Message from the Principal

One of the most complex tasks that all teachers face is catering for the range of abilities that students have in different curriculum areas along with their individualities and characteristics. Across Delaneys Creek State School we have focus agenda’s to support all students learning. We are excited to have Jodie Cousins continue in her role as Master Teacher to assist staff and students in this area along with myself and all teaching staff.

Our primary focus this year is on READING. Already this year our teachers, along with teacher aides, have participated in Reading - Comprehension professional development that was held at our school on the student free days.

Another priority will be refining a number of strategies that we designed in 2015 to ensure we cater for all students. Additionally, all school teaching staff are involved in ongoing professional development to support teaching and learning in the area of Writing and Differentiating Instruction.

Attendance: Research clearly identifies the relationship that the higher the attendance rate of students the higher their academic achievement will be. Last year our overall school attendance was 95%. This is a fantastic attendance rate which we want to continue into 2016.

Sharing the road safely with child pedestrians

All drivers need to recognize the special safety needs of pedestrians, especially those of children. Regardless of the rules of the road or right-of-way, the driver of a car is obligated to exercise great care and extreme caution when driving into, through or exiting the school car park.

Children are the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see. Take extra care to look out for children. In our school zone you must give right-of-way to a student when crossing the marked crosswalk pedestrian crossing – both within the carpark and on the roadway.

Please also watch your speed into, through and while exiting the car park as the school zone is a 40kph zone.

Stranger Awareness

Kids see strangers every day in stores, in the park, and in their neighbourhoods. Most of these strangers are nice, normal people, but a few may not be. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about strangers and suspicious behaviour, and by taking a few precautions of their own. In addition to teaching children how to recognize and handle dangerous situations and strangers, there are a few more things parents can do to help their children stay safe and avoid dangerous situations.

☑ Know where your children are at all times. ☑ Point out safe places. Show your children safe places to play, safe roads and paths to take, and safe places to go if there’s trouble. ☑ Teach children to trust their instincts. Explain that if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable, they should get away as fast as they can and tell an adult. ☑ Teach your children to be assertive. Make sure they know that it’s okay to say no to an adult and to run away from adults in dangerous situations. ☑ Encourage your children to play with others. There’s safety in numbers!

Yours in Education, Anita Judge, Principal
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support
The focus for Week 5 is: Be Respectful
Play fairly and respectfully – include everyone
The focus for Week 6 is: Be Responsible
You muck up – you own up – you fix up

Congratulations Class Peg Weekly Winners
Week 2: Prep  Week 3: Prep

NAME that space!
Our school strongly believes students should be taught the principles of sustainability. In 2015 the student council fundraised to purchase the materials to develop our chicken enclosure. Through the support of parent and community volunteers the enclosure was constructed and our chickens moved into their residence. Later this term, the residence will be formally opened, however we are wondering if anyone has a grander name for the space than ‘The Chicken Enclosure’. Please submit any suggestions to the school office.

Parent Information - Reading
Jodie Cousins will be running a parent information reading session for all prep to year 3 parents on February 26th at 2pm - 3pm in the Explore. It will include reading strategies we teach at Delaneys Creek State School.

One of the key messages for parents is ‘don’t panic!’ as beginning readers will be inconsistent. Some key points to remember:
◆ Give time to reading
◆ Let your child re-read the same books

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)
The University of New South Wales is offering your child an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). It is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12; assessments are available in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing and take between 30 – 60 minutes as a supervised in-school test. The costs are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry fee, incl. GST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>Yr 3 – Yr 6</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Yr 2 – Yr 6</td>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Yr 3 – Yr 6</td>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>Yr 2 – Yr 6</td>
<td>13 June</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Yr 2 – Yr 6</td>
<td>1 August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Yr 2 – Yr 6</td>
<td>15 August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order for our entries to be accepted, we must have at least 3 students nominated per subject area. If you would like your child to participate, please fill in an enrolment form available at the school office and pay the required amount by March 21.

Wilma Bell, Librarian

School Photos
School photos are booked in for Tuesday February 23.
Package 1 consists of a class photo and 5x7, 6x4 and wallet size individual photos. $24.
Package 2 consists of class photo and 5x7 and 6x4 individual photos. $20.
Package 3 consists of class photo and 5x7 individual photos. $16.
Family Photos:
◆ $4 with any of the above packages or
◆ $7.50 each
All students will have their individual photo taken and a class group photo.
Reading Comprehension
During Term 1 we have continued the Reading Comprehension Program with Years 1-6 students. We have been teaching students in years 1 – 4 the Predicting strategy and students in years 5 and 6 the Predicting & Inferring strategy. As most students have received explicit instruction in 8 comprehension strategies, it is important for them to use these strategies before, during and after reading. The following list is an example of how good readers combine these strategies to make meaning from texts.

What Do Good Readers Do?
Before Reading:
- Activate Prior Knowledge: What do I already know about this topic?
- Predict: I think this book will be about……. Because…………
- Question: I wonder why …………

During Reading:
- Make connections: I know what that feels like because ……..
- Visualise: I can make pictures in my mind
- Make inferences: The author is trying to tell me…………

After Reading:
- Retell/Summarise: The main idea of the story is ..........
- Synthesise: My ideas have changed after reading this……
- Question: I’d like to find out why .........
- Evaluate the text: I found this book useful for my report because ........

