CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS OF THE WEEK:

Week commencing 9th February:

Room 1: Amy Room 4: Brayden
Room 2: Lachlan Room 5: Ally
Room 3: Sharnie Room 6: Corben

Week commencing 16th February:

Room 1: Madison Room 4: Cloé
Room 2: Aliya Room 5: Jesse
Room 3: Matthew Room 6: Zach

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CONTACTING TEACHERS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

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Following on from the success of the first Big Blast Cricket competition held in 2014, we have decided to run Big Blast 2 in term 1 of 2015! We’ve been a bit delayed starting it due to weather and my availability but by the time you’re reading this Game 1 should be complete.

This year we have three teams of 6 competing for the Big Blast Trophy. They are the Bananas of South Africa, Bowling Crackers of Pakistan and the Bubble Trouble of Melbourne. Teams are made of children from Grades 4, 5 & 6.

Due to overwhelming demand from the Grade 3 level, we’ve introduced a junior competition for this team this year, where everyone will get a turn of everything but no official scoring will be taken. I started this last week and the children involved had a great time!

Looking forward to lots of fours, sixes, wickets and most importantly FUN!

Geordie – Big Blast Coordinator
Extraordinary!

**Student Wellbeing news …**

Be sure to check out the Student Wellbeing Board outside the office for information on helping students form and maintain friendships. If you would like any other information regarding mental health and wellbeing please feel free to ask your classroom teacher or Melanie Bluff Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator.

**BIG BLAST 2 – 2015**

We were so pleased to have as guests of the school during this week, Karen Rosenbloom and Carol Bambroffe, teachers from our pioneer school, Moorside Primary School, Manchester, England. Together we have been investigating student leadership, Mathematics and Health and Physical Education programs. I thank the school community for making them feel so welcome!

Inspire  Dream  Achieve    Unique Individuals  One Strong School

Individualised and personalised learning programs for our students are the key features of our curriculum programs this year. To support parents in their role, we are encouraging families on a journey into their classrooms, with the focus of questioning from families to their child shifting from “What did you learn today?” to “What did you learn yesterday?” The students are aware of their personal learning goals and with the assistance of the teachers, are working towards not only achieving the goals, but also gaining a greater understanding of how they can apply this knowledge not only into other areas of the curriculum, but into daily life situations.

Tuesday evening was our annual Twilight Picnic; with the format of the evening taking a new twist with an Information Coordinator. The Thames, West Side Park was packed with families formed and maintained friendships and with the focus of questioning from families to their child shifting from “What did you learn today?” to “What did you learn yesterday?” The students are aware of their personal learning goals and with the assistance of the teachers, are working towards not only achieving the goals, but also gaining a greater understanding of how they can apply this knowledge not only into other areas of the curriculum, but into daily life situations.

Students who have not yet signed a consent form to participate in student banking can obtain the forms from the office.

Tyabb Railway Station Primary School
No: 3544
E-mail: tyabb.railway.station.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web: www.tyabbrips.vic.edu.au
Phone: 5977 4324 Fax: 5977 4858

Thursday, February 19th 2015

2015 - The Year to Achieve!
Friendship skills: Suggestions for families

Parents and carers are children’s first and most important teachers when it comes to relationships

The ways you relate to your children and the guidance you provide helps develop children’s social skills. You can help children develop and maintain friendships by modelling effective social skills, providing opportunities for children to practise interacting with others, and offering support when they go through difficulties. Taking the role of a coach helps children learn the skills they need for themselves.

The following suggestions may be helpful

Make time to play too
Parents and carers can improve their children’s social skills by playing with them regularly. Letting children choose and lead the play allows you to be playful with them and encourages them to practise skills for cooperation and negotiation. Making time for play helps strengthen your relationship with them as well as their skills. Avoid criticising and make it fun!

Allow your child to try all sorts of different activities
Children who have a wide range of interests are more likely to have something in common with others and so find it easier to make friends and get along.

Invite children for play dates
Having friends over to visit helps children to establish friendships and practise their social skills. It also provides an opportunity for you to provide on-the-spot coaching for children as they develop their friendship skills. Providing positive guidance and helping to structure activities (without taking over) can be very important when establishing new friendships.

Child says...
“Theres this girl in my class who is really mean to everyone in class, and so we are all mean right back to her.”

“Maybe she thinks we don’t like her, and so she’s being mean to us?”

“Well, I like her when she’s not being mean.”

“Maybe I could invite her over to play after school?”

Talk with children about what is happening for them with their friends
Find a relaxed time, like the drive home from school or after dinner, to talk about what is happening in your children’s friendship group. By doing this, you let them know that you are interested in their wellbeing, and this can also be an opportunity to share some of your experiences and to help them solve any problems they might have.

Encourage positive, relevant strategies
Parents and carers can talk about, and encourage, friendly, and cooperative strategies that can help their child to develop friendships. For example, encouraging children to negotiate or compromise when trying to solve conflicts with peers is a strategy that is more positively received than aggression or verbal threats.

Take a problem-solving approach
Parents and carers don’t need to have the answers to all of their children’s problems. You can support your children to think through a problem for themselves by talking with them and asking some useful questions. For example:

Parent/carer asks...
“Why do you think she is being so mean?”

“What could be one reason. Do you like her?”

“So how could you show her that you do like her, and that there’s no need for her to be mean?”

Affirm: “That sounds like a great idea to me.”

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au
Why slop on sunscreen?

- A wide brimmed hat can protect from the sun's direct UV but UV can also be scattered and reflected so even with a hat, **UV can still reach the face**.
- Sunscreen helps protect the face and areas of skin not covered by clothing. If you can **see skin, UV can reach it**.
- The arms, legs, head and neck are **common sites for skin cancer**.
- Regular use of sunscreen has been shown to **reduce the incidence** of melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma, both in the short and long term.
- Sunscreen use is also **protective against** skin damage, sun spots, discolouration and wrinkles.

**Sunscreen tips**
- Always use sunscreen with other sun protection measures – don’t just rely on sunscreen alone.
- Try a pump pack or roll on (they are usually easier to use).
- Check the use by date.
- Have a mirror so children can see what they are doing.
- Appoint sunscreen buddies so children can help each other.
- Apply sunscreen to all parts of skin not covered by clothing.
- Whenever possible, try to apply 20 minutes before going outside.
- Reapply sunscreen every TWO hours even if the stated level of water resistance is four hours.
- Store sunscreen in a cool place.
- Add sunscreen to the school booklist.

Visit sunsmart.com.au or call 13 11 20

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Information Evening and Twilight Picnic 2015