Dear Parent/Caregivers,

Last week I had the privilege of attending the Lismore Diocese Priests, Principals and Assistant Principals gathering in Coffs Harbour. With a focus on listening and sharing, we continue to uncover the mystery of God and celebrate his works through the people in our Parishes and schools. As a part of this conference I was fortunate to assist in leading conversation around Pastoral Care in our school communities and in doing so was reminded of the great work of our staff, parents and carers in modelling service and care of all, for all.

Next Tuesday, 18th September at 9.30am we will celebrate the Kindergarten and Year 12 Mass with the students from St Paul’s College. All are welcome.

On Tuesday at 6.00pm we will also host a parent evening with well known presenter Robyn Moore. Please register online or contact the school office for more information. Staff and parents from St Paul’s Kempsey and St Patrick’s Macksville will be joining us. We are hoping to see as many parents and carers in attendance so please join us.

Next Friday we will be hosting our Walk-a-thon at South West Rocks. Please ensure Sausage Sizzle Orders are returned by Monday, 17th September and sponsorship money by Friday, 28th September.

A reminder that on Tuesday 25th September we host our School Spectacular in the Hall from 6.00pm. Students and staff have been busy preparing wonderful performances for our community and having had a few sneak peaks, I know you are in for a great night of entertainment. The P&F will be providing refreshments during the evening. Please come along and support your children and our school community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to the wonderful P&F Fete team who have been working tirelessly to prepare for our Fete early next term. Please assist them in their preparations by returning Handee Hands and Showbag order forms as soon as possible.

All the best for the week ahead!

Many Blessings, Melissa Turner
**T20 CRICKET GALA DAY**
To be held in Kempsey next Monday the 17th September for all children in Years 3-6. $2.00 per student wear sports uniform with school hat and bring lunch and water bottles or place your lunch order at the canteen before the 8.55am bell and it will be delivered to the Kemp Street Fields.

**POLDING ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**
Good luck to Roxy Hofman, Keneisha Lockwood and Mia Quinn who are competing at the Polding Athletics Carnival today in Newcastle.

**HAPPY THRIVING FAMILIES**
A parent evening not to be missed with the outrageously funny and engaging, Robyn Moore. Free seminar, supper provided and child minding available.

**PLACES STILL AVAILABLE**
Tuesday, 18th September 6pm
Register now by clicking this link [https://goo.gl/forms/2lrlG9H3sD7mhoKt1](https://goo.gl/forms/2lrlG9H3sD7mhoKt1)

**FETE ANIMAL FARM**
We are in need of animals for our Animal Farm at the upcoming Fete (eg guinea pigs, puppies, baby goats, bunnies, ducklings, meerkats, anacondas, crocodiles and the like.) Anything really!
Please contact the school office on 6552 5501 if you are able to help.

**OP-SHOP GLAMOUR BALL**
September 22nd from 7pm
Kempsey All Saints Catholic Church Hall
Costume desirable!
Light Supper Provided
$10 Adults
$5 Concession
Kids under 10 free
Music by Kempsey District Silver Band

**CLOTHING POOL**
Orders can be sent in and we will do our best to fill them.

**MAKE MATHS FUN**
Make Maths Fun Parent Workshop
Tuesday, 30th October

**Curriculum in my Classroom Year 4**
Year 4 have been learning new maths warm up games to increase automaticity with multiplication facts and the pressure has been on! Here they are playing times tables jump where they have to know their tables and play strategically to stay in!

**School Spectacular**
Tuesday 25th September 6.00pm

**Music by Kempsey District Silver Band**

**Costume desirable!**
**Light Supper Provided**
$10 Adults
$5 Concession
Kids under 10 free

**Make Maths Fun Parent Workshop**
Tuesday, 30th October

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**Music by Kempsey District Silver Band**

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Year 4 have been learning new maths warm up games to increase automaticity with multiplication facts and the pressure has been on! Here they are playing times tables jump where they have to know their tables and play strategically to stay in!

**Lots of fun!!**
STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Clay Clegg  
Lily McConnell  
17th September

Justin Nixon  
Taj Webb  
20th September

Harrison Shore  
Annie Sutherland  
Samantha Ware  
21st September

WANTED

Kitchen utensils for sandpit play  
(eg mixing bowls, wooden spoons, saucepans etc.)

FETE NEWSLETTER

CAN YOU HELP?

To assist with this year’s fete we need
DONATIONS ON THE DAY of
- Plants  - Cakes* - Hay

OR
DONATIONS at ANYTIME of
- Glass Jars / Bottles  
- Craft Items  
- Homemade Pickles, Honey, Jams, Chutneys etc

(with list of ingredients & date prepared)

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED INTO THE OFFICE.

