

From the Deputy Prep - Year 2

HOW HOMEWORK ROUTINES CAN SUPPORT LITERACY AND NUMERACY LEARNING AT SCHOOL

Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their homework — it shows kids that what they do is important. In a more direct way, regular practice of skills such as sight words, phonics, reading, spelling, and number facts really helps children to move their class based learning into long term memory and build their automatic recall. Once children have this solid foundation, they are really placed for further learning.

Of course, helping with homework shouldn't mean spending hours hunched over a desk. Parents can be supportive by demonstrating study and organization skills, explaining a tricky problem, or just encouraging kids to take a break. Many parents mention that homework can be quite stressful and while they would love to engage more with their children they would welcome some tips to make homework time more enjoyable.

Here are **8 tips** to guide the way to a happy homework house:

- **Know the teachers — and what they're looking for.** Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework expectations and how you should be involved.
- **Set up a homework-friendly area.** Make sure kids have a well-lit place to complete homework. Keep supplies - paper, pencils, glue, scissors - within reach.
- **Schedule a regular study time.** Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner.
- **Help them make a plan.** On heavy homework nights or when there's an especially hefty assignment to tackle, encourage your child break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a work schedule for the night if necessary and take time for a 15-minute break every hour, if possible.
- **Keep distractions to a minimum.** This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls. (Occasionally, though, a phone call to a classmate about an assignment can be helpful.)
- **Make sure kids do their own work.** They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions. But it's a kid's job to do the learning. If they are getting frustrated, just take a break and come back to it later. If that does not work, let the teacher know your child found that concept or task challenging.
- **Be a motivator and monitor.** Ask about what they are learning and how they are going in class. Give encouragement, check completed homework, and make yourself available for questions and concerns.
- **Praise their work and efforts.** Give them a high 5, celebrate their hard work and share their efforts with family and friends.

PREP ENROLMENTS 2018

It is that time of year again where we prepare for our newest students to visit our school, learn about what Silkstone has to offer and organise their own enrolment interview. All families of students who are living 'in catchment' and outside of our catchment area are welcome to attend our Prep Enrolment Information Day on the 23 August at 9.30am in the hall.

We will provide detailed information about what we can offer students at Silkstone and offer families enrolment interviews, information about 'out of catchment' enrolment processes and sign up for wonderful transition into school programs that run in Term 4. Let your family, friends and neighbours know so they can have the best chance at securing a place in Prep for 2018.

Kellie Stanton
Deputy Principal



2017 Premier's Reading Challenge

Well done to those students who have already submitted their Premier's Reading Challenge form. All completed forms are to be returned to your child's class teacher by 25 August. Any books that your child reads at home, or at school, can be added to their list. Every student who completes the Challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement and a chance to win a book prize. There is one book prize per class. If your child has misplaced their form, please get another one from the school office or the library.

Sally-Anne Weise



Book Week



This year's Book Week, themed Escape to Everywhere, will be celebrated in Week 7, culminating in an author visit and dress-up parade on Tuesday of Week 8. Leading up to Book Week, and during Book Week, we are organising a number of things to help promote a love of books and a love of reading.

Silkstone's Mystery Reader (Week 7)

Who: Prep-Year 6

When: Book Week - Week 7 (21 August - 25 August at 8:30 each morning)

Where: Library (Junior Fiction Area)

We will be having a mystery reader each morning for the week of Book Week - Week 7. These readers will be sharing one of their favourite books from 8:30am each morning in the junior fiction area of the library.

Book Week Dress-Up Parade (Week 8)

Who: Prep-Year 6 ... and staff/parents too!

When: Tuesday, 29 August (morning session) - Week 8

Where: Area between Admin & D Block



Book prizes will be awarded to the four best dressed students from each year level. A prize will also be awarded to the best dressed staff member and parent.

