From the Principal’s Pen…..

Dunwich State School is a great school that can only get better in 2014.

We are so proud of our community and our students who performed at the Intrust Qld Cup, Reconciliation Round rugby league game on Sunday. We are particularly proud of Mrs Maree Goebel who sang the national anthem in Dharawal language and was broadcast across the nation on Channel 9. “Way to go”, Maree and “Way to go”, Straddie.

Term 3 is upon us and what an exciting term it will be. The students arrived back to school to see the new yarning circle and the newly surfaced undercover area. Thank you to Sibelco for funding the yarning circle and the undercover area was financed by the government funds. It was wonderful for the students to arrive back to these completed projects.

The “Great Results Guaranteed” projects of reading sessions before and after school proved to be very successful in term 2 with all students showing improvement in their reading levels. This will continue in term 3, co-ordinated by Mrs Leanore Gregory and delivered by Desleigh, Debbie and Alison.

Naplan results will be released in term 3 and the teachers are looking forward to analysing these results so as to best prepare individual instruction for the students.

South East Region is holding the regional NAIDOC Day celebrations on Friday 25th July at Redlands State School. Mimi (Year 7) will be recognised for her leadership skills on the day. This is a great honour and we are very proud of her. She has also been asked to deliver the “Welcome to Country” at the celebration. The Dunwich SS dance group will be performing on the day. The Dance Group have called themselves “The Goompi Dance Group”. We are looking forward to this event.

Dunwich State School will be hosting NAIDOC Day celebrations in mid-September, at the end of term 3.

Jenny Wilson
Principal
It was a pleasant surprise for the students to return to school after their holidays to see a huge snake shaped pathway that forms the yarning circle. This area will be utilized by students, staff and community members.

Many thanks to Sibelco who funded this project after consultation was sought from our EATSIPS committee, community, staff and students. I am sure the students will enjoy this area for many years to come. An opening ceremony will be held in the near future.

Prep students were acknowledged for their lovely singing at the opening ceremony of the Shiatzu International Conference held at Point Lookout. Well Done!
Boys are the masters of minimalism and the practitioners of “just-in-time” management. Asked to do almost any task, their immediate response is “later”. If they are asked to write a 50-word essay, they will count the words and if they write 51 words most of them will think they have overdone it. If you are fortunate to have a son there are a number of things that you can do to improve their behaviour and learning. These methods are likely to work with the majority of boys.

Respect
Boys are constantly checking to see if you respect them. They respond well to people who have expectations of them and respect them as capable of meeting those goals. If a boy has a sense that you respect him, he will walk over coals for you. Never ask a boy to perform a task in front of a group that he will struggle to do well. There is a high chance he will be humiliated and will never do anything for you ever again.

Have clear signals about who is in charge
Boys need boundaries. They need to know who is in charge. They respond to adults who are fair, funny and respect their points of view. Without clear boundaries, where no one clearly owns the space, boys can become anxious and that anxiety can convert into expressions of low motivation and clowning type behaviours.

Use a physical signal to communicate
Boys need more signals than girls partly because they are less tuned into facial cues and also because boys are more able to screen out white noise. Therefore, use visual cues, turning lights off and on, and movement to gain a boy’s attention before speaking. Never, ever yell.

Fewer rules and fewer words is better
Have a couple (no more than three) clear rules that you apply fairly and consistently. Base your parenting of a boy on the idea of, “I won’t let this happen to you and I won’t let you do it to anyone else”. When you make an instruction use a back-up visual that you can point to for boys who have difficulty listening.

Value them and they will be heroes
Boys are tuned into hierarchies. This means the predominant values of a family or school will play a powerful role in determining their actions. Have a couple of core values (e.g. compassion, generosity, being part of a team). Live by them and insist upon them. Help boys to learn that they can be heroes and victorious but that winning doesn’t mean someone else has to lose.

Use knowledge from computer games as an inspiration for learning
Boys’ attraction to competition will override almost any disadvantage or loss of motivation. They generally love competitive games especially when there is not an ultimate winner. Quick fire quizzes with several rounds are a successful way of engaging boys.  
* Make success challenging but attainable by breaking it down into stages.  
* Make success more likely than failure. The most motivating games have players succeed about 80% of the time initially before building up to 100% before moving to the next level.  
* Use lots of movement.

Pay attention to less competitive, sensitive boys. Assist them to attain personal bests. Give boys more time to respond to you and to assemble the words in their mind before speaking.

Move regularly
Boys see things best in motion. Use movement and set goals as often as you can. If you have ever watched boys place rubbish into bins you will see that they don’t place it, they take a shot. For this reason movement and aiming to achieve a set target are powerful strategies with boys.

Boys need quiet times
In order to reflect and re-energise boys need quiet times to think, read and at times quietly chat with others. Arrange your son’s routine so that there is a quiet time and place for thinking.

Know about anger
Anger and shame can stop boys learning and once boys are angry, it is harder for them to get over it. If they feel you are going to shame them in front of their friends they will fight you tooth and nail. Most boys will do silly, self-defeating things rather than lose the respect of their peers. Deal with issues at a time of your choosing not when the boy wants to deal with it. If you really have to pick a battle with your son choose a time when there is not an audience.

There are also decision-making differences between girls and boys when involved in dispute resolution. Girls are often more able to see the effect of their actions on other person so asking “how do you think she felt?” type questions may pay off. In contrast boys may be less cued into other students’ emotions and a more successful strategy may be to reinforce a rule such as, “I wouldn’t let him do that to you and I’m not going to let you do it to him”.

Boys are loyal and funny
Boys love the inside word, the cheat sheet and they love to score. Giving them hints, suggestions and a way to succeed builds their loyalty to you. Boys buy popularity through achievement, jokes and skills. Humour is an essential quality. Make it smart to be smart.

Give them a whiff of success
Most men and boys waste an incredible amount of time completing tasks that don’t need to be done and avoiding tasks that don’t need to be avoided. Help them to structure tasks and to improve on early attempts so that they gain mastery and success. Once a boy believes he can be successful, he’ll almost always live up to it.
The Healthy Minds Program will continue this term at 3.15pm on Wednesday afternoons. Students who participate have the opportunity to complete their homework as well as learn about physical fitness and healthy eating. A big thank you to Therese OBrien for her assistance throughout the last term.

New students are welcome, please see Elisha for a permission form.

Sunday 20th July
Under 6’s vs Mt Gravatt at Home 9.30am
Under 7’s vs Slacks Creek at Home 10.30am
Under 9’s vs Capalaba at Home 11.30am
Under 11’s vs Greenbank at Greenbank at 12 noon. Catch 9.25am water taxi.

Our school garden is looking great but we are always looking for volunteers to help any Wednesday morning from 9 to 11am.

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