From Mrs Lever’s Desk

When I was a child learning about the pyramids in a History lesson, I remember feeling interested, but not enthralled. On the other hand, listening to my Dutch immigrant parents talk about our family history was captivating—perhaps because it was my own history. Over the years I’ve developed a deep respect for the past, and I really enjoy seeing the children here at Kulpi learn about the past in their History lessons.

The Preps and Year Ones are investigating the ways that families commemorate their special events. This has led to discussions about what is important to one family not always being important to another. The children have begun to look at traditions of our culture, but also to be aware of the traditions of other cultures.

The older students are investigating the history of their own local area. Mrs Gordon has been sharing information about the early days of Kulpi, including the importance of the railway to the town’s economy. Early maps and photos give a picture of a life that was very different, challenging students to compare their lives to those of the early settlers of the area.

Of course all of the students are part of the living history of our wonderful school. Today one of the boys talked about the ‘prickles’ he had in his hand from a mishap with a cactus at home. This led to a discussion about the prickly pear that has been a persistent problem at Kulpi since the school began one hundred years ago. I’m not sure how to remove the plant currently growing high up in our gutter! At least the children today wear shoes to protect their feet from the occasional prickly pear in our grounds.

Today our grounds officer Mark walked up the stairs he walked as a pupil of Kulpi over forty years ago. He commented about the changes in the school over time, which looks so different from the perspective of an adult. Whatever your history, I hope that you can come and celebrate the unique place that is Kulpi State School on the 8th of August this year. Almost one hundred years ago children were getting ready to go to the ‘new school’, working out the best way around the prickly pear to get there, and wrapping sandwiches in brown paper to get them through the day. We will celebrate the students and staff of the past, but we’ll also celebrate the part we play in the history of this lovely school.

Sincerely yours,
Rosita Lever.
This week our Year 3 and 5 students participated in the annual National Assessment Program — Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests to assess their skills and understanding in the areas of reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The tests were conducted in all state and non-state schools across the country from 12–14 May.

An individual NAPLAN report for each child will be sent home later this year. Results provide additional feedback for parents, carers and teachers on how students are progressing in key curriculum areas.

Further NAPLAN information for parents and carers is available online. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child’s participation in NAPLAN testing.

http://www.nap.edu.au/

Fun Food Fridays
Day 1: 22 May. The theme for the day is ‘Red’ and children are asked to wear red clothing. They will be eating foods such as strawberries, raspberries, tomato soup and spaghetti bolognaise.

Day 2: 12th June. The theme for the day is ‘Nuts and Bolts’ and the children are asked to wear a costume that has some nuts and bolts as part of it—such as robot. Try painting ice cream containers and using silver pipe cleaners, and rolling cardboard that has been covered with alfoil. Foods will include a range of nuts to try and compare, and a hot dish with nuts included. More details to follow but please start planning and preparing costumes now!

Visit Japan………
Toowoomba Regional Council is coordinating a friendship tour to Japan visiting Sister City, Takatsuki, and, for the first time, Ena-City, which has had a 20 year relationship with Oakey
Departs 21 November 2015 & returns 1 December 2015
Approximate cost will be from $5,700 twin share and $6,600 for a single.
Tour include 9 nights’ accommodation, breakfasts daily, 5 lunches, 3 dinners, day tours and tour group transfers.

Contact Council on 131 872 or www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au for more information and a detailed itinerary
Expressions of Interest close 15th May 2015.

David Totenhofer
Community Liaison Officer

Help Please!
As we approach our Centenary Day there are many small tasks that need doing. To lighten the load it would be terrific if volunteers come forward to tackle these jobs, so that our school is spic and span for everyone to be proud of on Centenary Day.

Are you able to help with any of these tasks?
Gurney off the pathway at the front of the school? (we have a gurney)
Freshest up the chook pen- new hay and a clean out of their water
Plant out new vegetables in the vegie patch (with some willing students to assist)
Help move the junior classroom down to the library (End of term) This also involves shifting all of the library books up to the existing Junior room, and cleaning shelves as we empty them.
Spruce up our playgroup dress up and toy room, putting excess toys in boxes so we can rotate them around.
Weeding some of the gardens and applying new mulch.
Tidying out the small silver shed and disposing of old furniture to the dump
Putting our new desks together—expected delivery date at the beginning of June.
Please see Rosita if you would like to help with any of the above, thank you.
Our Cross Country Race 12 MAY 2015

We had a picture perfect day with not a cloud in the sky to run our annual cross country race. All the children started together and ran a different number of laps according to their age. It was exciting for the children to have a large crowd of family members to cheer them on, and we celebrated their efforts with clapping and ribbons for places. Though running is not enjoyed by all children, it gives them the opportunity to push themselves out of their comfort zone, and try their best. Congratulations to everyone!

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
Host—Jane Scholefield
Thursday 28 May at 10am
112 O’Keefe’s Road, Brymaroo Ph 4692 7789
Please bring a plate to share, a small

KULPI STATE SCHOOL
CENTENARY
SATURDAY
8 AUGUST 2015

We are still collecting and counting bread tags; thanks for all of the tags that you are saving. We have just had a counting day, and we
ARE YOU A PRESENT PARENT?

It’s more challenging than ever to be present with our kids, and so easy to get lost in concentration on a device. Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them and not our kids. When this happens you’ll more than likely miss some wonderful opportunities to really impact your child.

Here are 2 tips that can really impact and make the most of every opportunity with your kids. When you are full present you can:

**Build their language**
Recently I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her child would mimic her. She changed or added to the sound and her son tried to replicate the sounds. This is language building at the most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on her mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, a primary aged child or teenager, the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

**Impact their thinking**
Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him (her). If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.

Michael Grose, Parenting Ideas.

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Student attendance rate for the last fortnight

96.0%

A little down from last week  Keep up attendance everyone!