Hello everyone,

On Wednesday night we held the fourth annual Goodna State School Showcase Awards evening. This event features displays, demonstrations, performances and awards which celebrate and reward all that makes our school great.

A huge highlight of the night was the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) display at the rear of the hall. Mr Salmon and Mrs Williams wowed the audience by showing the children how to extract DNA from kiwifruit. Mrs Page led students through coding activities making robots dance and follow directions and Mr Yates expertly demonstrated our drone. Our special guest Deputy Mayor Paul Tully was particularly complimentary of all of our C21st educational offerings.

The Salvation Army Band accompanied our instrumental groups to entertain the audience, and as always our choirs and cultural performance groups were superb. My sincere thanks to all the staff and students who contributed to making our Showcase Night the very best one yet!

Yours in quality education,

Lee Gerchow
Principal

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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<td>Mon 7th Nov</td>
<td>Bellbird Park Secondary College enrolment session</td>
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<td>Thu 10th Nov</td>
<td>Prep Enrolment Session 1pm at Prep</td>
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<td>Tue 15th Nov</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 1:30pm Staff Room</td>
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<td>Tue 29th Nov</td>
<td>Year 3 Ngutana-Lui Incursion</td>
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<td>Wed 30th Nov</td>
<td>Carols By Candlelight</td>
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<td>Mon 5th Dec</td>
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<td>Year 6 Graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 7th Dec</td>
<td>5 &amp; 6 Swim Carnival</td>
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<td>Fri 9th Dec</td>
<td>Last Day of 2016</td>
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**PREP ENROLMENT SESSION**

**WHEN:** Thursday 10th November at 1PM  
**WHERE:** Prep Campus

You must have completed Part A before attending

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**NOW TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR PREP 2017**

If you have a child or know of a child born between 1 July 2011—30 June 2012 please contact the office for an Enrolment Pack

Ph: (07) 3437 9333
From the Deputy Principal

Attendance – EVERY DAY COUNTS! Remember, successful students are at school, on time, every day!

Attendance raffle tickets – EVERY MONDAY
All students who are in class at 8:30am on MONDAYS will receive a raffle ticket and go into a draw for free tuckshop vouchers! Two winners announced during each assembly!

End of term attendance party
Students throughout the school with the best attendance will be invited to participate in an end-of-term party to celebrate and reward their excellent efforts. Well done to all students who are maintaining outstanding attendance.

Class / Year level attendance award
The classes and year level with the best attendance throughout the term will receive attendance awards and prizes, presented at assemblies. Well done to 3A who were last week’s class award winners and to Year 6 who are currently in the lead for the year level award.

This fortnight’s Peace Code focus is: Be Brave!

Reading Comprehension Lessons – Our Explicit Focus!
This week as part of a continued explicit focus on the teaching and learning of reading, I have really enjoyed getting back into classrooms for Term 4 to observe the fantastic reading comprehension lessons taking place. It is always enjoyable to talk with students about what they are learning, chat about their reading goals, unpack the texts that they are comprehending and ask questions that promote a deeper understanding of a text. Our students are continuing to improve in this area, and I am continually impressed with the work occurring in classrooms. Our teachers do a brilliant job to draw the best out of our students!

Some of the amazing things we are seeing in classrooms include:
- Clear explanations and explicit demonstration and modelling of reading strategies
- Engaged students using a variety of methods to demonstrate learning
- Word attack strategies and other vocabulary activities
- Teacher ‘think alouds’ and creating links and connections to students’ prior experiences

‘Higher order’ differentiated tasks to cater for all students
- Precise and accurate language used and students verbalising and talking about their learning

I look forward to visiting the remaining rooms over the next few weeks!

Feel free to contact me if you would like any further information.

Daniel Dempsey
Deputy Principal
**SCIENCE OVERVIEW**

**Spinning in space! Drone technology aids science instruction**

Visualising the movements of the planets and moons in our Solar System is a complex task for children to grasp.

