Dear Parents and Carers,

BUCKET FILLERS

At our Focus Assembly yesterday, the students from the Red and Orange ELC classes gave the school a fantastic analogy for how we all can go through the day. They read a picture book called, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* This wonderful idea takes such a simple look at how we can all reflect on how we act towards others by being a ‘bucket filler’. We all carry with us an imaginary bucket, and throughout the day and our lives, the aim is to make sure that we do what we can to fill other people’s buckets with kindness and care, and also to ensure our own buckets become full. We also need to be aware that we can just as easily be a ‘bucket dipper’, where our words and actions can take away from others and even our own buckets. Whether it is here at school, at home or even at work, this simple notion of adding to someone else’s ‘bucket’ can be a powerful reminder to be thoughtful of others and to not do or say things that take away from them. This might be something that parents can discuss and continue at home; I know I am going to try it in my family!

What a great Focus Assembly it was too by our ELC students! They were so well prepared and their singing and dancing was out of this world. Well done to all the children and their teachers on such an entertaining assembly.

REPORTS

Next Friday Semester One Reports will be sent home with the students. If your child is away on the day the report will be mailed home to you. The reports are written to the parents, so the expectation is that the report is taken home unopened. We will remind the students of this on Friday. The report provides an opportunity for the teacher to inform parents about the progress of each student in each academic area covered this semester. Please take the time necessary to read your child’s report and consider the information the teacher has provided within it. This is an important part of communication between the school and home, providing a snapshot of achievements and often suggestions for areas of improvement. It is best for you as parents to read the report and share with your child the successes they have achieved, and then to discuss any goals they might work towards in the second half of the year. For students in Years 5 and 6, parents may like to allow the children to read their own report and then to discuss where the successes have been and what might be an area they can focus on as they continue the year.

The report forms only part of the conversation between school and home. For most classes, 3-way conferences will be held in Week 2 next term, allowing parents and teachers to discuss the report and any other areas relating to how the students are progressing. It is important that parents take this opportunity to meet with teachers to build that ‘shared responsibility’ approach to educating the children. As with last year, the school will be using the online booking system, *School Interviews*. Further details for making bookings will be sent home early next week.
Attached to the Newsletter today is an article by Michael Grose called, *Reading Your Child’s Report*. It provides some valuable suggestions for parents as the reports come home next week.

**SOCIAL MEDIA AND BEING A GOOD DIGITAL CITIZEN**

Included with the Newsletter is the article “*Developing Your Child’s Social Media Scripts.*” While primarily focused on the students in upper primary, all parents are encouraged to read this article and to start the conversation with your children about what it means to be a ‘good digital citizen’. Our children live in an exciting, connected and online world and as parents we need to be engaged fully in this. For our students who have access to online messaging and connectivity, they need support in using this appropriately. As with any growing up, they will make mistakes.

I encourage all parents to be actively involved in this ‘world’ your children are living in. First, as the parent, you have the right to say ‘no’ to your child if they want to sign up to an app that you feel they aren’t ready for. Remember, the legal age to have access to many of these social media sites is 13 years of age. ‘Friend’ them or ‘follow’ them, and be a co-account holder so that you have regular contact with what they are doing and saying online. Learn together to access the many different apps they will want to use. Most important is to learn how to make your child’s accounts private. As I spoke about last week with our Year 6 leaders, when they sign up to any new app, it is very unlikely that any security settings are set, and often they need to be reset following any updates. Becoming familiar with this online world is just as exciting and daunting for parents as it is for children; do it together.

Working with you to educate your children.
Cameron Tarrant
Assistant Principal

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**ELC NEWS……..**

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of another term. The last few weeks in the Orange Class we have been enjoying school so much: we created our own mini zoo, visited the Holy Spirit Church, went on the bus to the zoo and celebrated a Focus Assembly with the rest of the school. It’s hard to believe! We have also managed to fit in mud fun because of all the rain and tree climbing.
Our spirit

