



Aim High With Praise

Ma Ma Messages

A communication tool of the
Ma Ma Creek State School and Community

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14 October 2014

Dates to Remember

October	
Week 2	
16	P & C Meeting Mobile Library Van
17	Swimming
Week 3	
20	Pupil Free Day
24	Swimming
October	
Week 4	
30	Mobile Library Van
31	Swimming
November	
Week 5	
04	School Photos
07	Swimming
Week 6	
12 - 14	Whole School Camp
Week 7	
20	P & C Meeting
21	Swimming
Week 8	
27	Mobile Library Van
28	Swimming

Principal's Diary

(This section of the newsletter outlines meetings and events during the school year where the Principal will either be out of the school or unavailable.)

22 Oct – Finance Workshop (Toowoomba)

Students of the Week

Tiffanie and Reece were the proud recipients of this week's Student of the Week awards.

In The Classroom

Sight Words Certificates:

Neika: Teal Words

Pupil Free Day

Next Monday the 20th of October is a Pupil Free Day and students are not to attend school on this day.

Chatter matters – Get DETE's new SPEAK oral language app

Oral language skills are important for a child's literacy and overall academic achievement.

Children with a language impairment are six times more likely to have a reading problem than children without.

It therefore makes sense to be proactive in the early years of a child's life and DETE's new [SPEAK app](#) helps this happen.

The SPEAK (Speaking Promotes Education And Knowledge) oral language app has been developed by the Department of Education, Training and Employment as a joint initiative with Queensland Health and Redland City Council to help develop children's speaking and listening ability.

SPEAK provides lots of fun, free activities, ideas and information for parents, carers and educators to support and nurture oral language development in children from 0-6 years of age.

The information and activities were developed by the department with the help of speech pathologists, educators and health professionals.

The SPEAK app is available for free download from the iTunes store and Google Play.

Additional information is available from the [DETE apps website](#).

Get Started Round 4 funding closing soon

Queensland families are being urged to get cracking with applications for the Queensland Government's Get Started vouchers, to help children stay active and healthy through sport and recreation.

The initiative provides kids who can least afford joining a sport or recreation club with vouchers of up to \$150 to help with club membership and participation fees.

More than 65,000 vouchers have already been issued across the state, and local sport and recreation clubs have joined the cause with 3500 clubs registered to accept the vouchers.

Applications for this round of the program will close on October 15. More details can be found at www.nprsr.qld.gov.au.

Chappie's Corner

Three ways to help your child's learning at home

The literacy and numeracy skills gained in early childhood set children up for life – so what can parents do at home to help their child get the best start? Marianne Stenger reports.

1. Talk to and interact with your child whenever possible

T = Take time to talk, making yourself available for interactions
A = Ask questions to which you do not always know the answer
L = Listen actively
K = Know your child and the language they use. Build on this. A study on the power of "Talk" shows that the quantity of words spoken to a child in the first three years of life is associated with his or her language skills, vocabulary size and even IQ later in life.

Also, children who are engaged in more conversation by their caregivers have been shown to know more colours, letters and shapes by the age of three than children who aren't engaged in as much conversation early on in life.

2. Don't limit your child to "baby talk"

Research shows that the size of a child's vocabulary in kindergarten predicts his or her ability to learn to read, so by using only "easy" words and simplified or even made up terms around your child, you are greatly limiting their ability to expand their vocabulary.

Aside from this, making up words or changing the way they sound (saying "wuv" instead of "love," for instance) can be confusing for a child who is just learning to speak. Don't be afraid to use a more sophisticated vocabulary around your child – they pick things up quicker than you might expect.

3. Make reading materials readily available

Research shows that having reading material available, whether it is owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children's achievement in reading comprehension.

With this in mind, it's important to create a home environment where reading is valued. Even if you don't always have time to sit down and read one-on-one with your kids, you can still ensure that they are able to access a wide variety of age-appropriate reading material.

You could also consider creating a room or quiet area in the home that is specifically dedicated to reading. Here you can keep all your reading materials, and also set up a cosy reading nook with a comfy sofa or bean bag, pillows and blankets, and plenty of good lighting.

Just remember that creating a literacy-rich home environment doesn't have to cost a lot of money; the most important thing is your support and involvement, whether that means playing and interacting with your child, reading to them, or taking the time to explain and discuss new words.

<http://splash.abc.net.au/parents/blog/-/b/1419968/three-ways-to-help-your-child-s-learning-at-home>

P & C News

Help Needed

The P&C Association have been asked to cater for a function next Tuesday 21st October. If you are able to support the P&C by providing any baking for this catering event, please drop it into the school by 3:30pm this Friday.

Please remember that any funds raised by these events provide valuable resources and activities for your children.

P&C Meeting

The next P&C Meeting will be held at the school on Thursday 16th October at 5:30pm.

Tuckshop

Tuckshop will be every Monday and orders need to be in by Thursday of each week.

Please place your money in an envelope and write your order on the order form attached to each week's newsletter.

We would like to thank Tenthill Store who are the providers of the lunchtime food component of our tuckshop each week.