Our Aim at Kulpi State School is to be:
Working together to ensure that every day, in every classroom, every student is learning and achieving.

From Mrs Lever’s desk............

As I write we are in the last week of school finishing a positive and exciting term. It’s a great time to reflect on the many people who work together so enthusiastically to make each day count for the students at Kulpi. The following article, was shared with me to provoke thought around working together at school, as a team. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

Lessons From The Geese
by Dr. Robert McNeish

As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an "uplift" for the bird following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock add 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. We have a clear focus at our school to achieve the best educational outcomes for every student. It is the sense of purpose that binds us together.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose, we will join in formations with those who are headed where we want to go. We are grateful for the families who support our work with their children, so that we are all headed in the same direction.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies at the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership – with people, as with geese, interdependent with one other. Everyone has an important role to play if the team is to be successful – we are reliant on each other and support one another.

Everyone has an important role to play if the team is to be successful – we are reliant on each other and support one another. The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging - not something less helpful. We model to the children the way to support and encourage one another - not accepting less than our best but recognising the need to help those that are struggling at times.

When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow their fellow member down to help provide protection. They stay with this member of the flock until he or she is either able to fly again or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or catch up with their own flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as the geese, we’ll stand by each other like that.

At Kulpi, only our best is good enough.

The staff all wish the children a wonderful well-earned winter break, and look forward to seeing everyone back safely, ready to start anew in Term Three.

Rosita Lever
Here is a wrap up of What’s on at Oakey Library this month:

Regular activities:
- Story time on Thursdays at 9.30am
- Crochet Club on Wednesdays at 10am
- Digital Hub classes on Tuesdays – see Library for ongoing programming

Colouring Competition:
Ice Age Colouring In Competition continues until the 24th June 2016

School Holiday Programs:
- Monday 27th with Robotics – two sessions from 10.30-12 pm (primary school age) and 1.30-3pm (grade 7 and over)
- Monday 4th July with Totem Madness at 10am – create a totem pole, make a dream catcher and play in a real tepee.

Please remember that our regular activities are not on when the holiday programs run.

Do you have any old photos, memorabilia and/or stories about life in Maclagan and district? We’re using them for the Bismarck to Maclagan 100 year Anniversary. Ring Sherryl Hansen 4692-1265

Calling for Expressions of Interest for a Tug of War at the 10 September Bismarck to Maclagan 100 year Anniversary. Ring Sherryl Hansen 4692-1265

11-29 July School Opinion Survey
As in previous years, parents are invited to participate in the School Opinion Survey. Your feedback is appreciated as it guides us to improve our practices, and celebrate the areas where we are working well. Please don’t hesitate to complete your survey at school if you prefer. Information letters and the survey details will be sent home early next term.

For advertising please email your items to 1472_principal@eq.edu.au by the WEDNESDAY before Publication
Please note we are not able to advertise events for individual profit.
Newsletters are published fortnightly on Thursdays.

Attendance for Term 2
We have achieved a 94.6% attendance rate for Term 2 – Every day counts!

CENTENARY BOOKS
Centenary Books are still available for sale – we have less than thirty of these left. Please contact the office after 2.30pm to make enquiries.
Cost: $25.00
Digital Technology Professional Development

On Thursday the 16th of June, Mrs Patterson, Mrs Jull and Mrs Lever joined other staff at Southbrook School for a professional development opportunity in coding and robotics. During the day we were challenged to program a robot using digital technology, and provided with multiple problems to solve. It was a great opportunity to learn some of the skills that we will expect students to use, and ask many questions along the way. In Semester Two Kulpi students will be using coding to complete robotics activities, as part of their Digital Technologies unit each Thursday.

On Friday the 10th of June the students enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Cobb and Co Museum in Toowoomba, to see the Wild Animals Exhibition and other exhibits. Here are the Junior Class visiting the dress up ‘olden days’ area.

