

#### Assistant Principal Message

#### EVERY DAY COUNTS

## Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Children learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

We all want our children to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with children coming to school each and every day.

Children develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on children academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other children, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

#### How many days has your child missed this semester?

- 0-6 This is within normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.
  7-10 This attendance rate is below average. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of learning between prep and year 10.
  11-20 This is a poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss out on up to two years of learning between prep and year 10.
- 20+ This is a very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over two and one half years of learning between Prep and year 10.

#### **Remember:**

- Children need to attend school regularly to make the most of educational opportunities and to reach their full potential.
- There is a direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life.
- Poor patterns of attendance in the early years lead to poor patterns of attendance throughout the school years.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult for children to form positive relationships with their peers.
- Research shows that when young people are in school every day, they are safer and less likely to be victims of crime, or become involved in crime.

Jennifer O'Connor

Assistant Principal Prep-2 Learning Community



#### Message from our School Vice-Captains

Hello parents/ guardians,

This week the Grade 3's & 5's had Naplan testing, all students did their best. Selected students in Years 5/6 have been chosen to play in the Lightening Premiership Winter sports in Term 2.

Students will play four rounds of either Netball, T Ball or Football at selected venues over 4 weeks.



School Vice-Captains Alith Panthum & Jessica Hodge

## **Getting it right in Writing!**

Tools readers use to solve words

The ultimate goal of reading is to make meaning, to understand and to comprehend. To help them do this, readers of all ages use information sources known as cueing systems to help them solve words.

There are three information systems/cueing systems available for readers to access while reading:

- 1. Meaning (Semantic)
- 2. Structure (Syntactic)
- 3. Visual (Graphophonic)

Readers sometimes rely more heavily on one type of cueing system when solving words, for example, visual cues. However,

successful reading involves using the three cueing systems together which is known as 'cross-checking'.

Below are some examples of these cueing systems in action. Some prompts you can use to support your child to use these cueing system while reading are provided below.



Sarah Marshall- Leading Teacher Literacy



#### Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Melton West Primary School is excited to be participating.

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 8 September 2017.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and can choose to have their name included on the online Honour Roll. If you would like your child's name to appear on the Honour Roll, please see your teacher or Mrs Hooke to collect a form.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc">www.education.vic.gov.au/prc</a>

#### **Marvelous Maths**



All around us, every day.

## Maths Olympiad



Every year Melton West Primary School participates in the Maths Olympiad.

The Maths Olympiad promotes problem solving for high achieving students in Years 5 and 6, and Years 7 and 8 at school. Comprising two divisions: the Junior Division (Years 5 and 6) and the Senior Division (Years 7 and 8). The Maths Olympiad has been offered in primary schools since 1987 and in high schools since 2003. The Olympiad has gained in popularity over the years and developed a reputation for excellence in mathematical education.

Participation in The Olympiad provides an opportunity for mainstream students in Years 5 and 6 to learn valuable problem solving skills and exposes them to the application of mathematical problem solving strategies and techniques.

The main aims of the program are to:

- introduce students to important mathematical concepts
- •teach major strategies and develop flexibility for problem solving
- foster creativity and ingenuity and strengthen intuition
- stimulate enthusiasm and enjoyment of mathematics
- provide for the satisfaction, joy and thrill of meeting challenges!

Creative problem solving focuses on the real-world application of maths, encouraging children to think for themselves and explore a range of problem-solving options. As an adult, we apply our knowledge of maths to solve numerous day-to-day problems (even if we don't realise it!). By encouraging our students to think through a problem or challenge in a holistic manner, we are helping them to reach their full potential in relation to mathematical problem solving and, in essence, to make sense of mathematics.

The Maths Olympiad program is an ideal complement to the school curriculum. The focus is on extending and challenging students to think laterally and creatively when solving mathematically based problems.



# parenting\*ideas insights

## **Fathering daughters**

#### By Michael Grose

## 6 practical tips for dads on how to be a great father.

A father's influence lasts a lifetime, and it is an important compliment to the mothering role. More and more research is confirming that a female's sense of worth as a woman, is commonly rooted in her experience with her father.

