Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I recently read this article by Michael Grose and would like to share it with you today.

**Be careful what you wish for as a parent**

The focus on success and achievement doesn’t have to come at the expense of our children’s empathy and wellbeing. What would you wish for? A caring child or a successful child? If pressed to choose, which would you prefer? If you were like the parents of kids in a recent study you’d go for successful rather than caring. In a fascinating Harvard study referred to in a recent Age article, 10,000 kids were asked whether achievement and success, rather than caring for others, were their parents’ main priorities. The kids overwhelmingly said their parents opted for success rather than caring.

I suspect Australian kids would come up with a similar response if asked. In my work with parents and schools over nearly 40 years I’ve never seen the educational and parenting landscape so competitive as it is today. The standard belief of ‘Everyone can get ahead and be successful’ has been replaced by ‘my child needs to get ahead and be successful.’ Parents rightly will go to great lengths to make sure their kids don’t get left behind, but now academic success increasingly means achieving at any cost. Even at the expense of a child’s well-being, and in extreme cases, at the expense of other children’s success.

**A sign of the times:** This is very different from even a generation ago when caring and respect for others were drummed into kids. “Do the right thing by others”; “Respect your elders”; “Take good care of each other” were common mantras that many of today’s parents grew up hearing.

Now that these kids have become parents themselves they use achievement mantras rather than the empathetic statements they were raised on. “Always do your best”; “Think confident thoughts”; “Set your goals and work hard to achieve them” are typical of the comments that kids hear in today’s more competitive environment.

The price of success at all costs: Washington Post parenting writer Ashley Trexler argues that putting happiness and success before caring and empathy is raising a generation of bullies. She claims that parents unknowingly encourage bullying through their focus on success at all costs, as kids are being encouraged to pursue power at the expense of empathetic behaviour.

**We can have both:** This is a controversial view based on the assumption that you can have either successful kids or caring kids. I believe you can have both. Parents and teachers can encourage kids to achieve, but also emphasise the importance of looking out for your mates, and taking care of others. Individual success doesn’t have to come at the expense of well-being and the success of others. It does mean that we need to put caring for others firmly on our parenting agendas. Here are five ways to do this:

1. **School Promise:** I promise to achieve my best at all times. I will be responsible for everything I do, and respect myself, my teachers and all others, as a proud student of Cloyna State School.
1. Develop a language for caring
Parents invariably develop a deep language around the things they value. If caring is important then you need to
develop language for caring (look after your brother; do the right thing; do unto others) just as you have probably
developed a language around success (persist, work hard, do your best).

2. Model caring behaviours
Parents need to model caring, relational behaviours if they want children to develop these behaviours. Positive dis-
plays of intimacy such as a kiss and a hug for every family member as they walk out the door each day is a great
way to teach healthy caring behaviours. It’s the small acts of kindness and caring that happen on a consistent basis
that has the most lasting impact on kids.

3. Focus on co-operation rather than competition
It’s easy to develop competition between kids. As a parent all you need to do is praise one child and criticise anoth-
er and you’ve established the conditions for competition. It’s far harder to develop cooperative behaviours, but it’s
worth the effort. Encourage kids to help each other; ask them to do jobs in pairs so they learn to work together; and
Teach older children to give way to younger children rather than always have their own way. Caring kids learn that
not everything goes their way and that they need to compromise and give way to others in the name of being social
and getting on.

4. Encourage nurturing behaviours
In the past families were larger than today and they had a natural advantage in developing caring and empathy.
Elder kids would invariably have to look out for, or look after younger siblings, often at the expense of their own in-
terests. In an era of small families kids have fewer natural opportunities to look after each other. However parents
can develop nurturance by encouraging children to look out for younger friends and relatives; to care for pets and
also to be respectful of older relatives and friends.

5. Pay attention to children’s emotions
Now more than ever it’s important for parents to be attentive to children’s emotional lives, and also to develop an
awareness of their own feelings and the feelings of others. Empathetic kids rarely use power and bullying to get
their own way. Empathy always starts with an awareness of a child’s own emotional state.
As parents we want our kids to grow up to be successful and achieve their full potential. It’s the default position for
most parents. But that doesn’t have to come at the expense of caring for others. In these times of small families
and a more competitive landscape parents need to work harder than ever to develop nurturance, caring and re-
spect for others in kids.

Just a reminder that during the next few weeks you will see maintenance and repairs being carried out around the
school. Please ensure that you remain safe by keeping clear of ongoing works.

Have a great week
Heather Castle

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**Book Week**

Colouring-in competition winners
Madison, Bella, Jorja, Katie

Great costumes for ‘Book week dress-up day’.
NAPLAN

Naplan testing is over for another year. A big thank you to all the teachers who have worked so hard to do everything they can to prepare the students for the Naplan process. Along the way they have always been very conscious of not putting pressure on any student, but to support them to feel as prepared as possible. I am sure all of our students tried their hardest and did their best to overcome the nerves that most of us feel under test conditions. All classes were calm and quiet with most students not appearing at all anxious. To everyone involved – well done! We are proud of all of our students!

