



NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 26th November 2013

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 27th November

School Council 6 pm
P & C 7 pm

Thursday 5th December

Kinder Orientation Teddy Bears Picnic
12.30 - 1.30

Thursday 12th December

Presentation Evening 6.30 pm

Monday 16th December

Year 6 Farewell (Yrs 5 & 6)

Tuesday 17th December

Whole School Disco

Wednesday 18th December

Last Day of Term
Mufti Day

2014 Dates

Tuesday 28th January

Staff Development Day

Wednesday 29th January

Students Years 1 to 6 return

Thursday 30th January

Kindergarten students start

Friday 14th February

Small Schools Swimming Carnival

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

End of Year Arrangements

With only a few weeks remaining of the school year, end of year preparations are well underway. The annual school presentation evening will be held on Thursday 12th December from 6.30-8pm. The Year 6 Farewell dinner will be held at the Kinross for students in Years 5 and 6 on Monday 16th December from 6.00-8pm. Our whole school disco will take place at the Table Top Community Hall for students K-6 and our friends from Gerogery and Mullengandra PS on Tuesday 17th December from 6.30-8.30pm. On the very last day of the school year for students, which is Wednesday 18th December, we will celebrate with a Mufti day where students are welcome to come to school in casual clothes.

Helpers Morning Tea

We will be hosting a thank you morning tea for all of our parent and community helpers next Tuesday at 11am. Anyone who has helped our school in any way this year is most welcome to attend. People have helped in many, many ways, including: helping in the classrooms, volunteering for working bees, attending P&C and School Council meetings, transporting students to various events, helping at the camp out, helping out at our harvest lunch days, assisting with our library mosaic and organising special gardening and art programs. Looking forward to seeing all of our great helpers next Tuesday!

For catering purposes please return the slip attached to this newsletter.

2014 School Captain Speeches and Voting

Students from Kindergarten to Year 5 and our staff will vote for one boy and one girl captain

after listening to the Year 5 candidate speeches on Tuesday 10th December from 2pm. Parents of our Year 5 candidates are most welcome along and listen to the speeches. The 2014 captains will be announced at the Presentation Night.

Active After School Golf Tournament

Congratulations to Natalie and Ellie, Darcy and Emily, who were all selected to represent our school at an inter-school Active Afternoon Golf Tournament, conducted at the Thurgoona Golf Club this afternoon. We wish them all the best of luck.

Kinder 2014 Orientation

Miss Kirk and the Year Six (2014) Buddies are eagerly awaiting the Kindergarten 2013 Orientation - "Teddy Bear's Picnic" next Thursday, 5th December. K/1 students should bring a rug, a picnic lunch and one, two or three teddies. The Year 6 (2013) buddies can also bring their teddies too!

Borella House Christmas Carols Change

Due to space restrictions at the venue, only our 4/5/6 students will be singing Christmas carols at Borella House on the 6th December. I apologise for this late change of arrangements.

Student Reports

Reports are being finalised by teachers and they will be sent out to parents on Friday of Week 10.

School Council/P&C Meeting

Our next meeting will be held tomorrow, 27th November from 6pm. Parents and community members are most welcome to attend.

Andrew McEachern - Principal

EGGS FOR SALE



Our hens are laying beautifully at the moment so we have eggs for sale. If you would like to buy a dozen eggs for \$5.00 please see Mrs Scott at the office.

PERPETUAL TROPHIES

With the end of year almost upon us could we please have all perpetual trophies returned to the school by last year's recipients as soon as possible.

XMAS CARDS FOR SALE

The students have been creating wonderful Xmas artwork and we will be making Xmas cards using this artwork.

You can order as many as you like of your children's creations or order a mixed set which will consist of a random selection.

If you would like to have some of these wonderful cards to send to your family and friends, complete the order form and return to school along with your payment.

Cards & envelope will sell for \$1.50 each.

Cards are printed on card not paper.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM INVITE

Dear Parents and Friends,

The Table Top Public School Active-After School participants, Bec and I would like to invite you to an End of Year Exhibition to show you just some of the activities we have perfected or attempted to perfect throughout the year.

Some items will leave you thinking "That was awesome". Some will leave you thinking "What on earth?"

The Exhibition will be held on the 28th November at 3.45 and we hope you can join us.

