Dear Parents/Carers

Learning Starts With The Senses And Learning Meanings Of Words

We are now into the latter part of the year and are increasing our rate of teaching and learning. This term we have a number of excursions. Our excursions are part of our enriched offerings to help students connect their learning to the community. When students can see, touch, smell and hear what they are learning about, they have a richer understanding of what the words to describe the experience actually mean.

Learning begins with stimulating our senses. That is why we have demonstrations and experiences in our lessons at times. With that we need to learn the words to describe and understand how to think about what is going on. Everyday use common words are simpler to learn. More complex words often have more complex ideas behind them. As we move through levels of reading, these words and ideas form part of learning. Excursions help, social understanding helps. Conversations with adults to explain what is going on helps. Parents and families can help.

Ekka Excursion

Our annual Ekka excursion is focussed on enriching student understanding through experiencing what is going on. The learning experiences as part of the Ekka excursion are being planned for this to occur. When talking about this trip at home with students who are going, families can assist learning by talking about the various displays and information students can experience on the excursion.

If the focus is only on sample bags, student interest can become very focused on only this small part of the trip. Time for sample bag purchasing is very limited and should be as this is not the main focus of the excursion. Parents can help support the learning by focussing on the many other areas students can experience, and help build words and a sense of what they mean in anticipation, and in discussion after the trip.

Year 6 & 7 Camp

The camp this year is focussed on students having practical experience of group learning and learning more about each other and how to work through experiences as part of a group. While in camp, developing strong links with other students, and how to work with other students for an extended day, as they get ready to transition to secondary school may be the strongest experience they have to see them through the move to a larger school in 2015.

Learning is usually a social experience. We have a need to achieve what others achieve. We have a need to be part of a group. We have a need to be recognised for what we do, and we often learn very quickly from seeing, hearing, feeling and experiencing what we see others doing. Camps are one way of intensifying such learning. If you have not yet nominated for camp, please do so, and we can then refine our planning.

Cultural Group Meeting

On Wednesday this week, we took the opportunity to invite input from our Indigenous community families into our NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day Observance Committee) preparations and school curriculum planning around Indigenous perspectives, as well as school operations. It was productive, and we anticipate we may continue with such meetings on a term-by-term basis so long as interest in participation is maintained. Students bring 50% of what they need for school learning with them from home. What happens at school is the other 50%, and 40% of that is what happens in classrooms. Families can have a big effect on student school learning.

Disco and ‘Serviceton South’s Got Talent’

The disco at the end of last term was successful in many ways, with many students displaying skills in modern dance they do not often get the opportunity to demonstrate. Our music teacher, Della Martin with Chappy Jane, Miss Amanda and one of our parents Belinda Bryant have organised a competition for students to demonstrate various skills. Many students are now practicing in their breaks in readiness for this event.

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**Trouble In Storyland**

- Glenala State members from the Science, English and Arts departments will participate in Transition to High School.
- The fantastic playground. The cost for this excursion is $7.00.
- We will have a picnic morning tea and lunch in the Queen's Park. We will take the opportunity to visit the animal theatre to watch the production of 'Ipswich Little Theatre'.
- We are hoping to have a lot of parent/community involvement in special lessons, class workshops along with Indigenous Education.
- This Term we will commemorate NAIDOC week. For every 10 deposits your student will be rewarded with a fantastic prize.
- Please see Kayla for an application form. For every 10 deposits your student will be rewarded with a fantastic prize. Please see Kayla for an application form.
- **P & C News**

**School Opinion Survey**

On Tuesday details on how to complete the School Opinion Survey were sent home with students. If you are either unable to access the internet at home or would prefer your survey to be translated into Samaan, Vietnamese or Arabic we can assist you with this. Our library will be open for parent access at the times noted below. We will also have staff members available at this time to assist in the translation and completion of the survey. The completion of this survey should take between 5-15 minutes. If you have misplaced your survey, please contact the office for a replacement.

