



From the Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already into the third week of Term 4. Despite that, I do welcome everyone back to this very damp Term 4. A special welcome to a couple of new families that have joined our community and to our class of 2018 as they begin their final term of school. We always know it is an extremely busy term, however, it is always a very productive one for students who work diligently.

I do want to briefly re-visit a topic I have not written about for quite some time and that is digital citizenship. This past weekend the Prime Minister announced a significant increase in funding to fight mental health issues especially in our young people. I think those that work closely with our youth welcome this initiative. Importantly, there is also pressure being brought to bear on social media sites to do more to protect our children from those that use these platforms to bully, harass and denigrate young people.

We are all bombarded with advice in this space. My tips in this article are more practical than theoretical and are designed to assist rather than lecture. So if your children are active on social media these tips may assist you and act as a checklist so that your child is a safe and respectful digital citizen.

1) Are their privacy settings up to date and secure enough to protect them from predators? If not, assist them to make them secure. If you don't know seek advice from an IT expert.

2) Are there safeguards and guidelines around who your child accepts as friends or contacts? If not, how is your child protected. Very recently police arrested a predator in Brisbane city. He was scheduled to meet a fifteen year old boy.

3) Are there regular offline talks about their online behaviour? According to the experts this needs to happen very early and very often irrespective of a child's age or online activity.

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Thur 25 October 2018

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You are invited to join our Management team for the
Volunteers' Afternoon Tea
Friday 23 November at 1.30pm
Main Admin Staff Room

Thank you to all our selfless volunteers for the work you have done throughout 2017 to make our College function and flourish.

RSVP by
Monday 19 November to Main Admin 3882 9000
or email admin@genesis.qld.edu.au

Day for Daniel
Keeping kids safe!

Friday 26 October 2018

When: Friday 26 October
Cost: \$2.00 coin donation
Wear: At least one red item or as much red as possible, e.g. red socks, shoes, hats, t-shirts, shorts, jeans, skirts or dresses.

- Length of shorts, skirts and dresses are to be appropriate and modest.
- Normal school rules apply to make-up, nail polish and jewellery.
- Red hairspray or body paint are not permitted.
- If you have HPE, on this day you are to bring your uniform to change into.

For more details read the Non-Uniform Dress Rules outlined in the diary.

2018 CALENDAR

4) Are there appropriate guidelines about online language, picture posting, what we like or don't like, what is shared etc. Just as there are boundaries in life, so there should be in their online life.

5) Are there discussions about topics like, what goes online stays online, what your profile picture says about you demonstrating respectful conversations?

6) Are there strategies in place to protect them from cyberbullying? What can they do, who to report it to, how to keep the evidence, how to respond etc?

7) Are there guidelines and strategies in place around receiving inappropriate pictures, or requests for them? Do they know that sharing them could constitute a criminal offence? So again, who should they talk to report to?

Having conversations around these issues is very much encouraged within every family. To avoid intervening online, being proactive offline is really the strategy that should be used. Sadly, as we have seen in recent weeks, some in society see it as their right or duty to comment on just about everything from the dress sense of a TV announcer to the guilt or innocence of public figures caught up in some minor scandal!

Unlike when social media was in its infancy and was the domain of the IT gurus, it is now a parallel world for most of our children. Assisting them to navigate it safely is a very important role of both parents and the College. Importantly, they need to know it is not an anonymous world, rather it is a world where individuals are accountable and responsible for their words and actions.

Brian Barker
Principal

Acknowledgements:

1. "Encouraging Positive Online Behaviour"; Reach Out.
2. "Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety tips for Teachers and Schools"; Kathleen Morris, July 2018.
3. "Australian Institute of Family Studies" April 2018.

Dates for 2019

The 2019 holidays and pupil-free days are available on the College calendar (access via Parent Lounge).

Our traditional start of Term 2 pupil-free day has been moved to the end of Term 1. This is due to the two public holidays in Week 1 Term 2.

COLLEGE PHONE NUMBERS

Please call the relevant reception to leave messages for your child or their teacher, to make appointments with teachers, chaplains etc, to arrange early pick-ups, make enquiries about primary and secondary activities, letters sent home etc
Absentee Line 3882 9033 (*Leave a message*)

Absentee SMS 0428 032 519

Email absentees@genesis.qld.edu.au

Primary School Reception (Prep to Yr 6) 3882 9049

Secondary School Reception (Yrs 7 to 12) 3882 9014

Main Reception 3882 9000

For enrolments, general enquiries etc

Finance Office 3882 9018

Uniform Shop 3882 9031

Tuckshop 3882 9041

OSHC (Prep) 3882 9032

OSHC (Yrs 1 to 7) 3882 9013

(Please call these numbers not the College Main Reception number as the College closes at 4.15pm)

Dance & Drama Academies 0418 443 220

Fitness Centre 3882 9092

Genesis Aquatic Centre 3882 9091

Little Genesis Early Learning Centre 3882 9032

Term 4	
Oct	
Wed 31	Secondary School Co-Curricular Presentation Night
Nov	
Wed 14	Senior School Presentation Night
Fri 16	Yr 12 Last Day - Graduation & Formal
Fri 23	Volunteers' Thank You Afternoon Tea
Thu 29	Middle School Presentation Night
Dec	
Wed 5	Last Day Term 4
Term Dates 2019	
Term 1 - Tue 29 January – Thurs 4 April	
Term 2 - Tue 23 April – Fri 28 June	
Term 3 - Mon 22 July – Fri 20 September	
Term 4 - Tue 8 October – Fri 15 November (Yr 12)	
Tue 8 October – Fri 29 November (Yr 10&11)	
Tue 8 October – Wed 4 December (Prep – Yr 9)	

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Monday -	CLOSED
Tuesday -	8.15am to 9.45am 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Wednesday -	8.15am to 9.45am 2.30pm to 3.30pm
Thursday -	CLOSED
Friday -	8.15am to 9.45am 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Uniform Shop Coordinator
Cathy van Vuuren
Ph 3882 9031 / Fax 3882 1581

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Term 4 is a busy and concentrated term with much to accomplish in a few short weeks before the year ends. The staff and I look forward to the successful completion of events, with reports and appropriate celebrations as the year draws to a close.

Last term concluded with three year levels of very successful class camps and I'd like to express my thanks and appreciation to all the teaching staff and many parents who assisted on the camps, making these events possible for our students. Obviously these experiences wouldn't occur without the dedication and hard work of all involved.