From
Active-After School Students, Bec and Mrs. Livermore.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to the following award winners from last Friday's School Assembly:

K/1 AWARDS

Gibb ~ for persevering with his learning
T.J. ~ for super counting
Zenith ~ for collaborating with her class

2-3 AWARDS

Denzel ~ for reading Level 6 smoothly and cleverly
Paris ~ for being open minded and imaginative

4-6 AWARDS

Louis ~ for working diligently in literacy
Bair ~ for showing leadership
Destiny ~ for great application in Maths

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for 2013 are \$40 per child. This fee covers the cost of textbooks and other consumables for each child. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Table Top Public School.

MATHLETICS CONTRIBUTION

Parents are asked to contribute \$10 per child to help cover the annual user fee for Mathletics in our school. This is a fantastic price, as the usual fee is \$99 per child. Thanks to the P&C who have already committed funds to support Mathletics for our children.

P & C FUNDRAISING CONTRIBUTION

The fund raising voluntary contribution for 2013 is \$50 per family. This can be paid in full or by instalments over the next three terms as follows:

Term 1	\$20
Term 2	\$20
Term 3	\$10.

Cheques should be made payable to TTPS P & C

School bank details:

Account Name: Table Top Public School

Account Number: 157014

BSB: 032-001

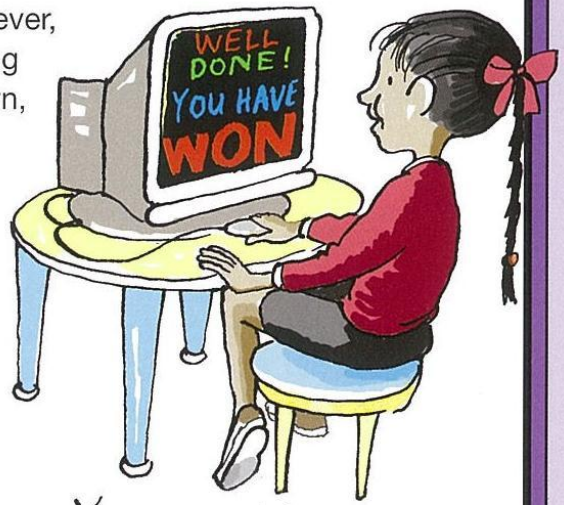
Reference: *Surname and item/s being paid*

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

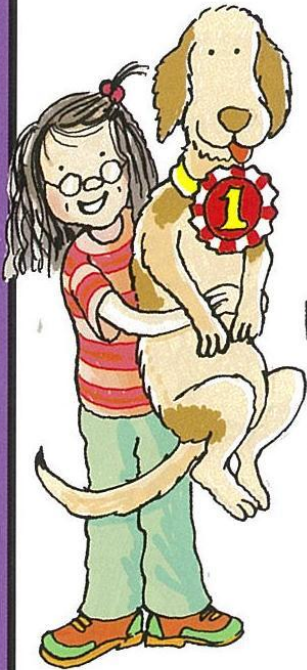
The 30th November is the end of our financial year and we would appreciate if all outstanding fees could be finalised before that date.

Switching your child's mind on to learning

Children's minds are wired up to learn. However, being wired up is not the same thing as being switched on. To encourage your child to learn, help them to make connections between learning and what they'll be able to do as a result. Try saying things like: 'When you get your pen licence, you can always write in pen.'



You can win at a computer game if you practise enough.

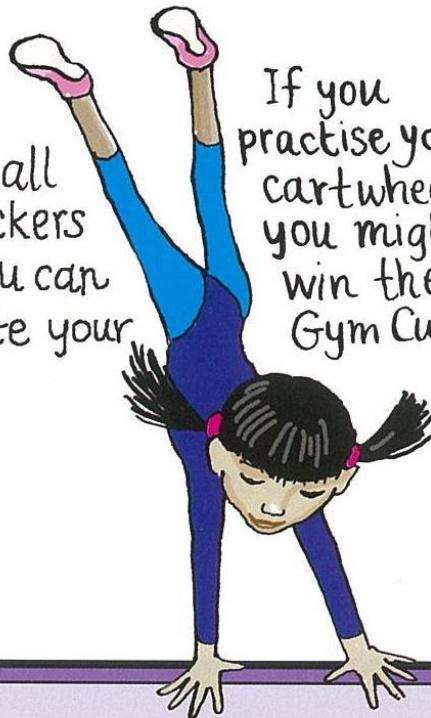


Train Lucky properly and he might pass obedience school.

Appeal to your child's self-interest and you'll be more likely to motivate them. Computer games work like this, getting players to complete each level in order to move onto the next, more interesting one. Collecting cards works in the same way: children who don't like maths in the classroom become experts in the playground, learning the strengths or points of each card.



