Weekly Awards

K
Linkin Files – ‘settling in to Barrington PS so happily’

1/2
Nathaniel Graham – ‘showing good reading improvement’
Logan Files – ‘his positive and happy approach to settling in at BPS’

3/4
Dean Germon – ‘his enthusiastic approach to learning’
Lauren O’Neill – ‘great progress in math problem solving’

5/6
Isaac McClure – ‘his independent approach to all maths activities’
Bradley Conomos – ‘a big improvement in maths skills’

Congratulations to the following students who have demonstrated the school’s values this week: Justin Battams.

Commendation Certificates
Logan Webeck, Thomas Coombe, Natalie Rayner, Lauren O’Neill, Georgia Graham, William Bandy, Beau Blanch and Georgia Schultz.

State Athletics
Best wishes go to Year 6 student, Courtney Webeck, and Year 5 student, Ruby Cliffe, as they travel to Sydney this week to compete in their respective State Athletics Carnivals. Watch this space for a full report on their time there. Have fun, girls!

COMING EVENTS

TERM 4 2015
Tuesday 20 October
Whole School Excursion to Manning Entertainment Centre for ‘Roald Dahl’s Revolting Rhymes’.

Thursday 22 October
School Photos.

Monday 9 November to Friday 20 November
Intensive Swimming Scheme

Wednesday 18 November
Kindergarten Orientation.

Wednesday 9 December
Presentation Evening at the RSL Auditorium – 6.00pm.

Birthdays
Samuel Ellis  5.10.15  (8)
Selina Denyer  6.10.15  (8)
Hayley Connell  9.10.15  (11)
James Barry  10.10.15  (6)
Georgia Schultz  14.10.15  (11)

Canteen Roster
Monday 19.10.15
Belinda Germon and Kristy Johns.

During the warmer months the P&C have decided to have an icy pole day every fortnight (available only at lunchtime) in the canteen starting Friday 23 October 2015.
Whole School Excursion - Tuesday 20 October
A separate note has gone home to all students about next week’s excursion to the Manning Entertainment Centre to see Revolting Rhymes and Dirty Beasts. Please return this note by this Friday, 16 October.

Puberty Clues
This week, the Year 6 students will be traveling to Gloucester Public School to join the senior students there, along with Year 6 from Stratford PS to take part in Puberty Clues classes run by Ms Ribbons from Gloucester High School. A separate note has gone home about this activity.

Alison Wise
Principal

Gloucester Junior Show
The Gloucester Junior Cattle Show will be held on Friday 23 October at the Gloucester Showground, commencing at 9.00am. The day will commence with a cattle judging competition where competitors are asked to judge both dairy and beef cattle with the winners having the highest aggregate mark for both classes. Show entries close 19 October and entry forms are available from the school office. Enquiries to bignell@iptarmail.com.au or phone David or Narelle on 65585512.

ICAS English Assessment
Congratulations to the following students who have gained excellent results in this recent assessment.
- Elana Pope, Year 2, Merit
- Charli Macdonald, Year 3, Credit
- Sienna Marzato, Year 3, Participation
- Evaena Radford, Year 3, Credit
- Lauren O’Neill, Year 4, Distinction
- Ruby Cliffe, Year 5, Participation
- Ryan Marzato, Year 5, Credit
- Isaac McClure, Year 5, Participation
- Sarah Redman, Year 5, Participation
- Keira Macdonald, Year 6, Credit

ICAS Mathematics Assessment
Congratulations to the following students who have gained excellent results in this recent assessment.
- Selina Denyer, Year 2, Participation
- Elana Pope, Year 2, Distinction
- Charli Macdonald, Year 3, Participation
- Sienna Marzato, Year 3, Participation
- Evaena Radford, Year 3, Participation
- Lauren O’Neill, Year 4, Participation
- Ruby Cliffe, Year 5, Participation
- Ryan Marzato, Year 5, Credit
- Isaac McClure, Year 5, Credit
- Sarah Redman, Year 5, Participation
- Georgia Schultz, Year 5, Participation
- Makayla Battams, Year 6, Participation
- Keira Macdonald, Year 6, Participation
- Courtney Webeck, Year 6, Participation
New resources are now available to support parents, as schools begin the implementation of the new Australian and NSW syllabuses for English and Mathematics.

These four guides provide comprehensive and practical support for parents in relation to grammar, reading, writing and mathematics.

The guides will enable parents to participate in their children's learning in a more informative way, as they work in partnership with teachers to provide quality education.
SUSTAINABLE FUTURES CONVENTION
24th/25th October ($25 per day)
35+ INSPIRING PRESENTERS
Held @ Gloucester High School

Sustainable Futures Convention
Opportunities for Communities

• Living the Good Life
• Regional Growth
• Economic Development
• Social Enterprise
• Water Management
• Rural Migration
• Sustainable Living
• Social Justice
• Industry Skills Fund
• Regeneration
• Succession Planning Your Farm
• Ecofaith
• Rural Resilience
• Regional Arts
• Reasons for Hope
• Soulstainability
• A fair go for everyone
• Tourism
• Vision for Gloucester
• Inclusive Communities

platypus Festival 2015
Sustainable Community Celebration

Wildcraft Australia (Bear Grylls for kids), Kai Boom & Junk Percussion drumming
Learn the magic of Tambo Bamboo and Frigideira, spot a platypus, talk to Devil Ark, get into the groove with the Grasscutters & Soupy Sounds, take in a Raw Earth Story, chill with Tai Chi in the park, plus much more.