School Improvement

Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) – Over the past week the teaching staff have evaluated how we are travelling with our AIP. We used a traffic system to check where we are with each of our strategies. It was pleasing to see how much green was evident in our plan. We can see that our students are growing and progressing in their reading levels and that all students have improved with their number fact recall. As a staff we still need to undertake further Professional Development on providing constructive, regular feedback. We will be accessing the CaPSO officer from Regional office to work with us in this area.

Our GRG strategies are progressing well. We are seeing fantastic results in students’ succeeding academically. One area of our GRG which still needs work is establishing a group of parents and littlies (birth to 5) to meet at the school for a morning of learning. If you are interested in being a part of this and to bring your ideas please see Heather.

Don’t forget that our school improvement agenda for 2015 is:

- Improved reading comprehension
- Becoming better writers with sizzling starts
- Instant recall of number facts

Rewards Excursion—Farm Fest

Wednesday June 3

As a reward to our students we will be taking them on an excursion to Farm Fest at Toowoomba. We will be leaving the school at 7.30am and be back by 5.00pm. There will be no cost to students. Parents, we would love you to come along and help. Bus travel will be free for all adults, we just ask that parents/helpers pay the $5.00 on entry to the Farm Fest.

Please complete the Permission Form and return by Friday May 29.

Family Name: .................................

I give permission for my child/children ............................................................
to travel on the bus and attend Farm Fest on Wednesday June 3.

I will / will not be coming along as a helper.

Signed: ...........................................
Happy Birthday
May
Elijah—25th
Katie—29th
June
Hayden—28

Award Winners

Week 4-Taila, Jack W, Elijah, Heath, Lochlan, Zac, Blade

Week 5-Barry, Jorja, Jack W, Bella, Blade, Lochlan, Katie, Madison, Elijah

Congratulations to all our

School Photos

The orders are in, and are being processed. Photos will be available by the end of the term.

State of Origin Dress-up

This Wednesday May 27, come dressed up in your State of Origin outfit. Please bring a gold coin donation for the Student Council who are fundraising for the school.

Beyond Barambah Music Project

Our cluster of schools is creating a 15 minute Music Documentary called ‘Beyond Barambah’. The documentary will focus on the 9 schools and over 1000 students, looking at what gives each school and community its own separate identity as well as focusing on individual students’ and teachers’ stories. Through music and film this production will highlight the limitless opportunities and challenges presented in this unique and eclectic region; particular focus will be on Murgon High School and looking at success stories from the past and present.

Josh will be here at our school on Tuesday June 2. Thank you to the families who have returned the signed ‘Talent Release’ form but there are a couple of families who have returned the form. Please do so as soon as possible.

When all of the filming and recording has been finalised, there will be an Official Launch of the documentary at a venue in Murgon on Friday 16th July. The documentary is anticipated to be launched on YouTube and other social media on July 16th, 21st and 23rd. You may also see promotions on Facebook prior to these dates.
Parents—please read

SCHOOL DAY
I would like to remind parents that students should not be at school prior to 8:15 if you need to drop them off early please ensure you leave them with a teacher. Students are required to sit in the classroom until 8:15 and then can play from 8:15 to 8:30. At 8:30 we go into the classroom to prepare for the day. Students put away their lunchboxes, hand in their homework, sharpen their pencils and get their books out ready to start the day. At 8:45 the bell rings for parade.

Parade is held every morning and parents are always welcome. Certificates are handed out on parade Monday morning.

PREP ENROLMENT

- Was your child born between 01/07/2010 and 30/06/2011.
- Registrations are not open to enrol for Prep 2016.
- Telephone the office on 41686247

ASTHMA AT CLOYNA
The beginning of a new school year is the busiest time of year for schools due to the new arrival of students and staff. With 1 in 10 children living with asthma, Asthma Foundation Queensland is encouraging schools to ensure they are prepared for their students’ asthma this school year.

How Can My School Be Prepared?

- Provide parents with medical and medication authorisation forms for completion.
- Request an up-to-date Asthma Plan written and signed by the student’s doctor.
- Notify parents if their child required blue/grey reliever medication during school hours.
- Ensure majority of staff are trained in the National Asthma First Aid Procedure

Maintain easy and quick access to blue/grey reliever medication and spacers at all times (including school excursions and camps).

How Can Parents Be Prepared?

- Provide a blue/grey reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin), with the original pharmacy label, and spacer to the school for their child.
- Supply an up-to-date Asthma Plan written and signed by their child’s doctor.
- Complete and return appropriate medical and medication authorisation forms (if required).

Maintain regular communication with school staff, and notify school staff if there is a change in their child’s asthma management.

Poorly controlled asthma, or an asthma flare-up, can have a significant impact on a child’s ability to learn, participate and concentrate at school. In fact, asthma is a leading cause of absenteeism in school students. When asthma is poorly controlled, students are more likely to be easily fatigued and lack concentration. This may cause them to fall behind in school work, and limit their participation in school sport and other curricular activities.

