No 21, 6th July 2016

Advanced Notice
End of Term 2
Early Dismissal
This Friday 2:15pm
Coloured clothes Day
Gold coin Donation

Assembly
This Friday will see Room 2 host Assembly.

Assembly Awards
We would like to acknowledge the recipients from last week’s Assembly Awards.
Confidence: Jake Wilkes
Getting Along: Jake Gooding
Persistence: Mia Rowlands
Excellence: Alara Spirat
Resilience: Chanaye Dare
Organisation: Jamie Evans

5 Cent Challenge
Well done to all the families who contributed to the 5 Cent Challenge over the five weeks. Congratulations to Room 7 and Room 17 the overall winners raising the total amount of $183.75 each. The total amount raised over the five weeks was $1119.10 What an amazing effort. Well done!

Department for Education and Child Development – Preschool
Children are entitled to access four terms of preschool in the year before they start school. There is one intake at the beginning of each year for children who turn four years of age before 1 May. Families are encouraged to visit their local preschool to register an interest to enrol their child(ren) for 2017 intake before the end of July.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preschool</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gabmididi Manoo Children &amp; Family Centre</td>
<td>Schulz Avenue</td>
<td>86455240</td>
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<tr>
<td>McRitchie Crescent CSC</td>
<td>55 McRitchie Crescent</td>
<td>86493535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neta Kranz CC</td>
<td>55 Wood Terrace</td>
<td>86457224</td>
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<td>Norrie Stuart CSC</td>
<td>4 Dowd Street</td>
<td>86454552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whyalla Sturt ECCK</td>
<td>24 Ramay Street</td>
<td>86493173</td>
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<tr>
<td>Win Newby Kindergarten</td>
<td>Ring Street</td>
<td>86457959</td>
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Parenting ideas
INSIGHTS
Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Reading your child's report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?
Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?
There are slow bloomers, late developers and steadies-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?
Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

- Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.
- Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.
- Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Michael Grose