Thank you to all the parents who attended our Acquaintance night and Governing Council AGM. It was a very positive event and gave parents an opportunity to meet teachers and hear about classroom routines. Many families also visited the gym, art room and library to complete their Passports. The winner of the passport raffle was Rafael Velasco in Room 9. Congratulations! His family will receive a family pass to the cinema.

Governing Council AGM
First of all I would like to thank our Governing Council for all the marvelous work they do to build our school community and be part of our school governance. Our Governing Councilors are an integral part of our community who volunteer their time to work with the Leadership team to enact our site improvement plan. More news on ingoing and outgoing councilors will be included in our next newsletter.

We have had a great start with all of our classes celebrating our 3 week wellbeing program with an assembly to share their class mottos and slogans. We have been focusing on preparing students for positive learning experiences, building a growth mindset and making strong choices. All of our students have been practicing the skills necessary to be a successful and resilient learner.

You will see in this newsletter our focus on STEM is really challenging the students to solve problems and implement solutions creatively. We have begun our STEM leadership group. This group is open to any student who loves the elements of STEM, they will be learning to use all our new equipment so they can teach others. Our Peer mediators are also featured in this newsletter. These groups will be sharing their successes with you along the way.

Term 1, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>20th – 24th</td>
<td>Years 1-5 Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>Years 6-7 Bike Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Adelaide Cup Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to our traffic monitors

Week 2
Alan, Ben & Riley

Week 3
Keegan & Eusha
School Counselling Service

In-School Psychology is now operating out of our school once a fortnight. It provides free psychological services to children, adolescents and their families. This unique service is provided onsite at the school, during school hours, it is convenient and easily accessible to families.

The psychologists at In-School Psychology are experts in child and adolescent psychology and are professionals dedicated to providing outstanding and comprehensive services to assist children and adolescents, their families and the schools.

Counselling is a very effective way of helping children and adolescents who are struggling with some aspect of their lives, from feeling anxious or depressed, to struggling with bullying or having difficulties controlling their anger.

In-School Psychology counselling service is provided FREE of charge, the psychologists at In-School Psychology see children and adolescents who have a referral from their GP under Medicare’s Better Access to Mental Health Care initiative, which allows the psychologist to provide 10 sessions per calendar year.

The psychologists see children and adolescents with a range of difficulties, from simple problems such as difficulty making friends to more complex mental health issues. Children and adolescents are commonly referred to our services for issues such as:

- Friendship problems (making and keeping friends)
- Dealing with bullying
- Anxiety (including school refusal)
- Depression
- Fears and phobias
- Anger management & behavioural difficulties (at home and/or school)
- Self-harm
- Sleep problems (night terrors, insomnia)
- Alcohol or substance abuse
- Attention deficit and hyperactivity
- Social skills difficulties
- Grief and loss
- Eating disorders
- Autism (developing social skills, anxiety etc.)

How can a psychologist help?
The psychologists use focused psychological strategies:

- Psych-education (including motivational interviewing)
- Evidenced based therapy (e.g. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy)
- Relaxation strategies (including progressive muscle relaxation and controlled breathing)
- Skill development training (including problem-solving skills and training, anger management, social skills training, communications training, stress management, and parent management)
- Interpersonal Therapy

Counselling helps children and adolescents to:

- Learn practical ways to cope with different difficult or distressing situations
- Learn to regulate their feelings and emotions
- Learn to think more rationally and optimistically
- Learn to control their behaviour
- Feel more in control of their thoughts and feelings
- Build resilience
- Build social skills
- Develop communication skills
- Learn relaxation techniques

Parents, where to from here?
If you feel your child would benefit from working with our psychologist then please contact Christine Fowler on 83444604 or pick up a consent from the front office.
Student Support and Intervention
Our school prides itself on providing an excellent education for our students. We have effective identification and support processes and programs and student progress is tracked during their time with us to ensure that they are progressing at the appropriate rate. Those in need of intervention or extension receive assistance to ensure their educational success. There may be times when the school contacts you asking for your support. Your intervention is critical in ensuring that your child is experiencing success at school and is achieving at a rate commensurate with their ability.

Assessment
Teachers administer a number of assessments at the beginning of the year and then throughout the year as part of our ASSESSMENT FOLDERS to get to know their students levels of ability and to assist them in making informed decisions about instructional strategies and programs that will support learning. The results of the PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT TESTS IN MATHS AND READING together with NAPLAN information have provided teachers with another measure of student achievement to analyse and make informed decisions about learning.