**Merit Awards Week 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tr>
<td>K Bartley</td>
<td>Caeli Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>K Bell</td>
<td>Makayla Stevens</td>
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<tr>
<td>K Johns</td>
<td>Scarlett, Mackenzie and Joe</td>
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<tr>
<td>K McFarlane</td>
<td>Landon Sluggett</td>
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<td>1 Wood</td>
<td>Emma Mitchell</td>
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<td>1 Creagh</td>
<td>Amelia Torcasio</td>
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<td>Siena O’Rouke</td>
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<td>1 Masters</td>
<td>Jayden Kocanov</td>
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<td>2 Spencer</td>
<td>Joey and Jasmine</td>
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<td>2 Kelly</td>
<td>Darcey Bryden</td>
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<td>2 Taylor</td>
<td>Alivia Holden</td>
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<td>2 Kaptein</td>
<td>Tilly Casey</td>
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<td>3 Hague</td>
<td>Mitchell Cunliffe</td>
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<td>3 Nuske</td>
<td>Matthew Parkes</td>
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<td>3 Gaffey</td>
<td>Ellie Mitchell</td>
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<td>4 Camp</td>
<td>Ben Aleer</td>
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<td>4 Jackson</td>
<td>Jarrod Collins</td>
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<td>4 Hickman</td>
<td>Lahni Hall, Joshua Orr and Ali Baker</td>
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<td>5 French</td>
<td>Chelsea Gare</td>
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<td>5 Eldridge</td>
<td>Lara Grocott and Mark El—Khourey</td>
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<td>5 Toth</td>
<td>Fletcher Ellis</td>
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<td>6 Jenkins</td>
<td>Makayla Quinn</td>
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<td>6 Kennedy</td>
<td>Nick Tarlington</td>
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<td>6 Cambridge</td>
<td>Olivia Johnson</td>
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**Election Day**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**Fundraiser @ Holy Spirit**

**Outside the hall**

**Saturday 2nd July**

**8am—4pm**

**Volunteers needed!**

We need your help to cook sausages, serve and assist on the day. The shifts are short and many hands make light work. If you are able to assist in any way, please sign up as a volunteer by clicking on [http://vols.pt/2th3w4](http://vols.pt/2th3w4) and follow the prompts. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our school. Thanks in advance for your support.

P and F Committee

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Please sign up for Election day BBQ on VolunteerSpot today! vols.pt. This sign up is for Election day BBQ. Sign up online today and receive automated reminders for your spot!
First Reconciliation and Eucharist

If you would like your child to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and Eucharist you must attend an information session to receive the Home Program. Sessions were held on Tuesday 21\textsuperscript{st} June.

An additional Parent Information Session will be held at

7pm on Tuesday 28\textsuperscript{th} June

Please email me if you are planning to attend this session so we can have an idea of numbers:

Katrina.macgregor@cg.catholic.edu.au

A reminder that children should bring their enrolment forms and Baptism certificates to Mass this weekend (25\textsuperscript{th} or 26\textsuperscript{th} June), along with the prayer card which they will give to a parishioner, asking for their prayers throughout the preparation program.

Uniform Shop News….

Beanies are back in stock!
Fleecy navy beanies new $5

Open Mondays and Fridays before morning assembly.
Our spirit

Parenting ideas insights

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Developing your child’s social media scripts

It’s important to start conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around.

“If a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.”

This mantra always pops into mind whenever I’m about to cut some corners or do a rushed job in any endeavour. As a result I double-check every article I write for mistakes. I over prepare every talk I give. And I continually edit and re-edit my books. This message keeps me at the top of my game.

I can thank, or blame, my mother for inserting this mantra in my mind as she repeated it whenever I did a rushed job as a youngster making my bed, doing homework or cleaning up my bathroom mess.

Parents of every generation have always found ways to frame messages of safety and success for their children to remember. Parents of past generations who only had to contend with the offline or real world intuitively knew that they needed to teach children important lessons about safety and manners rather than assume they’ll be understood.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. “Is this worth posting?”
   The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2. “Have you taken a big breath?”
   A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind.

more on page 2

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au

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Our spirit

Parenting ideas
INSIGHTS

... Developing your child’s social media scripts ...

The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn’t mean they post it. ‘Take a big breath’ may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

“Do you want the principal to see this?!”
An invitation to a teenage birthday party posted on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

“How does this post make you feel?”
We need to teach kids that not every post needs to be commented upon and not every thought needs to be shared, particularly when they are angry. Teaching them to walk away and then to step back in when they’ve calmed down is perhaps the most important communication lesson of all. It is very relevant to social media as emotions are often the last thing on many people’s minds when they haphazardly post a message.

“How will you fix this?”
Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it’s fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It’s reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.

I agree with Galit Breen author of Kindness Wins who says that parents should have conversations with children around social media before they reach the teenage years. Starting these conversations when they are younger means that they are more open to our parenting opinions, as well as being a little more amenable to the messages of tolerance, kindness and empathy that we need to encourage.

Michael Grose

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

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Our spirit

Parenting ideas insights

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder … always does her best … lacks concentration … easily distracted … a pleasure to teach … Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar? Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible.

School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

- **Focus on strengths.** Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.
- **Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.
- **Broaden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting.** How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.
- **Take note of student self-assessment.** Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.
- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter** talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.

Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael’s NEW Parenting ideas Club today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

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