Our Aim at Kulpi State School is:

"Working together to ensure that every day, in every classroom, every student is learning and achieving."

From Mrs Lever’s desk……

The end of the school year has arrived like a roller coaster – coming in very quickly to an abrupt halt! The children are excited about our concert, and anticipating lots of fun on the last day with our water activities. There are a few planned games of ‘pass the parcel’, and musical chairs, and a few more clean-up activities too. I can see that the students have worked well this term, and this year, and that they are looking forward to their summer break.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful time with their children over the summer holidays. I hope that there are lots of opportunities to talk and laugh together, and enjoy the simple moments when you feel very connected. Sometimes we are so busy we just don’t have time to enjoy the children.

At the concert tonight my intention is to speak about Rudolph, the reindeer with the red nose, who didn’t ‘fit in’. Every child deserves to fit in with their group, and be accepted for the individual they are. We all have red noses in one form or another, and we all can shine given the opportunity. It is my vision for this school that all the children have the chance to shine, and that they truly are all valued. I’d like to thank everyone who has contributed to the school this year, as it is the collective value of all the different ways people help that makes our school such a rich place for the children to grow and learn.

Enjoy a safe and wonderful holiday time,

Until 2016,

Resita Lever.
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.

Mobile Library Bus Christmas Trading Hours
Wed 23 Dec, Normal hours
Thurs 24 Dec, Normal hours
This service will recommence on Tuesday 12th Jan 2016
Normal Scheduled Hours.

Office Hours
Parents wishing to enrol their child are welcome to call the principal at any time over the holidays on 0477337503.
For the purchase of uniforms, or general enquiries, please note the office hours are as follows for the new year:
Monday 18/1/16 8am-3:30pm
Tuesday 19/1/16 1pm-4:30pm
Friday 22/1/16 8am-3:30pm
Monday 25/1/16 8am-3:30pm

7-24 DECEMBER 2015, 10AM-3PM (weekdays only)
SANTA’S WORKSHOP

Peranga Hall Christmas Tree and Cent Sale
Thursday 17 December
Peronga Hall
BBQ STARTS AT 6PM
SANTA ARRIVES ABOUT 6.30PM
CENT S
Parents to supply your own tree for your
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
The Peranga Hall Committee thank you for your support this year.
**SCHOOL WATCH**

Thank you to all of the community members who keep a watchful eye on our school over the holiday break. Mr Stewart has kindly volunteered to feed and check the kitchens, and hose some thirsty gardens if necessary (let’s hope for more rain!). If anyone has concerns about the school over the holiday break please call the school watch number on the noticeboard, or call the principal directly on 0477337503.

**A Place to Remember**

Recently the P and C purchased a unique chair, which has been placed at the front of the school near our cottage garden and pond area. The seat is dedicated to the memory of Melissa Dorries, our past P and C President, mother to Jackalyn and Tonya, wife of Danny (all past students of the Kulpi School) and a friend to us all. Melissa passed away earlier this year, and the P and C wanted to acknowledge her wonderful contribution to the school, and her vibrant personality in this way. We hope everyone feels welcome to sit and remember Melissa, as there were many laughs together as we gathered for conversations at the end of the school day.
Lost in concentration

It’s more challenging than ever to be present with our kids, and so easy to get lost in concentration on a device. Here are 5 tips to really impact and make the most of every opportunity you have with your kids.

I can’t help but admire my young colleague Sonia, mother of a 4-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. She is an avid user of social media and other electronic devices, but she is disciplined enough to set them aside when she is with her kids. Sonia chooses to focus her attention on her children, so she limits her use of communication devices to the times when she is alone – which she admits is less often than she’d like.

Electrical 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 that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids. When this happens you’ll more than likely miss some wonderful opportunities to really impact your child.

**There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you, like Sonia, choose to be in the moment when you have children.**

**When you are fully present you can:**

1. **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 young son would mimic her. She changed or added to the sounds and her son tried to replicate the sounds. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

2. **Teach your children about their world**
   Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher. My hunch is that most kids will stop asking these questions of you if your attention is focused elsewhere, such as on a mobile phone or other electronic device.

3. **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. 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.


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... Lost in concentration ...

4 Build relationships
Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour. I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. Time spent giving attention to your child is like putting money in the bank for the future. You never know when you are going to withdraw some of the deposits that you’ve made, so it’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

5 Build memories for you
As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed with a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

Yes, there are million memories such as this available to parents who are willing to focus attention on the children rather than be distracted by the lure of communication devices.

As a parent you have competing demands on your time, and the allure of communication technology can be overwhelming. However, as Sonia is so aware, the time for parents to really impact on kids is limited so you want to make the most of every opportunity you have with them.

The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.

Michael Grose


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FREE back to school health check for kids!
12, 13 and 14 January 2016

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