Planning for Targeted Learning
Teachers will participate in STUDENT SUPPORT MEETINGS to analyse student data and identify students who require additional support or extension. During these meetings teachers have an opportunity to document goals and plan strategies and programs for students.

Intervention Strategies
Explicit teaching of skills and targeted intervention are in operation in all classrooms to ensure students reach academic benchmarks. Effective PROGRAMS including MULTILIT, Minilite, QuickSmart Maths and Reading Doctor as well as the use of technology to help reinforce specific skills are also operating throughout the school.

Reviews
A dedicated Student Review Team meet on a regular basis to discuss student achievement and monitor the effectiveness of the support programs in place for individual students.

Numeracy and literacy resources for families
http://splash.abc.net.au/home#!/home offers learning resources that links to the Australian Curriculum (Reception to Year 10) – it offers a number of numeracy and literacy resources.

The Learning Potential website and app offer ideas to support children’s learning in the early years, primary school, high school – and at all ages.


National Numeracy and Literacy week is an annual event that raises awareness of the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for all Australian students. The website offers resources, ideas and event information.


The NSW National Literacy and Numeracy Week website has literacy and numeracy resources for parents.
Class Mottos and Flags
Classes have been deciding on a Class Motto, and creating a flag to portray the motto. Students presented their flags and mottos at Assembly.

Reception 0, 1, 2: Together we Explore, Create and Bucket Fill

Rooms 3 & 4: Together We Learn: I will have a go then I will know

Room 5: Always Try, Never Give Up, Enjoy Learning Together

Room 8: We are in the Zone, We are in Control

Rooms 6 & 7: We are Caring, Collaborative, Creative and Curious

Room 9: Follow your Dreams, Reach your Goals

Studio 10: Creation with Inspiration

Studio 11: Capturing our Learning for Success

Studio 12: With Respect we Connect

Studio 13: Learning One Piece at a Time
Peer Mediation
This week we trained about 25 students in Peer Mediation. This is a conflict resolution process in which children learn to identify the cause of a problem, name and respond to feelings, generate creative solutions and gain agreement to try one solution. They may be using their skills in a number of ways either as Peer Mediators, Play Partners or Games Leaders.

When children have a problem in the yard, they can choose to ask a Peer Mediator to help. Mediators do not involve themselves in situations unless they are asked and they do not become involved in any physical conflicts between children. They do not hand out any consequences. They only listen in an unbiased way to both sides of the story and assist children to come to an agreement.

Play Partners support children who need company or coaching in how to play. This will often be in a 1:1 situation with new children or children who are experiencing some difficulties in the yard. Play Partners will act as a kind of Mentor.

Games Leaders manage a particular game or activity in the yard during play time. They will supervise children playing the game and clarify rules and procedures. The Peer Mediation programme will develop skills in
- leadership
- reflective listening
- clear speaking
- critical thinking
- negotiation
- problem solving

The students will be rostered on and will need to be “on duty” about once a week. Play Partners will more likely work week on and week off so that they can build up a relationship with the student they are supporting.

Two Peer Mediators will be giving a demonstration of their skills at the next Assembly.

Room 9 News
To start the term, Room 9 has been focusing on getting to know one another and forming learning relationships with others around the school. We have been participating in Play is the Way games with Room 6, acting as models and mentors for sportsmanship and giving things a go. During circle time, we have been using ‘positive talk’ to empower our class members and make them feel a part of the team. We write positive, encouraging words about the selected classmate on a chalkboard and present them with our kind words at the end of each circle time. We are placing these up on our wall to remind ourselves of how we feel about one another.
Ozobots
This year we have purchased some Ozobots as part of our STEM program. Ozobots are small, smart robots that empower gamers and learners to code, play, create and connect the physical and digital worlds. Students in Rooms 6 and 7 have been learning how to design codes to make the Ozobots move in various ways. They then had a lesson to teach the students in Room 9 how to code them.

Community Notices
Below is a wonderful event that our school is hosting in conjunction with Rotary Club of Prospect and Prospect Council. Please be sure to SAVE THE DATE for this great night.
Students in years 6 and 7 spent a full day at Aquatics on Monday February 13th.

“When we arrive at aquatics they assembled us to have a meeting about the activities, and told us how to be safe. They also told us about some of the deadly animals in the water. After the safety briefing, we met our instructors for the first activity. We walked to where the activity was, and were shown how to use the equipment. Some of the activities were kayaking, surfing, canoeing. Sometimes we would fall off and scream! By the end of the day we were all wet and very tired!”

Written by Akito & Jayden