 1 - 6 start back 29th January - 27th March
Prep Students start back 4th February - 27th March

TERM 2 - 13th April - 26th June

TERM 3 - 13th July - 18th September

TERM 4 - 5th October - 18th December

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL CARE

OSHCLUB NEWS THIS WEEK

Monday to Friday 7:00 - 9am / 3:00 - 6pm. If you would like to make a booking or would like any information on the After School Care Program please do not hesitate to call 0411 656 074

This Week’s Activities – CARNIVALE AND CHINESE NEW YEAR WEEK 2 (16-20 FEB 2015)

For more information, please contact Artee at Newport Oshclub on 0411 656 074 or book on www.oshclub.com.au

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CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate Silvana David on the birth of her baby girl, Leilani Paige born January 31st.
Both baby and mother are doing well
Newport Gardens Primary School Parent Club News

President – Fiona Kay,
Vice President – Justine Flaherty, Treasurer – Melanie Coca,

A RED Parents Club Communication Box has been set up across from the main office; please feel free to use this as a way of communicating with us.

Thank-you to all who were able to attend the AGM for the Parents Club this morning, it was a great turnout, always encouraging to have the support of our parent body. I have enjoyed my year as President very much, such a terrific group of parents to work alongside to make our school the delightful community that it is.

Fresh eyes, skill set and energy is what makes an organization shine, with that in mind I am very excited to announce the following ladies as your NEW 2015 Executive Committee Members:

President: Fiona Kay
Vice President: Justine Flaherty
Secretary: Gretchen Szabat
Treasurer: Melanie Coca

SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual Sushi Lunch, which coincides with Japanese Cultural Day, is fast approaching. Your child will receive a sushi lunch order form for you to fill out and return to school by Wednesday February 25th, 2015. Extra forms will be available at the office.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16th

LIBRARY SHELVING
Monday February 16th, from 2:30pm-3pm
Book Shelving and teacher task boxes

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
Friday February 20th – Parents needed to chop and peel fruit and veg
9am, Kitchen in the Hall
Parenting ideas

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

10 golden rules for parenting success in 2015

As the requirements for effective parenting shift and there seems even less time to juggle family life, here are 10 golden rules to guide you on your parenting journey.

The requirements for effective parenting are changing rapidly, just as the profile of parents is changing. Australian parents are now older than ever (30-34 is now the peak child-bearing age group). Families are smaller than ever (over 50% have two children or less). And as children as a percentage of the population shrink (1 in 6 of our population is under 15, compared to 1 in 3 in developing countries), we are less knowledgeable about children than ever.

If you add to this mix that children are growing up at the speed of light, information technology can make parents seem redundant, and increasingly parents claim lack of time is their biggest impediment to effective parenting. So what is a parent to do?

Here are 10 golden rules to guide you along your parenting journey in 2015:

1. **Talk more**
   With families shrinking, kids getting busier and tech devices rapidly multiplying the opportunities for family members to engage in face-to-face talk is under serious attack. Regardless of their age, the best way to influence your children is talk to them. The kitchen table is one place to do this, but there are plenty of other places where you can talk. If talk becomes difficult, try driving with a child or young person in the car with the radio off. They are bound to break sooner or later.

2. **Lean on others**
   A recent Australian survey found that 50% of parents are seriously struggling with their parenting, yet only 10% of this group would ask for help. I suspect there are many reasons for this including fear of being judged a poor parent; that parenting is expected to be hard; and lack of trustworthy support networks. Author Steve Biddulph once said that parents don’t parent well in isolation. He’s right. It’s incredibly important to build your support networks and get ‘parents’ into your child’s life. Start by working closely with your child’s teacher, a natural ally!