**Library opening times are:**

- Thursday 24th July: 8:30am-9:15am, 2:30pm-3:30pm
- Tuesday 29th July: 8:30am-9:15am, 2:30pm-4:00pm
- Thursday 31st July: 8:30am-9:15am, 2:30pm-3:30pm

**Congratulations To Our 100 Gem Students! Super Sapphires!!**

This week the students who have been the first in the school to receive 100 Gems are having a very special reward! On Friday, Anthony 2R, Kimberley 2R, Taneshay 4S, Cooper 2C, Lachlan 2C, and Alex P 2C, will accompany Mrs Wessling to Southbank Parklands. They will catch the train into Southbank and take in all that the area has to offer as well as watch a movie before having lunch and returning to school. Well done to all these students and we hope to have many more recipients this Term.

**NAIDOC Week**

This Term we will commemorate NAIDOC week with a special assembly and class workshops along with Indigenous games and interactive learning activities during lunch breaks. We are hoping to have a lot of parent/community involvement this year, more information about NAIDOC will be available soon.

Ipswich Little Theatre

The Prep children are going on an excursion to Ipswich Little Theatre to watch the production of 'Trouble In Storyland' on Tuesday 29th July, 2014. As the theatre is right next door to Queen’s Park, we will take the opportunity to visit the animal enclosure and get a close look at the wombats, dingoes, lizards and snakes. We will have a picnic morning tea and lunch in the park and there will be an opportunity for the children to play in the fantastic playground. The cost for this excursion is $7.00 per student and payment is due by Friday 25 July.

**Transition to High School**

During Semester 2, our Year 6 & 7 students have been invited to participate in some 'Transition to High School' activities at Glenala State High School. Our first visit will be on Wednesday 30th July. A free bus will pick up our students at 1:00pm and they will be returned to the school by 2:45pm. Our students will participate in special lessons given by staff members from the Science, English and Arts departments at Glenala State High School. In previous years, our Year 7 students have found these days to be fun and informative. Whether or not you intend to send your child to Glenala State High next year, the visits are a good opportunity for our students to survey what's available for them to take part in next year. Students will also be encouraged to ask staff members any questions they have about what high school will be like for them next year.

**Chappy Corner**

Term 3 is under way and its time to start preparing for a massive Term. Every Friday we will be having a different dress up theme to get us ready for the Mad Hatters Disco at the end of the Term. This Friday's theme is "Scareves" Students are encouraged to wear their favourite scarf to school on Friday. However correct school uniform is still to be worn.

**Get ready for Friday Dress up day!**

**P & C News**

Thank you to those parents who attended our last meeting, it’s always great to see new faces. Our next meeting will be held on Monday August 18th at 9:10am in the Parent Room. We have organised family portraits for this Saturday 26th July. You receive a portrait photo and keyring and the cost is $15. All money raised goes back into our school. Booking times are filling fast so please see Amy in either the Parent Room or Canteen to secure your spot.

**School Banking**

Just a friendly reminder, school banking is every Tuesday. For staff and parents who wish to participate in this important program we are seeking new applicants. Fill in the forms or have them faxed to the Office on 3274 1886 or email p&c@accoras.com.au. Applications can be emailed to: mmcintosh@accoras.com.au

**Uniform Shop News**

The uniform shop is located in the Parent Room. The Uniform Shop is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30am - 9:15am. Winter uniforms are in stock. 12 week Lay by is available.

**Teena Zeitsch**

Uniform Shop Manager

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**Upcoming Children's Social Skills Group for 5-6 Year Olds**

Accoras is running a partially-subsidised Stop. Think. Do. social skills group for children aged 5 to 6 years in Term 3, 2014.

Stop. Think. Do. is a social skills program designed to empower children by teaching them to develop self-control, decision making, responsibility, leadership and friendship-making skills. The program aims to improve children’s social and friendship abilities, develop cooperative classrooms, schools and homes, and support children to develop strong emotional intelligence and self-esteem.

This Stop. Think. Do. group will run on Mondays for seven weeks in Salisbury (South Brisbane), from 3:30pm to 5:00pm each week - commencing on Monday 04 August and finishing on Monday 15 September.

If you would like more information please contact Margaret McIntosh by calling 3274 1886 or emailing mm McIntosh@accoras.com.au.