Growing good people at Cambridge Park Public School

We all know that schools are about the 3 Rs – Reading, Riting (Writing) and Rithmetic (Arithmetic). Did you know that these days schools are also expected to play a major role in the social and emotional development of students? This means we need to develop students’ pro-social skills so that they can experience success in the school setting. One of the ways that we do this is through our Positive Behaviour for Learning program (PBL). The PBL program focuses on school expectations of students in different settings across the school. In all those settings we want the children to be Safe Respectful Active Learners. We use our “Knights of Cambridge” mascots as visual reminders to students of what our expectations are. Meet:

Lady Safe – A-Lot

Sir Respect – A-Lot

Sir Learn – A-Lot

You may have noticed some signage around the school that reminds the students of how to be Safe Respectful Active Learners in that part of the school. Each week teachers deliver a lesson about how to be Safe Respectful Active Learners in different parts of the school. For example, in the first weeks of school students are taught about “Safer Respectful Active Learners in the Classroom”. I have attached a sample lesson about this at the back of the newsletter for you. Each grade will have a slightly different emphasis according to the age and developmental level of the students.

As part of the PBL program we have a level system that rewards students for meeting our school expectations. The children earn Safe Respectful Active Learner tokens associated with each of the Knights of Cambridge. Lady Safe – A-Lot tokens are yellow, Sir Respect – A-Lot tokens are blue and Sir Learn – A-Lot tokens are green.

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Once students have 5 of the tokens they can earn the PBL Merit Card associated with the particular Knight eg; 5 yellow tokens earns a Lady –Safe-A-Lot PBL token. **To collect their PBL Merit Cards the students give their tokens to their teacher who the writes up the PBL Merit card.** When the students have collected 1 of each of the Knights of Cambridge Merit Cards (3 in total), they hand these in to the office and the Assistant Principal **write up the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.** These awards are handed out at PBL Assemblies each fortnight.

The students continue to collect tokens and PBL Merit Cards to work their way up through Bronze, Silver, Gold and Principal Medallion levels. I have attached a visual explanation of the system to the back of this newsletter for you to look at and perhaps keep on your fridge as a reminder of how the system works.

**Safety at Cambridge Park Public School**

No doubt you are aware that some schools in our area have recently been victims of hoax bomb threats. Hopefully that spate of incidents is now over. However I thought it timely to let you know what our emergency procedures are at school to reassure you that the safety of your children is our paramount concern.

We run evacuation and lockdown drills every term. At least one of our evacuation drills is an offsite drill. There are times when we notify you ahead of time that a drill is occurring and other times when we don’t because we need to practice on the spot drills too. Under normal circumstances when children are taken off-site we seek parent permission. However in the case of emergency drills we don’t do this for 2 reasons:

1. In a real emergency it would not be possible to seek parent permission to evacuate
2. In a drill situation it is not possible to leave a student back at school unsupervised while everyone else evacuates.

Every drill is evaluated by our Work Health and Safety team and adjustments are made to procedures to ensure that all precautions are taken to keep the students as safe as possible in the event of an emergency and also during the drills.

In the event that the school does have to be evacuated we ask that parents and carers do not arrive at the evacuation site to pick up students until after the emergency has passed. The reason for this is that an influx of parents is likely to create more risks to safety in terms of confusion and distress to students. When we evacuate we take all required medications for students who need them and we have arranged to have access to toilets, water and shelter should it be required. Please understand that if you do arrive to take your children from the evacuation site you are likely to be subjected to a long delay because I cannot allow children to be taken unless I am absolutely sure that the person taking the child is identified as having a right to take that child. Proof of identity and relationship will be needed and sign-out processes will be in place.

Hopefully, no such situation will arise but if it does we are well prepared to manage it.

Mrs Binns
Principal

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**Working together to build quality relationships, engaging learning environments and life long learners**
**Kindergarten News**

Our kindergarten students have settled in very quickly and are getting into some valuable learning already. They have been learning the rules of the playground and how to be SAFE. We are learning about all of our PBL mascots – Sir Learn-A-Lot, Lady Safe-A-Lot and Sir Respect-A-Lot. The students have been learning that when they are in the playground they need to be able to see a teacher in a yellow vest as this means that they are in a safe place. In the morning before school it would be great if the students were to follow this rule also. The western quad and the basketball court are the two areas that have a duty teacher in the morning. Students are allowed to put their bags away and then we ask that they then move into one of those playgrounds.

Kindergarten all have ‘crunch and sip’ during the day. We ask that you please remember to pack some fruit/vegetables and water for your child as some students get upset if they don’t have any. We also ask that you purchase a handwriting book at the front office by the end of this term as we will be using them from the beginning of term 2. They are $11.00.

Life Education excursions are next week on Tuesday and Wednesday. Our school administration staff will still accept payments, if you have not already done so, until Monday. A permission note will also have to be signed. Life Education (Healthy Harold) is a really valuable program that teaches about healthy eating and lifestyle choices as well as keeping themselves safe.