3. **Build confidence**
   With so many parents reporting that they have a child experiencing anxiety it would seem that we are currently experiencing a crisis in children’s confidence. It would also seem that we have somehow forgotten how to absorb children’s fears, insecurities and anxieties, and instill a sense of confidence that these can be overcome. Using a mixture of coaxing, coaching and cajoling parents need to find a way to impart in children a sense of courage to put themselves in new or potentially awkward social situations; to have a go at activities where failure is a real option; and to contribute to the wellbeing of others, which reduces anxiousness and fear.

4. **Aim for redundancy**
   The great irony of modern parenting is that as families have shrunk parents actually do more, rather than less, for their kids. There are many reasons for this including lack of time to teach; it’s simply easier to do a job ourselves, and the new expectation that ‘good’ parents do everything for their kids. The new ‘strict parent’ is someone who expects their kids to wash their own clothes, cook a meal, and read a book to a younger sibling. The imperfection! Here’s a six-word slogan to help you remember: “When kids can, let them do!”


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parentingideas.com.au
Parenting ideas

Building parent-school partnerships

... 10 golden rules for parenting success in 2015 ...

1. Lead the gang
Parenting is now an individual endeavour. There is a place for parenting the individual child, but there is also a place for parenting the whole gang (even if you and your child make up the gang). Your ability to pull your family together and get them singing off the same song sheet will impact on your family’s harmonious relationships, your children’s sense of other (empathy) and their general resilience and coping mechanisms. There is nothing so magical to witness as a family pulling together when the chips are down. This doesn’t just happen. It takes real leadership by parents to make a family act like a family.

2. Build developmental knowledge
Many challenges parents experience with their children are due to a developmental mismatch. That is, parents raising their ten year old as if they are eight. The nuances of parenting are age-related, yet due to inexperience we so often don’t read the cues. Recently, I witnessed a mum and dad tearing their hair out trying to communicate with their nine year old son. For the first time he was saying no to them. They thought him stubborn and disobedient. I thought him normal, as nine can be a problematic age, where usually malleable children suddenly start changing. Puberty is stirring. When this couple’s second child turns nine she will experience the benefits of her elder brother paving the way and breaking her parents in for her.

3. Swim against the tide
Listen to talkback radio, read the headlines of a newspaper or watch a current affairs TV program and you’ll realise that, right now, we live in an incredibly judgemental society. Parents are harshly judged as well. Allow your kids to walk to school and you risk being judged as negligent. Drive your kids to school and you risk being told that you are spoiling them and neglecting their physical wellbeing. It takes a strong parent to swim against the tide of popular opinion. It also takes a strong parent to deny her child say a mobile phone when every other child has one. It helps to say “This is the way we do it in our family.”

4. Be brave
Perhaps the biggest challenge facing parents, and their children, is the ability to let go of their parental reigns and give kids the freedom they need to develop autonomy. It’s relatively easy to develop children’s independence at home as the stakes aren’t as high. If they can’t cook a meal then you just have to do it for them. However, developing children’s independence outside the home is a different story. Many parents feel decidedly wary about granting children and young people more freedom. There is the perception that the world is a dangerous place. Granting kids freedom has an element of risk; that’s why parents need to be brave. Having the courage to let go is a basic requirement of parenting. It won’t stop you worrying, but that’s part of the game.

5. Practice problem-ownership
Please, please, please allow children to own their own problems. Children of all ages can be creative when they have problems to solve. Everything is a potential problem to kids and they need opportunities to resolve them themselves. By all means, coach, guide, give hints but give them a chance to sort out relationship issues, challenges with teachers and academic challenges themselves.

6. Add emotional intelligence to your parenting mix
With kids experiencing mental health challenges at a depressingly high rate it’s time to add some emotional intelligence to the parenting mix. While many schools are now introducing emotional and social programs on the curriculum, it’s important that parents develop a deep understanding of how emotions work: how emotions can be recognised; how they can work for us and against us; how we can regulate our emotions so they don’t overwhelm us; and how to recognise and respond to the emotions of others. These sound like life-changing skills that if learned, are capable of impacting significantly and positively on future generations.

Michael Grose


parentingideas.com.au