Day for Daniel - Friday, 26 October

This day will be marked by special activities throughout the day across all Primary. Years 5 and 6 students though, cannot be fully involved in the day as they are required to wear sport uniform for Gala Day sport. They are welcome to contribute to the day with a Gold Coin donation.

End of Year Celebrations

In the last two weeks of school, we conduct the various Celebration Services. For students in Prep to Year 4, the celebrations are held in school time on various mornings. Grandparents' Day items will be performed again for these events, so don't miss these occasions. All children also receive a Certificate of Achievement. Year 4 students are introduced to Class Prizes which continue to Year 6.

All students from Years 5 and 6 are required to attend their Celebration Evening and we expect that at least one parent will be present. All Year 6 students will be involved in a special Graduation Ceremony which is part of the program for the evening. The celebration is held to acknowledge the students' achievements over the course of the year and to reflect on the year's accomplishments. We look forward to celebrating with you, your child's last year of Primary School.

End of Year Celebrations reminders:

Tuesday, 27 November	Prep Celebration - Bray Park Community Church @ 9am
Wednesday, 28 November	Years 1 & 2 Celebration - Bray Park Community Church @ 9am
Thursday, 29 November	Years 3 & 4 Celebration - Bray Park Community Church @ 9am
Tuesday, 4 December	Years 5 & 6 Celebration - College Auditorium @ 6pm

Colours Assembly - Thursday, 22 November

In Week 7, we conduct presentations to students qualifying for Colour medallions for the year. Parents are most welcome to attend. This will be conducted in the Bray Park Community Church at 9.30am.

Class Allocations for 2019

We would like to remind all parents that we will be making allocations for classes for 2019 closer to the end of this year. We have a process for doing that which involves balancing needs, abilities and gender so that we have multi-ability, heterogeneous classes in each year level. Teachers are well placed to make decisions about class placement for the following year having seen the children interact with others all year round. Students will not be asked to provide any information relating to class placement for the following year. Rearranged classes occur each school year and we oversee this process completely. Therefore, we do not entertain requests for particular teachers and the final decision rests with the school.

DATE CLAIMERS

October

- 30 Library Book Swap Day

November

- 1 Prep Excursion – Camp Warrawee Outdoor Classroom Day
- 5 Lower Primary Swimming Lessons commence this week
- 8 Year 6 Battle of the Brains
- 9 Years 3-6 Inter-House Swimming Carnival
- 12 Kindy Transition into Prep Day #2
- 15 Year 5 Excursion to Australia Zoo
- 19 Year 6 Graduation Dinner
- 21 Year 6 into 7 Transition Day
- 21 Kindy Transition into Prep Day #3
- 22 Primary Colours Assembly
- 23 Volunteers' Afternoon Tea
- 23 Qld All Schools Relay Swimming Carnival
- 27 Prep Celebration Service
- 28 Years 1&2 Celebration Service
- 28 Year 6 Excursion
- 29 Years 3&4 Celebration Service
- 30 Year 3 Excursion – Science Centre

December

- 4 Years 5&6 Celebration Service
- 5 Prep to Year 6 BBQ lunch
- 5 Last Day of School
- 9 Events and Senior Primary Choirs at Carols Event, Axis Church

If parents are concerned about placement, then that information needs to be given to the current class teacher by the beginning of Week 4, Monday, 29 October in writing so that all information can be taken into account for the final decision.

In January, the class lists are made available to all and class allocations are emailed to parents with the Back to School newsletter. There is time allocated on Launch Day for parents to catch up with the incoming class teacher, if necessary, on that day.

Sporting News

State Athletics

Two Primary Genesis Students Matilda Lee and Declan Warnes represented Metropolitan North in the recent State Athletics Champions in tropical Cairns. Both students were competing in the 800m and 1500m at the event. Matilda was placed 3rd overall and received a bronze medal in the 800m and Declan was placed 1st winning a gold medal in the 800m and placed 3rd winning a bronze medal in the 1500m. Both students will now be representing Queensland at the State Athletics Champions in Melbourne in November. Congratulations on your achievements and good luck in Melbourne.

BOSL

Primary BOSL was due to commence in Term 4 with Boys & Girls Touch Football and Basketball. Unfortunately due to inclement weather the first two fixtures were postponed. So there are no results to publish to date. This will be updated in the next newsletter.

Primary Gala Day

On Friday, 26 October all Years 5 & 6 students will be taking part in the Pine Rivers District Gala Day. Students will participate in league tag, indoor cricket, AFL, tee ball and basketball at venues all across the district. Students will take part in a mixture of recreational and competitive fixtures against a variety of other schools.

David Wylie

Head of School - Primary



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following students who were presented with Certificates at recent Assemblies:

Silver

Hayley Wearne, Jackson Gregory, Sienna Baines, Kayleigh Campbell, Adam Hole, Matthew Winn, Lily Gejas, Priya Singh, Amelia Stahlhut, Jai Voss, Ella Heaslip, Oscar Sexton

Gold

Amelia Hart, Samuel Pineda, Meg Allen, Timothy Luscombe, Jacynta Baxter, Talise Mahony, Laura Guy

Head of School – Second

Matthew Gregory, Kairav Vanmali, Riley Thomas

One Million Word Reader

Levi Powell, Kieran Lumb, Abbey Brown, Shivaani VT, Tom Lupton, Annabella Lewis, Jacinta Power

Two Million Word Reader

Kreeda Naidu, Millie Allen, Samuel Lupton

Six Million Word Reader

Isaac Smith

COLLEGE SPORTS SHOTS



Well done
Declan Warnes

Genesis Rowing



Freya and Morgan -
Interscholar Equestrian Qld State Team



SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents

I love Term 4 and not just because the Christmas holidays can be heard jingling in the background!

I love the way in which we get to celebrate the amazing achievements of our students. I love the Presentation Nights and the farewells to Year 12. I love the way in which the College community can come together and honour the students' application to all areas of school life.

I look forward to seeing you all at Co-Curricular Presentation Night, Senior School Presentation Night and Middle School Presentation Night. Your presence from the first student on stage to the last adds the gravitas these occasions deserve. A letter from our Principal went home on October 23 outlining further details and expectations.

I am not looking forward to saying farewell to our Year 12 students on November 16. They are a fine cohort of outstanding young men and women and we shall miss them. I do look forward to celebrating and honouring their time with us at the succession of events we hold on that day. If you happen to bump into our Year 12s over the coming few weeks, please take time to wish them well in person.

- Ticketing advice for these events will be sent home soon.