This week at Goodna State School, Year 5 students role-played our closest star, the Sun, whilst a drone demonstrated the concept of a ‘day’, a day being the time it takes a planet to rotate once on its axis. The drone also flew the astronomical definition of a ‘year’, the time it takes a planet to make one trip around the Sun to complete its orbit.

The school’s Phantom 4 drone has leading edge technology that allows for sophisticated GPS mapping and high resolution imaging.

Senior science teacher, Mrs Williams, said these modern tools provide engaging illustrations of scientific descriptions which, when combined with kinaesthetic astronomy (acting ideas out with our bodies), traditional diagrams and written definitions, help the fact-driven solar system curriculum to come alive in the minds of students.

“Science and digital technologies are a natural mix to realise National Curriculum outcomes. We are now planning to align these two important areas in the primary school curriculum,” said Mrs Williams.

**3rd Rock from the Sun:** Mrs Williams pilots the school’s Phantom 4 drone to simulate the orbit and rotation of the Earth around the Sun.

**STEM champions find common ground**

**Connecting:** Sage 3J, and Deputy Principal Dan Dempsey, review digital animations in the lead-up to The STEM Show Case Awards Night.

**What does it take to be in the top one percent of kids in the world for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related subjects?**

You could throw that question to Sage from 3J who holds High Distinctions in ICAS Mathematics and Science. She has also been awarded High Distinctions in ICAS English, Spelling and Writing.

What we do know is, it takes more than natural academic ability. Achieving with the best in the world demands extraordinary focus and concentration.

Deputy Principal Dan Dempsey says the school has strategically built a culture of high expectations that now sees school results in these international benchmarks meeting and often exceeding national averages.

“A comprehensive curriculum also connects with the local community, the regions and the world. Our STEM program in particular has international connections and endorsements,” said Mr Dempsey.

Mr Dempsey, who has international teaching experience himself, is charged with overseeing the school’s digital curriculum. He has a strong STEM background, having taken degrees in Applied Science / Human Movements and Education from the University of Queensland.

“I use a great deal of technology at home. I enjoy pulling things apart and figuring out how things work. I tend to tinker with things a lot and attempt fixes myself,” said Mr Dempsey.

So what does he think of Sage’s academic achievements to date?

“زمة succeed with the international competitions, and receive the Year 3 Academic Award and Junior Scientist of the Year Award for 2016, is simply a remarkable effort. She’s an example to us all of what can be realised with goal setting and hard work,” said Mr Dempsey.

Gerard Salmon
EVERYDAY LANGUAGE TIPS – SUPPORTING YOUR OLDER CHILD’S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Language development in the primary years gradually builds on the strong foundations established during the early years. Children’s attention, listening, understanding, vocabulary, grammar, storytelling and conversations develop further in terms of skills, knowledge and complexity as they move through the middle years and into high school.

Here are some ways parents can help children to develop more complex language:

• Use longer instructions with your child but remember to break them down into smaller steps if they appear confused e.g. ‘Get the white box that’s on the bottom shelf of the laundry cupboard next to the rectangular bucket’

• Use words in a variety of ways to illustrate that they can have more than one meaning e.g. bright. ‘You’re very bright today!’ could mean you are very clever or you sound and look cheerful and happy.

• Extend your child’s vocabulary by using ‘dictionary type’ definitions to explain the meanings of words rather than ‘personal’ definitions e.g. ‘Brave’ means “When you do something even though you’re scared” vs “When I fall over and don’t cry”

• Use a range of joining words when you speak to show your child how to make more complex sentences e.g. “Before we go to Grandma’s we will buy her some flowers because she likes to have something bright in her house to look at”

• Tell your child some jokes and talk about why they are funny e.g. What did the didgeridoo do? Spoke on the phone when the boomerang!

• In social situations demonstrate how to use questions to help keep a conversation going

Remember - children need exposure to more complex language in order to be able to use more complex language themselves.

Heidi Yau & Gill Lovie
Speech Language Pathologists