Principal’s Message

During the week leading up to the swimming carnival it was encouraging to see the effort students were putting in to improving their swimming through deliberate practise. It was encouraging for a couple of reasons. Firstly, that students take pride in their school and themselves and want to do their best and secondly, and more importantly, that students were demonstrating a key factor for later success in life - a growth mindset. A term coined by Dr Carol Dweck. She describes two discrete mindsets: fixed and growth.

In a fixed mindset, students believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They believe that talent alone creates success—without effort. Students with a predominately fixed mindset are reluctant to take risks in their learning, favouring easy work over demanding work.

In a growth mindset, students believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.

Our swimmers believe they can get better through practise, what about our learners? Do all of them think they can be successful at maths, at spelling, at writing…at learning? How can we ensure they all develop growth mindsets? Here are a few tips:

- Praise effort, not skill.
- Help children understand that the brain works like a muscle and to strengthen it, it needs practise.
- Don’t tell students they are smart, gifted, or talented, since this implies that they were born with the knowledge, and does not encourage effort and growth.
- Let children know when they demonstrate a growth mindset.
- Embrace failures and mistakes. Children sometimes learn the most when they fail. Let them know that mistakes are a big part of the learning process.
- Be mindful of the messages you convey. For example, referring to yourself as ‘bad at maths’ or ‘no good at spelling’ can reinforce the idea that intelligence is fixed.

In class we promote a growth mindset by welcoming mistakes and treating failures as iterations. We also realise that if we are not making mistakes we are not learning.

Regards

Glen Kite
Rel. Principal

P.S. All the best for Henry, Jack, Elinor, Brady, Angus, Ebony, Charlotte, Quinn and Lachlan who are competing tomorrow at the Zone Swimming Carnival.
Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all our competitors at the Upper Hunter Small Schools Swimming Carnival. It was wonderful to see them all trying their best and supporting each other. I was also particularly impressed with the way students conducted themselves throughout the day. It made me proud to be a part of Blandford Public School. Thank you to all parents who attended and assisted on the day.

K—2 Water Play

While the 3—6 students were doing their best at the swimming carnival, the students back at school were enjoying some water fun of their own.

Pancake Day

Pancake day was once again a great success thanks to all our generous helpers. By the constant calls for more it was clear that the pancakes were well received by students.
Kia-Ora

A note has gone home today, for interested students, regarding the Kia-Ora Youth Music Camp. Please note this is an Upper Hunter Shire Council run event. Blandford Public School will not be sending a teacher to the camp but students will be supervised by teachers from schools across the Upper Hunter. Parents will be responsible for transport of their children to and from the camp. School buses will be running to the various venues.

Assembly

The first school assembly will be held Thursday, 25th February at 2.45pm. All welcome to attend.

Scone Football Club

Registrations for the 2016 Scone Football (Soccer) Club season are now open. As per previous years we will have 2 competitions. The Town Competition is played in Scone on Saturday mornings. The other competition is an Interdistrict Competition in the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Comp which is also played on Saturdays. Each team will have 7 home and 7 away games. Registration is online, please use the following link:


Intensive Swimming

The last day of Intensive Swimming is this Friday. Children will have access to the shop to buy something if they wish with no more than $3.00 per child to spend.

Raffle

The P&C Horse Sports Raffle tickets have been previously handed out. If you could please return them sold or unsold by Friday 26th February.

Canteen Roster

The canteen roster is going out today, please place your name in the time slot you are available to work and send back in as soon as possible.

Working Bee

There will be a working bee for the Horse Sports on Wednesday, 2nd March at 4.30pm at Rosedale.

Newsletters

Please indicate how you would like your newsletters for 2016 and return to the school.

Name………………………………….

Paper………. OR email ….… if email my email address is……………………………………...