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…

I was sitting behind one of my Prep students this week, on the bus to swimming. He was singing our unofficial school song, “We are the kids from Kulpi”. For those of you who were able to attend the Centenary event earlier this year, you may recall the children singing this lovely song as part of their display at the midday ceremony.

The song includes lyrics such as

- ‘we love our little school’
- ‘only our best is good enough is the motto of our school’
- ‘we are the kids from Kulpi, the best school in the state’.

As I listened to this little boy singing the song in such a happy voice, I thought that it might be worth explaining why we were so bold as to claim that our school is ‘the best school in the state’. The truth is that we, the children, parents and staff, are passionate about our school and believe wholeheartedly that Kulpi offers the children wonderful opportunities to learn to the very best of their ability. It is true that ‘only our best is good enough’. No child is allowed to ‘slip under the radar’ and just coast along, as every staff member knows each child so very well. Small groups mean children must contribute and be a part of every lesson, and parents have the opportunity to seek and receive feedback constantly about their child’s progress.

So does that make our school the best school in the state? At the 2015 Principals Conference held in March this year, the theme was ‘A great school has a great school down the road’. As an education system, we recognise that schools need to work together to share best practices, and learn from each other. A team working together will always be stronger than an individual working by themselves. When schools collaborate and learn from each other we see improvement to our educational system, rather than trying to compete against each other.

The children, however, quite rightly believe that their school is the best – and so it is. The best place for their needs to be met by caring professionals. The best place for them to be challenged and extended. The best place is the safe and nurturing environment where our school values are selected by the parent body because we want clear links between home and school. *Every child should believe their school is the best*, because that belief brings about *loyalty and commitment*. We want the children to love their school and be enthusiastic about being a part of the team, and that only happens if they have a sense of belonging and know they are important to us.

Our school can offer our community the quality of education that other great schools do as well. Our parents believe that Kulpi State School is the best school for their child, and we will continue in 2016 to work hard to ensure every student is succeeding every day.

Our song finishes like this: “If you come to visit our school, we’ll greet you at the gate. We are kids from Kulpi, the best school in the state!” Feel very welcome to come along if we can help you in 2016.

Rosita Lever.
ATTENDANCE

Our attendance this past fortnight has tracked at 93.98%, which is just slightly below our target of 94% attendance at school. We have had an illness work through several children, and I appreciate parents letting me know when their child is ill so that we can watch for symptoms of the same illness in other children.

If one sibling is sick we encourage their brother or sister to come to school providing they are well of course. Sometimes when a sibling is staying home the assumption is made by children that everyone will stay home, but please help to build in your family the understanding that it is important to go to school every day unless you are ill. If your brother or sister is sick, that shouldn’t prevent you from attending school and being a learner.

As we approach the end of the year we ask every child to be here and be a part of the learning that happens every day, right up until the last day of the year.

Male Staffordshire terrier found north of New Acland Mine. If this is your dog please call 46915771
**In the Vegie Patch**

We are very grateful for the help of Jim in our vegie patch— he has been rejuvenating the vegie gardens and the vegetables have flourished with his care. I would like to encourage our parents and families to help themselves to the produce in the garden too— we have many vegetables ready, or almost ready to pick, and we won’t be able to eat them all ourselves at school.

So if you would like some lettuce, or beans, or even capsicum, we look forward to seeing you in the vegie patch too.

---

**An Invitation to Our Volunteers**

30th November, 2pm, at Kulpi State School

We cordially invite our wonderful volunteers who have so generously contributed their time to the school this year, to join us for an afternoon tea. We will begin by burying our time capsule, and following this acknowledge the support of many people this year who have chosen to give of their time, energy and expertise to benefit the students and school.

Thanks to our volunteers we had a wonderful Centenary event, and instrumental music lessons, and well maintained gardens and vegie patches.

Our P and C also has many volunteers. Please join us so we can thank and acknowledge your contribution in this small way.
Raising Mighty Boys—By Michael Grose

Raising and educating boys is a hot topic in Australia and other parts of the world. From my experience those adults who do best teaching and raising boys have a significant understanding of what makes boys tick. Here are twelve key understandings that will help you regardless of your gender or family situation raise well-adjusted boys:

# 1: You must like them
Approval is at the heart of raising boys. Most will walk over hot coals for you if they know you like them. In a sense, this need for approval holds many boys back in school, as they can shut for a teacher who doesn’t like them. If you can feel comfortable with their boisterousness, live with their lack of organisational skills, and not be confronted by their in-your-face ways then the chances are that they’ll respond to you.

