Principal’s Comment

Lesson’s in Life—Some of the Best Education Your Child Can Receive

A recent article in the Sydney Morning Herald has prompted me to depart from my normal approach of reporting the many positive contributions to school life since the start of the school year.

The article, written by a teacher, explored the changing nature of parent, student, and school relationships and epitomised the concern I have felt about the growing need by some parents to defend the actions of their child no matter what evidence and explanation is presented by the school.

Parenting teenagers is not an easy task and has been made even more so by the explosion of social media and its promotion of self interest, often without the acknowledgement of consequences for personal actions.

In the article, a current study by the Queensland University of Technology titled “Can a parent do too much for their child?” examined the opinions of parenting professionals. It concluded that over parenting had the potential to ruin a child’s confidence and undermine an education of independence.

The article went on to outline that the study found that parents guilty of over parenting “take their child’s perception as truth, regardless of the facts” and are “quick to believe their child over the adult and deny the possibility that their child was at fault or would even do something of that nature”. Most often I believe it comes from not wanting to accept the parenting challenge of making the tough call and being off side on the home front.

From my experience of thirty-six years educating secondary students, twenty-eight of them in executive positions where I have had the responsibility of managing the discipline of students and liaising with parents, this growing trend of “no responsibility” is my greatest challenge.

Where once parents would either accept the judgement of the school or engage in meaningful discussion in relation to an issue the default in recent times has most often been to attack the judgement of those charged with the job of discipline and to defend the child unhesitatingly.

Schools exist to teach students. They teach curriculum and they also teach values and codes of acceptable behaviour that have stood the test of time and have made our society strong. They teach such things as responsibility, organisation, manners, restraint, resilience and taking responsibility for actions.

As the article suggests, this does not mean “that parents place blind trust in their children’s teachers but children make mistakes and when they do it’s vital that parents remember that the educational benefits of consequences are a gift, not a dereliction of duty.”

The most grounded students that I have seen have been those who come from loving and supportive households where that support has at times been to indicate that the actions of the child have been wrong and that consequences will apply. That does not mean you love them less, it actually means you love them.

Peer Mediation

Peer Mediation is a program that has been running at KHS which assists students in years 7,8 and 9 to resolve issues themselves without teacher involvement. It aims to give students a voice and to support them if they become involved in a bullying issue. We endeavour to reduce bullying in our school.

Bullying - what is it?
Bullying is when someone or a group of people deliberately hurt or upset someone on more than one occasion. There are three types: verbal, physical and indirect bullying (which includes cyberspace).

Who is involved?
A group of thirteen year 11 students have been trained as Peer Mediators to assist students in our school.

Our role
We are an impartial and non-judgemental third party that assists students to resolve conflicts without teacher involvement. We keep information confidential and our role is not to discipline anyone involved.

Process
If you are being bullied the first step is to tell them to stop and that you don’t like what they are doing. If they continue then fill out a Bullying Report Form (BRF) and place it in the box. We collect the forms, then come and assist you to resolve the issue. BRF forms and boxes are currently located in the front office, outside Mr Ireland’s office and in the Library. Your year advisors or any teacher can also give you a BRF.

So help us help you!

By the Peer Mediation Team

Scabies.
The school has recently had a report of scabies in its population.

Symptoms
Itchy skin; worse at night; Worse around wrists, armpits, buttocks, groin and between fingers and toes.

School or home?
Keep home from school until 24 hours after treatment has begun.

How can I help prevent spread?
Wash linen, towels and clothing worn in the past 2 days in hot water and detergent. Tell the school. Family, friends and classroom contacts should be examined and managed if infested.

Information on other sickness and illnesses.

Kingsley Ireland
Deputy Principal
Kooringal High School
Ph: 69225155

EAST WAGGA KOORINGAL JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
Registration Day
Junior Football and Netball
McDonalds Kooringal Store
Sunday 24th February 2013
10.30am to 12.30pm
** Free McDonalds Cheeseburger Meal**
For all children fully registered on this day.
Auskick/U8’s, U9’s - $85.00 each
(Includes Auskick pack and socks)
U10’s, U11’s, U12’s, U13’s & U15’s - $110.00 each
(Includes one pair of socks)
Fun Net - $25 each
Netta - $40 each
Net Set Go Pack - Additional $25
Primary (not registered elsewhere) - $55
Secondary (Already Registered) - $15
Age Groups - U9’s, 11’s, 13’s and 15’s
For further information email ewkjfc@gmail.com

GUITAR TUITION
Experienced tutor | Reasonable rates
Contact Roger Murphy  B.A. (Contemporary Music) – U.N.E.
Tel: 6922 5673
Year 10 Work Experience Information

Mrs Fitzgerald is currently in the process of speaking to all Year 10 Maths classes about how to arrange their work experience placements this year. Each student has been given a Work Experience Package which contains lots of general information and all the forms required to arrange their placements.

Students can participate in up to two weeks of work experience in a career area of interest to them, and at a time during the school year that suits them. It is vital students start making the steps to organise their placements now so they are setting themselves up for informed decisions for their future.

The benefits of work experience are many, including:
- To ‘try before you buy’ and see if they are suited to and like the job
- To test a few different career options
- To gain contacts for part time, casual work and full time work
- To meet people who may be part of their network in the future
- To gather information for HSC subject selection (Week 2 Term 3)
- To experience working in a full time capacity and adult working life
- To gain experience and skills to include in their resume
- The Student Work Experience Evaluation can be used to find employment and to assist with applications for some courses at TAFE, private college or university

Students who did not receive a package or who would like some assistance with their placements should see Mrs Fitzgerald. Please call 6922 5153 if you have any questions relating to work experience.

NB. There will also be an Information Evening for Parents on the 12th March in the KHS PAV from 7pm to 8pm.