Focus on Learning

Tent Hill Lower S.S. makes no apology for our constant focus on improving student learning. I guess that makes a lot of sense as that should be the core business of all schools.

Last week’s standardised testing results, indicated that there has been some huge improvements in students’ Mathematical outcomes. Many students have gained well in excess of the ‘average’ or ‘expected’ gain in one year. It was the kind of improvement that we were hoping for and are very proud of.

In another piece of data I received this week, there is a similar story with our school NAPLAN results. You can see from the graphs below the ongoing improvement story of our school. Our students are above other schools around Australia in 3 out of 4 NAPLAN areas. The continuum line also shows where we were last year, as indicated by the open triangle, and where we are this year, as indicated by the solid black triangle. We were also well above similar school in our overall relative gain. I’m sure you’ll agree it looks quite impressive!

The teachers at this school have had a non-stop focus on improving student learning outcomes, particularly in Mathematics. This has required a great deal of personal time, commitment and professional development, on the part of every teacher and teacher aide in continuing to build their capacity to deliver world class teaching. I congratulate all of the staff in this school for guaranteeing that learning is occurring in every classroom every day for every student.

Around the Classrooms...

Prep—Yr 1 (Mrs Samuelsen) During last weeks parent-teacher interviews I was only able to catch up with 4 parents. If you would like a parent teacher interview please contact the office to make an appointment for afterschool sometime in the next 2 weeks.

Yrs 2/3/4 (Mrs Peach) We have started our final English unit for the year. This unit is based on the book “Kumiko and the Dragon”. We are going to be focussing on writing a narrative that will involve a child overcoming a fear.

Yrs 5/6 (Mrs Martin/Mrs Kowitz) Over the past few weeks we have been learning about a significant event in Australia’s history – the Eureka Stockade. We have started the assessment task, which is a research assignment on the events that occurred at the Eureka Stockade and how Peter Lalor was involved in it.
SCHOOL NEWS...

Enrolments for 2017
Enrolment packs are available from the office for parents wishing to enrol their child for 2017. I would encourage you to do this as soon as possible as it assists with planning and staffing for next year. Please let any new families know they are also welcome to contact the school. Meanwhile, anyone is welcome to attend our Playgroup to assist with the transition to Prep.

Tuckshop
Forms are attached for our next Tuckshop on November 2nd. This time we are ordering from Subway. Orders and money due by Thursday MORNING 27th October. No late orders accepted.

Daniel Morcombe Day 28th October
We are participating in Daniel Morcombe Day this year. Students are invited to wear a red piece of clothing on the day and to bring a gold coin donation. A number of activities are planned for the students to increase their awareness around child safety.

Prep Open Morning
Our next Prep Morning will be Thursday Nov 24. Not Nov 4 as in the school calendar.

Swimming
Thank you to all of the students who were prepared and ready to participate in the swimming lessons. The first lesson always involves some degree of resorting students into appropriate ability groups. Our staff have been conducting these lessons for many years and are very skilled in ensuring that all students have reached the necessary capabilities required before progressing. Parents wishing to volunteer will need to let us know (in advance) so we can allocate you to a group and must also be ready in your swimmers. It is important to minimise distractions from the side as it is imperative that students are focussed on following their adult instructor to ensure safety for all.

Just a reminder that a note is required if you plan to pick your child up from the pool. All students will need to assemble in their class groups to have their names checked off the roll before leaving the pool. This is a safety requirement. Also it is important to be on time otherwise students will need to return to school on the bus. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Library bus
Unfortunately our school has been advised that the Lockyer Valley Regional Council Library bus will cease its visits at the end of 2016.

Yr 6 LDHS Transition program
Please remember that next Monday 24th October is the next scheduled transition afternoon for Year 6 students. * Parent transport is required.
Please check the LDHS information letter sent home last term or call our office if you require any further information.
Helping children with mental health issues

Although suicide in children is rare, research shows that children can and do present with suicidal behaviour, thus highlighting the need for early intervention including identification of risk factors and promotion of protective factors, including adaptive coping skills.

There are links and similarities between self-harming behaviours and suicide, and both can be associated with feeling overwhelmed and distressed, however the key difference is that those who self-harm do not necessarily do so with the intent to end their lives.