ANAPHYLAXIS AT CLOYNA
We have a student in our school who has a severe allergy and require the use of an EPIPEN to manage their allergic reaction. This student is allergic to nuts including peanuts. While we can’t guarantee that the student will not encounter these items at school we do try to minimise their contact with the allergen. We therefore ask parents to be mindful to minimise the number of nut products that are brought to school, remind your child not to share food and ask their children to wash their hands after consuming any of these products. Anaphylaxis management plans are placed in the classrooms of anaphylactic students to assist teachers, parents and students to become aware of the needs of their fellow student.
REPORTING

At the end of this semester teachers will report formally to parents via the school report card. When teachers report they do so on an A – E standard (Year 3-6; see variations below for Prep-Year 2). Achievement standards indicate the quality of learning students should typically demonstrate by a particular point in their schooling.

Reporting is based on evidence and therefore reports reflect:
judgments about the quality of student learning, based on evidence collected during the reporting period
the student’s most consistent level of achievement with consideration to more recent evidence.

The evidence of each student’s achievement is collected using a range of assessments aligned to the curriculum. It is important to note that under the Australian Curriculum there has been a marked raising of the bar for student achievement standards. Parents and students need to be aware when reading reports and speaking with their child’s teacher, that a student who is completing and understanding the work that is expected in a particular year level is meeting the standard for that year and thus would be awarded a C standard.

Some clarification around the meaning of achievement standards:

A standard: working well above the expected standard for this year level.
B standard: working above the expected standard for this year level.
C standard: working at the expected standard for this year level – this means they are doing everything that they should be doing (this is where most students will be).
D standard: working below the expected standard for this year level.
E standard: working well below the standard for this year level.

If your child receives a ‘C’ standard they are doing everything they should be doing academically. Effort and behaviour levels are an indication of how ‘hard’ your child is working, and the effort your child is putting into class learning. In this standard an ‘A’ tells you that they are working really well in class.

The table below shows how the naming of five-point scales varies across the years of schooling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement Curriculum:</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 – 2</th>
<th>Years 3 – 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applying</td>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making Connections</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Working With</td>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>C</td>
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<td>Exploring</td>
<td>Developing</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Becoming Aware</td>
<td>Support Required</td>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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PsPBL – Positive Behaviour for Learning

We will continue our current focus during the next few weeks:

Be a Learner

and

Get along with others (show “tolerance”)

…so…remember…. Let’s work together, learn together and succeed together!

SPARE CLOTHES IN BAG

Over the last couple of weeks we have had students with ripped shorts, torn skirts, broken zippers and wet socks and clothes. As these things do occur it is important to have a spare uniform / clothes in ALL students’ bags. We have a very limited supply in the office. This will save you the inconvenience of being asked to bring a change of clothes to the school, if one is required. In particular a jumper as the weather can be so unpredictable at this time of year.
This Friday May 29 is P & C Day. We would like to take this opportunity and thank our great P & C team—present and previous—for all the work you have done in our school. Thank you for the fundraising, tuckshop and many other ways you contribute to making our school such a great school. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!!!!

**MOBILE PHONES**

Students who bring mobile phones/ipods are to bring them to the office in the morning before school start. As in the past they have been stolen or lost. They are then collected at 3.00pm by the students.

**WATER! WATER! WATER!**

Water is an essential component if we want our brain to function efficiently and effectively. In all types of weather it is absolutely necessary for all our students to have a water bottle to bring into the classroom on a daily basis.

**PREP STUDENTS—AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS (AEDC)**

Prep parents will have received information about the nationwide census of early childhood development to be carried out with students in their first year at school. Children do not need to do anything to be included in the census and will attend class as usual. Please read all the information in the letter and decide if you would like your child to participate or not. Your class teacher will be able to fill you in on details of what is entailed in the census.

**STUDENT ADVANTAGE—FREE MICROSOFT OFFICE SOFTWARE FOR STUDENTS’ PERSONAL COMPUTERS**

All Queensland state school students are now able to download multiple copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite onto their personal devices. This suite provides students with the latest full versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and more. You will need your child’s school username and password to access the offer. Please contact your class teacher for this information.

Got to the link below to take advantage of this great offer:

https://mishelp.eq.edu.au/studentadvantage/Pages/default.aspx

**NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA—SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY (NCCD)**

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with a disability. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia annually. The aim is to provide better information about students with a disability in school settings. It is a requirement for all schools to contribute to this data collection in the August census and as a school we will provide the government with non-identifying information about students with a disability in our setting.

The term disability for the purposes of this data collection is quite varied. It includes individuals needing assistance including those of the following nature: Medical e.g. diabetes, anaphylaxis, epilepsy etc.

Learning e.g. significant speech delay, dyslexia, ADHD

Physical e.g. Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy

Sensory e.g. significant hearing and/or vision impairment


**SORRY DAY & RECONCILIATION WEEK**

Tuesday 26 May is National Sorry Day. This day is significant as it recognises, remembers and honours the Stolen Generations of Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities. 27 May marks the start of National Reconciliation Week, which focuses on celebrating and helping to build strong, respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. To get involved you can visit http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw/events/ to find an event or simply take some time to learn more about the rich Indigenous cultures within Australia.