PRINCIPAL NEWS - Sandra Perrett – Acting Principal

It is great to be back at Proserpine State School after being away for just over a week. During last week, I attended the Principal’s Conference in Townsville and I had lots of colleagues ask how it was going at Proserpine. It was lovely to be able to tell everyone what a great school Proserpine is, how wonderful the staff are and how great the students are.

Reading – Don’t say ‘sound it out’

Throughout this term, a large part of my time has been directed towards running training sessions for teachers, teacher aides and parents. The latest session I ran for staff was called “Don’t Say ‘Sound it Out!’”.

What is wrong with saying ‘sound it out’? We use very specific prompts that children learn to use independently that should work consistently in most cases. Even if they don’t work, they don’t create further confusions. Unfortunately, this is not the case with ‘sound it out’. Children cannot use ‘sound it out’ on every word and probably not even on every second word. It doesn’t work on too many words, so it will cause confusion. When children need to decode, using the sounds within the word, it is more effective to say
- “What does it start with?” (make sure the child tells you the first sound or sounds, up to but not including the vowel)
- “Can you say more than that?” (if necessary, show the child the rime (vowel and consonant that follows the onset)
- “Is the end right?”

If we are all on the same page, saying the same things, it is our children that will be the beneficiaries.

Contagious Diseases

Earlier this week, we had a case of chicken pox and a case of slapped cheek (Parvovirus B19) reported.

Parvovirus B19

Description

Parvovirus B19 infection, also know as fifth disease, erythema infectiosum or slapped cheek syndrome, is a viral infection that only affects humans. Outbreaks of the infection are common in preschool and young school aged children. Studies have shown that more than 50% of adults have been infected with parvovirus B19 at some time and therefore have lifelong immunity. Parvovirus B19 is not the same condition as dog ‘parvo’.

Symptoms

Ill children typically have a "slapped-cheek" rash on the face. There is also often a lacy red rash on the body, arms and legs, which may occasionally be itchy. This rash fades but can reappear over the next few weeks on exposure to sunlight or heat (eg. in the bath). Children are not usually very ill and some may have no symptoms at all.

In adults who are infected there may be no rash, or it may not be like that typically seen in children. Adults may get joint paint or swelling, which usually settles in a week or two but can last longer. There may be no symptoms at all.

The time from contact with the virus to the development of symptoms varies from 4 to 20 days.

A doctor can often diagnose fifth disease by seeing the typical rash during a physical examination. In cases in which it is important to confirm the diagnosis, a blood test can be done to look for antibodies to parvovirus B19.

Excluding children or adults with parvovirus B19 infection from work, child care centres, schools, or other settings is unlikely to prevent spread, since people are contagious before they develop the characteristic rash.

Chickenpox

Description

Chickenpox (varicella) is a highly contagious disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus.

Symptoms

The disease starts with cold-like symptoms such as a mild fever, headache, runny nose and cough. A day or two later a rash begins, starting as small pink blotches but rapidly progressing to itchy blisters which usually last three to four days before drying out and turning into scabs.

Transmission

Chickenpox is spread through coughing, sneezing and direct contact with the fluid in the blisters of the rash. The dry scabs are not infectious. Since shingles blisters also contain the virus, a person who has never had chickenpox can become infected with chickenpox from someone who has shingles.

An individual with chickenpox is infectious for about one to two days before the onset of the rash and until the blisters have all scabbled, usually four to five days. The usual time between contact with the virus and developing the illness is about 14 to 16 days, although sometimes it can take longer.

Control

People with chickenpox should be excluded from childcare facilities, schools or work for at least five days after the rash first appears or until dry scabs have replaced all blisters. Any contacts with lowered immunity, such as those with leukaemia, should be immediately excluded and referred for specialist advice.
PREP ENROLMENTS BEING TAKEN NOW
Attention all families who have children eligible for Prep in 2014 (born 1 June 2008 to 30 June 2009). To secure your place for Prep 2014 and also in Proserpine State School’s “Getting ready for Prep” program (starting Friday 6 September 9:30 am-10:30 am) complete and return an enrolment form. Enrolment forms are available at the school office.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – SEMESTER 2
This semester you will be able to book your parent teacher interview online. An explanation letter will be out this week. Please contact the school if you have any inquires.