Author Visit - Chris Collin (Week 8)

Who: Prep-Year 6

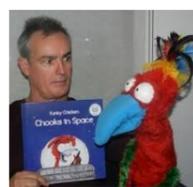
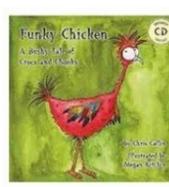
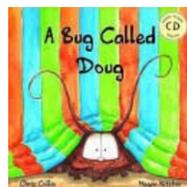
When: Tuesday, 29 August (times to be confirmed) - Week 8

Where: Silkstone School Hall

Chris Collin is the author of Funky Chicken, Chooks in Space and A Bug Called Doug. His books are available at the school library. If you would like further information about Chris Collin, please refer to the links below:

<http://funkybooks.com.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/chriscollinfunkybooks/>



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SILKSTONE STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

17 August 2017

Term 3 Week 6

Mission Statement: We at Silkstone State School, in partnership with the community, aim to create an environment of active learners. We believe all children are capable of reaching their full potential. We commit to building resilient students who strive for excellence and become responsible, respectful citizens.

Principal's Report

We recently received our School's NAPLAN results and I am pleased to report some significant improvement in our students' reading results. This comes after significant investment in ensuring that all students at our school receive the instruction they need to fully achieve their potential in reading. We all know that ability to read is the cornerstone of a successful education. It is also vitally important that we reach children early, and make every effort that they are reading appropriately by the end of year 3. Therefore we were so thrilled that nearly all our year 3 students achieved National Minimum Standard or above, and even more excited that more than a third of them achieved the top 2 levels in the recent NAPLAN test. The year 5 results were similar and what was particularly exciting was the astonishing growth in performance from when they took the test in year 3! I would like to congratulate all teachers for really working so hard to deliver these great results in reading. Also, I want to acknowledge the work done by our teacher aides, who provide so much support to students and teachers during reading lessons. It has been a team effort and we look forward to further improvement in 2018.

This week, we host our second Principal's Morning Tea for term 3. It is always such a pleasure and privilege to share this morning with the successful students and their families. These students always show our four expectations, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be an Active Learner in all settings. We always acknowledge that the reason that students display high quality behaviour at school is the result of the shared expectations at home and the fact that parents give the same message about learning and behaviour. We expect ALL our students to uphold these expectations. When they do, we acknowledge them through tokens, stickers, verbal praise, rewards etc.

But on the other side of the coin, when they don't there are clear consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

A gentle and respectful reminder that parents are requested to wait under A block in the afternoon before collecting children from classrooms. Younger children, especially, can become quite distracted when they become aware that Mum or Dad is waiting outside the room. So to ensure learning takes place right up until 3pm, please wait under A block!

Have a great fortnight everyone
Mike Sawbridge - Principal

From the Deputy Years 5-6

Over the last couple of weeks I have had the pleasure of visiting all of the Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms and also some of the lower school. Our teachers, teacher aides and students are all working so hard to create some wonderful pieces of work. Some of our Prep students have produced some beautiful sentences with very neat writing. In Year 5, I have been impressed by the student attention during Robust Vocabulary Instruction and spelling lessons. On a visit to a Year 6 classroom, I watched as students were engrossed in their varied reading rotation activities and the standard of bookwork in these classes has also been pleasing. These are all really great signs for how we are travelling for our Academic Awards ceremony in Term 4. Term 3 work will be the contributing factor towards decisions made for academic awards so it is really important to keep up the good work!

Bullying - On one of our recent assemblies, our school leaders talked about 'Saying No to bullying!' and what it meant to be a bystander. Here is some more information for you to talk to your children about:

Bystanders - Most of the time bullying takes place with students (and others) present. People who witness bullying are called bystanders. Bystanders can play a number of roles:

- assisting the students who are bullying and actively join in,
 - encouraging or showing approval to the students who are bullying,
 - doing nothing or being passive,
 - defending or supporting the student who is being bullied by intervening, getting teacher support or comforting them.
- When bystanders defend or support a student who is being bullied, often the bullying stops quickly. The actions of a supportive bystander can stop an incident or help a student to recover from it. Bystanders who are passive (take no action) or behave in ways that give silent approval (watching, nodding, walking away) encourage the behaviour to continue.