Term 4 is a busy time with lots of assessment due. Please walk alongside your child and help plan the days/weeks prior to due dates to allow them to flourish and shine. Your calm reassurance, insistence on rest and messages of "you can do this" are critical to adolescents.

Blessings

Stuart Taylor

Head of School – Secondary

Australian Geography Competition

Earlier this year 25 Genesis Geography students tested their geographical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the 2018 Australian Geography Competition. We recently received their results and are pleased with how our students performed. *Robert Soltermann* and *Hannah Power*, both Year 8 students, achieved high distinctions. *Micaela McVeagh*, *Sophie Endres* and *Noah Abarca* all achieved distinctions. We also had a number of students achieving a credit. **Ms Elizabeth Hobman**

DRAMA AND MEDIA ARTS

Dance Company Update

In the last week of Term 3, Dance Company competed in their last Queensland eisteddfod for 2018, the Lockyer District Dancing Festival. We performed extremely well and were awarded with 2nd and 2 x 3rd places in some very tough sections. Two weeks later, we excitedly boarded the plane to Sydney! For many dancers, this was their first time travelling down to Sydney and competing at this high level. The trip began with a visit to Capitol Theatre for *Jersey Boys* leaving us inspired and ready to compete at Luna Park the next day. We were fortunate enough to receive 4th and 4 x HC. Dance Company was then treated to two workshops at Brent Street (Australia's premier dance training facility). The trip has left us with long lasting memories and new found friendships. The seniors will greatly miss this incredible opportunity. *Ebony Hart - Dance Captain*

CORRESPONDENCE

- Laptop Care for Yr 7-12 students
- Change to Assessment Calendar Yr 9 Maths
- VET Qualifications undertaken at Genesis
- Super 7's Netball Carnival
- Year 12 Pre-Formal and Formal Function
- Secondary Group Photographs
- Dance Company Break up
- Dance Company Term 4 Fees due
- Show Choir Break up
- Media Arts Equipment contract
- Yr 11 and 12 Japanese excursion
- Yr 8 & 9 Debating Workshops
- Film, television and New Media Equipment contract for 2018
- Three-way swimming meet
- Request for Yr 11 Parent help for Yr 12 Graduation functions
- End of Year Presentation and Celebrations



COMING EVENTS

- 24 & 25 Oct – Secondary Group Photographs
- 26 Oct - Day for Daniel
- 31 Oct - Co-Curricular Presentation Night
- 1-2 Nov Yr 11 Biology Camp
- 2-8 Nov - Yr 12 Exam Block
- 14 Nov – Senior Presentation Night
- 16 Nov – Valedictory and Formal
- 19-29 Nov – Myanmar Trip

DATE CLAIMERS

- 26 Nov- 24 Dec – World Challenge
- 29 Nov – Middle School Presentation Night
- 30 Nov – Last Day for Year 10 and 11
- 5 Dec – LAST DAY OF TERM 4

Dance News

Recently, the Year 10 Dance class had the great opportunity of going to QPAC to watch Queensland Ballet's production of *Cinderella*. We all enjoyed being able to see this professional piece as the choreography came to life on stage. For assessment, we are analysing how the storyline was reflected through the dance components. In addition to the amazing excursion, we had the privilege of having Kathleen Doody, who herself danced with the Queensland Ballet, lead a Ballet workshop for us. Kathleen taught us many ballet exercises as well as teaching us some of a soloist's dance from the well-known production of *Sleeping Beauty*. It was amazing to get an insight into what a day as a professional ballerina looks like. Both of these experiences were fun for our class and it was great to experience the world of Ballet. *Ashley MacDonald* - Year 10 Dance student

Miss Emily Briddock (Head of Dance, Drama and Media Arts)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Well it's that time of the year where all the winter sports end and summer arrives (meaning rain). This past month has seen some great achievement from our students outside of the school sports and we commend them for all their efforts. It is great to hear from proud parents wanting to share their child's success and as a school we try to share this at our assemblies in appreciation but unfortunately we cannot fit everything into our Chronicle articles so this format is limited to School Sports and State/National honours. Can't wait for the awards evenings to showcase our sporting achievements this year.

Athletics – QLD School Championship

Good luck to the following Genesis Athletes that will be competing in the 10-12 State Championships in Cairns and 13-19 State Championships in Brisbane this month: *Ella Booker; Vyeisha Tuua; Kate Collins; Madeleine Winn; Malachi Smith; Blake Turner; Alyssa Postle; Lucy Winn; Georgia Fredricks; Jessica Moy; and Byron de Villiers.*

BOSNL- Netball

BOSNL Netball rounds have concluded again this year with some great results especially in our Division 2 teams which looks great for our 2019 teams. Good luck to all our teams in finals but especially the Senior C and Junior B teams playing for the Division 2 Championship in their respective ages. Congratulations to the following students who were selected in the BOSNL All-Stars team announced before the finals:

Senior Division 1: *Maddison Sivyer*

Senior Division 2: *Thalia Smith, Emily Woods and Taya Mathiesen*

Junior Division 2: *Abbey Lamb, Farrah Grecian and Dakota Lovell.*

Last rounds results:

Junior A won 14-12 against St Benedict's, Junior B won 30-12 against SCCC.

End of Rounds Positions:

Senior A: 6th in Division 1

Senior B: 3rd in Division 2

Senior C: 2nd in Division 2

Equestrian

Junior A: 6th in Division 1

Junior B: 1st in Division 2

Junior C: 5th in Division 2

Congratulations to *Freya Kenny* in Year 10 who has been selected and has accepted her place on the 2018 Interschool Equestrian Qld State Team. She will compete in October at the 2018 Marcus Oldham Australian Interschool Championships in Victoria.

Soccer- Metro Finals – U15 Girls

• 29 August - Won 2-0 over Grace College. Goals: *Jade Dethlefs; Olivia Lee*

• Aspley State high 4, Genesis 1. Goal scorer for Genesis was *Jacy Carter.*

Skeet Shooting

Congratulations to *Michael Rixon* who has once again made the Junior Qld Team (Clay Target Shooting) and will compete at the National Skeet Championships in Wagga Wagga in May 2019. He also won four State titles: 28 gauge A grade winner with a score of 49/50, best junior in the 20 gauge event with a score of 48/50, best junior in the 12 gauge event with 50/50 and 12 gauge A grade winner with 50/50.

