Principal News

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Putting FACES on the Data

This week, Drayton SS has taken the first steps in continuing to move further in the direction of a sustained improvement approach in literacy. Entitled Putting Faces on the Data, Drayton SS has been selected to participate in a series of workshops and professional learning, along with a number of schools in our Region. With a representative from our teaching staff, non-teaching staff and 2 members of the Drayton SS Senior Leadership Team in attendance at our first workshop this week, we have been able to learn firsthand from Dr Lyn Sharratt, (classroom practitioner, school leader, system leader, and an international researcher and author) around 14 improvement parameters that will continue to drive schools in not only our Region, but our state-wide system.

Dr Sharratt is based out of Ontario, Canada, and together with critical friend, Dr Michael Fullan, has worked over the past decade studying school improvement, especially in the area of literacy. Perhaps however, the work that Lyn studied of greatest importance is that of putting FACES on all our data. I know it is something we all do daily, but putting a face on each piece of data… each A, or each C, behind each piece of data… each parent, each student that owns the data.

This is important, as we must all remember that behind each piece of data … each A, or NAPLAN Band 5, or PM Level 20, is a student. We read about data and statistics each day and the TV news often informs us on how good we are going in terms of NAPLAN, etc. However, if we are truly serious about sustained high level improvement, then we need to maintain our focus on the student behind the data.

I look forward to working with the team who have attended this DDSW Regionally supported Professional Development, and the journey that Drayton SS is about to embark on with the assistance of Dr Sharratt. Additionally, as a Senior Leadership Team, we are looking forward to involving the wider community in our work as we continue our Explicit Improvement Agenda of improvement and achievement Drayton SS.

Helicopter Visit

I needn’t say any more… How good was the Surf Life Saving Westpac Rescue Helicopter Visit! A major thank-you to Surf Life Saving for selecting Drayton SS to have the chopper visit us. All students learnt about vital beach safety from the lifesavers (along with how a helicopter works). There are some photos and a video of the helicopter landing on our Facebook page.

African Beat Drumming – Salaka Touring Show

On Friday 12th August, all students had the opportunity to participate in a musical and creative arts performance by Salaka. This African Beat production brought together a number of performers from Ghana. ‘Salaka,’ meaning ‘sharing’ in the Ga language, introduced students to an array of traditional African instruments of a variety of shapes and sizes. It was wonderful that all students participated in this whole school activity that again promoted the musical and creative arts.

Grandparent’s Day

I would like to say thank-you to all our grandparents and families that attended Grandparent’s Day last Wednesday. We connected with well over a hundred family and/or community members last week and each guest provided outstanding feedback of their time at Drayton. It’s great to be able to invite the community into our school on a regular basis. To those who gave up their time to participate in Grandparent’s Day, and of course, to our Grandparents, our choirs, our presenting classes and students and classes for putting their classrooms on display, thank-
you, congratulations and well done. You did your school proud!

Coaching and Feedback

Continuing with one of our Regional Pillars – Coaching and Feedback, tomorrow, Mrs Bauer and I look forward to hosting the Leadership Team from Esk SS. We will be sharing with them our school improvement journey and some of the strategies we have taken, along with those we will continue to take, to further improve student literacy. They will then have the opportunity to share their strategies for student improvement.

Following this, I’m look forward to working with my Melbourne-based coach from the Department of Education and Training’s inaugural Future Leaders programme, of which I have been fortunate enough to have been selected to participate in for the past 18 months. I will be continuing to explore the concepts of building and sustaining positive learning cultures within our context, with a focus on student improvement and achievement in literacy.

Participating in a coaching and feedback conversation is a critical mechanism to ensure our ongoing success as a school. As lifelong learners and with all staff having been recently involved in coaching and feedback conversations with their line managers, I am pleased to note that Drayton SS is continuing to ensure our focus is on student improvement.

On That Note …

Please remember the Parent-Teacher Interview booking online form is available until next Friday, 2nd September. We look forward to seeing as many parents and families at the Parent-Teacher Interviews from 3:15pm – 6:15pm on Tuesday 6th September.

Last night, I watched a great episode on Insight (on SBS) called “Reading Between the Lines.” It was based around the importance of reading and literacy. Concepts of schooling, parenting and language learning were discussed, along with the challenges and opportunities to be ‘literate.’ It deeply moved me as a father and an educator and I hope to be able to explore the concepts within the programme further over the coming weeks.

Last week we included some information about how to nurture creativity at home. This is the second point from the online article we have referenced below:

Fostering a Creative Atmosphere

Solicit a high volume of different ideas, but resist the urge to evaluate the ideas your kids come up with. At dinnertime, for example, you could brainstorm activities for the upcoming weekend, encouraging the kids to come up with things they’ve never done before. Don’t point out which ideas aren’t possible, and don’t decide which ideas are best. The focus of creative activities should be on process: generating (vs. evaluating) new ideas.

