



# NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Parent/Teacher Interviews 4/5/6

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Last day of Term

Mufti Day - gold coin donation

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**Staff Development Day**

(No students)

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Students return for Term 3

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July**

Bunnings BBQ - helpers needed

**28<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August**

Education Week

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July**

Open Day and Book Fair

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Centro Lavington - Singing

just during interview week. Regular contact with your child's teacher is encouraged to promote a positive and productive home/school relationship.

### New SmartBoard

The new SmartBoard which was installed in the K/1 room is up and running and already being fully utilized by Miss Kirk and her eager students to enhance their learning! The original K/1 board will replace the aging board in the 2/3 room and it is hoped that the 2/3 board can be moved into the staffroom to be used during staff and P&C meetings.

### SRC Mufti Day

Don't forget the SRC mufti-day this Friday. For the cost of a gold coin, children will be allowed to come to school out of uniform.

### PSSA Friday Sport

Unless it is raining and we hear otherwise, the PSSA netball and soccer will continue this Friday. No matter the weather, Gymnastics for the K/1 students will go ahead. Students not engaged in PSSA activities will play school-based sports.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we have had to make the difficult decision to pull the Year 2 children out of the PSSA Junior Soccer Team. We have been informed by the soccer organisers that the PSSA Soccer competition is strictly for students who are in Year 3 and above. The students who have been affected by this ruling will join in sporting activities at school. The Year 2 kids can still train with Mrs. Gaukroger at lunchtimes which will help polish their skills for next year's competition.

Also a reminder that we are still looking for second-hand soccer boots for students to borrow for PSSA sport. Please drop off any

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Teacher Interviews

Thank you to those parents who have taken up the opportunity to have an interview with your child's teacher this week. It is an important opportunity to get feedback on your child's academic and social progress at school. Mrs. Cambey held her interviews on Monday, Miss Kirk held hers today and Mr. McEachern and Mrs. Gaukroger will hold their interviews tomorrow. Please remember, however, that parents are welcome to request a teacher interview at any point throughout the year, not

unnecessary soccer boots that are still in good condition to the office. They can be donated to the school or if you wish returned to you at the end of the PSSA soccer season.

### **Book Sale**

During the week of parent interviews, left-over books from the QE11 book sale are on display in the weather-shed and are available for purchase at the low, low price of a gold coin donation. Come in and have a look at the selection of books and pick yourself up a bargain!

### **Bunnings BBQ**

Thank you to parents and members of our school community who have indicated that they can assist with the P&C Bunnings BBQ on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July (the first Sunday of Term 3). We still require helpers to fill in the empty slots to run the BBQ on this major fundraising activity. If you are able to assist, please inform Karin in the office. This is another terrific way to promote our school and raise funds for our school. Funds raised by the P&C are used to purchase important equipment, materials and provide subsidies to support your children's learning at school.

### **Riverina Athletics Carnival**

Due to the blustery and icy conditions, the PSSA Regional Athletics Carnival was postponed until early next term. Natalie now has a couple of extra weeks to train and prepare for her events!

### **Wirraminna Excursion**

The 4/5/6 class visited the Wirraminna Environmental Centre at Burrumbuttock with Mrs. Gaukroger and Mrs. Livermore today to extend their learning about our unique Australian environment. We look forward to hearing about their adventures upon their return.

### **Peer Support**

Our successful Peer Support lessons conclude this Thursday with Session 8 of the program: Wrap it up. The students will think about everything they have learned in Peer Support and talk about ways they can continue to help each other.

### **NCCD Collection**

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability. All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn't matter what the individual child's circumstances are - every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment. 'Disability' in this context refers to: physical (e.g. speech); cognitive (e.g. gaps in learning or learning delays); sensory (e.g. vision or hearing), or; social/emotional/behavioral (e.g. anxiety) and is in no way a diagnosis of disability. An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with a disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).

It's your decision about whether you want your child's information to be included in the national reporting or not. Even if your child's information is not included in the national data collection, our school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

For more information visit [www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability](http://www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability)

### **School Counsellor**

The school counsellor, Michele Dupe is scheduled to deliver her service to our school on the following dates in Term 3: 16<sup>th</sup> July, 30<sup>th</sup> July and 27<sup>th</sup> August.

### **School Assembly**

School assembly will be held in the library this Friday at 12.00pm. The class presenting the item this week is 4/5/6.

## School Facebook and Twitter Accounts

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TableTopPublicSchool>

Twitter: @TabletopPS

## Holidays

School will break for two weeks from this Friday afternoon, with students returning on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. I thank everyone for a great term of learning and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time with their children.

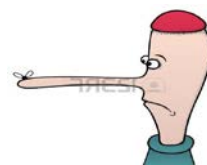
*Andrew McEachern - Principal*



Well done to the students who represented TTPS at the AASC Basketball competition last week

## KINDER SOUND

The Kinder sound this week is "N" for Nose.



If you would like to pay any accounts by direct debit

### **School bank details:**

Account Name: Table Top Public School

Account Number: 157014

BSB: 032-001

Reference: *Surname and item/s being paid*

## PSSA Soccer Jumpers

We appear to be missing some of the PSSA jumpers from last year, as well as the spare shin pads and socks. Could you please search around at home and if you do happen to find any of the jumpers or equipment from last year, could you please send them in to the office. Thanks



## **LASER TAG - Come along and join us !!**

During the holidays (maybe Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July) we would like to organise a group of Table Top family members to go to Laser Tag. The cost will be about \$20 for a 2 hour session. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Singleton on 0405 314 804.



## SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

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

### Student of the Week



### Special Encouragement Awards:



### Teacher Merit Cards (Green cards)

#### K/1

Aimee, Mia M, Boyd, Dante

#### 2-3

Jake, Lochie, Zenith, Harry

#### 4-6

Dylan, Ethan, Toby, Alicia, Robert, Louis

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Albury and Lavington Libraries have some great programs happening these holidays.