Rowing

The 2018 All Schools Championship Regatta was held in Rockhampton over the recent holiday break from 21-24 September. A special congratulations must go to all the Genesis Christian College rowers who made the trip: *Angelique Luus, Freya Kenny, Bridie Boden, Madison Gallaway, Emily Hocking, Jaeve Proberts, Ella Smith, Ursula Luus, Jasmine Baigrie, Nicole Watt, Bryce Scott, Brayden Jealous, Ryan Sutherland, Brandon Palmer, Lachlan McNamara.*



The regatta was very successful with 4 crews making finals and virtually every crew having close to their best races for the season.

Most importantly everyone had a great time, the camaraderie between all of the crew was superb with most experiencing what is one of the biggest regattas on the Australian rowing calendar, a great learning experience.

Special mention to *Emily Hocking* and *Freya Kenny* who qualified for the final of the Year 10 double finishing 7th of 43 entries, Freya also won her heat but dipped out in the semi-final of the U16 single. *Ella Smith* and *Jaeve Proberts* won gold in the U15 double scull where there were 45 entries. This is their fourth Championship for the year, a fantastic effort.

Jaeve also won silver in the U15 single scull and Ella placed 4th where there was 64 entries.

Most if not all the GPS Colleges participate in this regatta so the achievements of our rowers has been significant and the Genesis name is now well and truly known amongst the rowing community.

A very special thanks to the volunteer coaches from Pine Rivers Rowing Club who give up a huge amount of their time in developing and training the crew. All this would not be possible without them. They are Ray Smith, Peter Zelow (special thanks to Peter for towing the boats), Keith Watts, Glenn Smith, Elizabeth Worthington and Jenny. Also, thanks to Mr John Proberts for keeping Genesis up to date with the ins and outs of GCC Rowing.

Rugby Union

All Saint's 7's: Well done to our U15 Rugby Girls and Boys who recently competed in the All Saint's 7's at the Gold Coast. There was some great improvements and it bodes well for next season.

U15 Boys: Drew 5-5 v Kings Christian School 1
Lost 25-15 v Helensvale High
Lost 20-5 v All Saints Anglican School, Lost 20-10 v Singapore International School
Lost 20-15 v Kings Christian School 2

U15 Girls: Drew 10-10 v Kings Christian School Tries: *Amy Vorster* and *Chrissy McCarthy*
Won 30-10 v Windaloo High Tries: *Amy Vorster 3; Jacy Carter; Chrissy McCarthy 2*
Lost 35-5 v Miami High Tries: *Jacy Carter*

Touch – All Schools

The first week of school saw Mr Tim Walker taking our school Touch Rugby Stars to the All Schools Touch Championships at the Sunshine Coast. It was more of a swimming event than a touch tournament as a lot of games were washed out, however they did get two games in:

Lost 7-1 v Brisbane Adventist College Lost 10-3 v Thames High (NZ)

Taekwondo - The Gibson Brothers

David Gibson, Year 9 this year won the Queensland State Championship and at the Nationals Championships on 22 September narrowly lost his fight in the last 3 seconds by 2 points to earn a National Bronze. He was in the Local Sport Stars Pine Rivers Press/North Lake Times papers - Queensland awards and named as a Queensland finalist. At the awards he received the 2018 Runners Up for the Juniors Sports Star Individual for Pine Rivers/North Lakes region which is an amazing achievement and recognition of his achievements this year.



David will be leaving on Tuesday 23 October for a three week International Taekwondo tour with his club where he will be attending 3 International G1 events - Serbian Open, Dracula Open (Romania) and finally the Croatian Open. Genesis wishes him all the best and safe travels during this international sporting experience.

David's brother, *Adam Gibson* Year 7 shares David's love for Taekwondo and won gold at the Queensland State Championships and for the first time won a Gold at the Nationals. He is the 2018 Australian National Taekwondo Champion <37kg Red belt. Three fights, first - 70:1 second fight 72:8 and gold medal round 56:20 – Wow! Adam will be grading to his Black Belt early December this year and we congratulate him and wish him all the best.

Mr Neil Holmes (Head of Sport)

SISTER SCHOOL NEWS

JOE 2018 - What an Adventure!

In the September holiday break, 32 Genesis students made the life-changing leap into the homestay at our sister school in Minokamo. The staff and students at Minokamo Middle and Senior School ensured

our team's happiness at every turn with their warmth, hospitality and friendship and we are so thankful for the opportunities they gave the Genesis students. The host families gave such particular and generous care to the students and the bonds that formed over the week are strong and built to last. Their kindness has touched our students' hearts and they created memories there that will last a lifetime. Being prepared to experience Japanese school life with an attitude of understanding and a willingness to listen and learn ensured a rich opportunity for personal growth and development – an opportunity that was embraced in full by each team member. Although there were some tears and regret over having to leave our sister school on the morning of departure, this is a sign of full hearts and a week well spent in worthy endeavour. We congratulate the students and offer heartfelt thanks to the Genesis staff that joined us on the JOE adventure – Mr Tom Connolly, Mrs Amy Burgin, Mr Steven Hannah, Mrs Rachael Ellis and Ms Esther Ruse.

Here are some student comments that were posted on the blogsite about their time at the sister school:

- Had so much fun... Don't want to leave Minokamo. *Lauren Casey*
- I am having a great time at Minokamo and will be sad to leave on Monday. I am looking forward to the weekend with my host family. *Samantha Hannon.*
- Hey everyone!! I am definitely not missing any of you and I am going to "accidentally" miss my flight, KIDDING!! But I love it here... Sad this week at Minokamo has come to an end. *Baylee Callander.*

The JOE team also spent two weeks on the move, travelling to places of great historical and cultural significance. The staff and students got to know each other as they sped around Japan in various buses, trains and subways. Here are some of the students' comments "on the go" during the adventure:

- Hi all back in Australia! It's a little stressful here but I'm enjoying it. Weird food? Nah. The food is not at all weird. Anyway, I'm having fun here! *Noah Abarca.*
- In such a short time, we have seen so much. It's so beautiful here; it doesn't seem real. Even though everyone walks around in winter clothes, it's pretty hot. Like, hotter than Australia, hot. But the humidity makes the grass green, so it's nice. We got bitten by deer! *Shaelee Craze and Hayley Warnes.*
- We've been having a lot of fun so far and have taken loads of photos. We spent way too much money on these little figures and keychains called "gacha", but it was worth it and we regret nothing. Also, the fried shrimp is heavenly. Don't miss us too much. *Charlize Kruger and Nalia Castle.*



Athlete's Profile -

Georgia Beaumont – U17 Australian Women's National Football Team

Last month Georgia Beaumont represented the U17 Australian Women's National Soccer team in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic in the U17 World Cup qualifiers. Georgia was training at the AIS, Canberra for a week leading up to this tournament but she is no stranger to hard work and tough training as she normally trains five days a week and plays twice a week. A busy schedule but she manages by taking homework with her to training camps and keeping up a strong communication channel with her teachers regarding assignments and tests. Her current goal is to play her position in the national team to her best ability and provide the team with success. Georgia's goal in life is to never give up and all the hard work will pay off, keep being consistent. Genesis is so proud of her achievements and look forward to watching her grow as an international soccer star of the future.