Encourage kids to make mistakes and fail. Yes, fail – kids who are afraid of failure and judgment will curb their own creative thought. Share the mistakes you’ve made recently, so they get the idea that it is okay to botch up. Laughing at yourself when you blow it is a happiness habit.

Celebrate innovation and creativity. Cover your
walls with art and other evidence of creative expression. Tell your kids all about your favourite artists, musicians, and scientists. Share your passion for architecture or photography or that new band you want to listen to all the time. Embrace new technologies like Twitter so your kids grow to find change exciting, not over-whelming or intimidating.

If you are interested in reading more: http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/raising_happiness/post/7_ways_to_foster_creativity_in_your_kids

Stay tuned for further updates in our school newsletter and on our Drayton Facebook page!

The Creativity Expo Team

Footy Colours Day: Reminder that ‘Footy Colours Day’ is on Friday the 2nd of September. Students are invited to come to school dressed in their favourite sporting team colours for a gold coin donation. Money raised will go towards the Fight Cancer Council Foundation.

School Disco: Reminder that the school disco is on Friday the 2nd of September from 6pm-8pm. Entry will cost $4.00 and there will be glowsticks and snacks available for purchase on the night. It is a ‘favourite book character’ themed disco party.

Read-athon News: Fund raising and reading is going well. Please return all monies raised and the signed blue slips with the prize you have selected by this Friday the 26th of August.

Thursday 1 September: In celebration of our visit next week by ‘Watoto Children’s Choir’, students are invited to wear their hair in an African style or don their brightest looking African t-shirt to welcome this group to our school!

Please bring a gold coin donation to aid this organisation as they care for orphans in Uganda.

‘Watoto Children’s Choir’ have been invited to our school as a vivid expression of how we are connected with other countries around the world. They are an aid organisation set up in Uganda who look after orphans under a sponsorship program. Many of their sponsors are in Australia.

Parents, family and friends are most welcome to come to our concert at 10am and 11:45am!

There will be CD’s, African jewellery and other merchandise for sale after the performance at the back of the Hall along with information on their sponsorship program.

*Please note: students are expected to wear their normal school shorts, shoes and hats on this day with their ‘African’ shirt

Father’s Day Stall: The Father’s Day Stall will be held over 2 days, 1st and 2nd September during the mornings from 8.30am until 11.00am. We do require some help to set up on the Wednesday afternoon if anyone can spare some time, as well as some volunteers to help with the stall. If you are able to assist, please contact me on 0400 115 331. Any help would be greatly appreciated. More information about the stall to come out at the end of the week.

Year’s 2 & 3 Playground: There will be a working bee held this Saturday 27/08/2016 to help with the final jobs to get the playground ready for certification. Notes will be out this week with more information.

Cent Sale News

This year’s wonderful Cent Sale raised over $3000.00 which has gone directly into resources for our students. These have included new shade tents for sports day as well as various maths resources.

Next year we are hoping to raise a similar (or better!) amount which will go towards providing extra literacy materials throughout the school.

We are currently taking donations of items suitable as prizes for our upcoming Cent Sale in Term 1 of 2017. At this year’s event many loyal cent sale followers commented favourably about the high standard of prizes on offer. With your help we are hoping to maintain this standard. Although we are grateful for second hand items, it must be understood that these should be perceived as “prize worthy”.

Donations can be dropped off at the office at any time throughout this semester. So if you are spring cleaning or come across any unwanted gifts we would appreciate the donation.

This year the vouchers such as hairdressing and dinners were a big hit! If you know of anyone with a business who could provide prizes or gift vouchers we are sure they would be popular with our guests.
Our ‘Drayton Dragon Awards’ program exists in every classroom & aims to build the capabilities of every student with positive messages & lessons in each class about our school rules:

Be SAFE - Give your best EFFORT - Show RESPECT - Take PRIDE - Be RESPONSIBLE

This past fortnight has once again seen many of our students earning certificates for their efforts. They are as follows:

Week ending 12th August: Congratulations to all those who received Drayton Dragon Awards on the day.


Congratulations to our award winners!!!!

IT’S TYME!

The TYME Festival is in three weeks. We expect all members to participate in this great event and do not want any to miss out by not returning these by the due date. Notes will be distributed next week.

Please ensure ALL Band and Choir Members have returned their Permission Notes with their Bus Fare by Tuesday, 13th September. We cannot accept these on excursion day.

