Parenting Insights – Managing kids who won’t take no for an answer. Attached to this newsletter

Parent Teacher Interviews Tomorrow
A reminder to all parents that Parent Teacher Interviews are being held tomorrow afternoon (and extending to next Thursday afternoon as well for primaries). Education is a partnership between parents, teachers and students. We all want what is best for each student. I would encourage all parents to show support for their children by coming along to the interviews. See later in the newsletter for A Tips for Parents sheet about Parent Teacher Interviews.

Visible Learning
Seven staff spent Thursday and Friday in Horsham finding out about Visible Learning. Over the past few years we have been talking about and implementing Powerful Learning, which is about excellent teaching strategies that make a difference to student learning. Visible Learning builds on these but is more specifically focused on students and their awareness of their learning and what they understand about what good learners do.

Black Ranges Swimming
Well done to our Black Ranges swimmers on Friday and thank you to the parents who helped out – especially to Nat Robbins who had to do a double shift as a timer! We really do appreciate your help with these events.

FOUND
A sum of money has been found at school last week. If you have lost some money, please see the Office Staff to reclaim it.

Casual Dress Day Friday 28th March
Purple for Epilepsy
Please wear purple to raise awareness for Epilepsy.
Gold Coin Donation
**PRIMARY NEWS**

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**Primary Assembly Time Table for Term 1**
- Week 9 – Thursday 27\textsuperscript{th} March – Year F/1 Mrs Venn
- Week 10 – Thursday 3\textsuperscript{rd} April – Year 5/6 Mr Venn

**Wednesday 19\textsuperscript{th} March – 100% attendance by the primary students**
Well done everyone, terrific effort.

**Foundation/Year 1**
We've had a busy fortnight in the Foundation/One classroom. To help explore the letter N and develop counting skills, students made 'noodle necklaces'. Students chose their preferred colours and then created their necklace by making groups of nine. They then wrote about their necklaces, with some students using adjectives to describe the colours. This activity was also selected to help develop the necessary fine motor skills that are needed for neat handwriting. The students were very proud to parade their necklaces during the day.

In Maths last week, students have been using pretend Australian coins. They have sorted them, explored their value, used them in play shopping scenarios and even used them to pretend to purchase food from a canteen menu. Engaging your children in shopping experiences is a wonderful way to develop real-life mathematics skills, such as, counting, adding, subtracting and estimating. We continue focus on develop counting and place value skills as a class and I am noticing excellent improvements.
Our second CCS (Cross Curricular Studies) unit is well under way. We have been exploring ways to seek help in the classroom and out in the yard. We invited the Primary School Captains into our classroom so we could perform some short skits about how we can seek help in the yard. I would like to thank the School Captains for their enthusiasm with this task. They are wonderful role models for the youngest students at Murtoa College. This unit will later explore the many people who help us in the local community. If parents or friends would like to share any information about their job and how they help in the community, we would love to have a scheduled visit during class time, between now and the school holidays.

I look forward to the upcoming parent/teacher meetings and hope to see a parent or carer from each student in the class.

Sally Venn
Foundation/One Teacher
Year 1/2/3
Thank-you to the class for remembering to bring their Readers, Diaries and Spelling books back to school each day. Fantastic effort by all! We are working towards a class prize if everyone brings these items to school daily. Some spelling sheets have been included in your child’s small spelling book. Please complete at home and return to school to be checked.

We read the Nursery Rhyme “Jack and the Beanstalk” this week for Language. Cameron sent some “Magic Beans” to school. We have planted some in pots to watch them grow. In ICT class students have been researching animal facts on the school iPads. They have then taken the key facts and typed these into a word document. The published pieces along with a picture can be found displayed inside the BER building.

The junior classes have been busy finishing art inspired by Cindy Couling, these colourful hand pieces can also be found in the BER building. We look forward to catching up with parents at the Parent/Teacher meeting this week on Tuesday or Thursday evening.

Mrs Noonan and Mrs Schodde

ART
Could all students in Foundation/1 and 1/2/3 please bring to school an art smock, this could be an old shirt. They will be used in Art class on Wednesday 26th March.

Guinea Pigs To Give Away

Many colors. Please see Bronte or Fiona Kerrins
Parents and Friends

Easter Raffle
We are still seeking donations of Easter eggs, chocolate and baskets for the Primary Easter Raffle. All donations need to be back at school by Monday 31st of March (last week of term 1).

All families have been sent home raffle tickets to sell for our annual Easter Raffle, tickets are $1 each. The raffle will be drawn on the last Thursday of school at the Primary assembly.

All money raised from this fundraiser will go towards the creation of a garden bed at the front of school, on the hockey oval.

Meeting
There will be a P&F meeting on Wednesday 2nd April at 3.30pm in the Primary BER building. This meeting time will be used to put together the raffle prizes.