- Having soooo much fun; we're playing a scavenger hunt while sightseeing. We have officially become tourists - some people are taking photos of buildings! Got to go shopping yesterday and got bargains. *Lauren Casey, Jasmine Canny, Abbie Ruiz and Oriana Menegozzi.*

Want to learn more about what the team got up to? Then please take a look at our adventures on our blogsite genesis2japan.com There is also a link to our sister school, Minokamo High School.

Miss Jessica Roche and Mrs Learnna Shimizu.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS:

Minokamo High School visit 3 to 10 March 2019.

We will have 55 Year 9 students from our sister school visiting with us for a week.

We are asking for expressions of interest to host these young adventurers. Ideally the sister school is hoping that their students will find a family with a student similar in age. We do also open up the hosting opportunity to all our families both in secondary and primary.

If you would like more information or are interested please email Mrs Learnna Shimizu on learnas@genesis.qld.edu.au or call 3882 9011.

**HAVE SOME FUN
HOST
A STUDENT FROM
JAPAN**






YOUR HELP
IS NEEDED!

SUN 3 MARCH TO SUN 10 MARCH 2019

We are seeking expressions of help to host students from our sister school, Minokamo High School.

Please contact Mrs Learnna Shimizu at Main Reception, phone 3882 9011 or email learnas@genesis.qld.edu.au

Remuneration is offered to assist with the family budget.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The first few weeks of Term 4 have been very busy in the life of the Music Department!

Anam Cara Visit

On Tuesday 16 October the Senior Primary Choir travelled to the Anam Cara Aged Care Facility in Bray Park to present a morning of wonderful entertainment for the residents. The choir performed, as well as some small groups and soloists, and students were able to meet and spend time with residents and staff. This is a performance the Senior Primary Choir do every year and is one much looked forward to by students and Anam Cara residents alike.



Strings in Spring 2018

All Genesis Christian College String Ensembles came together on Thursday 18 October to perform together in Strings in Spring 2018. It was a true celebration of string music and not only included every string player in the College but also featured a combined finale where all players from each ensemble came together to play the rousing Russian March!

The evening also featured the world premiere of the “Bribie Island Suite” composed by Mr Ashton, which featured art work and poetry by the composer himself, narrated by Mrs Joyce Van Egmond. Mr Graham Ashton was presented with a special award to honour his 40 years of Instrumental Music teaching.

Thank you to Mr Ashton, Miss Aston and all staff and students who contributed to making this such a special evening.

St Columban’s Concert Band Spectacular

Last week Genesis Music ensembles competed in the Concert Band Spectacular held by St Columban’s College at Caboolture and achieved great success.

The following places were awarded:

Primary Concert Band Section

- Genesis Christian College Primary Concert Band - 2nd place

- Genesis Christian College Year 4 Band - Encouragement Award and 4th place

Brass Ensemble Section

- Genesis Christian College Brass Band - 1st place

Woodwind Ensemble Section

- Genesis Christian College Flute Choir - Encouragement Award

Percussion Ensemble Section

- Genesis Christian College Percussion Ensemble - 1st place

Jazz Ensemble Section

- Genesis Christian College Jazz Band - 3rd place

Many of the ensembles competing in these sections were from Secondary Schools and to have some of our ensembles made up of students as young as Year 4 compete and place alongside these senior ensembles is a true reflection of the level of our achievement.

Congratulations to all students who performed and represented our College so outstandingly.



PASTORAL CARE

Recommended Resources for Parents

As a parent myself, I know first-hand that there is a wealth of information available to us about how to raise strong, resilient, well-balanced children. With so many different issues prevalent amongst our young people these days, it can be overwhelming to know where to even start to find reliable information. In 2017, Australian organisation Generation Next released two books called:

1. Growing Happy, Healthy Young Minds
2. Nurturing Young Minds

These books are designed to help parents, teachers, and mental health workers support young people throughout adolescence and beyond. They are packed full of expert advice and recommended resources about specific topics relating to the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

The books are broken down into chapters relating to a specific topic. Some of these topics include: resilience, understanding the teenage brain, alcohol and drugs, body image, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, self-harm, suicide, time management, cyber-bullying and sexualisation.

I would highly recommend these books to anyone who would like to feel better equipped to support a young person who is struggling with their mental health and wellbeing.

The books can be purchased through Amazon Australia at the following links...

Growing Happy, Healthy Young Minds

https://www.amazon.com.au/Growing-Happy-Healthy-Young-Minds-ebook/dp/B01N7QUSBP/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539230906&sr=8-1&keywords=growing+happy+healthy+young+minds



Nurturing Young Minds

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Nurturing-Young-Minds-Wellbeing-Generation-ebook>

if you have a child that is struggling with anxiety, you may find the following book helpful:

'*Helping Your Anxious Child*' by Ronald Rapee, Ann Wignall, Susan Spence, Vanessa Cobman & Heidi Lyneham.

This book provides a step by step program on how to help a child to manage anxiety. The types of concepts that are covered are:

- Practicing "detective thinking" to recognise irrational thoughts
- How to help a child when they become frightened
- How to compassionately guide a child towards challenging situations

Learning Important Social Skills

The book can be purchased through Amazon Australia at the following link...

https://www.amazon.com.au/Helping-Anxious-Child-Step-Step-ebook/dp/B00545YSB8/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1539232039&sr=8-1&keywords=helping+your+anxious+child

Please find below a list of websites that may provide you with further information relating to the issues that your child may be going through:

Raising Children

<http://raisingchildren.net.au/>

Headspace

<https://headspace.org.au/friends-and-family/>

Reach Out

<https://schools.au.reachout.com/resources-for-parents-and-carers>

Parenting Ideas

<https://www.parentingideas.com.au/blog/>

Focus on the Family

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting>

Happy Families

<https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/blog/>

Hey Sigmund

<https://www.heysigmund.com/>

Office of the eSafety Commissioner

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent>

Code 9 Parent

<https://code9parent.com.au/>

Sometimes some of the issues that your child is struggling with may be beyond what you feel you are capable of handling. If this is the case, there are many support services available including:

Your local GP who may refer your child to a psychologist

Lifeline

www.lifeline.org.au or 13 11 14

Parentline

www.parentline.com.au or 1300 30 1300

Child and Youth Mental Health Services

www.cd.net.au or 3369 3369

In addition to these services, the Pastoral Care Department is also available to support your child.

