Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Students

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

**Moderating Student Work**
Yesterday, our Northview teachers joined with teachers from Glenella and Mackay North Primary to share student writing samples. The purpose of this session was to ensure that a “C” or “Sound” standard of work here at Northview, is equivalent to a “C” standard at the other schools. Ensuring consistency in our standards and expectations of student work is an important ingredient in our endeavour to continually improve student learning outcomes.

**Congratulations to Signing Choir**
A big thank you and congratulations to Mrs Ely and our signing choir who performed at the opening ceremony of the Queensland Girls Cricket Championships on Sunday. Well done to Anne Borg, Conrad’s mum, who sang the National Anthem for the choir – what a hidden talent!

**Road Safety Week**
This week is “Road Safety Week”. Police will be targeting the Fatal Five – Distraction and inattention, failure to wear seat belts, speeding, driving while fatigued and drink/drug driving.

For Road Safety Week police are also encouraging all motorists to travel with their headlights on at all times of day and night to aid with the visibility of their vehicles.

Road safety around the school is paramount particularly at drop off and pick up times. We are asking parents to be vigilant, watch their speed in school zones and not to impede the flow of traffic during these times.

Stay safe everyone!

**School Levy**
Just a reminder that invoices have been issued to parents for our school resource levy of $30. The resource levy assists our school in the purchase of additional resources including (computer software for learning, Connect text book, USB). If parents could finalise payment of this levy as soon as possible, we can then begin the process of purchasing the necessary items for student use. Thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

For any parents that have already paid the levy this year, please disregard this invoice and a receipt will be issued to you shortly.

MAR 28     Date Claimer P&C Quiz Night

**WIN a set of 10 iPads!**
Collect as many tokens as you can to help your child’s school WIN!

A token will be published in the paper every day from Saturday February 22 until Monday March 31 and the school with the most tokens at the end of the 5-week promotion, WINS the set of ten iPads!

What’s great about this promotion is that all schools stand an equal chance of winning, as we’ll pro-rata entries across the number of enrolled students to determine the winner.

START COLLECTING FROM THIS SATURDAY

FOUND:
Ladies Glasses & Gift Card
Contact Admin to claim
2014 National Day of Action against Bullying

Our school has registered to be part of the 2014 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, being held nationwide on Friday, 21 March.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (National Day of Action) is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools. It’s a day where school communities across Australia ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence.

Northview SS is dedicated to creating supportive school environments, free from bullying, harassment and violence. By working together we are sending a clear message to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside of school, are not okay at any time.

To recognise this day, we are asking students to wear odd socks (and shoes if they prefer) on Friday 21st March. Students have also been given a “Bullying, No Way” wrist band to wear this week.

The National Day of Action is an initiative of all Australian Education Ministers and is coordinated by the Safe and Supportive School Communities (SSSC) Working Group, with representatives from all Australian educational authorities.

The SSSC is also responsible for the Bullying. No Way! website which offers practical resources and information to help schools, parents and students counter bullying, harassment and violence.

Also available on the site is the Take a Stand iPhone app, to keep tips and advice on dealing with bullying close at hand, as well as The Alien Adventure iPad app, designed for children under 8 years.

Download these free apps now in the Student’s section of www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

We will keep you informed about our plans and activities to celebrate the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday, 21 March 2014.

Paul Manttan
(Principal)

Year 7 Sydney/Canberra Fundraiser

In today’s newsletter you will find a Hot Cross Bun order form. We are hoping each family will support our Fundraiser to help us raise money for the Year 6/7 children towards their trip. Forms and money are due back next Wednesday the 26th March clearly marked Fundraiser. Please place in the office SLOT. Hot Cross Buns will be delivered before the holidays on Wednesday the 2nd April.

ICY CUPS- For Sale Friday

The Year 6/7 classes will be selling icy cups from the Tuckshop EVERY Friday for 50c. All money raised will go towards the Canberra Trip.

Any parents that are available any Friday from 2.45pm to help out please just come into the Tuckshop. Thanks.

QUICK NEWS

QUIZ NIGHT

We still need bar staff! The more the better. The shorter rotations will be – 20 minutes each! Easy when it’s shared. Please call/text Wendy 0437 796 823 or 0478 887 655 to put you name on the helper list. Otherwise drink service will be slow – can’t have that!

See the flyer included with this newsletter. What a great night it’s going to be! Heaps of GREAT prizes from $30 to $100 vouchers, plus many product gifts AND almost $1000 in lucky door prizes!!! So many prizes the odds are in your favor to win something as it all, except the winning quiz team prize, will be drawn randomly. The winning quiz team receives a huge prize they can break up and share between team members fairly! BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW DON’T MISS OUT – phone Wendy on 0437 796 823. Teams of 6 or 8 recommended but we can take smaller groups of 2, 3 or 4 and combine with others.