# 2: Boys like to blend in
Boys are group-oriented by nature. They want to fit in. They tend to play group games and form themselves into structured groups. Boys don’t want to stand out from the crowd. Don’t put them down in front of their friends and understand that they make poor friendship choices rather than be in a group of one. They’ll generally prefer the wrong friends rather than no friends at all.

# 3: They are hierarchical by nature
Boys need limits and boundaries as they make them feel safe and secure. They like to know someone is going to enforce those rules, so don’t be afraid to take the lead with them.

# 4: Many boys hide behind a mask
Some boys wear a mask to protect them from being hurt. The mask can take many guises including; ‘tough nut’, ‘cool dude’ and ‘class clown.’ Refuse to communicate with the mask. Make them feel comfortable, joke with them, even tickle them. Do whatever you can to get behind the mask.

# 5: Boys are just as sensitive as girls
Despite the fact that research shows that boys are more easily stressed and more fragile than girls parents will ask daughters how they feel more often than they ask sons. Also when daughters get hurt, parents tend to comfort them more than they comfort sons. Boys are sensitive you just need to use different language to get them to open up than you do with girls. For instance, a boy will more than likely tell you how he feels if you ask him how he thinks about something. Also, he generally needs more time to process his feelings so bedrooms can become their caves that they’ll retreat to when they need the space to work out what’s going in their hearts.

# 6: Boys are tactile by nature
Ever noticed how little boys are more likely than little girls to pop new objects in their mouths. That’s because taste and touch are two important ways that they take in the world. That tactile nature of boys needs to be nurtured, not ignored. One way is to hug them –lots! Boys need to be touched two to three times as much as girls to release the same amount of oxytocin (a feel-good chemical in the brain) that is released during a hug.

# 7: Boys learn from experience
Many parents know the extreme frustration that comes from imparting their wisdom on to their sons, only to see it completely ignored. If you have boys in your life then you need to get used to the fact that boys like to learn many of their life lessons for themselves. Experience, for better or worse, is a teacher than many boys can relate to.

# 8: Loyalty is a high-driver
Understand that a boy’s loyalty to his friends and family is a key driver and you’ll unlock the key to the male psyche. They are incredibly influenced by their peers, which can hold them back, stopping many from getting too far ahead of the pack. Loyalty also gets many boys into strife with authority. Call a boy’s sister or friend an insulting name and you’re asking for trouble!

# 9: Many boys’ mouths don’t work unless they are moving
If you want to have a serious or personal conversation with a boy then you are better off joining him on a walk. Face-to-face conversation can make them feel awkward, whereas shoulder-to-shoulder chats or conversations that happen during a game or activity seem to flow more naturally.

#10: Boys needs social scripts
Most boys need some didactic teaching about how to act and what to say to others at some stage in their life. Don’t be afraid to tell boys of any age exactly what to say in new social situations as they can often struggle to find the words and the way to get their messages across.

#11: Boys need a purpose to learn
If you want to motivate a boy to learn then you need to offer him tangible, short-term goals. He’ll learn to play a musical instrument if he wants to be in a band; but get him to practise a musical instrument without a purpose and you’ll probably be locked in a continuous struggle.

# 12: A boy’s brain mature differently than a girl’s brain
The maturation rate and sequence is different for boys than girls. For instance, the brain developments in the first five years of life prepares girls for the rigours of school better than it does for boys. A girl’s brain in that period is busy developing fine motor skills, verbal acuity and social skills, which are highly valued by parents and teachers. A boy’s brain, on the other hand, is busy developing gross motor, spatial and visual skills, which are essential hunting skills. Unfortunately, there isn’t a great need for these traits in primary schools these days!!

There’s no doubt that raising boys tends to be more of a challenge for parents than raising girls. Understanding and appreciating the differences is a great start. However I think parents who really connect well with boys somehow develop the wisdom to step as well as speak up at the right time, and the smarts to know when to stand back and allow their sons to work things out for themselves.
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.

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 Forsges 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 Forsges 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.

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.
... Lost in concentration ...

**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.

**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.

---

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

Foot checks
- Footwear and orthotic advice
- Foot/ankle pain
- Heel pain
- Knee pain

Vision screening
- Squinting
- Headaches/dizziness
- Difficulty concentrating

Nutrition assessments and dietary advice
- Fussy eaters
- Healthy lunch box tips
- Allergies or intolerances

Education and development assessments
- School readiness
- Reading ability

Registration essential
Phone 3138 9777 to register or for further information.

www.healthclinics.qut.edu.au
44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove QLD 4059

QUT Health Clinics