The Pastoral Care Department consists of six staff members:

- Louise Klar, Head of Pastoral Care & College Counsellor
- Lisa Mason, College Counsellor
- Anthony Lyons & Ruby Warren, Secondary School Chaplains
- Pam Nadler, Primary School Chaplain
- Julie McGovern, College Counsellor & Assistant to the Pastoral Care Team

If you feel that your child is needing some additional support, please contact us at pastoral@genesis.qld.edu.au. We are here to help!

Julie McGovern

College Counsellor/Assistant to the Pastoral Care Team

Your Pastoral Care Team



Miss Klar
Head of Pastoral Care
College Counsellor



Mrs Mason
College Counsellor



Mr Lyons
Chaplain/Life Coach



Mrs Nadler
Chaplain



Mrs Warren
Chaplain



Mrs McGovern
College Counsellor
Admin Assistant

Habits of Mind:

Taking Responsible Risks

Risk takers accept confusion, uncertainty, and the higher risks of failure as part of the normal process, and they learn to view setbacks as interesting, challenging, and growth producing. However, responsible risk takers do not behave impulsively. Their risks are educated. They draw on past knowledge, are thoughtful about consequences, and have a well-trained sense of what is appropriate. They know that all risks are not worth taking.

- Learning and Leading with Habits of Mind Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick



Whole School

Whole School Report Processes

To ensure student work is ranked fairly across all classes, teachers moderate work samples to arrive at a consensus. This ensures that a child in one class receiving a particular grade for a curriculum area has produced work of the same standard as that produced by a child in another class receiving the same grade. In this process, teachers moderate work samples against the subject Achievement Standard (ACARA) and according to the 15 point scale used on the reports. All teachers submit report grades and comments to a team of editors who check names before they are emailed to parents. To gain a good understanding of your child's achievements this semester, we encourage you to carefully read your child's report once it has been issued towards the end of the term.

Learning Extension and Enrichment

Last term, 27 Year 3 and 4 LEEP Mathematics students sat the Australian Mathematics Competition. Many of the questions required a high degree of complex reasoning and it was certainly a challenge for the students. The students did extremely well, all achieving a proficiency and above in a competition into which most schools only enter their top students. Special congratulations are extended to Year 3 students *Levi Powell, Kayden Burgin, Amelia Hayes and Oliver Lyall*, as well as Year 4 students *Olivia Caddy-Welsh, Elijah Nicol, Shivaani VT, Eli Taylor, Adley Lucas, Tiahna Cutts and Sebastian Swinburne*, who all received Distinctions. The students should receive their certificates in a couple of weeks.

This term, STEM Club is changing to Robotics Club on Tuesday at second break. We are very excited to begin designing, building and programming the Lego Mindstorms Robots this week.

In Term 4, Year 3 & 4 LEEP students will continue working on their Mathematics Investigations, using problem solving skills to apply mathematics to a real-life context. Year 5 LEEP students will undertake a Visual Art unit, where they will look at creating a nature-inspired observational artwork, based on Indigenous techniques and storytelling. Year 6 LEEP students will spend this term investigating earthquakes. Year 4 COGS students have begun learning about the process of Future Problem Solving and are in the process of completing their first booklet. They are picking up this process very quickly and it is very exciting to see them thinking critically to pose answers to complex problems.

Student Subject Allocations 2019

All parents of students going into Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 have been notified of their child's subject allocations for 2019 via the same email address as was used for communicating online Web Preference access instructions. If there are any concerns or queries, or you did not receive this information, please contact Ms Michelle Connors, Head of Senior Studies, via email (m.connors@genesis.qld.edu.au).

Changes to 2019 subject allocations can be requested. To request a subject change, please access the relevant Amendment to Subject Selection form in Parent lounge, School Links, Forms. All attempts will be made to accommodate requests, although subject changes may not always be possible due to class size constraints or line clashes.

For Year 10 and 11 students considering subject changes, please contact Mrs Mandy Bullock, Head of Careers and Student Support Services (mandyb@genesis.qld.edu.au). It is important to seek assistance due to the potential for implications on post compulsory schooling.

Stationery Orders

Information regarding the ordering of subject and general stationery will be emailed to parents towards the end of the month. The new online ordering system will provide parents with options for home delivery and a wider delivery window.

Year 12 Studies

At the end of Term 3 our Year 12 students completed the compulsory Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. After almost twelve months of preparation it is finally behind them, and all students can now turn their attention to their final Year 12 assessment tasks. There will be many distractions in Term 4 as students prepare for graduation, and it is vitally important to remain focused and to remember that subject results will continue to contribute to students' Overall Positions (OPs) right up until the end of the year.

QCS results will be made available by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) via Student Connect on 14 November.

OP results will be published by the QCAA via Student Connect on 15 December.

Primary School

Spelling Instruction

Planning for spelling instruction requires a clear understanding of the key intent for spelling development in the Australian Curriculum. In the language strand, spelling falls under two-substrands:

- Expressing and developing ideas
- Phonics and word knowledge

A good speller is not a person who has successfully memorised words, but rather someone who knows ways to figure out the logic of words and can construct them as needed. Spelling is problem solving with sounds, letters, patterns and meanings.

Keeping this in mind, our spelling instruction has a phonics approach which focuses on the process of synthesising (i.e. taking small parts and putting them together to form a whole). It uses a sound-to-letter strategy which acknowledges that sounds can be represented more than one way in written form. This approach focuses first on phonemes – the basic units of sound. It then explores the letters that represent these sounds and how they can be put together to form written words.

Our classroom teachers have attended several professional development presentations to develop their skills in spelling instruction to ensure that students become confident spellers and they are beginning to see students become confident in spelling which in turn has improved their writing skills.

Transitioning

Currently plans are well under way for the start of the 2019 school year. Much thought and discussion has gone into planning programs and classes that will ensure learning opportunities are maximised for all students. Transitioning from one year level to the next is significant for all students (and all families) but especially for those entering Prep, those moving from Prep onto the main Primary Campus and for those Year 6 students moving from Primary to the Secondary School.