Model and help children to practise coping skills

In relation to suicide prevention in children, coping skills are important as they provide children with an adaptive framework for responding to life’s inevitable challenges.

Coping skills are our thoughts and behaviours related to managing difficult situations. Children learn to use different coping skills from the time they are born.

Coping skills are an important part of positive mental health development as they assist children in managing feelings of distress. When children have tools and skills for managing challenges they are more likely to engage in helpful problem solving strategies and engage help when needed. It is important to remember that stress and distress are a normal part of life for both children and adults, and normalising these feelings in children and providing them with support helps the development of resilience.

There are lots of ways to build a child’s coping skills during challenging or worrying situations. Some examples include:

- Listen and talk to children. Help them to identify their concerns or worries and acknowledge how they are feeling.
- Comfort. There may be times when a child does not want to talk and just having an adult present is helpful.
- Providing reassurance to children when they are feeling worried or unsure is also important.
- Demonstrate and model ways to cope with situations. Prepare children for changes. Talk positively with children about change and assist them to prepare.
- Encourage help-seeking by teaching children when to ask for help. Problem-solve the situation, by taking children through a step-by-step process.
- Encourage children by talking positively about their attempts to cope.

http://campaign.kidsmatter.edu.au/t/ViewEmail/r/FFFA093BB023089C2540EF23F23F30FEDED/D1B0929699C01BFD20B193FBA00ED1DB

Marg Thorpe (Chaplain)

P & C News

Wurst Drive fundraiser is here again. Help by getting as many orders as possible. Order forms & money to be in by Friday 21 October. Delivery & pick up Wednesday 26 October.

MULTI-DRAW RAFFLE

Our LAST fundraiser for the year is our MULTI-DRAW RAFFLE held at the SCHOOL CONCERT. To make this a SUCCESS we need EVERY family to make a donation that can be used on its own or complied together to make a prize that you, or your guests at the concert would like to win!!!

*a quick couple of suggestions for you to think about.................
    household/grocery items that you use frequently (pantry fillers, chips, non-perishable dips, biscuits just to name a few – that would be able to be added to the major prize the big hamper
    $ donation and we can shop for you,
    Gift vouchers,
    Combinewith another family and make up your own prize!!

With the school concert set for the 6th December, we need you to please start sending your donations in with your family names attached so we can cross your name off the list.

Tickets will be $1.00 each and can be purchased at the concert or Kym will have some tickets available for early sale – available in the car park at after school pickup.

All prizes will be drawn on the night of the concert, we had close to 100 prizes last year & was a great Success
    Let’s do it again!!!

Thank you in advance for supporting this final fundraiser of 2016!!
My House
I see my little brother
I see my tall mother
I hear bacon popping
I here her car stopping
I smell fruit in a dish
I smell the stinky fish
By Deagan Smith

Farm Life
I touch the fence so sharp and spiky
I touch the ice block so cold and icy
I hear the cattle moo all day
I hear the cat meow all the way
I taste the beef so big and fresh
I taste the fresh air, it is the best
I smell the horse poo in the stable
I smell the roast lamb on the table
I see a family having a camp
I see the soil so wet and damp
By Jazmine Carter

Yay! I Evolved
There was a small Pokémon called Iggybluff
Its evolved form is Jigglybuff
Then it evolves into Iggytuff
And it always says tuff, tuff, puff
That cute small Pokémon called Iggybuff
By Jazmine Carter

Fish
I see a yellow fish
It is on a white dish
I hear a boat driving past
I hear a jet ski going fast
I small sand and water
and fish
I smell food on the dish
By Anthony Forsyth

Netball Game
I can see people shooting at the hoop
I can see them in a group
I can see people eating
They are eating on the seating
I can smell the sausage sizzle
I can smell the rain when it starts to drizzle
I hear the whistle blow
They tell us where to go
By Haylee Shipston

Paris
I see the Frenchman going past
The mob of bike's coming last
I hear the sound of people talking
I hear the sound of people walking
I smell the scent of fresh baked bread
I smell the roses in a garden bed
I taste the revolting taste of snails
I taste the taste of frog leg pails
By Abbey Bauer