Fathers affect the lives of their daughters in intriguing ways. Including her academic and vocational path, her career success and financial well-being. The well-fathered daughter is also the most likely to have relationships with men that are emotionally intimate and fulfilling, and have better emotional and mental health.

Here are five tips to help you be a great father to your daughter.

#### 1. Make the connection

One of the most natural ways a father can make a connection with his daughter is through purposeful physical affection. A hug, shoulder squeeze or a kiss on the cheek helps to create an emotional bond with daughters who desperately crave these displays of affection. This is great news for fathers, because if you can't find the words to say it then you have a second opportunity to show it through physical gestures.

Studies have proven that physical touch makes us feel better both physiologically and psychologically. But children — especially daughters — need more than just everyday gestures given in passing. When a girl's need for affection is met by her father it has a protective measure on her future sexual relationships.



When fathers can have a purposeful physical relationship with their daughters, which is done in a way that supports her feelings of safety and connection, it can also help to stress-proof them. When girls are given opportunities to be involved in physical play outside the house and in outdoor activities, they begin to understand the skill of risk-taking. Girls who are treated too softly and are not provided with opportunities to experience risk, are left in a vulnerable position.

#### 2. Invest in her

As a father, you can appreciate your daughter for who she truly is. Help her to identify her unique qualities and value them.

Avoid investing in who you think she should be. This can happen when fathers feel like they don't understand their daughters. Remember, this can happen easily as girls tend to morph into what is expected of them rather than excel towards who they truly are. Instead, do whatever it takes to try to understand her. Spend time together, share stories and experiences. Give her opportunities to show her true self, and this will strengthen the relationship.

Be there and be engaged. Get off the bench and into the game, be enormously present and don't let anyone dull her spark.

### parenting **\***ideas

#### **Fathering daughters**

#### 3. Listen without fixing

Dads wishing to fix things can make us lousy listeners. Your important job is to listen out for the feelings and the emotions; your daughter just wants to be heard. Listening is essential for every father, even though it sometimes goes against their instincts.

The father who has worked on being a sensitive listener will reap the benefits of his daughter's trust; he'll be the natural person to go to when she has questions about boys or men. She needs to hear your ideas and feelings about relationships. Promoting open verbal interaction with your daughter will enable you to give her a male perspective on her questions or problems.

You do not need to agree with everything she says or does, but when you listen, you build the emotional connection that will help her listen to you when it really counts.

#### 4. Watch your language

The language you use when talking to girls matters. Everything that is said can be taken very seriously and to heart by your daughter. Thoughts and comments are easily internalised, amplified and exaggerated.

Differentiate being pretty from being beautiful. Prettiness is not a good thing to stay to a girl, even if she is. Being told she is pretty teaches her to start to trade on her looks and she will expect people to say that. Beauty and attractiveness are not pretty, and it is really important to differentiate those when talking with your daughter. Praise her for the values and characteristics she has which make her beautiful.

#### 5. Provide warmth

Fathers need to find their softer side when dealing with their daughters, to help them open up and share and provide an emotionally safe place for them. When fathers are called upon to give corrections or direction, they can do this in a warm and loving manner that she will positively respond to. Offer your strength to your daughter in a different way than you would to a son.

#### 6. Be a positive male role model

As a girl tries to figure out what men are like, the first one she watches is her father. He can be one very significant example of a man who is consistent, trustworthy, and sensitive to feelings, who places his family at a high priority in his schedule, who keeps his promises, and who invests his energies in the lives of those around him. As her father, you play a large role in showing your daughter what a proper, respectful male response sounds and feels like.

Treat her mother and her sisters with the same respect. As a father, you have many choices about how to use your influence in a positive and empowering way.



One of the most important factors that determines a woman's confidence in life is the relationship she had with her father. You are in a privileged position to make a remarkable difference to a future woman's life.

#### Visit our website

for more ideas and information to help you raise confident and resilient young people.



**Special note:** I'm thrilled to announce that my latest book *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children* is out. It's available at parentingideas.com.au



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