

12th March, 2009.

Dear Parents,

This is certainly a busy time for Shorncliffe State School. Not only do we have the busy start to a school year but also the most important event on the school calendar this year being the 90th Anniversary of the school to be celebrated on Sunday 22nd March.

Thanks to the hard work of Sharon Davies and the organising committee the planning for our most special day is well underway and many parents have indicated that they will be assisting with the running of the day. Our special day will be opened by the honourable Mr Wayne Swan and we expect it will be a tremendous day with many people returning to the school.

All families are welcome to see the school displays and enjoy a day of entertainment. Many of our students are involved in performances and assisting on the day. I ask all our students to wear uniform because we are all on show and we are proud of our previous history and our school today. Please see the program attached to this newsletter.

Helping Children to Think

In order to help children to think, we must first let them think. As early as their development and maturity permit they should not only be allowed, but encouraged to solve their own problems and make their own decisions. Parental guidance is of course called for, especially with younger children.

Our younger children don't need to have the solutions to their problems immediately presented to them by adults. Questions like, "What should I do about X ?" Instead, answer with evocative questions. ("What have you thought about doing?" or "What are all the things you could do?") Adult guidance as they solve their problems on their own and keeping the ownership of the problem clear, encourages thoughtful and responsible action.

When they ask you to make decisions for them ("What course should I take?" or "What should I wear today?"), resist making the choice for them. Again, lead them as they move through the decision making process. Evocative questions can again be helpful. You could ask, "What goals do you have?" or "What's important to consider in choosing a course of action.

The importance of modelling in today's society can not be stressed enough. As teachers and parents, the actions we take portray to children our thinking, our choices, our beliefs and values. Today children are inundated with different values and choices and their ability to critically think and process this information is essential. We as educators (parents and teachers) need to arm our children with the opportunity to learn the skills and the guidance to analyse choices.

Expect more from children.

One of the great limitations we place on our children is the limits of our own thinking coupled with our fear of being wrong (or the need to be right). Real learning comes from correcting a mistake. Confidence in choice comes from experiencing poor choice and improving the selection thinking process next time (experience).

Doing too much for children takes the practice of thinking through everyday situations away and allows them to be dependent longer. Our role as parents and teachers is to encourage and support our children's own initiative, guiding through thoughtful discussion and withdrawing so ownership for their choice results in confidence and re-evaluation.

Thank you

A big thank you to Peter Phillips for helping move all the dirt on the bottom field and to Andrew McKenzie who donated palings and chopped them all to size. Also, thanks to Ronny Tarraran, for donating palings and posts.

Angry Ant is a tree chopping and mulching company who has kindly donated mulch to our school on several occasions. Please support this business that has kindly supported us.

ARTS COUNCIL

Art Council will be visiting our school on Wednesday 17th June. The cost is \$6 per student or \$15 for a family of three or more. Envelopes will be sent home closer to the event. This term's show is entitled Puppet Mania. Three-time Queensland Entertainer of the Year and member of the Queensland Entertainment Hall of Fame, David Hamilton combines the amazing worlds of puppetry, cabaret and visual theatre to bring his puppet troupe to life. Illustrating unique stagecraft techniques, Puppet Mania will widen students' perspective on this skilful and intricate theatrical genre. David demonstrates how to manipulate marionettes, rod, glove and finger puppets from around the world, culminating in a dazzling all singing and all dancing finale. Produced and presented by David Hamilton.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

The School Photos will be taken on Thursday 19th March. Envelopes were sent home on Monday 9th March. If you would like a sibling package please collect an envelope from the front office.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Who's on roster next 2 weeks

Tuesday March 17

8.45 – 11.30 Debra Davis/Julia Fry

11.30 – 2.00 Debra Davis/Anne McNaughton

Thursday March 19

8.45 – 11.30 Cally Egerton/Anna Redd

11.30 – 2.00 Cally Egerton/Lisa Pollock

Tuesday March 24

8.45 – 11.30 Lyn Hansen/Stephanie Kirkman

11.30 – 2.00 Chrissie Philpott/Maryanne Doig

Thursday March 26

8.45 – 11.30 Jackie Gannon/Kate Jess

11.30 – 2.00 Naomi Dargusch/Susan Botting

If I haven't said so recently, a big thank-you to all our tuckshop volunteers.

Friendly Reminder

Mums, Dads and kids - please ensure it is noted on your lunchbags which break you would like your food served from tuckshop.

We are normally pretty good at guessing, however we do get it wrong sometimes. Many thanks for your help!

Preppies and Grade 1

Great to see the younger children coming up and ordering directly from tuckshop. This shapes social skills making the children become confident asking for items, handling money and patience by waiting quietly in line. Congratulations.

Robyn Fox
Convenor

WINNERS OF THE BADGE COMPETITION

Congratulations to Meg Wilkinson Yr 7 and Erin Christmas Yr 2. Their winning designs have been made into badges and will be given to the invited past students for the 90th Celebration. Thank you to Tracie Swift and Tom Fittel for assisting with this project.

**** PORTRAIT ARTIST IS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL****

Have you ever wanted to have your portrait drawn?

Well now you can for just \$20 per head for a pencil drawing you can book in to have your portrait drawn by our visiting Artist Mr Michael Felix.

He will be working down on the Oval from 10am to 4pm during our School's 90th Celebration on Sunday, 22nd March.

He has reduced his prices especially for us and will be donating 20% of his takings to the school.

So if you would like to make a booking and make him busy, please contact either the Office or Ros Vivian on 3269 3290.

Remember, you will not only have a fantastic drawing to keep but you will also be helping the school.

****So don't delay book today!*****