When talking to students about ways to be supportive bystanders, parents and teachers need to be aware of (and respect) the reasons that students may not step in. They may:

- fear for their own safety (now and later) or position in the group,
- think that someone else will help,
- be worried about making things worse
- not know what to do,
- think their actions won't make a difference,
- think it's none of their business,
- think the student being bullied deserved it,
- think it's fun to watch.

Promoting safe and supportive bystander responses is the key to preventing bullying.
Shannyn Taylor - Deputy Principal

🎵 Music Notes 🎵

BRASS Monday 8am
 Senior Band Tuesday 7.50 - 8.50am
 Girls Choir Tuesday 11am
 Harmonies Wednesday 7.50am
 String Ensemble Thursday 7.50 - 8.50am

Silkstone Instrumental Eisteddfod

Congratulations to the beginner and continuing string children who competed in the eisteddfod Monday of last week and both earned **Silver Awards**. Thank you also to Mrs Kirk who was here for 5 weeks teaching our String children. Welcome back to Ms Hampson!

Pirate Concert Costumes

A costume letter for all the choir children in the pirate concert went home in Week 2. Should you need another letter, you can obtain one from the office.



How does my child get better at playing their instrument?

PRACTICE!!!! There is no easy shortcut to improving skill on an instrument! If children are practising the skills they learned at their lesson approximately 5 times a week, they should see continual improvement and will be exciting by the skills they are developing. Parents play an important role here by helping children manage their time, including practice as a part of their child's routine, finding a suitable place for practice, and listening to their home performances. Developing skills on an instrument is a year by year development, not a 6 month journey.



Linda Weatherhead
 Music Teacher

SMS Absences

As you are aware, parents will receive an SMS for students who are absent. Texts will be sent to all parents whose student is not in the classroom for that day. For example: if your child is at an event (Strings Camp/District Sports etc) you will receive a text message. This ensures we have accurate information if your child is away ill on the day at one of these events. Reply texts are welcome but please do not send Emojis



(pictures).

Adjustments Notes for Excursions/Camps

During the school year, once an Excursion/Camp etc has finished the school needs to finalise it on our OneSchool Finance System. This means from time to time you may receive an adjustment note email, all this means is that your child/children did not attend the excursion/camp and the adjustment note which is a credit is matching against the original invoice and zero's the invoice out. You don't need to do anything with this adjustment notice. Thank you for your understanding.

P & C Association

The next P&C General meeting has been rescheduled to **Tuesday 29 August at 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome.**

Sharyn Schulz
 Secretary

Parent Group

This is a very busy term and we have some exciting events coming soon! We are looking for helpers! If you are able to help out please feel free to contact me direct via mobile 0499 974 578 or email sssparentgroup@gmail.com

Election Day BBQ and Cake Stall

On Saturday 19 August 2017 there will be a BBQ and Cake Stall outside the hall in the polling area from 8am. We are asking for donations of baked goods (cakes, biscuits, jams, slices etc) for the cake stall. If you are able to donate please send your donations to the office by Friday afternoon. Please note that donations need to have ingredients listed and be sealed.

SCHOOL DISCO

We are having our term disco on the 24 August, 5pm to 7pm. Our theme is Pyjama Party!! Make sure you find your coolest PJ's for the night. Entry is \$4 and there will be a raffle on the night with tickets just \$1 each.



JUNIOR SPORTS DAY CAFÉ

Junior Sports Day is on again on 5 September! We will be having a café on the day with gourmet coffee van, fresh sandwiches, pies & sausage rolls and drinks. Look out for the café in U Block near the bottom oval from 9am.



SPRING FAIR

Spring Fair is coming up on 14 October 2017! Unlimited ride Arm Bands are now on sale. Tickets are \$27 pre-paid before the event and \$32 on the day for unlimited rides.



