Hello everyone,

With the end of the school year in sight, I have bumped into the misunderstanding that things at school are slowing down a little. … after all some of the older high school kids have finished. This is not the case! In fact, things remain tremendously full on for teachers and students! Yes, we are all tired (which is why the notion of holidays is very appealing), but the reality is that students are deeply into assessment and will continue to be well into next week. Then we start preparing for presentation night, the swimming carnival, high school orientation, the Year 6 graduation night, and the year 5 leadership speeches. Early pickups, and doctor’s appointments etc that take children out of class purely add to the complexity of what is happening and jeopardizes effective learning and accurate assessment. As per usual, anything that detracts from full attendance impacts on teaching and learning, and we appreciate your support of our high attendance rates as this reflects your support of the work being done, and the importance of what your child is doing. It is the time of year when we all start dragging our feet, so our teachers will maintain classroom routines and explicit teaching right until the end of term. We will however stop homework as of next week! ☺

Please put aside Wednesday night the 9th December, for presentation night. Our evening is a night of celebration with students showing the efforts of their learning, and recognition of high achievements. It is a family focused night – grandparents, aunts and uncles are all welcome to attend! This year we have booked the cultural hall again. As the children need to be there by 6 for a 6:30 start, please bring a plate of finger food to share, while the children are being organized?

-- Roslyn Waldron (Principal)

Students are busy in Yr. 3/4 completing their last units of work for the year. They are enjoying the class novel ‘Rowan of Rin’ and are responding to questions about it through an interactive journal using the class set of XOs.

Some of the hands on experiments in the science unit Exploring Properties of Materials, have been a challenge. In one activity, groups had to design and build a 1 metre tall structure that would hold a dictionary for 30 seconds. Two of the groups managed to have success, which was an achievement given the limited materials they could use.

As the 2015 school year begins to draw to a close and we look back on our year of learning together, we would like to say that we are so proud of the educational gains and personal growth of the children in the Yr. 3/4 class. Their overall willingness to learn and co-operate with us and each other has been very pleasing.

Thank you Year 3/4!

Mrs Schwarzrock, Mrs Robinson and Ms Lamont

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Important Dates:

26 November – Sarina Landcare School Activity Days – 4/5/6 first, then 3/4
30 November – Preparation with Chappies Kevin & Di for High School
1 December – Year 6 High School Orientation morning
2 December – Year 5 Leadership speeches 1:40pm
4 December – Swimming carnival; 6 year graduation dinner
9 December – Presentation Evening
10 December – Rewards Day + Reports
11 December – Clean up day? 😊 Last day of school for 2015.

Our Learning Objectives: 1. Reading and writing must make sense! 2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!
Swimming Carnival

Our annual swimming carnival takes place next Friday 4th December. It is the culmination of 7 weeks of swimming lessons the students have been undertaking this term. The carnival will be divided into a junior (P – 2) and senior (3 - 6) carnival, minimizing sun exposure and time out of the classroom. We do not have access to the pool before this time. All students are expected to be at school as per normal.

Juniors will swim the width of the pool whereas seniors will swim the length of the pool (25m) in a variety of swimming and novelty events. Juniors will compete from 10 – 11:30am then we’ll have a 30min lunch break, where the P&C will be selling steak burgers and sausages on bread, before the P – 3 classes return to school for the afternoon session. Seniors will compete after lunch from 12 – 2:30pm. The bus will take the first group of students (P-3 and Yr 6 leaders) at 9:30am then return to take the second group of students (4 – 6) to the pool at 10:30am. The bus will return students to school.

Families are most welcome to attend and cheer on students as they put their swimming skills to the test and try and win points for their house – Jackson or Donohue. The winners will be announced at the conclusion of senior races.

Presentation Night Date Claimer

Who: All students of the school, their families and extended family members welcome.
When: Wednesday 9 December
Where: Bod Wood Culture Hall
Time: All students at the hall by 6:00pm, ready for a 6:30pm start.
Please bring: A plate of finger food to share.
Focus: A night of celebration recognizing and demonstrating learning achievements.

Tuckshop News!

Variation to Tuckshop Menu - Friday 27th Nov
SPECIAL - Roast Beef Rolls $3.50
Regular Tuckshop Menu will not be available on this day.
Orders must be received on Thursday morning 26th Nov for catering purposes.

Swimming Carnival Catering - Fri 4th Dec
The P&C will be catering for the Swimming Carnival on Friday 4th Dec for the main lunch break between about 11.30am-12.30pm. Steak Burgers & Sausage on Bread will be on the menu and a price list will be circulated a little closer to the time. Pre-orders as per the tuckshop process are available, for both the school kids and any parents and siblings in attendance. Orders are to be submitted by Wednesday 2nd Dec, please. If you are able to assist with serving on the day or by providing home baking, please contact Melanie Hamblin on 4950 4203 or melanie@hamblin.com.au

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Develop a growth mindset in your child

Carol Dweck, author of “The New Psychology of Success” believes that a growth mindset is the quality that separates those who succeed from those who don’t. Her research reveals how the use of language when praising kids can have a profound impact on their attitudes. Subtle differences in tone, wording and phrasing can lead even a child at two and half to have a self-limiting belief when he or she started school a few years later.

The problem with praising intelligence and ability is that it leads to fixed mindset development. Kids believe that their success is reliant on their ability or talent, rather than their effort or attitude. So to be respected and recognised as successful they become risk-adverse. Far better to achieve some success no matter how meagre, than risk failure and being seen as dumb, stupid or a failure. So how can a parent develop a growth mindset in children? Well, it comes down to language and a few other strategies as well. Here are three simple ideas to get you started:

1. Praise effort, strategy and action not results
Focus more on the processes of what kids do rather than results to develop a growth mindset. Kids need to hear comments such as “You worked hard to get that right!”(effort), “That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!”(strategy) and “You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right.”(action). This type of praise, also known as encouragement, helps kids develop the belief that success has more to do with what they do than innate smarts and talents.

2. Look for opportunities to stretch your child’s capabilities
Encourage kids to stretch their capabilities by adding depth and breadth to their list of activities. Boys, in particular, often go deep investing all their time into areas of interest such as sport or online gaming to develop their talents over time. Encourage them to stretch their capabilities across a range of areas rather than a few. Conversely, encourage a child who dabbles in many areas or interests without specialising in any area, to go deeper in one area.

3. Give honest feedback
Providing your child with honest feedback about their performance not only helps them improve, but also promotes a growth mindset. We often shy away from giving feedback for fear of harming their self-esteem. Confidence can be maintained by being sensitive to how we provide feedback. For instance, focusing on two or three things kids do well before giving constructive feedback is one way you can keep young a learner’s head up while giving pointers about better performance.

Having a plastic brain means that we can continue to acquire new skills, learn new things and embed new habits across our lifespan. It is important then that we help children develop a growth mindset so that they can reap the benefits of brain plasticity over their lifetime rather be limited by their belief systems.