URGENT REQUEST:
If anyone has 5-10 litre round ice-cream buckets with handles. Could you please donate them to the school by Friday 21st March.

P&C NEWS:
PHONE 0478 887 655
OR EMAIL
PANDC@NORTHVIES.EQ.EDU.AU

Moranbah Q Autism Workshop - no cost event

Teachers, Health Professionals, Carers, Families

Nelle Frances will be in Moranbah Q from 20th March to 23rd March, delivering a number of workshops and events.

These events have been generously sponsored by local stakeholders so they may be provided to the community free of charge.

Nelle will host a Dad’s Session on Thursday night from 6pm to 9pm at the Moranbah Workers Club.

On Saturday Nelle will host her full day Sensory Detective Workshop, which gives participants and vivid insight into the subtle intricacies of Autism and Asperger’s Syndrome.

If you live with, work or care for individuals with Autism/ Asperger’s Syndrome you won’t want to miss this amazing opportunity.

To register ring 07 4946 5438 or email carol.clancy@communities.qld.gov.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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The Quiz Night Twist!!!
Parents and Guardians of Northview students – when booking your table please advise which classes you represent as your child’s/rens classrooms will receive a prize!!! This prize will be an IT ‘gadget’ to use in the classroom. Your name will also go into the draw for a prize on the following Monday parade! Be at parade on Monday 24th March to find out more………………

The support from our local businesses has been amazing. We can’t thank them enough! Our major sponsors are listed on our flyer, but we also have the following minor sponsors to thank:

- Whitsunday Biscuit Factory
- Skye’s Pet Minding
- Dupuy's Pharmacy
- Northern Beaches Leagues Club
- Suncrest
- Sanity

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Unfortunately a quorum was not present to hold the AGM on Monday 17th March. The AGM has been adjourned to Monday 24th March, 9.30am after parade in the hall conference room. We need 7 members present to hold the AGM. Please attend – don’t be scared!

A NOTE FROM THE P&C PRESIDENT ABOUT THE AGM
We were just one member short on Monday. But those present were not interested or able to take on the role of President anyway. Please note that the committee currently consists of Secretary Mrs Donna Sanim and Treasurer Mrs Monal Ghosal and they are willing to nominate themselves again and I wholeheartedly support their nominations. Donna has been awesome to work with. She is organized, reliable, honourable and has genuine best interests for the school as a whole. Monal is fairly new to the committee and this type of role but has taken on the challenge with relish. These are great co-executives to have on your side.

It is a difficult decision for me to step down, but just like most people I have a limit to how much time I can spare and where I direct my energy. Having already served one year as Treasurer and two years as President consecutively, it is time for me to take a break to focus on my part-time university study. I also think it is good for the school to have a change in P&C leadership and perspective. I have loved being an office bearer.

It has allowed me to grow in many ways. As a stay at home Mum with an itch to go back to work but not wanting to commit to an employer, the flexibility of P&C duties have been the perfect remedy. You get to work with fellow caring parents and all the staff of the school are fantastic too.

I understand that we all have busy lives and for many there just isn’t time left. But in a school of 350 students there must be one or two more parents who can find time to chair a monthly meeting, sign cheques/make eft payments once a month, delegate jobs, if there isn’t anyone to delegate to then it can’t happen. Simple. These are the absolute bear minimum of duties to be done. If we are lucky we get someone with a desire to work with the school to achieve its goals. Mr Manttan and staff are a great collection of professionals that will work together with the P&C.

I have not experienced any difficult situations as the school staff are able to manage those in house as it should be.

Please think about giving the role of President or Vice President a go:
You get a mobile phone to use for P&C business only (fully loaded with contacts)
You can have the meetings whenever it suits the committee – change them to night-time!
There is $44000 in the bank account to work with.
There is a wealth of knowledge in the parents who help out on various events. If you want my help I will give it.
There is a fantastic Tuckshop Convenor absolutely humming along at a very high standard – you won’t find a better worker or anyone else with Mel’s level of job commitment.

If there is still no President and Vice President on Monday 24th, then the P&C will have to go into ‘caretaker mode’ which means The P&C management will be handed over to the Principal. This means we no longer have a united voice in our school, fundraising events could be frozen or cancelled (ie mother’s day is on the horizon – kids could be disappointed) and we overload our Principal. Don’t let this happen. Have a go and make it what you want. Everyone will respect you for trying, they will support you and you may just surprise yourself. I did.