*Collect cake boxes/trays from the office.

DON'T FORGET

SHOWBAG ORDERS

THIS TERM

Orders close Friday, September 21, 2018

Keep selling your raffle tickets!

Week 9 Roster

MONDAY  Kylie Campbell
TUESDAY  Kylie Campbell
WEDNESDAY  Marcia Spalding
THURSDAY  Nadeen Crowe
FRIDAY  Mary Dowling  
Shelley McLean

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

To help us become a more environmentally sustainable school, families are asked to update their Email and Mobile Phone Numbers to receive electronic correspondence.

PARENT NAME: ________________________  ELDEST CHILD: ______________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ________________________  MOBILE NO: ______________________
insights

Peer time counts big time towards your child’s success

by Michael Grosse

"It takes a village to raise a child but in a village there are always enough kids to form a play group."  Anon

Life for children and teenagers is generally very busy and adult-initiated. A quick glance at most kids’ after school schedules will reveal at least two after school activities (including sport/physical activity or classes of some sort) each week that are organised and lead by an adult. Nothing wrong with that however the more time children spend in adult-initiated activities the less free time they have to spend among themselves, and the enormous benefits this brings.

Spending free time with peers benefits kids in these ways:

1. They learn to negotiate and communicate
   Young children generally communicate with one another through play, and the communications have real meaning. They negotiate about what and how to play. Typically kids will make up the rules of any game, modifying them as they go along, and challenging other children’s interpretations. “You’re not playing by the rules” is a common childhood retort most of us are familiar with. Left to their own devices kids will generally resolve such conflict situations more creatively, and with more flexibility than when adults become involved.

   Teenage peer-to-peer communications often focus on emotions and the struggles they experience. Adolescents learn they can be honest with their friends, as they are less likely to overreact and assume control, the way that their parents or other adults might.

2. They become independent quicker
   When children spend more time among themselves they become less reliant on adults to solve problems for them. In fact, when kids play among themselves someone will take on the authority of an adult and ensure that problems are resolved, usually more quickly and more equitably than when an adults attempts to do so.

   Typically when kids of any age get together they act in ways that can mock and challenge adulthood – young children will use ‘naughty’ words and teenagers push parent boundaries so they can gather together away from adults. This type of independence-seeking is the default mechanism of kids of all ages, but it can be stifled by well-meaning, over-involved or over-controlling adults.

3. They are less anxious
   “I dare you!” is a phrase that evokes strong memories for many adults. It’s a throw-back to a time when as children or teenagers we challenged each other to climb that tree, to cross that road and to go speak to that girl/boy. Of course, the biggest challenge we faced was to confront our fears rather than avoid them. Children of any

4. They become more innovative
   Adults of every generation bemoan the fact that children and teens don’t play in the same way as they did when they were young. We forget that children are naturally drawn to the newest innovations in the larger culture around them. Where adults are naturally suspicious of change, children will invariably embrace it. This is shown by children’s eagerness to embrace digital technology, which is often far ahead of their parents and teachers.

   Children’s culture focuses, quite naturally and adaptively, on the skills important to the world they are growing into, not the world as it was, when their parents and teachers were growing up.

5. They get along better with others
   The biggest requirement for kids mixing with siblings and peers is that they must get along with each other. They need to accept each other’s differences; learn how to assert themselves while accommodating the needs of others and respect other kids’ opinions, not just their own. This type of socialisation is central to being a member of civil society. The skills of “getting along” are best practised among equals and for kids that means practising on their peers and siblings. These “getting along” skills may be well be the most important skills for kids to develop if they are to lead a successful adult life — including maintaining long-term partnerships, making friends and enjoying cooperative relationships in the workplace.

   Encourage a culture of childhood
   As a parent or teacher it helps to see the time kids spend among friends and siblings as valuable rather than wasted time. Encourage kids to spend time with each other and resist the urge to rush in and fix things up between peers and siblings when relationships sour or they have problems to resolve. And resist the natural urge of most parents who lead small families to know everything that’s happening in a child’s life — kids need some time and space to work things out themselves.

   Kids need to belong to two cultures
   Encouraging a culture of childhood doesn’t mean that we devalue what we offer as adults to children and young people. Kids also need to be able to fit into the adult culture that we are preparing them for. However it’s important to recognise the value of sibling and peer relationships in the development of the skills and attitudes needed for a successful adult life.

Michael Grosse

Michael Grosse, 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 Spoiled Generation: How to raise independent children.