Catering
Thank you to the families that are assisting with the two upcoming catering events. Your efforts are much appreciated. There are still some items that need to be covered so if you can help out please contact Mrs Noonan or Mrs Keel.

If you would like to be part of our Catering group please fill in the contact details below and return to Mrs Noonan.

Name: ................................................................................................. Contact No: ..............................................................

I am happy to assist with catering jobs for the Parents and Friends committee.

Parents and Friends

Working Bee
We would like to hold a working bee this Saturday 29th March and the following Saturday 5th April starting at 9am to assist with sanding back the wall that faces the Primary quadrangle.

We have been fortunate enough to be part of a Community Project with Bunnings (Horsham) who are going to paint this wall for us. However we need to prep this wall ready for Bunnings to paint. If you have sanding gear please bring this along as well.

Please fill in the below form if you are able to assist at either working bees, and return the note to Mrs Noonan or Mrs Keel. There will be a sausage sizzle.

I am able to assist this Saturday 29th March at the Working Bee.

Name: ............................................. Number: ...............................................................

I am able to assist next Saturday 5th April at the Working Bee.

Name: ............................................. Number: ...............................................................

Let’s Dance
Let’s Dance will commence next term on a Wednesday night, first group will start at 4.30. The first night will be Wednesday the 30th April 2014. Any one that has not put their name in yet could you please phone SLAAM to register on 53852785 by 4th April. More details will be posted out to the participating students during the holidays.
Murtoa College Parent Teacher Interviews – Tips for parents

Parent Teacher-Interviews are held twice a year at the end of terms 1 and 3, and after parents have received Progress Reports. Parent teacher interviews are an opportunity for parents and teachers to talk together about how to help their student succeed in school. They are very short – usually 5 minutes. It’s important to prepare before the interview to make the best use of that short time. If you feel you need more time with your child’s teacher, it is quite appropriate to schedule another appointment.

1. Prepare

- Read your child’s interim report.
- Make notes about your questions and concerns.
- Talk to your child about the report.
- What do you want to ask the teacher? Make a list.

2. Ask Questions

- Arrive on time. Bring your list of questions. The teacher will review your child’s report card or show you samples of his or her work. Tell the teacher what your child likes and dislikes about school. Let the teacher know if you think there is too much or too little homework.

- Parent-teacher interviews are strictly confidential. Share personal information that might be affecting your child’s progress or behaviour at school (eg family illness, unsettled home life). This information will help the teacher understand your child better.

- Remember that other parents are waiting for their interviews and try to keep to the time allotted.

- Some questions you may like to ask are:
  - What does my child do well?
  - What skills does she or he still need to develop?
  - Is my child receiving extra help? In what subjects?
  - What is your homework policy?
  - How much time should my child be spending on homework?
  - How does my child get along with the other students?
  - How can I help my child at home?
  - What is the best way to contact you if I have more questions?
  - Take notes so that you can share the comments with your child.

3. Follow Up

Talk to your child. Stress the positive things the teacher said. Talk about how you and the teacher are going to help with the things that need to be improved. Follow up with teacher in a couple of weeks if there were specific areas of concern.
Well done and thank you to all participating students & staff

Last Wednesday, students and staff spent periods 1-4 participating in athletic events for the Athletic Standards. In their house groups, students completed 100m, 200m, 400m, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Javelin, Discus and High Jump.

Student results were recorded and compared to set standards for their age groups and given a score.

| TRACK EVENTS   | participation = 1 point | better the standard time = 3 points |
| FIELD EVENTS   | participation = 1 point  | 3 levels of achievement worth 4, 3 & 2 points |

Scores have been tallied and the winning house will be announced at the conclusion of the Athletic Sports on the last day of Term.

Thank you to all students who participated and gave their best in each event, and also to staff who had to give up many of their ‘spares’ to co-ordinate the event. Special thanks also to students who stepped up for House Captains that were not able to attend.
Murtoa students perform well

Five Murtoa College students represented our school at the Greater Western Region Swimming Championships at Warrnambool last Friday. Conditions were cold, damp and windy at the Aqua Zone Swim Centre however some pleasing performances were achieved by our swimmers.

The 14 Years Boys freestyle relay team went in as the underdogs with the slowest qualifying time, however in a massive effort was swimming in third place, but were beaten in the dying seconds coming fourth. They swam a time of 2.37, an improvement of 12 seconds from the Black Ranges Swim Carnival!

Lily Williams qualified for 15 Years Girls Butterfly and Freestyle. She swam her hardest in both events coming 7th in Butterfly and 4th in Freestyle.

Very special thanks to Sylv Williams, Natalie Robbins and Melinda Keel for taking the students down to Warrnambool and also for completing our timekeeping duties at the event under poor weather conditions!