FOOTSTEPS – DANCE LESSONS
In the week before the holidays students from Year 1 – 7 will be participating in Footsteps dance program. These lessons will culminate in a Disco being organised for Thursday night at the Multi-purpose complex. This cost of this dance program will be funded by the Student Resource Scheme.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER
The religious education coordinator is looking for a RE teacher for Year 1. If you are interested please contact the school. You must have a blue card.

GUBBULAMUNDA – THE RAINBOW SERPENT
Plans are in progress to paint the mural of Gubbulamunda on the Prep shed. Mr Payne, our Elders and a group of students are keen to show us their artistic skills. You will be able to watch the progression of the mural on our website/facebook.

CURRICULUM MATTERS
Being a Learner means acquiring skills, as well as developing knowledge and understanding. To maximise potential, our students need to learn to be organised; a skill which will stand them in good stead throughout the remainder of their lives in a range of contexts. Teachers help kids get organised by reminding them of tasks, providing visuals such as a daily programme, and ensuring that they always have the resources required.

How can parents and carers help their kids acquire organisational skills? Some examples may include the following. Train our children to:

- Empty their own port at the end of each school day, placing the lunch box on the kitchen bench
- Make sure they have everything they need for the next day eg homework, library book, hat
- Put clean socks in the shoes to be worn tomorrow.

Parents and carers could:

- Involve the kids in preparing their own lunches so that independence is developed as they move from Prep to Year 7.
- This is SO helpful for working parents!
- Check in with their children about whether they need new lead pencils, rubber, glue etc
- Display the Calendar of Events from the school newsletter on the fridge with relevant dates and activities highlighted.

To quote an annoying hair product advertisement, (insert whiny voice) “It won’t happen overnight, but it will happen.” AND it will most definitely help your kids to be better learners.

Lee-Anne Dougherty - Head Of Curriculum

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES
This week the leadership team was fortunate to participate in the Quality Schools Inclusive Leadership professional development.

During the two days of face-to-face professional learning with Professor Loretta Giorcelli, school leaders examined the practices required to establish effective differentiation and inclusion in every classroom, every day. Participant program outcomes include enhancing understandings and leadership abilities with regard to the notion that inclusion is a continuing school-wide process, not a one-off event.

Following this, school teams researched the development and implementation of evidence-based processes that promote inclusive education and recognise quality teaching and classroom practices that achieve personal learning goals and are responsive to diverse learning needs.

A strong emphasis on the development of research-validated, whole-school pedagogical practices underpins the program. Participants were equipped with skills and knowledge to work towards the following indicators:

1. Curriculum planning and delivery are conducted by teams of teachers who share expertise and co-deliver whenever possible to give students the best range of creative learning opportunities.
2. Teachers facilitate and participate in the learning process.
3. School-wide assessment and reporting is based on evidence-based and effective practices.
4. A whole of school commitment to professional learning and active contribution to educational research and development.

Dr Giorcelli has co-written a wonderful resource for educating students with disabilities in mainstream classes which can be viewed at http://hcweb2.org/pip/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/dest08-inclusionteacherresource.pdf

Deb Raiteri - Acting Head of Special Education Services

SCHOOLWIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT
At assembly on Tuesday, I shared with the students a quote that I had read in the Sunday paper – “You don’t have to catch every ball that is thrown at you.” This analogy could have a variety of interpretations, but I used the way that we communicate with each other for my example. I said to the students that when positive remarks are made it is great to catch the ball and give a good return ball back. However, if negative remarks are thrown we should try to deflect the ball and let it go out of play – that is, ignore and walk away. If we choose to catch the negative ball and throw it back harder, conflict inevitably arises. Alternatively if we catch the negative ball and hold it we can start to internalise those negative remarks and our self-esteem plummets. Being perceptive and resilient enough to deflect life’s curve balls is critical for good mental health and self-esteem and it is the responsibility of parents and teachers to promote these qualities in our children. The Kidsmatter program that is being introduced into the school as well as “The Friends” program both promote resilience and good mental health.