Regards,

Wendy Batley
What is Autism?
We are very lucky to have such a diverse student population at Northview which not only includes students from a variety of cultures, but also students with disabilities and vulnerabilities.
Each and every child with Autism has their own personality, interests and obsessions, fears and dislikes – no two are the same. This makes Autism not an easy condition to understand.

One of the least known traits of autism among the general public is “sensory issues”. This is where the ordinary sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of everyday that you may not even notice can be very painful to these kids. They can have extremely acute hearing and will feel real pain and anxiety over loud noises. Fluorescent lights can seem overly bright and pulsating and again to the hearing sensitive, will appear to buzz and hum. Their sense of smell can be so sensitive that they may feel sick or heave over something a typical person would hardly notice.

Too many sounds, smells, light and movement can push the body into “overload” and these kids can feel very overwhelmed and often want to “flee” all the confusion. Thus shopping trips are often a disaster for these kids.

Touch – another of the senses can also be very sensitive. Someone may accidentally lightly bump a child with autism in a queue and they will think you have deliberately “hit” them! Yet at other times they can have amazing pain tolerance and will not think of telling you they have a blazing temperature or a chronic ear infection!

An easy and brief description to explain to other children is that these kids’ brains are wired differently. Where the normal interaction between the left and right side of the brain occurs – it is quite different for the child with autism. It is as if the wires just don’t quite meet and as a result there are lots of problems.

Language can be a real problem. Most kids with autism have hearing tests that come back perfect – it’s not the hearing that’s the problem it’s the processing that is a real battle. If you call across a room to a child it can sound like another language to them – with all the other sensory distractions that are possibly there. If you want to be clearly understood you often need to stand directly in their line of vision and speak in as simple and direct terms as possible. Kids with autism are concrete thinkers – this means they interpret language literally. It can be very confusing if it was said, “Hold your horses!” when you mean to stop running or something is a “piece of cake” when there’s no dessert in sight. As a result, simple jokes and sarcasm can be completely lost on these kids – they will be very easily “sucked in” and prepared to believe everything you say.

Kids with autism lack the ability to “pre-think of possible danger” before attempting an activity. They can be fearless climbers, fascinated with roads and other dangerous places and simply not think at all about the consequences of their actions. A classic example is what happened recently when a 14 yr old boy rode to Sydney from Brisbane, sleeping under bridges, etc, not thinking of possible risks!

These kids love routine and predictability and can get very distressed if they don’t know what’s happening next. This explains their difficulty in play situations where they often “sucked in” and prepared to believe everything you say. Kids with autism lack the ability to “pre-think of possible danger” before attempting an activity. They can be fearless climbers, fascinated with roads and other dangerous places and simply not think at all about the consequences of their actions. A classic example is what happened recently when a 14 yr old boy rode to Sydney from Brisbane, sleeping under bridges, etc, not thinking of possible risks!

When totally overwhelmed or upset these kids can have what is called a “meltdown”. Basically it’s like a tantrum, blow-up or whatever you like to call it, but it’s like a final release of a pressure valve and once it’s started, there is not much you can do. Trying to reason with them when they’ve reached this stage is impossible. The best thing to do is redirect them to a quiet place as quickly and calmly as possible and let them do a favourite activity to help them get over their “blow-up”. Parents and carers over time will quickly begin to recognise the “rumbling stages”, early signs that a meltdown is coming and will often redirect to a
calming activity to prevent the meltdown occurring. Eventually these kids can learn to “take a break” and calm themselves down if they feel they are getting overwhelmed.

And finally, as with every child – if we focus and build on what these kids can do and not what they can’t do – positive encouragement will do far more than criticism and these kids can blossom and become awesome adults if we give them a chance.

“Don’t DIS my ABILITY!

When things go wrong at school
Submitted by: Michael Grose
4 March

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence.

During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there’s been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children’s grievances. This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all-important teacher-parent relationship.

Here’s a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Stay calm and rational
   It’s natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they’ve come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Get the all facts
   Once you’ve calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there’s a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can’t see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It’s the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. Assess whether to go to school or not
   Kids, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope.
   If your child has a recurring problem that he can’t solve himself, or you think adult intervention maybe needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child’s teacher or year level coordinator.

4. Go through the right channels
   Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child’s teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it’s often easier to approach them directly.

5. Look for solutions rather than blame
   Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child’s teacher as an ally, not a foe. “I’m really worried about Jeremy. He’s been acting strangely lately and I need some help” is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what’s best for your child.
   Listen to your teacher’s viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6. Stay in touch
   Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can’t be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child’s teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other.

Parenting is easy when things are going well, but testing when your children struggle or experience difficulty. Stepping back and taking a long-term, reflective view is often the best approach when your child experiences difficulty at school.