Bugs, experiments, Lego, craft, The Loaded Dog, Movies, Zombies, Nerfs, sculpture, plus more. **Check out all the holiday workshops at** - <http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/whatson/libraries/school-holiday-winter-fun>

**Write Around the Murray Writing competitions**  
<http://www.writearoundthemurray.org.au/competition/>  
**Short Story Competition – open to all ages**  
**Every picture has a story to tell.**

Against the Grain Drama Presents  
"Little Shoots"

Primary School Holiday Drama Workshops for Years 3-6

Monday 30th June and Tuesday 1st July  
10am – 5pm  
Culcairn Memorial Hall, Balfour Street, Culcairn.

\$50.00 per child

Presented by our experienced tutors Sharyn Hill and Rachael McNamara, Little Shoots is specifically designed to develop confidence and improve collaboration and communication skills for primary aged children across the region in a fun and creative environment.

For more information and registration forms contact:  
Libby Ellis Ph: 02 6029 8588 Mob: 0458 300 799 email: [lellis@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lellis@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)

Greater Hume Shire Regional Arts Fund Australian Government Regional Arts Fund MURRAY ARTS Regional Arts Development

[www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au](http://www.greaterhume.nsw.gov.au)

## *Building parent-school partnerships*

WORDS Maggie Dent

# Helping kids who struggle at school

The way we praise our children, even from a very early age, can have a lasting impact. When done effectively, it can really promote resilience.

**More and more in my work, I hear about young children struggling with anxiety, serious behavioural concerns, mental health issues and aggression.**

At the same time, I am staggered to see the 'push down' of formalised learning onto children under six in this country. This is contrary to best practice in early years education and despite a lack of evidence validating any positive influence of early formalised education on young children's lives.

In Issue 9 of Parentingideas Magazine, I wrote about why play is critical for brain development and social, emotional and cognitive development in young children.

The removal of play in kindergarten and preschool in favour of sight words and worksheets, homework and black line markers can be damaging to our children's ability to function as social beings – which is still our key biological driver.

Much of the push seems to be happening to improve schools' data – misinformed principals seeking good NAPLAN results and top rankings on the MySchool website. However, lots of educators tell me that they also get pressure from parents who do not understand how

critical non-formal learning is early on.

The rise in aggressive behaviour being exhibited by many younger children, mainly boys, is a sign they are unable to cope in environments with no opportunity to play, no fun, little movement and developmentally inappropriate tasks. We then penalise these children by suspending or expelling them.

The latest COAG Reform Council report on education, released in October 2013, shows that despite some improvements in overall outcomes, the gap for Indigenous children and disadvantaged children is growing ever wider.

When you think that around 30% of children struggle with school anyway, how can parents better support their kids if they are struggling?

### **Tips for struggling kids**

The first thing to consider is whether there are any developmental delays.

Children mature at varied rates and in all sorts of ways depending on environment and unique genetic templates.

Any kid can have developmental delays around phonemic awareness, and these can be helped by being read to a lot, learning nursery rhymes and songs and engaging in lots of conversation.

From birth children need to be saturated in sound from humans as they are unable to learn

sounds from television, DVDs or screen-based devices like iPads.

If the delays are in self-regulation – the ability to manage one's energy, to be able to concentrate for up to 15 minutes, to sit quietly when asked – you need to identify and reduce the stressors in the affected child's life.

Things that improve self-regulation include music, sport, real play, time spent in nature and being in safe environments. Things that hinder it are too much television or other screen time, being too passive, poor food, lack of sleep, too much pressure and weak human connectedness.

If a child is forced to attempt a task they're unable to do developmentally, this can cause enormous distress. Take handwriting for four- to five-year-olds: it's a complex task that many children are unable to do until closer to six. The brain integration required is deceptively complex.

When a child cannot do a task like handwriting, or can't manage to remember sounds or colour within the lines, they often see themselves as dumb or stupid.

**more on page 2** >>



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at [parentingideasclub.com.au](http://parentingideasclub.com.au). You'll be so glad you did.





... helping kids who  
struggle at school ...

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## *Building parent-school partnerships*

Have realistic expectations of your children and talk to their teachers or school leaders if you feel they are expecting too much. (There are lots of articles on my website you can use as evidence in these conversations.)

If it is identified that your child has some delay issues, early intervention is essential, particularly if they are identified as having an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), auditory processing concerns or sight issues.

Not all kids are going to do well at school. According to Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligence theory we have at least nine different ways of being smart. Google this to show your children and help them work out 'which smarts are you?'

If your child is struggling academically it is important to help them at home to be really competent at something! Self-mastery builds confidence – even if it's tree climbing, stargazing, frog hunting, growing vegies or helping to fix things in the shed. This helps them build a healthy sense of self, even if they struggle with maths or learning to read.

For older children, investing in tutors and maybe purchasing some technology-based support is well worth the cost.

Practice makes perfect and brain plasticity allows for kids to always improve with increased effort. Remember that it must be engaging learning and fun or it will simply make things worse.

Finally, if your child is displaying really significant anxiety and distress and you have done your best to work with the school to improve things, then the environment may need to change.

We can't leave kids struggling and just say 'toughen up' – otherwise we are just wiring them for hypersensitivity for life, when childhood should be filled with joy and delight.

**Maggie Dent is an author, educator and speaker dedicated to quietly changing lives through commonsense wisdom. She has four adult sons and is author of five books and numerous resources including a new video seminar on raising boys: Boys, Boys, Boys. Check out her blogs, newsletter and other resources at [www.maggiedent.com](http://www.maggiedent.com).**

*Maggie Dent*



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