Ann Gardel – Behaviour Management Teacher.

SPORTS NEWS
Recently a large contingent of Proserpine State students participated in the Whitsunday Athletics Trials at Cannonvale.

The sportsmanship, effort and behaviour of our Proserpine School students was excellent. Congratulations to the following students who were selected in the Whitsunday Athletics Team following the recent trials at Cannonvale:
Mrs O'Brien
“Jeans for Genes” stationery packs still for sale
All money raised through the 3rd prize Ralph Lauren Cologne Pack (redeemable)
1st prize 2 grandstand tickets to Cowboys v Tigers game (Saturday 7th September) + 2 Howdy hats
28 students from Years 5, 6 & 7 will be attending a 3 day choral camp at Beaconsfield State School from Wednesday 11 September
THE BIG SING
This small but enthusiastic group is preparing to sing at the Flower Show on Tuesday at parade as a rehearsal for their big performance on Saturday 7 September at the Uniting Church Flower Show. On the Saturday we will meet in the foyer of the Entertainment Centre at 10.15 ready for a 10.30 start. The theme is “The Emerald City” so it would be nice if your child/children could wear something green in their free dress.
After the Flower Show we will split the choir into Year 3 & Year 2 to practise for the Eisteddfod. Please start to look out for black shoes for your child to wear in Mackay on stage.

4/5 CHOIR
This choir is working very hard at perfecting two very tricky pieces of music for the Eisteddfod. They will perform these for the school next term. Again, black shoes are needed for the performance in Mackay.

6/7 CHOIR
This small but enthusiastic group is preparing to sing at the Flower Show at 11.30pm. It’s amazing what these students can do with a cup!

AWARDS
- Attendance Award – 5/6J0
- Attendance Award – 1JB

Contact PSS: 33 Renwick Road Proserpine Q 4800
Ph: 07 4940 6333 Fax: 07 4945 1497
Email: the.principal@proserpiness.eq.edu.au
Website: proserpiness.eq.edu.au
**SCHOOL ORGANISATION**

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**
Ensure you have given your email address to the school for the distribution of our eNewsletter next term.

**SCHOOL BANKING TRIAL TERM 3 – Commonwealth Bank**
When: Tuesdays from 8:30 – 9:00am for deposits.
Where: Multi-Purpose Complex

Who: Open to all interested students (Student banking packs available at banking times)

Why: P & C Initiative – Facilitator - Mrs Kylie Edmondson – queries taken at banking times only.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**BreastScreen**
Queensland’s Digital Mobile Unit
Will be located at the Proserpine Hospital Grounds, Herbert St

Proserpine 3rd September – 17th September 2013
Women 40 years and over are eligible to join the BreastScreen Queensland Program

Phone 13 20 50 for your free BreastScreen appointment.

**Flower Show**
Saturday 07 September 2013
Proserpine Entertainment Centre
10am to 2:30pm
Entry: Adults $3; Children under 14 free
Plenty of stalls, flower displays and entertainment
Come for lunch or a cuppa!

**White Balloon Day – Friday 6th September**
8:30am – 5:30 pm  Centro Whitsunday
Help raise awareness for Child Protection Week

**Proserpine Dance Party**
Ages 12 – 17 (Please bring school ID)
Friday 6 September – 6:00 – 8.30pm
Prizes and games from 6pm
Dance starts 6:30pm
Uniting Church Hall – Herbert St, Proserpine
No pass outs
$1 sausage sizzle
Canteen purchases also available
Prizes for best camouflage outfit
Whitsunday Youth Committee  Whit Regional Council
PCYC  Fauts IGA  Proserpine Pharmacy

**Supply of parent email address for electronic newsletter**
Please fill out and return to the school office ASAP.

Email address: _________________________________  Student name: _________________________________
Parent name: ____________________________________________