The importance of positive transitions has been emphasised in research around the world. It is well established that a successful start in a new learning environment is linked to positive educational and social outcomes. Some students find moving to a new environment particularly challenging and for these students individual arrangements will be made that we hope will facilitate a positive beginning to a new stage of their learning journey.

Children who transition well are likely to have a positive outlook or "growth mindset" about their ability to learn and succeed in a new setting. A child's learning and development in school is maximised when transitions are a considered and thoughtfully planned process.

For our new Prep students, the transition process begins with the application for enrolment and involves children, parents and both Little Genesis and community kindergartens. From there visits to the school are arranged during which the children have the opportunity to spend time in the Prep precinct, meet both class and specialist teachers and generally become familiar with the school. The first transition visit will be held next Monday.

The move from Prep to Year 1 is also a significant one. For these children class visits are also arranged. With the intention of smoothing the way for our youngest learners, children will spend time in all four classrooms, take part in a variety of activities and also eat lunch in the Year 1 eating area.

An information evening will be held for parents of those children moving from Year 2 to Year 3. Year 3 denotes the move from Lower Primary to Upper Primary and is filled with many "firsts" such as iPads and going on camp.

Year 6 students are embarking upon a program aimed at preparing them mentally and emotionally for their secondary school years. The course, "Surviving High School", looks at some of the major differences between primary and secondary schooling while giving students a chance to reflect on their own strengths, weaknesses and attitudes in preparing for this transition.

Nichola Welsh, Di Todd, Kate Mitchell and Michelle Connors (Curriculum Team)



GENERAL NOTICE TO GENESIS FAMILIES CONCERNING STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

As the end of the year approaches, it is timely to remind our families of the notification period to provide Notice of Withdrawal of a student if required.

Since the College is in the position of having waiting lists on all year levels, we appeal to those parents who have finalised arrangements and are not returning students for 2019, notice was to be given by the end

of the term. (The required date was Friday 21 September 2018). This is to assist with planning for the next school year, and allow students on waiting lists to secure a position that may become available.

A Notice of Withdrawal Form is available upon request at the Main Reception or by emailing the enrolments office enrolments@genesis.qld.edu.au Please complete and return the notice within the specified time period.

Where possible, a reason for withdrawal should be provided for statistical purposes, as well as the student's intended school/TAFE, to enable us to provide a Student Transfer Note to the transferring school upon request.

For your convenience, an excerpt of our current Withdrawal Policy is included below.

If you require any clarification or further information in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me in the College Enrolments office on 3882 9000 or email enrolments@genesis.qld.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lynn M Swanson

Enrolments Registrar

GENESIS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE WITHDRAWAL OF ENROLMENT POLICY

Withdrawal of Enrolment

Notice of a student's withdrawal of enrolment from the College must be provided in writing. The College cannot accept a verbal notice as an official notice of withdrawal. A Notice of Withdrawal Form or written communication, of the intention to withdraw a students' enrolment from the College needs to be provided by the parent or guardian and sent to the Principal according to the notification periods.

Notification periods

When withdrawing at the end of the school year (one term's notice required)

One term's notice in writing is required if a student's enrolment is to be withdrawn at the end of the school year i.e. not returning to Genesis the following school year*. For example; if a parent plans to withdraw a student and intends to leave at the end of the school year – Notice of Withdrawal must be provided on or before the last day of school of Term 3 (21 Sept 2018). * excludes students completing Year 12 and graduating from senior schooling.

When withdrawal during the school year (one calendar month's notice required)

One month's notice in writing is required if a student's enrolment is to be withdrawn during the school year. For example; if a parent plans to withdraw a student and intends to leave at the end of e.g. Term 2 (22 June) – Notice of Withdrawal must be provided before 22 May (one calendar month). In order to meet attendance requirements, it is necessary for the student to be in full attendance during the month that notice has been given until the last day of attendance as specified.

Fee in lieu of sufficient notice

Failure to provide written notice for the applicable notification periods, will incur a late penalty equal to one term's fees, in lieu of notice.

All outstanding fees, accounts and levies are to be paid in full prior to the last day of attendance.

CAREERS CORNER

UQ College University Prerequisite Course - apply now

UQ College is offering a short, four week Intensive Program to assist any student that requires a prerequisite subject for their desired tertiary program in the QTAC January Major Offer Round.

Courses in Mathematics B, Biology or Chemistry are delivered on the UQ St Lucia campus from Tuesday 20 November - Saturday 15 December for students missing a prerequisite subject.

Successful completion of an individual course will satisfy the relevant prerequisite at UQ. Results will be available in time for the January 2019 QTAC Major Offer Round.

Go to <https://www.uqcollege.edu.au/> for more information.

Study in Europe with new international Engineering double degree

UQ has an incredible opportunity for high performing Engineering students to combine study with travel in a new European double degree.

The first of its kind in Australia to focus upon Engineering, this program offers students the unique opportunity to spend at least three semesters studying in Europe, with one of UQ's premier partners in Germany, France or Sweden.

Students will gain an invaluable global perspective, international industry experience and will graduate with formal degrees from both UQ and their host university.

Discover more here - <https://www.eait.uq.edu.au/european-double-degree>

TAFE School Parent Information Nights

If your senior student is considering TAFE, parents, guardians and students are invited to attend TAFE's School Parent Information Nights.

- Bracken Ridge - Thursday, 25 October 2018

Time: 5.15pm for 5.30pm start to 7.00pm finish

Map: Bracken Ridge Campus

- To Register please go to:

<https://go.tafeqld.edu.au/Parent-Info-Night-October-2018.html>

REMINDERS

2018 FEE ACCOUNTS

For any fee enquiries please contact the Finance Office on 3882 9018 or at finance@genesis.qld.edu.au

PAYSMART ACCOUNTS

The next fortnightly Direct Debit payment will be deducted on **26 October**.

The next monthly Direct Debit payment will be deducted on **18 November**.

TERM ACCOUNTS

Term 4 fee accounts were emailed out on Wednesday 16 October and were due for payment by **Tuesday 23 October**.

Thank You

Finance Office

LIBRARY NEWS

Final day for all items to be returned to the library:

Year 12 – Friday 9 November

Years 10 and 11 – Friday 23 November

Years 7, 8, and 9 – Monday 26 November

our TUCK SHOP news



EMERGENCY MEALS - OUTSTANDING BILLS

We wish to continue our service of offering Emergency lunches to your children.