Saturday 7 Nov
8.30am - 2pm
Billabong Park Gloucester

Part of the Blue Star Awards / Tidy Town Event

www.platypusfestival.com.au

For more information and tickets go to:
www.gloucestersustainablefuture.com

Tickets available online at Eventbrite or from Anne's Health Foods. Tickets sales close 22nd October.
Michael Grose looks at the role of a father’s ‘presence’ and the need for fathers to ‘speak up’ to their kids to impart important life lessons.

The messages for fathers from parenting experts like myself have morphed over time. Two decades ago dads were encouraged to ‘be a presence’ in the lives of their children. Authors such as Steve Biddulph and Daniel Petrie urged fathers to be very present in their children’s lives rather than a distant or aloof figure. They reminded us that kids need good men around them to model how to relate, how to behave and how to live a good life. Raimond Gaita author of the superb book Romulus, my father articulated this notion beautifully when he wrote, “I know what a good man is, because I’ve seen it in my father.”

A decade or so ago the ‘be a presence’ message for dads was turned up a few notches to become involved in all parts of children’s lives. A raft of research linked a father’s active involvement with positive educational and social outcomes for kids, as well as a dad’s satisfaction with the role. Men embraced this ‘hands on dad mantra’ in droves.

Suddenly changing nappies, going to parent-teacher interviews, helping with homework, coaching (or umpiring, managing, cutting oranges for) their children’s sports teams became the new fathering norm. Family breakdown, long working hours and Fly In Fly Out jobs, rather than lack of will, were seen as impediments to men’s ongoing involvement in their children’s lives.

It’s time to speak up

It’s time to ramp up father’s presence once again, but in a different way. The recent actions of some high profile representatives of the Millennial Generation – from being arrested in a $9000-a-night hotel, through to cringe-worthy public antics - has many Australians scratching their heads in bewilderment. Quietly, many people are questioning the quality, or lack thereof, of the advice they receive from their fathers. Being present and involved in children’s lives isn’t enough per se for this current generation.

TIME magazine recently described this group as ‘a generation with narcissistic tendencies that contribute to a feeling of entitlement before they’ve achieved anything’. But an overblown sense of importance is only half the story. Growing up in a reality TV culture where everything is critiqued it is little wonder that today’s young people are perhaps the most critical generation that have ever lived – posting careless criticism of ideas, people and institutions at the tap of a finger at unfathomable speed, fast losing the art of thinking things through. So what’s a dad to do?

I firmly believe the current generation of young people are in dire need of some old-fashioned, very grounded fathering advice such as “Don’t get ahead of yourself”, “Treat others respectfully at all times” and “Think before you speak/tweet/post anything nasty about anything/one else.”

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Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
Okay these messages can and do come from mothers but they have equal, if not more potency when they come from the traditionally more reserved parent—their father. Sometimes a few well-chosen words said with conviction from a highly regarded elder have more impact than a series of reminders, talks, and dare I say, lectures.

Reclaim your place
Part of the modern parenting malaise is that many fathers are unsure of their place when their children are unsocial, unfriendly or just plain painful in public. Which side of the fence should I stand on when my child or young person misbehaves—the side of my child or the side of the offended institution or organization? I suspect fathers of past generations would have had few qualms about letting their offspring know their position when they behaved like brats. A clip around the ears would have been the preferred communication method. While I disagree with the methodology I wholeheartedly agree with the sentiment expressed.

It’s not just when kids act like brats that dads need to step forward. They need to be present when children and young people are hurt, fearful, lonely, sad and depressed. The best thing that they can bring to the table is their vulnerability and a willingness to talk about feelings. I suspect most adolescents would think likewise if asked.

I agree with Guardian columnist Mariella Frostrup who recently wrote, “Despite 70 years of full-on feminist rhetoric we still bring up boys to be emotionally buttoned up and girls to remain painfully vulnerable to any emotional undercurrent.” I’ve long believed that it’s fathers, rather than mothers, who take their sons to an emotional space—or not, as the case maybe. The male inability to admit weakness or talk honestly about feelings may currently pervade the halls of power and business, but it should not and must not be the norm at home. Keeping fear, affection, sadness and other emotions under a veneer of ‘she’ll be right’ control is exhausting for men, just as it is for those around them.

Become the story-teller
Storytelling used to be the most potent strategy parents used to pass on knowledge and wisdom to their offspring. For too many reasons to mention here storytelling is now a lost art. It’s a shame because most children crave to hear their father’s warts ‘n’ all story from the horse’s mouth so to speak, rather than have it told to them by someone else, usually their mother. It’s how the vulnerability comes out and also how kids know that their dads are human. Realistic rather than exaggerated stories offer kids hope and can become their map to help them navigate new territory such as starting secondary school, dating, and going for a job. “My dad found things tough but he got through it. I reckon I can too” is a great message for a young person.

The language of fathering is a very physical one. That is, many dads build relationships with their children through games and active pursuits. It’s very often how dads pass on important lessons such as fairness, persistence and winning and losing. If physicality is a bloke’s only strategy then a father is left out in the cold when his sons and daughters move into adolescence—well passed the playful age.

A man’s just got to talk to get his messages through. He can start by letting kids know when their behaviour is likely to offend others; when they behave like chumps when they are not yet chumps; and when they need to show respect to those who’ve tred whatever path they are on before them. This is what great fathering is about in these interesting times in which we live.

Michael Grose

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