I am continuing to be amazed at how well all of our students especially our Foundation students have settled into school life so smoothly. All of the students have embraced our approach to positive behaviour framework of Sparky. Last week we presented our first class Sparky awards which generated a great deal of excitement and interest from the students. Congratulations to all of the award winners for making such positive behaviour choices. Please see their picture later in the newsletter.

It was a fantastic response to the family competition regarding Sparky. Thank you to all of the families who entered the competition and congratulations to Jack Crocker’s family for taking out the prize. All families who entered were placed in a raffle.

Tonight is our Welcome BBQ which will begin at 5.30pm. Thank you to the P&F for putting on this event and I look forward to welcoming all those who are attending.

Tomorrow is our annual grade 3-6 swimming sports which is held in conjunction with St Laurence’s and Chairo Christian Schools. I hope all of the children enjoy the day competing and cheering for their individual houses.

Staff are looking forward to Parent-Teacher interviews which begin next week. These are an opportunity for you to let your child’s teacher know about your child and what might help them to get to know them better or assist their learning. Staff will also provide you with some information about how your child has settled into school life.

I look forward to continuing working with you and your child on their learning journey.

Michelle
Child Safety Updates

We are all aware of the importance of keeping our children safe whilst using the many forms of technology that are available to them. Our Grade 2-6 students and their parents this year signed an agreement with the school stating their commitment to using technology safely and responsibly whilst at school. To follow on from this we have recently been given some useful guidelines to help you keep your child cyber safe.

- Supervise your child’s internet access
- Implement safety tools to limit access to certain content, websites and activities
- Talk to your child about safe practices on the internet
- Set clear rules about internet use
- Insist that your child does not share personal information via the internet
- Help protect your child from offensive pop-ups by using a built in pop-up blocker
- Keep internet connected-computers in an open area where activity can be easily monitored
- Encourage your child to talk to you if something or someone is making them feel upset or uncomfortable whilst on the internet

BRIGHT SPARKS NEWS

A huge congratulations to all of the families who got together and thought about how our school expectations of respect, caring and responsibility looks in their homes and entered our ‘feather raffle’. It was very exciting to see the Crocker family take home the special prize for this competition. We also had a colour in competition across the school, with winners in each level. So, well done to everyone for having a go, but in particular Ava, Bethany and Bella who made a terrific contribution and won prizes for their work.

Next week we have a new competition that you might want to get started over the weekend. It will be judged NEXT THURSDAY, so your entry needs to be given in at the office by the end of Thursday 23rd February. Read the back page to see how you can join in this competition.

This week we are concentrating on what caring looks like, feels like and sounds like. We encourage our community to join with us as we try hard to use caring words, share our time and space to show we care and to take time to care for those around us and make sure they know that they are cared for. If you could take some time to share with your children ways they can show they care and notice when they do this at home, our kids will learn much quicker what caring looks like in our world. We look forward to hearing how caring happens at home.

Expressions of Interest for 2018 Enrolment

We are now taking expressions of interest for 2018 enrolments. If you have a child looking at starting with us next year please contact the office for a form. If you know of any families outside of the school community who may be interested in this please let them know to contact the school for more information.

2017 PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Following the P & F AGM last week we would like to welcome the new committee and thank them for giving their valuable time and support to help our school.

The 2017 committee:
President - Tracey Gollop
Vice President - Danielle Fowles
Secretary - Melissa Donohue
Assistant Secretary - Kate Zuidema
Treasurer - Belinda Egan
Uniform "gurus" Cate Minchin and Melissa Wanklyn
General committee - Lucy Evangelista and Rachel Cochrane

This year it has been decided to put together a social committee to relieve some of the burden from the main committee and hopefully come up with some great activities to build a relationship between members of our school.

The Social Committee consists of- Misty Helps, Lucy Evangelista, Sinead deGooyer, Kate Zuidema, Helena Kearns, Jess Cook and Mindy Hams.

It’s not too late to join either of these committees, just put your hand up and we will be happy to have you. Many hands make light work.
KORUMBURRA SHOW

A big congratulations to all students who entered art work into the Korumburra show. A special mention to some prize winning and highly commended entries:

Puppets
Cilla Strentz—3rd Prize

Photography:
Kylah James—1st Prize
Nash Motton—Highly Commended and 2nd Prize
Keegan Brown - Highly Commended

Junior Art
Noah Christensen—1st Prize
Marley Walker—Highly Commended
Kylah James—Highly Commended
Mikayla Cester—Highly Commended

Handwriting
Ky Gow—2nd Prize
Heidi Nicholas—Highly Commended
Kasey Sage—Highly Commended

Kylah James also received the prize for best entry overall for her photography, this is an amazing achievement and we would like to congratulate Kylah.

These prizes will be handed out on Monday 20th February at our 9am Assembly if parents would like to attend.

FOUNDATION/1

Foundation/1 students are off to a great start, last week all the Foundation children met their Grade Six buddy. It was a very exciting occasion. Our buddies will be a wonderful support throughout the year. Below is a picture of Liam and Noah learning together.

We are currently working together on number patterns and sounds. It is wonderful to see how settled and happy everyone is and we thank all families for supporting our smooth transition.

AWARD WINNERS AND BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to all of our award winners for the past fortnight. Keep up the great work!
Sparky is a fun loving budgie who knows how to be respectful, caring and responsible. He is beautifully coloured in yellow, blue and green feathers. This week’s competition is about making or drawing your own Sparky. You could make a puppet, soft toy, paper construction, piñata, cross-stitch, collage, painting or a lovely drawing to enter, use your imagination to make a gorgeous creation of Sparky. Attach your name and grade to your entry and bring it to school by Thursday 23rd of February for your chance to win!

Prizes to be won!!

Our school has joined the ‘Parenting Ideas’ website as a way to create a Parent-school partnership with our families. The concept was created by Michael Grose and is aimed at helping Parents and schools interact, deal with and assist children in their learning and everyday life. Through this we will receive handy articles and tips which we will pass on to parents. This is a wonderful resource and parents can also join by visiting www.parentingideas.com.au

This fortnights article: Make this year your child’s best ever at school
By Michael Grose

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are five ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

1. **Commit to your child going to school every day on time.** One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

2. **Help kids start each day well.** A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have plenty of time to get up, eat and get ready for the day.

3. **Establish work & study habits.** The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a work routine that matches.

4. **Make sure your child gets enough sleep.** Many children and young people are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their wellbeing and their learning. A good night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bedtime and get-up time each day. Have a 45-minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. **Insist kids exercise.** The old saying about ‘a healthy body and a healthy mind’ is so true. Exercise releases the chemicals needed for learning and wellbeing. Yet kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage your child to play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of their daily lives.