From the Principal’s Desk

Some thoughts on resolving concerns:

There are times when things go wrong in schools, though hopefully not too often! This is simply a function of the number of people, the complexities of our task and the number of decisions that we make.

When things go wrong, we have a conflict resolution process in place that relies on the modelling of good practice and mutual respect between all parties.

We have a role collectively as “educators for life”. It is our responsibility to encourage and educate children about the best way to solve problems and resolve conflicts. Children aren’t born knowing how to do these things. They learn over time from seeing these processes in action and working well. This learning is essential because these are the skills that they take into adult life and, I’d suggest, are the source of increased happiness when developed well.

Ultimately, we all have the same aim in resolving conflict, to improve learning outcomes and opportunities for the students in our school.

Sometimes success takes a couple of goes - things often don’t work first time but with review of a first time attempt, a second or third go gets there. This is true throughout life too - if at first you don’t succeed, try and try again. It is interesting to read about the many great strides made throughout history that weren’t successful first go!

Parents sometimes say that they are worried about being labelled a “problem parent” or a “helicopter parent” when they are advocating on behalf of their children. This advocacy role is an important part of being a parent and you should feel confident in raising your concerns with us. Expressed differently: If parents aren’t going to advocate on behalf of their children, who will? Persistence and determination to see things through to completion are important aspects of the process.

I’d also encourage all parents and caregivers to raise concerns early in the process, before they escalate and become much more difficult to manage and resolve.

These thoughts are consistent with our school values of respect, trust and responsibility and are underpinned by open and positive communication between school and home.

We have also put the copy of our process for resolving concerns onto Facebook. If you would like a printed copy please contact the school.

David Crouch
Principal

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Week 9, Term 1
Friday, April 1st 2016

Upcoming events

Week 9
Fri 1/4 Year 8 Immunisation

Week 10
Wed 6/4 Interschool Sports Day at Walkerie
Thur 7/4 French Excursion

Week 11
Fri 15/4 Last Day of Term 1
Depart 2:30pm

The National Young Leaders Day

Past graduates from the 2015 Youth Opportunities Program attended the National Young Leaders Day on the 21st March at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Maddison, Samantha, Cassandra, Kia and Chelsea attended with approximately 700 students from other schools around South Australia. The theme of the conference was “Master the Little” and our students particularly enjoyed Nathan ‘Dubsy’ Want, a Youth speaker and Alex Malley, CEO of the CPA and author of “The Naked CEO”. Speakers encouraged students to reflect on their personal leadership skills, ways they could positively impact others by simply doing the small things well, standing by their values and offering support when it is needed.

Mandy Smith
‘Everyone Belongs’

Last Wednesday during Beyond Tomorrow the whole school came together to celebrate Harmony Day. This annual event is a celebration of our school and wider community’s great cultural diversity and to ensure that everyone has a sense of belonging.

The assembly was the culmination of a number of activities involving each year level during the weeks prior to our assembly. In Beyond Tomorrow sessions in weeks 6 and 7 all five year levels participated in activities, discussions, simulations, crafts, cooking and role-plays that revolved around the central message of Harmony Day, ‘Everyone Belongs’.

In particular, Year 8 students focussed on the theme of belonging and the importance of feeling part of the community. The Year 9 cohort participated in a values walk where they were presented with statements and had to decide whether they agreed or disagreed. Students also had the opportunity to share food as part of a restaurant simulation. Year 10’s looked at case studies of migrants who have moved to Australia and made the most of the opportunities Australia has to offer. They also designed and made a year level flag that represented what they value about their culture. Both the Year 11s and 12s used food and cooking as a way of highlighting the great value of multiculturalism and the way the sharing of food can bring people together.

The Harmony Day assembly brought all this great sharing and learning together. The importance of our Indigenous community was acknowledged and students were privileged to hear Barney play the didgeridoo. The School Band was fantastic in their first performance of the year, playing ‘Imagine’ and the ‘Australian National Anthem’. Also speeches from several SRC Representatives, School Leader Shikiba, Austrian Exchange student Hannah and Principal David Crouch shed great insight into the value of cultural diversity and how we as a school value inclusivity and respect.

Simon Turk