If you have an outstanding Tuck Shop bill, could you please ensure it's paid as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Mrs Chris Kidd

Tuckshop Co-ordinator

SUSHI LOVERS:

Sushi comes in fresh Friday needs to be ordered by 9AM Thursday! Thank you

CONTACT DETAILS: pfassoc@genesis.qld.edu.au

President – Mrs Andrea Maunder

P&F Meeting - See below for details

pfassoc@genesis.qld.edu.au

School Banking

The new rewards for Term 4 are the Slushie Maker Cup and the Zoom Flying Disc. The Secret Scratch Pad reward item for Term 1 is unavailable. All other Term 1, 2 and 3 rewards are still available.

Remember, it is never too late to sign your child up to School Banking. This year it is even easier with an online application. Simply go to www.commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to begin the process.

Family Portraits

An email was sent home on Thursday 18th October regarding our \$20.00 Family Portraits. We have appointments available for Family Portrait sessions on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th November.

Family portraits will be taken in the rooms next to the College library, L3 and L4 (heading towards MP1). Please note that a parent /grandparent must be in these photos with the children.

Each session takes approximately 30-40 minutes, time for the photos and viewing the photos afterwards.

Genesis Festival

The date has been set for our Genesis Festival in 2019. Mark your diaries - JULY 27.

There are some exciting new changes coming in 2019 that we look forward to sharing with you in the lead up to this fun family College event.

Final P&F Meeting for 2018

Our final P&F meeting for 2018 will be held on November 27th at The Warner Tavern from 6pm.

Uniform Shop 2019

We will be accepting second hand uniforms **until 12pm-Friday 7 December 2018**

Uniform items should be clean and in good condition. At the discretion of the College, we will not accept any items that have not been laundered or are in poor condition.

Please bring uniforms to the Uniform Shop on the days our shop is open (day and times are noted in the newsletter each week). All items must be bagged with name and address.

Payment for second hand uniforms will be processed via Direct Deposit. Forms are available from the Uniform Shop to complete. We are unable to pay cash.

Thank you for your cooperation
Cathy van Vuuren
Uniform Shop Coordinator

Flexischools Online

You can purchase online anytime during this period and orders will be processed when we return from holidays and pick up will be Wednesday 23 January 2019 using the numbering system.

Purchasing Uniforms now for 2019

If you purchase uniforms now and are concerned they may not fit in 2019, leave the tags on and we can exchange the items on Wednesday 23 January 2019.

Lay-bys

The uniform shop has a lay-by system that is offered to all our families in the College. When using this system we require a 20% deposit and regular payments, with the lay-by being finalised within 3 months. We encourage our families to utilise this system in order to alleviate the January rush.

Shoes Requirement Extract for 2019:

Prep: Joggers with College sport socks (velcro straps are recommended for independence).

Years 1 and 2: Buckle up or velcro strap regulation black leather/vinyl shoes are acceptable.

Years 1-12: Regulation black leather/vinyl lace up shoes (not boots, joggers or slip-ons). Ballet style slip-on shoes or heels higher than 2.5cm, for girls are not permitted for safety reasons. Sport shoes must be recognised running cross training, netball, tennis or low-cut basketball shoes predominately white, which provide foot support, and are to be worn with the sports uniform. Fashion sports shoes that do not provide ankle and arch support i.e. skate shoes, Volleys, canvas slip-ons or Converse shoes are not permitted. Cleat shoes are not to be worn away from the fields. Grass is to be cleaned from shoes before entering the toilet/change block and classrooms. Only white shoe laces are acceptable in sports shoes. Coloured shoe laces including black laces are unacceptable. Shoes must be kept clean and in good condition.

Back to School Shop Hours

New and Second Hand Uniforms

Monday 14 - Friday 18 January 2019
Monday 21, Tuesday 22 and Thursday 24 January 2019.

One family per appointment only

Appointments only on these days.

Please email anytime

uniformshop@genesis.qld.edu.au

or ring Uniform Shop 3882 9031 until

Friday 7 December 2018 to make an

*appointment. **If an appointment is still***

required after this date, please email ONLY at the above address.

Collection of lay-bys, online orders & exchange items

ONLY

Wednesday 23 January 2019 - utilising a numbering system

General Day

Friday 25 January 2019 8.30am to 2.30pm.

Closed 12.00pm-12.30pm

Shop hours all days except Friday 25

January 2019— 8.30am to 3.30pm

Closed 12.00-12.30pm

insights



Talking to kids makes them smart

by Michael Grose



The links between school achievement and parents' ability to talk with kids from a young age are now well established.

The language stimulation children receive when they talk with parents is one factor. But engagement in conversation with parents benefits kids in a far broader sense. In many ways it is through conversations that kids get a real sense of us as parents. It is through talking with kids that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts while also gaining access to a window into their worlds and the way they think.

In the current age of digital distraction, talking with children and young people can be a challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, a plethora of screens competing for attention and kids that clam up at the first sign of a chat are some of the conversation blockers parents must overcome.

You need to be cunning, proactive and inventive to get some chat going at home. These are some ideas that will help.

1. Turn screens off. Are you competing with televisions, computers and electronic games for your kids' attention? If so, take control of the screens to create some conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you have a home full of young hard-core screen junkies.

2. Turn screens on. If you can't beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversational fodder, particularly for older children and teens. Topics can range from "Who's going to win *My Kitchen Rules*?" or "What happens to the winners of *My Kitchen Rules*?" to "What is the point of *My Kitchen Rules*?"



3. Have regular mealtimes. The family that eats together talks together. Meals are great social occasions – more than just refueling stops. They provide terrific opportunities for families to get together and talk. It's no coincidence that families who enjoy and appreciate food generally enjoy close relationships as well. However, for this to work it's important that meals are screen free, so turn off the television and ban phones at the table.

4. Move more. If sitting and chatting is not your child's thing then try to get some action happening. Boys, in particular, tend to talk more when they are playing, walking or involved in activity with an adult.

5. Talk with kids on their own turf. Many children will open up in the privacy of their own bedroom where they tend to feel more relaxed and secure. If you have something important to discuss then choose a comfortable place and a time that promotes good conversation.

6. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting. Travelling together in a car with the radio off, washing the dishes together or playing a game can all provide opportunities for talk. Paradoxically, many teenagers will talk more when they don't have to concentrate or make eye contact with the other person. That's why cars can be great conversation catalysts for parents.

Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens. The best communication in families happens when no one is working at it, however busy modern families need to work on their communication rather than leave it to chance.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including Thriving! and the best-selling Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It, and his latest release Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children.