School Watch

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Phone 13 17 88
Five ways to know you are over-parenting  By Michael Grose

Here’s 5 tips to find a more balanced approach to over-parenting or helicopter parenting and encourage children to become independent young people.

Times have changed!

When I began as a parenting educator over two decades ago the biggest issues I spoke about in the media generally revolved around under-parenting. Neglected kids; kids with poor or delinquent behaviour and raising kids that lived on society’s margins were popular media topics in the early 1990s.

Now two decades later it’s over-parenting that captures the main media attention. Spoilt kids; kids with a false sense of entitlement and parents that place excessive demands on schools are among the popular media topics right now. These all fit into the over-parenting, or more colloquially helicopter parenting category.

Is over-parenting new?

While we hear a great deal about over-parenting at present it’s not a new phenomenon. Parents of past generations have been overly protective and over-indulgent of their offspring at times, however it does seem many parents today are a little over-enthusiastic in their endeavours to optimise the future prospects of the current generation.

In fact, the defining feature of twenty-first century parents is a fierce determination to provide children with the best possible childhood and the best possible start in life. In pursuit of these admirable goals a parent can easily over-expend their role entering areas of children’s lives that would have been off-limits to parents a couple of generations ago.

How to know that you are over-parenting

It’s a quirk of twenty-first century parenting that we need an objective measure to assess our parenting. Past generations were satisfied with more subjective measures such as whether their kids were happy; whether they got good marks at school; whether they were employable; and whether or not if they stayed out of trouble (read goal in extreme cases)! It’s safe to say the parenting waters were far clearer in the past than they appear to be now. But the parenting industry has come a long way in a short time so now have stringent indicators that let us know what parenting track we maybe on. And that, for many people, would appear to be the over-parenting track. You know you are over-parenting if:

1. You take on all, or nearly all, of a child’s problems.

Kids are good at handballing their problems to their parents. They’ll bring disputes with siblings for you to sort; expect you to take forgotten school lunches to school and pester you to organise their after-school lives. Mums and dads that over-parent invariably end up sorting out all their children’s problems which may make life easier in the short-term, but can mean kids become more dependent on their parents than children in the past.

Point to remember: Leave some problems for kids to solve

2. You regularly do for a child the things he or she can reasonably do for themselves.

It’s an irony of modern life that the busier parents get the more we tend to do for kids. In the race to get things done we data young children; prepare children’s snacks and accompany them on trips outside the house even when they are old enough to do these activities themselves. If your child is becoming more rather than less dependent the older he becomes then it’s probably time to reassess your parenting.

Point to remember: Never do regularly for a child the things they can do for themselves.

3. You take on too many of your child’s responsibilities

Let’s see how you go with these questions! “Who’s responsible for getting your child up each morning? Who’s responsible for packing lunches and bags? Who is responsible for cleaning away children’s toys?” If you answered “My children, of course”, then congratulations; you shifted responsibility to where it rightfully lay: with kids. If not, then you guessed it. It may be time for a parenting reassessment.

Point to remember: If you want a child to be responsible then give responsibility to him.

4. You know too much about your child’s life

Being an attentive parent of a small family invariably means that you know in minute detail every quirk and vagary of your child’s life.

“He didn’t eat all his breakfast this morning, Hmmm! That’s not good.” “She seems a bit grumpy after school. What’s wrong?” “They left their jumper at home. I’d better take it to them.” Kids benefit from having some emotional and physical space from their parents. It gives them chances to rely on their own resourcefulness and develop the skills needed to get by on their own.

Point to remember: A little bit of benign neglect can benefit children’s development.

5. You parent the individual and not the gang

If you are constantly trying to make sure life is smooth for each child then you are probably parenting the individual, rather than for the good of the whole family! I’m not talking about ‘playing favourites’. but having an intense focus on meeting each individual’s wants can often be at the expense of family life in general. For instance, you allow a child to go on a sleepover rather than attend the birthday of a sibling. Parenting the gang means that children need to fit into the patterns of family life and don’t always get what they want.

Point to remember: Raise your small family with a big family mindset.