This week is SASS Recognition Week, a very important week for our school administrative and support staff: from our administration manager (Miss Kathy) and officers (Miss Ruth and Miss Linda) to our general assistant (Mr Baxter) and student learning and support officers (Miss Christina, Miss Dana and Miss Marianne in our preschool and Miss Connie, Miss Doreen and Uncle Bruce in our K-6 section of the school). This is the week to recognise the role that these school staff members play in combining with the work of the teachers to ensure all students are provided with the greatest possible opportunity to reach their full potential. Please join us in showing our gratitude for the work that they do each and every day.

What a pity I missed the Book Week Parade. I heard that it was amazing as always, thanks to the hard work of Mrs Rajah, our librarian, and the teachers who support her. Thank you also to the many families and friends, and to the P&C, for helping us celebrate this very special event on our school calendar. Please enjoy the many photos that adorn our newsletter today.

We are well into the rhythm of our new awards system, with star awards and bronze and silver certificates being well-earned by our many respectful, responsible learners. As part of our new student wellbeing policy, we ran a competition among our students for a logo to go with it.

Congratulations to Alexia in 4W for winning the Positive Behaviours for Learning logo competition, as voted for by our staff and students. Alexia’s logo will be used in all of our accompanying student wellbeing procedures and documentation.

Today, we held our Father’s Day Stall thanks to the dedication and hard work of our P&C. I hope that all of the special men in our students’ lives enjoy the gifts that were bought for them and that you at least get breakfast in bed on Sunday.

We have begun our enrolment process for 2016 including conducting interviews for incoming Kindergarten students. It is not too late though if you know someone who is yet to enrol their child into our school. With the Kindergarten orientation program starting on the 14th of October, I would encourage any and all parents who are considering enrolling their child to do so before the end of this term (18th of September) so that the transition to “big school” is as smooth as possible.

Have a great week.

Helen Empacher
Principal
Congratulations to the winners of our 2015 Book Week Parade

Sanjana - PSB
Nabil - PSC
Helena - KD
Bryon - KK
Aholelei - KR
Yaren - 1L
Madison - 1S
Emily - 1Z
Fred - 2K
Chase - 2PG
Litia - 3M
Jack - 3/4D
Jacinta - 4W
Ijlal - 5C
Katlyn - 5M
Rutene - 6D
ARTWORK BY 2PG

Our budding artists have been hard at work creating their masterpieces!
What Makes A Good Book For Children?

At a glance

✓ The best way to choose a good book is through your child.
✓ Good books teach kids things subtly while still telling a great story.
✓ Good books are authentic, credible and captivating.
✓ Resist the desire to choose only books you read as a kid.
✓ Don’t worry if the words appear hard; this exposes kids to more complex language in context.
✓ Books with vivid imagery, exciting stories and strong characters will not only entertain your child but set them up to enjoy reading for the rest of their life.

What makes a good book for young kids? Any book they want to read.

“Choosing to read over choosing not to read is the most important aspect of introducing your kids to the world of books,” says primary school teacher Rosie Charles.

However, just as there are guidelines about how often fast food should be served to kids in comparison with wholesome nutritional food, so it is with books.

What is a good children’s book?

Good children’s books share qualities with good adult novels, Rosie says.

“Firstly, quality writing is never boring. Good children’s books, no matter how simple or complex, have a sense of joy. They can make us laugh and cry. Regardless of how young, readers need strong characters who they can relate to and care about.”

Good books also teach kids things subtly while still telling a great story.

For example, in The Very Hungry Caterpillar, kids learn about numbers, fruit and days of the week, but it’s hardly noticed because they have fallen in love with the illustrations and their newly discovered ability to predict what is going to happen next.

Good stories allow kids to explore other worlds and other lives but they are still familiar enough that they see themselves in the characters.

“The best way to know if it is a good book for your child is through your child,” Rosie says.

“Allow them to reject the books they dislike and encourage them to tell you what it is they do like in others,” she says.

Choosing good books for your kids

Children’s author and creative writing lecturer Libby Gleeson says when choosing a good book for your kids, parents should “resist the desire to only feed their children the books they loved when they were young”.

“The world has changed and children have changed,” Libby says.

“Expose them to books you thought were fabulous as a kid, but don’t be too precious. Quite often kids will reject it precisely because you’ve offered it – they want to find something for themselves.”

Instead, get to know your child’s teacher librarian or join a public library to expand the repertoire of books you know about, or seek out award-winning children’s book lists and those from the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Good books have several characteristics. These include being:

✓ Authentic
✓ Credible
✓ Captivating
✓ Exciting

“Good literature tends to have layers and depth to it, which is constantly rewarding.” Libby Gleeson - children’s author

Great stories also use language that is rich and challenging, she adds.

“By that I mean often in a children’s book there will be words that a kid doesn’t know. That doesn’t matter because that’s how you actually learn more complex language – by reading books that contain it so you are exposed to it in context.”
As part of their learning for the unit of work entitled Material World, Years 3 and 4 students have been creating a product using recycled or reusable materials. Here they are weaving a basket out of recycled cardboard and reused wool, and sewing bags and pouches out of old t-shirts or tea towels. They are very proud of themselves and rightly so!

I would like my child ________________________________ in class ____________ to attend the Breakfast Club on:

☐ Monday    ☐ Tuesday    ☐ Wednesday    ☐ Thursday    ☐ Friday

Please tick which days you would like your child to attend.

I understand that my child will be served only cereal (with milk if required), toast, fruit and non-nut spreads. Special needs of my child of which you should be aware (eg allergies, medication):

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signed: .............................................................................................. Date: .................................................................

( Parent or Caregiver)