Dear parents and caregivers,

Congratulations to all our school leaders. I am sure you will undertake your duties this year with pride and thoroughness. Thank you to Councillor Paul Tully and all the parents who joined us for the special assembly.

A very special congratulations to the parents of our leaders. I am sure you are proud of your young men and women, and you should take a little moment to congratulate yourselves too. Being a parent is a tough gig, and from what I see you’re doing an awesome job!

There are many, many things that parents can do to provide educational opportunities for their children. In being swamped by modern day commercialism, many parents overlook one simple truth. It is not about the iPad, gifts, the clothes, week-end sport, tutoring, child care, visiting Dream World, being friends with your child, etc. Children may say this is what they want … BUT what they really need is a responsible parent. This cannot be outsourced. It is all about the parent/child relationship. The parent’s legacy to this world is their child’s upbringing. This takes quality time. Children need routine and security in terms of safety, welfare and expectations. Children thrive when clear rules and boundaries are set and are consistently reinforced. Children need love. Love is not a word, but an action. It is only from this relationship base, that children will learn, achieve and reach toward their future potential.

Yours in quality education,
Robyn Conlin
Principal

**Parent Code of Conduct**: Parents play a crucial role in the education and social development of their children. At Goodna SS we have a fantastic body of parents who are involved in all aspects of school life. As a result, we have attained a very high standard of education and civic responsibility in our students, and this is highly valued by all members of our community.

The **Parent Code of Conduct** has been developed by the school to clearly articulate the expectations and aspirations for our school community. Staff and students work under a Code of Conduct, and since parents are the important role models for children, it is imperative that a certain level of behaviour from parents is expected in the school also. A Code of Conduct for parents and visitors ensures that everyone who visits the school site is able to do so in a safe and harmonious manner, and to ensure that students, staff, parents and other visitors are not subjected to aggressive, hostile or violent behaviours. The Code highlights the importance of the partnership between school staff and community members for the benefit of the students at school, and reflects the school’s mission and vision. We have included a copy with this newsletter for all parents.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4 Mar</td>
<td>Clean up Australia Day 2pm at Goodna SS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>Wed 23 Mar</td>
<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<td>Thur 24 Mar</td>
<td>Easter Parade</td>
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<td>Thu 24 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td>Mon 11 Apr</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
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**SAVE TIME PAY ONLINE**

BPOINT is the preferred method of payment of Education Queensland. The BPOINT payment method symbol will be displayed with a website link for you to visit and process your online payment.

If you require assistance in paying online please call in to our school office where our staff will be happy to help you.
Collecting children before the end of instruction: If your child / children need to leave school prior to the end of instruction, please approach the office staff. Please do not go directly to the classrooms. Interruptions to our classrooms need to be minimised. Children who are required to leave early must be signed out at the office. By approaching the office staff, interruptions to classrooms can be minimised. The children can be called to the office and then signed out by a registered parent / caregiver or emergency contact. Interruptions to classrooms can be minimised further if arrangements for after school collection are clear when the children enter the school. We appreciate that arrangements can change at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances, and you will need to contact the school by 1.00pm to notify your child about these changes. We cannot guarantee that your child will receive any messages we receive after 1.00pm

On Friday the office staff deal with the greatest number of requests for early departure. School concludes at 2:30pm and the teachers plan their lessons accordingly. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Being Punctual: One thing you can do for your children that makes a huge difference for their education is to ensure they are ready and on-time for school. Being 5-10 minutes late does not only affect your child but disrupts the entire class.

Having respect for our all learners is really important and one of our core values. It is most appreciated that our own parents model the same value we expect of our children. We all want the very best for our students and we appreciate your assistance in making every day count.
Walking and Cycling Community Survey

Walking and cycling are healthy and sustainable ways to get to work, school, the local shops and to visit family and friends. Ipswich City Council wants your help to shape the future of Ipswich’s active transport network by participating in an online community survey.

A key action of the City of Ipswich Transport Plan (iGO) is to develop a more detailed Active Transport Strategy to guide the planning, delivery and promotion of quality facilities and programs for walking and cycling in Ipswich. This online community survey is aimed at identifying trends and attitudes toward walking and cycling in Ipswich for travel to work, school, shopping and enjoyment and is being conducted to help inform the development of this strategy.

So if you regularly walk or cycle as a means of transport, gave it a try but decided it was too hard or have thought about giving it a go, Council wants to hear from you.

The survey is open from February 22 to March 13, 2016.

Please visit our facebook page to take part in the online survey.
PARENTING MATTERS

Social skills for children

Here are 7 important social skills to help children to develop:

1. Ask for what you want
   Help children ask for what they want. It means they don’t throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what’s on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want. Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

2. Good manners
   Teach kids good manners, in particular the three ‘power words’. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people’s defences. These three words are: your name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

3. Sharing
   Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions themselves. As they get older and move into pre-school and beyond the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people’s feelings.

4. Holding a conversation
   Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves.

5. Winning and losing well
   Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

6. Approaching and joining a group
   The ability to approach strangers in social situations is valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

7. Handling fights and disagreements
   Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don’t lead to the breakdown of friendships. It’s important to get across to kids that having an argument or disagreement doesn’t mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships.

WHY IS ORAL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IMPORTANT?

Language development assists your child to communicate, express, and understand feelings. It also helps thinking, problem solving, and the ability to form and maintain friendships.

Learning to understand, use and enjoy language is a critical first step in literacy development and is a basis for learning to read and write.

Tips for encouraging your child’s language development

- Talk often and naturally
- Talk about what is happening – use lots of different words
- Respond to your child’s gestures. Some children who are slower to learn to talk may use gestures to indicate what they want. Treat your child’s gestures as communication and respond with appropriate words for e.g. If your child points to an object respond as if your child is saying “Can I have that?”
- Introduce new words – it is important to give your child experience at using different words in different situations. This helps them learn the meaning and use of words in their environment
- Share books – talk about the pictures, read the text. Link what is happening in the book to what is happening in your child’s life
- Follow your child’s lead. When your child begins a conversation respond to what he / she has said making sure you stick to the topic your child started
- Repeat and build on what your child has said
- Talk about things in the past and in the future – talk about what your child did during the day at school and talk about plans for the next day

Remember...
The secret to helping your child learn language is simple – talk lots and listen lots!

Gill Lovie & Heidi Yau
Speech-Language Pathologists

Camp Australia provides before and after school care for Goodna State School

To find out more about our program, view fees and to register visit www.campaustralia.com.au

Before school we are open from 6.30am until 8.30am. During this time we provide breakfast consisting of milo, toast, cereal, spaghetti and baked beans. This is all inclusive of our before school care fee. Preppies and Year 1 students are escorted to school by our staff daily. After school we are open from 2.00pm until 6.00pm. We pick up the Preppies and Year 1 students from their classrooms and escort them to the hall each day. Older children meet in the hall foyer daily. After school we provide afternoon tea consisting of fresh fruit, cheese, crackers, pancakes, jelly, custard, sandwiches, corn chips & salsa and other yummy treats - again this is all inclusive. We also offer a range of physical activities, art activities, cooking, games and lots of fun.

We have vacancies available for both before and after school care. Prep drop offs and pickups are available.

If you have any inquiries regarding OSHC we can be contacted on 0434 422 456 or drop in and see us of a morning between the hours of 6.30am and 8.25am, or of an afternoon between 2.30pm and 6.00pm.

visit www.campaustralia.com.au