FREESTYLE RELAY TEAM 14 YEARS BOYS
FREESTYLE
Daniel Drum, Riley Keel, Harris Sudholz, George Robbins

15 YEARS GIRLS
Lily Williams
Sport Dates for 2014

**Term 1**
Friday       April 4       All Day       **Athletic Sports (Horsham)**
(Last day of term)

**Term 2**
Monday      May 5         All day       Black Ranges Athletics (Stawell)
Tuesday     May 6         All day       Greater Western Region Volleyball (Horsham)
Wednesday   May 21        P 4 into lunch **School Cross Country**
Tuesday     May 27        All Day       Black Ranges Cross Country (Murtoa)
Friday       June 13       All Day       Region Cross Country (Hamilton)

- **HOUSE T-SHIRTS**

Students are encouraged to purchase a t-shirt in their house colours from the office for $10. They are to be worn for any house competition such as swimming standards, swimming sports, athletics standards, athletics sports & cross country. Students may decorate them if they choose.

Both David Horvat and Jake Ballagh competed in the State Championships Basketball tournament this past weekend. Their team came runners up in division 4 grand final.
Getting There
Students from Murtoa, Rupanyup, Minyip and Jung will be travelling by school buses to the venue (formerly Horsham North Park). The school will be covering the cost of transporting students to Horsham for the day and it is expected that all students will be attending the sports.

- **ALL STUDENTS MUST RETURN A CONSENT FORM FOR THE HOUSE ATHLETICS SPORTS to the box outside the General Office**

Students that require transport to the venue will travel to school as normal (students must be at Murtoa College by 8.30am), and then be transported by school bus to Dudley Cornell Oval. At the conclusion of the sports the buses will return to school prior to the end of the school day which is 2.30pm due to being the last day of term.

- **STUDENTS REQUIRING THE BUS TO HORSHAM MUST RETURN A BUS NOTE WITH THEIR CONSENT FORM TO THE BOX AT THE GENERAL OFFICE.**
- The bus note can be found at the end of this information

Students who live in Horsham will not need to come to school first; they will need to find their own transport directly to the Dudley Cornell Oval at the start of the school day arriving no later than 9.15am. **Horsham students will be dismissed from the oval at the conclusion (approximately 1.00 - 1.30pm) and will need to be picked up or have a note giving permission to walk home.**

Clothing
All students are to wear their sports uniform – students are encouraged to dress up in House colours. Students should also be aware of the weather conditions on the day and dress appropriately – hats, sunscreen, waterproof jacket and change of clothes may all be relevant.

Food
Marie Davis (School Canteen Manager) will be operating a canteen at the venue. Students may bring their own food and water as well as money to purchase items.

Attendance
All students are expected to attend the Athletics Carnival. Rolls will be marked and student participation in this event will be viewed favourably in future sporting team selection and school activities.

Parents
Having the Athletics Sports in Horsham provides a great opportunity for Horsham parents to come to see their students participate. **Parents would be advised to bring a chair as seating is limited.**

Any parent able to help on the day would be greatly appreciated by contacting Joanne Baker (Sport Coordinator) at school.

If there have been any recent changes in your student’s medical information could you please contact the office to make sure the updated information is recorded prior to the Athletics Sports.
If you have any concerns or queries about the above information please contact Joanne Baker at school on 03 5385 2381.

Athletics Carnival Parental Assistance
Parents, family and friends are encouraged to attend to support the day. Volunteers are also welcome to assist with events. Jobs such as raking the long and triple jump pits and measuring jumps and throws are always in need of filling. If you can help during any of the times listed below could you please return this slip to Joanne Baker ASAP.

I, ____________________________ am able to assist with the athletics carnival during the following time/s (please circle a suitable time)


__________________________________________________________________________________

Student Name: ________________________________  Year: _______________

My student will be taking the bus from Murtoa College to the Athletics Sports at Dudley Cornell Park on Friday 4th March, return.

PARENT SIGNATURE: ___________________________  DATE: _______________

(Please return this note with your consent form to the box at the GENERAL OFFICE by Wed 26th March 2014)

The Premier’s Reading Challenge
The Challenge is well under way, and it’s great to see our new participants reading lots of books. It’s not too late to enter. Students wishing to participate need to see Mrs Reading in the library to register. For more information or to logon visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc
The Challenge ends on 12 September 2014.

Grab Bags
Year prep, grade 1 students can borrow a ‘Grab’ bag of books from the library, especially those participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, however you need to show that you can return your books. The bags contain seven books selected as favorites of previous year prep/one students, and are usually books from the Challenge.

