From Mrs Lever’s Desk...

We have just passed the halfway mark for this term, and the remainder of the term will pass quickly. I see this term as the most productive of the year, as the children are settled into class/school expectations, and are focused on learning. It was wonderful to hear one of our Prep fathers comment to me recently that his child was talking at home about wanting to follow the school values. I believe that children DO want to make great choices, and enjoy the feeling of self worth and productiveness that comes with being part of a team. There are many opportunities to learn how to behave well at school that don’t rely on an adult telling a child what to do. When an older student was knocked by a plastic shovel during a chasing game, I asked the children involved which behaviour they thought was not being followed – what caused this accident to happen. All of the children, including the hurt child, could tell me (in unison) ‘Use equipment as intended’. The shovel went back to the sandpit where it belongs :)

Managing risk in our school environment is never going to protect children from every accident, but it does involve skilling them to see where danger lies. Through learning how to be safe and respect themselves and others, they come to act in ways that mean they can have fun whilst avoiding situations where someone is harmed.

As the days grow warmer the children are enjoying the beautiful weather across all parts of the school grounds. The vegie patch is thriving and some of the children have discovered snow peas ripe for picking. It’s great to see them walking around munching on crisp green snow peas, warm from the sun.

Our cooking program for this term enters the last three weeks, with the children cooking rice in a traditional dessert dish; rice pudding. Fried rice was popular as the students enjoyed a mix of vegetables and savoury rice. Over the last three weeks they enjoyed the challenge of making sushi, with various fillings including salmon, cucumber, chicken and avocado. Whilst not everyone likes the taste of the vinegar flavour of the sushi rice, it was a great opportunity for students to try food from another culture which is also available in our country.

Until next time,
Rosita Lever
Prep 2017
Are you looking for a school where your child will be......
• supported to achieve their best?
• excited about learning?
• valued as an individual?

Kulpi State School is currently inviting prospective families to visit us and consider enrolment for their child in our 2017 Prep program.

Please call the Principal, Rosita Lever, on 4692 8239 to arrange your visit.

STEM at Kulpi SS
Science Technology Engineering Maths
Employment in these areas is growing two times faster than other occupations.

‘75% of the fastest growing occupations require STEM skills. Our focus on STEM will help ensure that every Queensland student can succeed in our changing world.’
Kate Jones MP, Minister for Education.

At Kulpi State School, students and staff are focused on making STEM a natural part of our learning, across all subject areas. We do this when we
• teach students the Digital Technologies curriculum, involving all students from Prep to Year 5 in coding activities. Purchase coding resources such as Bee Bots, iPad apps and a new robot mouse!
• upskill staff with professional development to ensure we are teaching students appropriate skills effectively.

Senior students are using coding to program NexT robots.

PHOTO GALLERY...

Soccer
Some of our senior students have enjoyed participating in a soccer clinic at Bowenville State School. Joining in with this Sporting Schools initiative means a rigorous two hour clinic where students practise the skills needed to play soccer competitively, and then put these into practice in group games. It is also an opportunity for students to build friendships with peers from a similar sized school in our neighbourhood.

Term Three Behaviour/Values
Lesson Overview

Week 1 | Use kind words and actions
Week 2 | Use hello, goodbye, please, thank you
Week 3 | Listen to the speaker
        | Wait my turn
        | Show whole body listening
Week 4 | Give others personal space
Week 5 | Walk quietly through school
        | Use inside voice
Week 6 | Follow adult instruction
Week 7 | Share equipment/take turns
Week 8 | Play by the rules of the game
        | Be a ‘good sport’
        | Invite others to join in
Week 9 | Keep left on the stairs
        | Walk up and down stairs

Geography: Prep/Year 1

As part of our Prep/One Geography class students co-constructed a model of the classroom. Mrs Jull worked with the children to decide on the features of our room, including cupboards, desks and chairs. In placing these features the children had to use positional terms, and the concept of a ‘birds eye view’ was introduced. Photos of our walls gave the model a wonderful real life feel. Students have since made a model of their own of either their bedroom or the school kitchen. It’s quite challenging for young children to represent the world about them in this way. WELL DONE Prep and Year One!
All Queensland families who register with Playgroup Queensland before their child’s first birthday can now receive a free 12-month family membership as part of the Queensland Government’s Play Stars initiative. With more than 60,000 babies born in Queensland each year, Play Stars will benefit many new families by creating more opportunities for children to learn through play, while supporting parents and carers in their role as first teachers.

The Play Stars initiative is an action from the Advancing education: An action plan for education in Queensland and will be delivered in partnership with Playgroup Queensland over the next five years. Register online or visit the Playgroup Queensland website for more information.

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Silkworms

We are looking for silkworms for our classroom if anyone has any to spare we would be grateful. Thank you.
Would you please behave!

By Michael Grose

Children’s sport has an amazing capacity to bring out the very worst in some parents – here’s some tips for parents on how to behave.

There is nothing like kids’ sport to bring out the worst in parents. Whether it's parent meddling with coaches; abusing the opposition; giving advice to the officials; or simply being super-competitive it seems that it's parents, not the players, game plans or tactics that keep junior sports coaches awake at night, and potentially away from continuing in their volunteer roles.

If you’re a parent who can relate to any of the above, here’s some advice guaranteed to help:

1. Get a job

Junior sport is run by volunteers so there is no shortage of jobs. My coaching mates tell me that parents who are volunteers rarely behave poorly. Presumably, this is due to the fact that they see the bigger picture. That children play sport for many different reasons including to make friends, be part of a team and have fun. While winning increases in importance the older kids become most participants see well beyond winning as reasons for sports participation. So if you struggle to contain yourself at your child’s sport then it’s simple - volunteer to help. Even offer your services as a coach.

2. Watch someone else's child

One of the biggest problems with junior sport is that most parents tend to focus on their own children. While their eyes are firmly focused on their child they dissect every move their youngster makes. Sound familiar, if so I suggest you are taking your role as a parent too far. Better to keep it simple. That is, encourage your child’s participation; provide the means for them to participate well; and encourage them to behave well toward participants on both sides. If you struggle with this, then I suggest that you start tracking another child’s form for a game or two – any child, but your own. This may help you take your child’s sport less personally and enjoy it for what it is – a healthy endeavour that should be enjoyable for everyone.

3. Say this

If you find yourself offering your child plenty of well-meaning advice before, during and after a game you may actually be turning your child off sport. It’s the coach’s job to coach and mentor, while it's your role to support your child and, of course, the coach. That's a great formula for success. Rather than give advice say, “I love to watch you play.” It’s a simple statement of approval that says to your child “I don’t care how well you play. I just love the fact that you are taking part.” That’s it.

The attitude and behaviour of parents at sport can have a massive impact on children’s immediate enjoyment as well as their long-term participation. If you overhear your child’s coach or worse, your child, saying “How do I get my parents to behave?” then it may be time to rethink your behaviour at your child’s sporting events, particularly if you want to encourage their long-term participation in sport.