Jodie Cousins, Master Teacher

Sheep
School Science has a new focus with the arrival of the school’s two new sheep. Faun & Aqua have been introduced into our unique school environment – not only as companions for the students, but as a teaching focus for our school Sustainability and Science programs. They are gentle animals and respond well to human contact. Taking care of a sheep teaches children responsibility and respect for animals, while providing a real life focus for our Science programs. Thank you to Daniel & Holly Sibert for their assistance to getting the sheep enclosure built.

P&C News
New and familiar faces, welcome to our first P&C Meeting for the year – Monday 22nd February. School Library (eXplore) from 3 - 4:30 pm.

Easter Raffle
We are once again doing our Easter Raffle. We are seeking donations of good quality chocolate, Easter craft or pantry items to help fill our prize baskets.

The class that collects the most items will win a class prize. Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly. We had over 20 prizes last year. If you have any questions please ask your helpful P&C class representors.

Wet Weather
If the school needs to close unexpectedly, at short notice—due to natural disasters or health reasons during school hours, messages will be posted on the school web site, the Queensland alert web site, http://www.qld.gov.au/education/schools/information/pages/closure.html http://deta.qld.gov.au/natural-disasters.html our P&C facebook site, twitter account @delaneys_creek and parents will be contacted by phone.

At the end of the school day when it is raining, students are gathered together under the Blue Undercover area outside the office to await collection from parents and carers. They will not be sent to the car park unless they have wet weather materials – umbrella, rain coat etc.
**School Readiness**

How do we prepare our children for school? As we all know, children cope differently with the environment of school. For some children, it's a walk in the park and it allows them to develop and learn various subjects and positive behaviours that enrich who they are. For other children, it is a constant struggle in varying ways (academically, behaviourally, socially and emotionally). Why is this so?

As parents, we know that even if we have the same expectations, same routines, and same positive and negative consequences within the home, each of our children will most likely behave differently in different circumstances. We know this is due to varying personalities, innate abilities, varying beliefs and values based on individual perceptions and attitudes. Therefore, each one will respond in a certain way to the environment of school. Some children will feel excited and happy to go to school, others will feel sick and anxious and others may even feel angry and upset.

At the end of the day, it is up to both parents and class teachers to support the emotions and behavioural choices that our children demonstrate when going to school and help them to cope better with the expectations and life at school.

At school, children need to be organised, learn independence, communicate their ideas and needs effectively to others, retain new information, demonstrate resilience and perseverance when things don't go their way or when they make a mistake. They need to learn how to follow instructions and listen to the thoughts and wishes of others (even at times when they don't want to or when they don't agree). Finally, they need to acknowledge and demonstrate socially appropriate behaviours (such as: put hand up to speak, wait one’s turn, use manners, speak kindly to others, keep hands and feet to self, look after one’s property as well as the property of others, etc.) and so on....

As parents and class teachers, how can we help?

We need to **involve** our children in activities that develop these skills and give them **responsibilities** that **require** the skills. At the end of the day... we not only need to **teach** and **encourage** our children how to acquire these skills, but we have to give them as many opportunities as we can to **practise** them.... Of course, we need to be **realistic** in our expectations as developmentally we wouldn’t expect a 5 year old child to write a 1000 word essay.

If your child is struggling at school in any of the above areas, we need to teach and encourage them how to cope better and give them more time to develop the skill(s) that they are struggling to acquire. It is not helpful to compare our children’s ability or skills with other peers or siblings. This, as we know will do more harm than good as it lowers self-esteem.

Children will want to strive to do better if we set goals that are just out of reach, but still achievable. This builds perseverance, resilience and a positive self-image.

**School Wide Positive Behaviour Team**

**Message from the Woodford Golf Club**

The WOODFORD GOLF CLUB invites all keen gardeners to come along on 29 March to a 'Gardening in Woodford' presentation by Russell Young Garden Designs.

Russell's passion for gardens and growing plants began when he was a very young boy. His grandmother, Nana Bailey helped raise Russell and together they created the beautiful garden called 'The Reflections'. 'The Reflections' was an Australian Open Garden many times, featured on Burkes Back Yard and was also a wedding venue for many years. Russell propagated many of his own plants when he was just 17 and sold them at markets. He did this because he loved growing things and was fascinated by the perfection and imperfections of nature.

Russell is a walking encyclopaedia and happily shares his knowledge with everyone. His involvement with gardening clubs and schools is well known within the gardening community and he is often asked to be a guest speaker around South East Queensland. (in 2016 he was present at the Samford Valley Expo; Brisbane International Garden Show; Lindmar Garden Plant Fair and Gardening on the Edge)

Entry is $15.00 which includes a light lunch. Plants and products will be available for purchase. 11.30 am-1.30 pm approx. Bookings essential. Please call 5496 1004 to make your booking. Limited to 100 people. Payment can be made on the day.