To purchase log onto munch monitor (tuckshop online ordering system) or via cash to the orange box at the office. Please note correct change only for cash payments.

Father's Day Stall

We will again be having our Father's Day stall this term to celebrate all the wonderful Dads, Grandad's, Poppy's and Pa's. Dates for the Father's Day stall will be Tuesday 29 August (full day), Wednesday 30 August (full day) & Thursday 31 August (1st break only).



Next Meeting

Parent Group meeting, 22 August at 1.30pm in U Block. We are starting a little earlier to discuss upcoming Spring Fair. All Welcome.

Nichole Coad
 President 0499 974 578

Munch Monitors WIN A FREE LUNCH FOR YOUR CLASS

The class with the most students signed up to Munch Monitors by Thursday 31 August will win a free lunch which will consist of chicken nuggets, a popper and an ice block.



So Parents / Caregivers SIGN UP NOW.

Go to www.munchmonitor.com

Username: silkstones

Password: munch4304

Click "sign up" and follow the steps to create your account. You are able to order your child's lunch online 24/7 and up to a month in advance.

More information is available from the Tuckshop.

Janelle Schloss

Tuckshop Convenor

Payments

Just a reminder that money will not be accepted after the cut-off date for excursions / incursions. Our money window is open every day Monday to Friday 8-11am. Anyone paying via Direct Deposit will need to pay at least 3 days before the cut-off so payment is received before the cut off date.



Please be aware that the following payments should have already been paid. If you have not paid please do so as soon as possible.

- ◆ Student Resource Scheme-1st and 2nd payments
- ◆ Interschool Sport Fees
- ◆ Music fees

Please see the cut off dates below for excursions/incursions

- ◆ Star Lab - 23 August by 11am
- ◆ Pirate Show - Fri 8 September by 11am

Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers

Thank you those people who have sent in their stickers - KEEP SENDING THEM IN. Collection boxes are in the school foyer for you to put your completed sticker sheets or put to your stickers in the box and we will put them on a sticker sheet for you.



A Collection Box for Silkstone State School is also at Woolworths, Booval Fair.

Ask your friends and neighbours to collect the stickers for you also. Collecting these stickers gives us the opportunity to get some great resources for our school.

Book Club

Book Club money and orders are due no later than Friday 1 September.



Coming Events

Thur 17	Principal's Morning Tea 10.15am
Thur 17	Going on a Bear Hunt (Prep)
Wed 23	Prep Enrolment Information Day (AM)
Mon 28	Star Lab Incursion (Year 1)
Tue 29	Book Week Author Visit & Parade
Fri 1 Sep	Book Club Orders and Money Due
Tue 5	Junior Sports Day
Wed 6	Prep Open Day (2018 Students)
Thur 7	Principal's Morning Tea 10.15am
Fri 8	\$7 Payment due for Pirates Show (Prep)
Wed 13	Extra Curricular Photos taken
Thur 14	Evening Variety Concert
	Pirates Show (Prep)
Fri 15	Last Day Term 3
Mon 2 Oct	Queens Birthday Public Holiday
Tue 3	First Day Term 4
Sat 14	Spring Fair
Sat 4 Nov	Shopping Warehouse Trip
Fri 10	\$7 Payment due for Christmas Around the World Show (Prep)
Thur 16	Christmas Around the World Show (Prep)
Fri 8 Dec	Last Day Term 4

Money Window

Open Monday to Friday 8am - 11am (only)
 EFTPOS is available

Direct Debit Payments

BSB: 064-417 Account Number:00091102
 (Include child's name and what payment is for)

Uniform Shop

Terms 1 & 4 Monday 8-10am & Thursday 1.30-3.30pm
Terms 2 & 3 Thursday: 1.30-3.30 pm
 (Cash and EFTPOS are accepted)

Accompanying Handouts

- ⇒ Pirate Concert Flyer
- ⇒ Munch Monitor Information
- ⇒ Book Club Order Form
- ⇒ Spring Fair Flyer