Bullying – No Way!

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or caregivers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

Listen calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they’ve told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child’s experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

1. Reassure your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, “That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.” Or “I’m so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that’s not fair at all.”

2. Ask your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

3. Visit www.bullyingoneway.gov.au to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

4. Check in regularly with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

Don’t forget, our school is taking part in the 2016 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 18 March. All students are encouraged to wear orange.

If you are looking for support for yourself to deal with a bullying situation, you will find ideas on the Bullying, No Way! website for parents. As well, please contact the school if you would like to discuss any aspect of our approach to preventing bullying.

Thank you for your support to make our school a great school for everyone.

Curriculum Corner with 2A

2A have had their science coats on over the past few weeks investigating lifecycle and identifying living and non-living things. This has taken us into the world of frogs and butterflies. Jabber the Reteller is this terms reading strategy, we have had the opportunity to tell different stories in our own words. This has been completed both individually and in groups with the class creating posters that retell the story with not only words but our own illustrations.

Geography has taken us to new heights, looking at places and spaces from an aerial view. Visualising familiar places and drawing this ourselves. It has been very interesting to look at the features of these familiar places and comparing them with other environments and areas.

Half of the class has already received their Club 25 Read With Me Certificates! We have a very enthusiastic bunch of readers which is very impressive, it has been very exciting to track our progress of the Read With Me program on our class data wall.

The belonging being shown within 2A this term has been outstanding. The respect and support shown towards each other is very inspiring, we work very well together as a class! Miss Markham can’t keep up with the wristbands and orange slips being received in 2A! It is truly a class full of champions!

“In 2A I always have great days at school.” – Milli

“I enjoy the butterfly and frog lifecycle songs we listen to in 2A.” – Hannah

“I love learning in 2A.” – Orion

2A with Miss Markham

INSERTS

• High Five Awards
From the Principal's Desk

As you would know, each year our school submits an Annual Implementation Plan to our Department which outlines the key focus areas for the school through the current school year. Throughout 2016 our 'Big Four' are Reading: 100% of students achieving our regional benchmarks. Spelling: 100% achieving regional benchmarks. Zero to Eight Year Olds: Successful Transitions to School and Early Intervention. Attendance: 95% Attendance as a non-negotiable target.

This year we are running weekly attendance competitions. In Week 6 our five students had the best attendance overall per year level with 93.9% attendance. However it was 6A who had the best class attendance with 98%. Last week, Week 7, Year six students had the best attendance per year level with 95%. However it was Prep B with 99.5% attendance.

Overall class attendance:

- Prep — 92%
- Grade 1—95%
- Grade 2—90%
- Grade 3—93%
- Grade 4—92%
- Grade 5—91%
- Grade 6—95%

Congratulations to all our students who exhibit excellent attendance and a special thank you to our parents for their strong support.

Project Club

Koala Cubs

Is your child 0-5 years old? Come along to our
Wednesday morning activities from 9:15am to 10:30am.
Starting: Wednesday 13th April 2016
Taking 2017 Prep Enrolments NOW
Phone 4672 9222
PBL Update
Safety Value: No Bullying

Bullying is defined as an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm (Bullying, No Way, 2016). At Chinchilla State School, there is zero tolerance towards bullying. It is important however to look objectively at behaviour and ask the question “is this bullying?” rather than jumping directly to the conclusion: “This is bullying”. Here at Chinchilla State School we teach the tools students need in order to reduce bullying behaviours.

These tools can be summarised into the high 5.

- Begin with the pinky finger (ignore).
- If the problem persists, go to the next step: talk nicely and ask that person to stop what they are doing, walk away, talk firmly, report (to the classroom teacher).
- If your child comes home from school with an issue that has arisen that may fall under the bullying category, there are some steps you can take to address this.
- Stay calm and positive.
- Talk with your child about the issue.
- Do not advise your child to fight with the other child/ren.
- Report the issues to your classroom teacher.

As parents and/or guardians, your first port of call in regards to any issues is your child’s classroom teacher. They are the people most involved in your child’s schooling day and the ones that will be able to provide you with the information you may need and any solutions for the issue. Teachers cannot assist with the problem if they don’t know about the problem.

Teachers and student may wear an orange shirt on Friday, 18th March to show their support for the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

This week’s Value Champions

School Procedures and Routines

For new parents and as a reminder to all parents, there are a number of procedures and routines to help our school run smoothly. Listed below are some school routines:

PARKING:
It is essential that parents take and consider safety of their children when parking at the school to collect or drop-off children. Parents are reminded:
- Not to park in the bus zones at the front of the school in Bell Street;
- Not to park in the designated disabled parks in Bell and Colombo Streets for any reasons;
- Not to ‘double park’ when picking children up from school;
- Not to leave young children unattended in the car;
- Use the pedestrian crossing if you have parked across the street from the school.

Religious Instruction: Religious Instruction is part of the school program and is conducted each Wednesday. Permission from parents is sought for all students to participate in the program upon enrolment. Religious Instructions is non-denominalional and is delivered by a team of representatives from various local church groups. Class teachers and students remain in their classrooms while the Religious Instruction lesson is presented to them.

Social media and the school community

Possible civil or criminal ramifications of online commentary.

A serious instance of inappropriate online behaviour may constitute a criminal offence and become a police matter. For example, online content may substantiate the offence of ‘using a carriage service to menace, harass or cause offence’ (Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) s 474G).

School staff may contact their union or obtain personal legal advice if they feel that online content seriously impacts their reputation. Defamatory online content may give rise to litigation under the Defamation Act 2005 (Qld).

What about other people’s privacy?

If you upload photos of your children, be mindful of who might be in the background. You might be happy to share your child’s successes with your friends and family via social media, but some parents are not.

If you are tagging or naming students, consider that other parents may not want their child’s name attached to images online.

Keeping the use of social media positive and constructive will continue to be published in next week’s Bell Street Bulletin.

PBL Update

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Chinchilla State School's P&C Association supports the PBL program in the school and has two representatives on the PBL Committee, Mrs. Tanya Kidd & Mrs. Leanne Evans.

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Support Your School’s P&C Be a Volunteer
A Great Way to Meet New Friends