Collect all the stickers and you can complete your poster.



If you practise your cartwheels you might win the Gym Cup.



Join the Brownies and enjoy collecting all the badges.



How do you make friends when you're busy studying insects?

Help your child on the autism spectrum build friendships by learning about non-verbal cues, writes **Angelica Rose**



"I get by with a little help from my friends"

The Beatles had it right when they sang these words. We all need a little help from our friends from time to time. Friendship enriches our lives, helps us get through the tough times and celebrate the good times. It's well established that children who have even one friend throughout their school years will handle transitions and stress better and are less susceptible to bullying. Children and adolescents with high-functioning autism spectrum disorders (the 'spectrum') can struggle to make friends, potentially making the social world more confusing and overwhelming for them.

Many children on the spectrum want to make and maintain friendships, but don't know how to go about it in a socially appropriate way. I have spoken to many parents over the years who describe their own sadness and frustration as they watch their child make social attempts which are either ignored or openly rejected by other children. Or they observe their child not noticing or responding to offers of friendship.

Being on the spectrum affects a child's ability to understand 'theory of mind' which, put simply, is a person's ability to

understand that someone else has different thoughts and feelings to you. This translates into the playground in the challenge a child can have with understanding that another boy wants to play with the trucks in the sandpit while he or she is completely consumed by his/her interest in insects.

Non-verbal Communication Channels:

1. Facial Expression
2. Body Language
3. Tone of Voice
4. Personal Space

Donna Williams, famous author, autism consultant and self described 'autie', likens being autistic to being on one track, whereas the rest of us 'neurotypicals' (those not on the spectrum) can multi-track. This means that she finds it challenging to talk with another person while noticing that person's non-verbal cues simultaneously. In face-to-face communication, research has shown that non-verbal communication makes up a significant amount of all messages sent and received between people, with words making up the rest.

Do you remember learning how to recognise facial expressions? Many of these skills are learnt naturally through play at an early age. Most of us neurotypicals notice others' cues while we are speaking and can respond to them appropriately, usually without much conscious effort. For people on the spectrum it is often not so easy.

The good news is that children on the spectrum can learn to recognise and respond to non-verbal cues. If they do, it becomes easier for them to notice and respond to an offer of play, even when they've been studying their favourite insect!

Greetings: a great place to start learning about non-verbal cues

Greetings are a natural and integral part of our social world and relationships, and while it may seem obvious to us neurotypicals, it may not be so for a child on the spectrum. Greetings are actually incredibly complex. There are many factors that affect the way a greeting is made: your relationship with the person, any age difference, the situation, the length of time since you've seen that person. For example, do I have to say hello again to my friend who I walked past in the classroom two hours ago? How much eye contact should I make? All this is a lot to take in and make a decision on in an instant!

One of my students once asked me, "Why should I say hello to someone when they say hello to me?" This is a really good question. It's helpful to explain to a child why it's important to respond to a greeting. A simple, logical answer is that one day you might want to play with that child, or have to do a project together, so it's good to say hello back to them. It's part of positive relationship building. Sometimes a child might not respond to a greeting because they haven't processed the words and situation quickly enough to respond, but with practice it becomes easier.

Here are some tips on helping a child on the spectrum become more aware of non-verbal cues:

- ▶ **Notice how the child communicates when greeting people:** If you notice a difference between the child's expression and the message they are intending to send, then have a chat with him/her about their messages.

Tip: Once a week have a chat about a social situation that recently occurred. For example, "I noticed you didn't respond to the other kid when he said hello. What happened there?"

- ▶ **Notice how you communicate when greeting others:** A parent is the most important person in a child's life and modelling good communication yourself will go a long way towards helping a child.

Tip: Once a week ask the child to see if they can guess how you are feeling when you greet them after school. For example, you may have smiled and made eye contact even though you were feeling tired after a long day.

- ▶ **Have a chat about other people's communication:** Noticing how other people communicate is an effective and powerful way to help a child become more aware of the non-verbal cues that occur between people.

Tip: A fun activity could be to watch 10 minutes of a TV show together and then discuss how the characters greeted each other and why.



Angelica Rose

Founder and principal of Voice and Movement, an organisation dedicated to helping children make and maintain friendships. For the past 11 years, her unique Drama for Everyday Life Program has been delivering social skills in a practical and fun way to children and adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome and high functioning autism, with outstanding results. For your invitation to a free information evening and other events email

- ▶ info@voiceandmovement.com.au
- ▶ www.voiceandmovement.com.au
- ▶ 03 9890 0728