Reading Oasis Book Fair
It’s here until Wednesday April 2nd, with more books, activity packs, novelty pens and erasers than ever before! We also have EFTPOS available for the first time. Students that have purchased from the fair or book club will go in the draw to win one of three buyer’s draws.
MMFNC Football Information

Practice Match in Minyip this Saturday

Training in Murtoa this week

**Under 17’s**
Training Tuesday & Thursday, practice match for U17 to be confirmed at training.
Any questions:
Derek Cameron 0428 316 319
Mark Schache 0429 433 688  
markschache@bigpond.com – U17 Team Manager

**Under 14’s**
Training on Thursday night, welcome to train with U17’s on Tuesday.
Wayne Robbins 0427 857 367  
wnrobbins@optusnet.com.au

**Auskick/U 12’s**
Please register participants online.

We MUST have more parent involvement in this hugely beneficial program, we have had a couple of parents put their hand up but still need more, please contact ASAP if you are able to help out in any form so we can formalise the arrangements for the year.

We need to fill these roles (Can be Male or Female):
Co-Ordinator/Manager
Coach’s – Thursday night Training & Saturday U12’s

We are looking at starting the Auskick/U12 program on 24th of April, but ONLY if the above positions have been filled. Parents or anybody wanting to be involved in junior development at grass roots level, please contact URGENTLY

Please register your interest with:
Malcom Schier 0429 852 788 
malcom@schier.com.au

All Junior netball players. Can you please bring all your netball dresses to training on Thursday night thanks. Please hand to either Julie Delahunty or Marella Campbell.
Over the last six or so weeks, the Yr 9 & 10 Metal/Plastics students have been working on their Resin Filled Keytag project and as the photo shows, they have now put the finishing touches to a package of most attractively presented end products. After initially exploring a range of potential design options, they were each required to accurately transfer their preferred design onto the metal blank before negotiating the relevant saw piercing, filing and finishing procedures. To join the two layers of metal together they also had to come to terms with the silver soldering process, a newly acquired skill which they will have the opportunity to further refine as they undertake the follow up silver jewellery exercises.

It was particularly pleasing to note the impressive levels of patience and perseverance displayed during the time consuming construction processes, not to mention the attention to detail and determination required to achieve a blemish free surface finish.

Well done to all!

*Larry Williamson*
Minyip Show
SUNDAY, 30th MARCH

Extra Features

Mechanical Bucking Bull
Suitable for ages 6 to Adult

Giant Slide
Suitable for ages 4 to Adult

You'll have heaps of fun!
Managing kids who won’t take no for answer

Kids can be very strategic at getting you to agree to what they want. But two can play at that game!

Ever had a child who keeps asking for a favour or a treat over and over until they get the response they want?

These kids generally use one of two strategies. They may either nag or hound you until they get an affirmative response or they seek out another adult who will give them the answer they want.

Pester power wears you down!

From a kid’s point of view, the first method, which is based on persistence, is generally very effective with tired parents and sole parents who are more vulnerable to this type of behaviour.

“All right have the ice cream. Anything for some peace and quiet,” is a response that most people who have spent time around children are familiar with. The same applies to adolescents: “Okay, you can go to the party. Just stop nagging me about it!”

Playing one parent off against the other

The second method is a little more devious but very effective and usually occurs in dual parent families. You know the situation. A child’s request for a treat, favour or outing is turned down for good reason (“No Jessica you can’t have an ice cream now. Wait until after dinner”). The child then goes to the other parent (without sharing the conversation they’ve just had with you!) in the hope that he or she may well give them the positive answer they are looking for.

These situations can drive parents crazy and are indicative of two people operating on different parenting planes.

If it happens now and again then it is no big deal. However, if one parent is always granting a child his or her wishes without consultation or thought about what the other parent thinks, then it’s probably time to step back and reflect on how you can both work better together.

One “no” is enough

Be firm with a child or young person who goes to another parent in search of a ‘yes’ after they have received a knock back.

“Where did you get that ice cream from? I already said no.”

“Daddy said I could have it.”

“I am sorry but you should not go to Daddy after I said ‘no.’”

If in doubt, defer

The other technique that you can use when one parent tends to give in more often is to agree to defer to each other whenever a child or young person asks something tricky.

“Oh Jessica, I’ll just check with Dad and get back to you.”

This strategy can be wearing and even artificial but it’s helpful in bringing the other parent into the picture and it also demonstrates that you are double act.

It’s the smartest way to manage teens as they have a propensity to corner you into making quick decisions. The principle here is to control the timing of your responses and not be railroaded into snap decisions.

Take it in turns saying “no”

Most dual parents play good cop/bad cop, with one being the disciplinarian or hard-line manager and the other more the play director. That tends to be the way of families. This is wearing on the bad cop so it helps if you can swap roles (or even backbones) occasionally so that the ‘bad cop’ parent gets a break. Sole parents play both roles, which is draining.

Managing children who won’t take no for an answer demands teamwork, a willingness to hold your ground and, most importantly, good communication skills. The aim is to reach a point that when you say “No, not this time” (or however you say it), your kids actually believe what you say.