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..................

This week I entered the Junior classroom to the delightful sight of one of our Prep children wearing a big purple and yellow hat. “I’m wearing the Jolly Phonics hat!” he said. Ryan was able to tell me that he was wearing the hat because he was learning his letter names and sounds, and he was very excited to point to the display we have in the junior room and identify the letters he knows. I think I get just as excited as the children to see them take so much pleasure in learning. There is something so infectious about a child lighting up when they know something new, and want to celebrate this with others.

We are halfway through our first term, and the children are building learning stamina. The word stamina is not often applied to learning, but it’s a great description of what is expected at our school. The children build their stamina by practising some things on a daily basis, such as reading and number facts, and some things several times over the course of the week. We have introduced touch typing practice, and kept our handwriting lessons short and focused. The children are expected to focus, and give their best effort. Doing this each day builds the stamina to cope with longer sessions as the children mature.

As I see little Ryan brimming with excitement I am reminded though that learning is much easier if it is fun. To learn a rhyme to remember ‘e’ the children cracked real eggs, to learn ‘k’ they made kites, and to learn about ‘c’ there were castanets to click. The older children have constructed poems, and there were plenty of giggles about their funny word choices. Sometimes in maths the children have to create a word story to match a problem, and their suggestions are ..........unique!

The best part of teaching is being part of the learning. On the last Wednesday of this term (23rd March) we invite parents and families to our celebration of learning in Term One, so we can share the excitement with you.

Until next time,
Rosita Lever
**Show and Tell 2016**

The children have met the challenge of bringing in an object (hidden from their friends) and answering questions so that the group can identify the object. This week, we found out that Abbey’s object was not a toy, was used (not every day) by herself, and was quite heavy. It keeps her safe, and was black. Abbey had brought along the helmet that she wears when riding her quad bike, and this promoted great discussion about safety and quad bike riding. It also gave us the chance to learn words such as ‘visor’ and ‘padding’. Thanks Abbey!

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**Our Fish Tank**

We have been trying since the start of the school year to set up our fish tank in the junior classroom. In science lessons the students have been investigating living things, and their habitats. With Mrs Patterson. The tank habitat is quite tricky to get ‘right’, and we appreciate Bec Farrugia coming in and testing the water for us. We are now close to getting some fish to be a part of our classroom, by setting up a healthy habitat which will meet their needs.

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**School Photos: Date Claimer**

This year school photos will be taken on the 17th March, with Brian Dittman from Naturalite Studio. Photo order packets have been distributed.

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**Phone calls**

It would be sincerely appreciated if phone calls to school could be restricted to before 8:30 am, and after 2:30 pm, so that we minimize the distractions and interruptions to our classes. If you call and connect with the answering machine, please leave a short message and we will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

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**Date Claimer**

10th September 2016
Brismarck to Maclagan 100 years anniversary.
Kulpi State School P and C 2016

Following the AGM held on the 29/02/16, we congratulate the following members of the executive for 2016:

President: Dr Tanya Plant
Vice President: Ms Bec Oliver
Treasurer: Mr Ken Gordon
Secretary: Mrs Leonie Jull

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank two people who have made massive contributions to our P and C over a long time. Firstly Mr Ernie Freshwater, who has been both a President and Vice President, helping to keep the P and C viable through his willingness to take on these positions and contribute his time and energy. We know that Ernie will continue to be an active member of the P and C.

We’d also like to thank Coralie Gordon, who has contributed so much enthusiasm to her role as secretary, with a passion for our school that translated to a determination to help the children in so many ways. Coralie also came (with Ken) to the school at a time when she was very needed, and we were very lucky to have her. We send Coralie our best wishes for a speedy recovery, and look forward to her being back as part of our school community one day soon.

As the meeting reflected on the 2015 year, the contribution of the Centenary Sub committee was recognised. The amazing team of Carolyn Bidgood, Carol Schull, Wendy Dioth, Maree Scheuerle, Desley Spieth, and Susan Scheuerle volunteered their time and expertise to make the centenary an outstanding success, and we are deeply grateful to them all.

To all of the Kulpi community who helped with the Centenary and in the school in other ways during 2015, we extend our warmest gratitude.

Centenary Project

At the end of Term 4 2015 our order of pavers arrived at Kulpi. These pavers will be laid alongside the existing path, and are inscribed with the names of past students, current students, and community members. They were for sale on Centenary Day, and for a month afterwards. Now that the very hot weather has abated a little, Mr Kruger has been busy preparing the ground ready for the laying of the pavers.

Thanks Mark, for your hard work!
School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 important social skills.

Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better. More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly academic success. Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don’t develop in isolation. Kids acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family. Today’s children grow up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago. Parents can help kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. **Ask for what you want**
   - Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. **Good manners**
   - Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. **Sharing**
   - Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. **Holding a conversation**
   - Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves. Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. **Winning and losing well**
   - Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

6. **Approaching and joining a group**
   - The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. **Handling fights and disagreements**
   - Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendships skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as: talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

As parents we often focus on the development of children’s academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children’s happiness and wellbeing.