



Mac News

Friday 24th February

DIARY DATES

Monday 27th February	Life Education Van
Tuesday 28th February	Curriculum Day
Sunday 5th March	Working Bee 10am-12noon
Monday 13th March	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 14th March	School Council Meeting 4pm



BREAKFAST CLUB
Each Friday morning in the
Art Room
8.15am—8.45am

Dear Parents and School Community,

Life Education Visit February 27

The Life Ed Van will be visiting our school on Monday February 27. Just a reminder to return permission forms on Monday morning. The cost of Life Ed (\$9.00) is covered by the Excursion Levy. If you have chosen the option "Pay per Excursion" please send your payment along with the permission form.

Spelling and Writing in our school

This week I have had the pleasure of taking two different spelling groups due to staff attending professional learning. Every day, except for Tuesdays, from 10:40am until 11:00am all students are involved in focussed spelling time in seven different groups. These are known as our Spelling Mastery groups. Each lesson is scripted and extremely well sequenced. Throughout the program, rules about spelling are taught to students and it is quite astounding to hear this knowledge and to see students put it into practise. This morning, for example, the group I was supporting were able to tell me that when joining morphographs the final 'e' in the first morphograph is dropped if the second morphograph starts with a vowel. Examples of this in their spelling list were *valuable*, *solving*, *liked* and *having*.

It is not all just about spelling rules in Spelling Mastery. Practising words repeatedly so that they are automatic, particularly high frequency words, has a direct impact on students' writing. When words are easily recalled, less of a student's working memory is taken up with the spelling task and more effort can be directed to their actual piece of writing and the ideas and concepts therein. Part of our school's Strategic Intent is to build our students' writing skills and Spelling Mastery is one of our strategies to achieve this.

Our school spelling data has been trending upwards for since the introduction of Spelling Mastery and last year our spelling results were better than the state average which is certainly something to celebrate – congratulations to our students and their teachers.

Parenting Ideas

Attached to today's newsletter is an anecdote and advice from Justin Coulson. After reading it, I reflected on the way I talk with my own children (even though they are all adults) and to our students at school. Below is a resume about Justin taken from his website which you can visit at <https://www.happyfamilies.com.au/>. I hope you enjoy and reflect on his ideas and work.

Dr Justin Coulson is one of Australia's leading parenting experts and is a highly sought-after international speaker and author. He and his wife Kylie are the parents of six daughters. Yes... six. And yes, they're all from the one family, and no, they aren't disappointed, nor are they going to try for a boy.

Justin not only knows a lot about parenting, but he lives it. He is an expert in wrestling his children, sliding down steep hills on cardboard boxes with them, and reading bedtime stories. He has successfully taught each of his children to sleep in their own beds, wear clothing even when it's hot, use the bathroom, and eat at least some of the food on their plate most of the time.

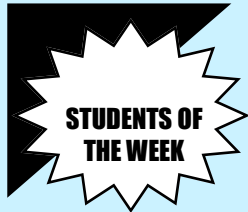
Enjoy your weekend,

Andy Backwell ~ Principal

WORKING BEE—SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 10AM-12noon

The School Council is requesting the help of parents and school community members at a working bee on Sunday March 5. The main tasks will be to freshen up the yard with a good tidy up and to install the shade cloth over the main sand pit area. A sausage sizzle will be offered to volunteers from 12:00 noon.





**A Great Start to 2017 School Year - Christian Tomaszewski, Tyson Webster
Jackson Berriman, Rylan Hill**

Principals Award: - Zenon Makara

**Art Award - Noah Peake, Chelsea Archer, Daniel Charman,
Ruby Clifton, Koby Myers**



Positive Parenting Telephone Service



This program is offered to parents, grandparents caring for their grandchildren & carers of children aged 2 – 10 years

Our free ten week program aims to assist you to:

- *Develop a stronger and more positive relationship with your child/children
- *Encourage behaviour you want to see in your children
- *Manage everyday behaviour problems
- *Set rules & limits
- *Teach new skills

This program is completed via a workbook or online modules which are supported by weekly phone calls with a trained parent educator. All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.

Interested?

For more information please phone

1800 880 660

ENROLMENTS TAKEN ALL YEAR ROUND

Enrol now and make a positive start last a lifetime



TERM DATES FOR 2017

Term 1 Tuesday 31st January – Friday 31st March.

Teachers start date Monday 30th January

Foundation students start school on Thursday 2nd February

Term 2 Tuesday 18th April – Friday 30th June

Term 3 Monday 17th July – Friday 22nd September

Term 4 Monday 9th October – Friday 22nd December