There are many ways to contact us if you need to. We often seem very busy but we really appreciate communication from you. If there is anything that may affect your child’s day at school we would love to know. Every teacher has a voicemail box at school. If you need to make an appointment to see us or just need to leave a message please phone the school and ask to be put through to our voicemail box. You can also email the school and it will be forwarded to us. If it is an urgent matter please let us know as soon as possible.

Mrs. L. VanCuylendelgen
Kindergarten Supervisor

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**Stage 1 News**

Our classes have all settled in well and we have enjoyed meeting and getting to know all our new class members. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome many of the new families that have joined our school this year.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have already purchased the necessary equipment and handwriting books for the year. We have now started using the handwriting book. The plastic folders will be coming home shortly as a home reading folder. Please read the home reading note when it comes home.

This year many of our K-2 teachers will be training in or updating their skills in L3 training. They are looking forward to learning how to implement L3 in the Year 1 and Year 2 literacy program considering the improvements L3 has had in the Kindergarten literacy program, especially reading.

Congratulations to all the Year 2 children who participated in the school swimming carnival on Tuesday evening. A big thanks also to the parents who took the time to take their children and join in on this fun school event.

All our Year 2 Children have now visited Healthy Harold at The Life Education Centre and Year 1 are looking forward to attending Monday week 5. All Stage 1 should also have received a note today to our History excursion around the unit of work ‘The Past In The Present’. We are really excited about this.

Please remember that we are always available if you have any questions. If you need to speak with your child’s teacher about any concerns please contact the office to make an appointment.

Mrs M Copeland
Stage 1 Supervisor
Stage 2 musings

Hello and a huge thankyou to those families who came to our Stage 2’s meet and greet. For those families who were unable to join us, here are some of the important points covered.

- **A Textbook for handwriting** is required for your child to use in class. Targeting Handwriting Book 3 or 4. This book has been ordered and will cost $11.00. The workbooks will be issued when payment has been made at the office.

- **Library** Dugongs: Monday
  Bilbies: Monday
  Tassie Devils: Wednesday
  Redbacks: Friday

your child will need a library bag on this day to borrow.

- **Sport day** for Stage 2 is on every Friday morning. Your child is required to wear sports shoes. In terms 2 and 3 Stage 2 will have the opportunity to participate in PSSA, Soccer, Netball and Rugby league.

- **Homework** will coincide with homework centre and begin with week 4 and home readers may begin shortly (depending on student’s needs). The children will receive homework on Mondays. They will need to complete a small amount each night to hand in on Friday morning. You may choose to ‘opt out’.

One thing that seemed to be of interest was around the agile learning classroom (the Redbacks room), which your child may visit during the course of the year.

Mrs Scott
Stage 2 Supervisor

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**Team Teaching & Agile Learning Information**

**Building a 21st Century Classroom**

- **Agile Learning** - A learning environment that which is adaptable and flexible.
- **Team Teaching** - Two classes combined with two teachers.
- **21st Century Learning** - Learning which requires modern skills like collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity & reflection

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**Exciting Space**

- Modern furniture - A move away from students only sitting at desks & crossing legs on the floor.
- Ample Space - Converting dynamic classroom spaces capable of easily housing 2 classes.
- Learning Zones - Designated areas set up around the room to enable different types of learning to be at the students’ fingertips
- Student Choice - Students are guided by teachers to take control of their learning.

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**Agile Learning Is Not**

- **NOT** Replacing The Basics - Students will still be engaging in high quality literacy and numeracy.
- **NOT** Do “Whatever, Whenever” - This class will be highly organised and high expectations will be set for the work students produce.
- **NOT** An UnLessoned Experiment - Teachers will be guided by experienced colleagues.
- **NOT** Chaotic / Unstructured - The larger class size does not mean more noise, it requires even more structure and organisation than a regular classroom.

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**School Photos 2016**

As you would have seen in our newsletter and school calendar, our school photos are on Wednesday 9th March 2016. The envelopes have arrived and have been sent out.

Mrs Sirmais
Partnership Officer
Support News

The Support Unit students went to visit Healthy Harold at the Life Education Centre. Rhiannyn and Brandon (Sugar Gliders) read from Harold’s Diary to the class and the students participated in discussions and role play activities.

Brian and Madison (Cassowaries) read Harold’s Diary to the class. The students learnt about how to eat healthy food and the importance of exercise to keep healthy and fit.

Fairy Penguins and Quokkas went into the TAM theatre to see a human doll with body parts that light up. They also participated in hands on activities to sort the plastic food into ‘Sometimes’ and ‘Everyday’ food.

The classes had lots of fun and learnt many new things!!

Mrs D Ahuja
Relieving Supervisor Support
**Stage 3 News**

Stage 3 have settled into their learning this year. Our classroom are looking lovely with various artworks on display.

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our Meet the Teachers afternoon.

Congratulations to our students who attended the Life Education program and behaved beautifully. They all enjoyed participating in this learning opportunity.

**What's Coming?**

Our Year 6 T-shirt committee are preparing the voting sheet to decide upon this years shirt design.

Order forms will be coming home next week.

Next Monday, Penrith Panther players will be speaking with students in stage 2 and 3 about general well-being and nutrition.

