4th March 2015

Hello, and welcome!

With the year in full swing (where did those last five weeks go, seriously??), Yr 2 are deep into class time new sessions. You know, the ones where you have to explain that… “No, your latest Lego Ninja Creation will have to wait till Personal news in Week 8/9. This week your topic is… Rules…” Love it.

‘What type of rules do you have at your house? How do these rules help you?’

Our home discussion starts with the Big Number One – No Power Tools Before School (What...not First on your list???) and then the boys look at me and say “Mum, we don’t really have rules.” And we don’t. As such. We have Rights and Responsibilities. We have Appropriate and Acceptable Behaviours. We have Rewards and Consequences. Rules by any other name… Guidelines, policies, expectations, philosophies. Everyone will have a different set that they work by. Some are flexible and adaptable to certain situations. Some are not. Different rules will be appropriate to different environments ie home to workplace, backyard to school.

Starting school for my eldest son was an interesting time… I would arrive for pickup to find him at the top of the highest tree, three teachers underneath to coax him down. We decided that tree climbing was the Most Fantastically Awesomely Appropriate Behaviour at home as were mud fights and kissing all the girls like your sister (lots of phone calls ‘bout that one…), but not the best Policy at school...and we discussed Why...This conversation was just another in the six years of his life that underlined our rights, actions and responsibilities. And now at age 13, our talks are more intense and demanding than ever!

These conversations are of crucial importance for our kids. These are the dialogues that will assist our kids to adapt and apply appropriate behaviours to different situations. These are the conversations that will support the development of Empathy, Reasoning, Respect. These are the conversations that will provide your children with the skills to make value judgements now and in the future. These are the simple conversations that deal with the little issues… like that friend who didn’t play with us today, like that carrot that we put in the bin so Mum couldn’t see we didn’t eat it at school…. These are the more intricate conversations that challenge and sort out the big stuff…like the destruction of school property, the swearing at, rudeness to and disrespect of others.

As parents/carers, we are the MOST IMPORTANT cog in the wheel. We are the BOTTOM LINE. At the end of the day, we are ultimately responsible for supporting and guiding the behaviours of our kids. What they learn about how to interact and behave in different environments comes down to us. And when they do learn the rules, ultimately they reap the reward of inviting the good stuff back to them!

What are you talking about with your kids?

How are you guiding their behaviours to meet the expectations of their environments?

What values are you instilling for their future self-worth and respect?

The P&C fully support the Thirllmere school welfare policy: That students have a RIGHT to be treated fairly by both students and teachers, but that it is their RESPONSIBILITY to treat others with respect, both students and teachers alike, and not demean or degrade them in any way. We endorse wholly, completely and totally Mrs Gandy’s request in last week’s newsletter, for parental assistance to reinforce positive student behaviour, in order to create an environment of great learning outcomes for ALL!!! It’s not rocket science and it makes sense.

A HUGE HUGE THANKYOU to Narelle, Di, Peta, Amy, Cindy, Kathryn, Lisa, Deb, Mel and Selena for their participation at our Steam Fest Devonshire Tea Stall. I raise my cup and scone in your
honour. We made approximately $823 before costs. This money will go towards school initiatives such as the Skwirk Maths program, and the purchase of our new school BBQ.
To the soldiers, nurses, army pups, mums, dads and gorgeous gals waiting on the homefront, an immense thankyou for your marvellous marching on Sunday, you did your country/school proud! When we work together, we win together.

‘Be the best you you can be, nobody else is more qualified.’

Lea.
P&C