Students must come prepared for the excursion on Thursday 15th September with a SMALL bag containing a water bottle and their lunch, a named school hat and wearing the appropriate uniform for their group. (Junior Choir Best Sports Uniform / Senior Band and Senior Choir members wear the usual uniform of Black Long pants, Black shoes, Long-sleeved white shirt with collar)

YEAR 5/6O and 6S MUSIC PROJECT – This term students in these classes have been exploring various instruments and how sound is produced. They have been planning to create an instrument based on the ideas of Wind, String and Percussion using recycled materials. This gives students the chance to not only be creative, but, if they choose, to work with an adult to learn new skills and produce a novel instrument. (Donated resources have been available in the classrooms) We are looking forward to seeing the amazing and unusual instruments constructed.

Their CREATIONS are due in Week 9 and will be on display at the Creativity Expo in Week 10.

YEAR 4/5G and 5RK MUSIC PROJECT – These classes have studied a Jazz/Blues Song entitled ‘Did You Feed My Cow!’ with a view to creating their own Song Booklet. Each student/group chooses their own topic/theme then composes verses which fit the song and produces a book with Cover, Title Page, Illustrations and all the things which make it look like a real book. Once again we are excited to see the results of this project which will also be on display at the Creative Expo in Week 10.
5GK Poems

Our class has been working on poetic devices and I have been super impressed with the creative poems that the students have been making. So far we have covered similes and metaphors. Take a look at some of our work below!

**Friends**

Coming, laughing, going
They come, they go
Like a fluffy, white cloud floating by
Friendly, funny, thoughtful
They are a sun
Carrying
Us back
Home.

By Fletcher

**The net ball crowd**

Cheering, whistling, screaming
They are as loud as a
Rocket lifting off
Loud, Happy, Cheering.
They are a lion roaring
Me too
W in the game!

By Teena S

**Volcanoes**

Exploding, melting, killing
They are as powerful as
A tornado destroying a
City, but quicker
Destructive, deadly, dangerous
They are nature’s deadly flamethrower
Melting their
Way to
towns

By Terry M

**What happens to the Lost sock?**

Did it creep away
Like a quiet mouse?
Or did it just disappear
Like a wizard with a wand?
Did it camouflage in the washing machine
Like a chameleon?
Or did it grow wings like a bird and
Fly to Mexico?
Does it dissolve like sugar in hot water?
Or did it just want to play hide and seek?

By Larnie S

**School**

Running, singing, playing
It is as fun as my birthday party
Listening, learning, laughing
It is a safe and comfy place
A friendly, happy and cheerful zone.

By Kaitlin J and Mrs Brincat
**Keeping Your Cool**

When life gets busy, which it does for all of us, the stress of keeping everything going can really affect our ability to stay calm. Taking time out for yourself, even a 10 minute sit down with a cup of tea or coffee, is an important coping skill. Our children learn from watching us and learning to regulate your own emotions, by taking deep breaths, walking away from an argument and making amends when you have finished your disagreement is a really powerful way for your children to learn these skills.

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**Resources to Help You**

The Queensland government has sponsored the Power of Positive Parenting (Triple P) Program for all Queensland families. You can check out the triple p website at triplep-parenting.net

Other helpful websites include the Raising Children Network and the Kids Helpline website which has resources to help children and also parents and carers.

If you want to speak to someone, call:

- Parentline 1300 301 300
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

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**Positive Parenting Seminars**

We are starting our Positive Parenting Seminars this week. They are being held in the Bendigo Staffroom 9.15-11.00am each Wednesday morning:

- **Wednesday 24th August** – The Power of Positive Parenting
- **Wednesday 31st August** – Raising Confident and Competent Children
- **Wednesday 7th September** – Raising Resilient Children

All are welcome to attend and each seminar stands alone so you are welcome to attend one or more. The seminars are free and open to all Queensland parents so you are welcome to invite grandparents or friends to attend with you. Child minding is available.

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If you have any concerns, please talk to your classroom teacher or you can contact Chappy Kate on 0412 198 067. Otherwise you can leave a message with the office or email me and I will get back to you as soon as possible. We are here to support you!

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Chappy Kate can be found at Bunker’s Hill State School Monday and Thursday and at Drayton State School on Tuesday and Friday.

Drayton 07 4637 7444 | Bunker’s Hill 07 4698 5319 email kateh@chappy.org.au

“SU Qld … bringing hope to a young generation”
Drayton State School

DISCO

Snacks: $1
Glow sticks: $2
$4 Entry
Come dressed as your favourite book character!

6pm – 8pm
Friday, 2nd September

FRIDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER

Wear your favourite sports team’s colours to school to help the Fight Cancer Foundation provide vital education support for children and teens living with cancer.

Fight Cancer™
FOOTY COLOURS DAY!

Gold coin donation

SHOW YOUR TRUE COLOURS!
"Oh, What Love" Live Tour

Prepare for a New Sound
By a Family of Orphans

Free Concert

When
Thursday 1 September

Where
Drayton State School Hall
At 10am and 11:45am

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