Developing Language Skills

The cornerstone of success in learning is possessing strong spoken and written language skills. Understanding depends on the ability to process what is seen, heard or read; demonstrating understanding depends on the ability to do, speak and write. This is required of students in all Key Learning Areas, from Kindergarten to Year 12 and beyond.

Therefore, it is essential that time and attention is given to ensuring that our children have the language skills they need for learning success.

Teachers commonly comment on the number of students who have poorly developed language skills. These children struggle to speak in well constructed sentences; they have trouble clearly expressing what they want to say; their grammar is all over the place, with incorrect tenses and pronouns; their vocabulary is limited and they misuse words or don’t understand common words.

It is very important that parents are aware of the importance and significance of their children’s language development. Gently correcting mistakes; modelling the correct way to form a sentence; expanding children’s vocabulary through reading or using more interesting words in conversations; checking children’s understanding of what they have heard or read—these are all ways to monitor and improve their use and understanding of language.

Children can very easily fall into poor habits with language. Like most things, unnoticed or uncorrected, these bad habits become well established and hard to correct. They then transfer into the child’s writing, which suffers from poor structure, grammar and organisation.

Being aware of how our children use and understand language, both written and spoken, and ensuring that it is appropriate for their age and is progressing well, is essential if they are to achieve success at school.

Value of the Week

Fairness is the value for the coming week, with a focus on taking turns and listening to others.

A great deal of class time is spent teaching and reinforcing the etiquette of turn taking. Learning to wait for the appropriate time to offer an answer is difficult for some children. Putting up your hand and waiting to be asked requires patience and self-control. Allowing someone else the opportunity to speak without interruption requires the same.

Developing social awareness, “reading” a situation, understanding the conventions of conversation, really listening to what others are saying (rather than just waiting for an opportunity to speak!) is important social skills which underscore the belief that “I am not the only person who matters”.

Helping our children to be patient, wait for their turn and not interrupt others when they are speaking, will enable them to operate happily and appropriately in group situations.

Dates to Remember 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 2 Money &amp; Note due</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>16 June $16 3M,3W, 2/3K &amp; Y4 Cockatoo Island</td>
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<td>15 June</td>
<td>17 June $4 NAIDOC performance</td>
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<td>22 June</td>
<td>18 June $12 Hurstville Zone Music Festival ticket</td>
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<td>1 July</td>
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<td>2 July</td>
<td>2 Last Day of Term</td>
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<th>Term 3</th>
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<td>20 July</td>
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<td>22 July</td>
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We would like to finalise our numbers for Kindergarten next year, and seek your help in ensuring all local children, or siblings of children currently enrolled at our school, have their names listed at our office. We will soon be organising interview appointments, and would like to include all children intending to enrol here next year.

There has been strong interest in enrolment from non-local students. At this stage, waiting lists have commenced for non-local enrolments in all grades.

**Peer Support**

**Week Six**

This week in Peer Support the children will learn how important it is to take small steps towards achieving a goal. The children will develop a range of strategies and different ways to think to help them stay optimistic. Ask your child to share their goal and discuss ways you can provide encouragement.

**Kindy-Year 2 Request**

- Many of the children need new lead pencils as they have lost or used theirs.
- We also need boxes of tissues to replace the ones used lately in our time of runny noses. Could all K-Y2 children bring one box please.

Thanks from all K-2 teachers.

**Leisure Sport**

Many children were disappointed to miss out on their selected leisure sport this term, so I thought I would explain the process that is followed.

- Firstly, all children nominate their choice for leisure sport, including children trying out for PSSA teams.
- The preference notes are carefully put in plastic sleeves according to the day they are received so that those who brought their notes on the first day are given first priority, and so on, until all sports are ‘overfull’.
- By this time, PSSA teams have been chosen and these children are deleted from the lists.
- The first 30 children for each sport then receive a place in the leisure sport of their choice.
- Since between 50 and 60 children requested each sport, with places only available for 30, many children missed out this time.
- Another three sports will be on offer next term.
**SRC News**

Last Thursday afternoon, the SRC enjoyed a very productive development day, despite the challenges that the weather produced. We gathered for a special lunch and later participated in activities that provided opportunities to know each other better and work closely in groups developing and assessing the SRC’s goals.

SRC students deserve their special lunch for all of their efforts and good will in helping others. The SRC members have grown as leaders and will benefit from these skills for many years to come!

Our next focus is on ‘Crazy Hair Day’ when we will be raising funds for children with Cystic Fibrosis. Stay tuned!

SRC Teachers

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**P & C News**

**CPPS P&C Building Fund**

Yesterday you would have received a note regarding our Building Fund. As stated in that note, we need your help to get D Block back to working classrooms. Please return the envelope with your contribution as soon as possible.

Please dig deep—every bit helps, no matter how big or small.

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**75th Anniversary Path**

Last Friday, Mr Frank laid the additional pavers to complete our 75th Anniversary Path. It is now complete and looks FABULOUS! Thank you very much Mr Frank for enduring the weather last Friday to lay these pavers.

If you ordered a paver in the second batch, next time you are passing go and have a look for your paver!

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**Absolutely Fabulous Colour & Style Night**

**Friday, June 25**

Only three weeks to go to a night of fun and laughter. Don’t forget to book your tickets now—only $10.00.

Their presentation usually lasts for around 90 minutes and is full of wonderful information and advice for women of all ages. It includes a comprehensive array of visuals and practical demonstrations on the power of colour, line and design to positively enhance the way we look.
**P & C News continued**

**Canteen Roster**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diana</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>Linda</td>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td>Natalie</td>
<td>Xenia</td>
<td>Helen</td>
<td>Bronwyn</td>
<td>Gemma</td>
<td>Carolyn</td>
<td>Lianne</td>
<td>Daina</td>
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**Pick Up Zone Supervision Roster**

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**Community News**

FREE INFORMATION SESSION

**Guest Speaker** Lynne Gross from UWS

**Date:** Thursday 24th June 2010  
**Time:** 7pm–8pm  
**Venue:** Kogarah City Council Library Foyer

There will also be an opportunity for families to ask relevant questions

For further information, please contact Marisa Rodriguez on 0439 894 397