Stage 3 Camp organisation will be finalised soon and information notes will be coming home.

Mrs J Hines
Stage 3 Supervisor

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**Preschool News**

The Frogs and Joeys are all settling in well to preschool and developing friendships with their peers. We have enjoyed getting to know all the children and families over the past few weeks. If at any time you have any questions or concerns please feel free to approach us, we are only too happy to assist.

**Please remember:**

- To label all your children’s belongings, including drink bottles, lunch boxes, bags, hats, and clothing. This will help to minimise any items being lost or misplaced.
- We promote healthy eating at preschool and have lots of discussions with the children around this. We have been identifying the difference between all the time foods and sometimes foods. We would love your assistance with encouraging your children to eat healthy foods while at preschool, so please remember to pack healthy foods and snacks as well as water in drink bottles.
- Just a reminder about Wednesday times – morning session is 9am to 11.30am and afternoon session is 12.30pm to 3pm.

**Donations:**

- We are in the process of replanting our vegie garden so if you are able to donate a vegetable seedling to plant that would be fantastic.
- Any reusable items such as small boxes, containers, cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls) would be appreciated; we use these items for box collage.

Thank you
Preschool Teachers
Library News

The beginning of the year has been a busy time in the library. It’s great to be back. I would like to thank Mrs Thompson for all her time and effort in caring for our students and our resources last year. This year the library will be staffed by Mrs Sivanandan, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and by Mrs Scanlin on Thursdays and Fridays. I’d like to welcome Mrs Scanlin back to Cambridge Park.

Mrs Sivanandan
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)

Mrs Scanlin
(Thursday, Friday)

Library Bags

Last year Mrs Thompson began a library bag competition. We will be continuing her tradition this term.

Library bags help to protect books from damage and lower the amount of money we spend replacing damaged books so we can keep up to date with the latest reads. The front office has limited numbers of school library bags for sale at a discounted rate of $3. More bags will be available shortly.

The class who brings the most library bags over the term will be rewarded with an ice block.

Classes will compete against their year or stage level with a reward for each group of classes.

Students can borrow from the library on any day of the week at lunch time with a library bag and/or during their library borrowing time. Your library borrowing days are below:

**Monday Borrowers**
Bilbies
Quokkas
Fairy Penguins
Dugongs

**Tuesday Borrowers**
Sugar Gliders
Cassowaries

**Wednesday Borrowers**
Tasmanian Devils

**Thursday Borrowers**
Cockatoos
Butterflies
Bankias
Echidnas
Flying Foxes

**Friday Borrowers**
Sharks
Paper Daisies
Blue Tongues
Koalas
Redbacks
Geckos
Stingrays
Wallabies

If there are any students who still have books at home from last year please try to return them in the next week. The longer a book is missing the harder it is to find. Please have a good look around and if you are having difficulties locating the book send a message to the library or stop by to see us so that we can work together to allow your child to borrow.

Have a great term reading!

Mrs Sivanandan
Librarian
EASTER ‘EGG’STRAVAGANZA 2013

Tuesday 23rd March 2016

School Hall

All Students, Preschool to Year 6 are encouraged to participate in our Easter ‘Egg’stravaganza.

‘Egg’ displays are to be made at home and brought to the school hall between 8:30 and 9:00 on the day. Please label the students creations with their name and class.

Students will be able to view the ‘Egg-hibition’ in class groups on the day.

Categories:

Preschool & E51
Decorate an Easter basket using boiled or chocolate eggs OR choose a favourite teddy, doll or truck and decorate it with an Easter theme.

Stage 1
Portray your favourite character from a book or nursery rhyme. This requires the entrant to decorate an egg as their favourite book or nursery rhyme character.

Stage 2
Portray your favourite sports person or television character. This requires the entrant to decorate an egg as their favourite sportsperson or television character.

Stage 3
Eggs-ceptional eggs. This requires entrants to create an egg model using an “egg” word as its theme. E.g. Eggs-ame (exam); Eggs-cited (excited) etc.

Presentations & Awards:

Eggs may be hard boiled or blown. To blow eggs, a hole, a little larger than a pin hole is required in each end of the egg. The contents are removed by blowing fiercely into one end. Models may be presented in either an egg cup or regular sized shoe box.

Viewing & Collecting Models:

Parents are invited to view the display between 10:30 am and 11:00 am on the day. Preschool students who do not attend on Tuesdays are welcome to visit the ‘Egg-hibition’ with their parents.

Students will be able to collect their models from the hall between 2.50pm and 3.00pm.

Mrs VanCuylenberg
On behalf of the Kindergarten Team

Mr Bourke
Deputy Principal

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OUR SCHOOL

Expectations

To Be Safe
To show Respect
To be Active Learners

For your convenience when your child is absent from school please complete the note below and return to your child’s teacher

ABSENCE EXPLANATION NOTE

STUDENT’S NAME .............................................................. CLASS .........................

DATES OF ABSENCE .........................................................

REASON ...........................................................................

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

PARENT/CAREGIVER’S NAME ...........................................

SIGNED ............................................................ DATE ...................................

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