100 Days Smarter

On Wednesday the 3rd August, the Prep/One students celebrated the Preps 100th day of school. They are officially 100 days smarter.

Our preps, 100 days smarter!

And a group picture of everyone being silly smarties!!

100 days silly!!
By Michael Grose

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children? Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity. But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers. When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order. Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age? Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates
Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school. The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters
It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills.

Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.
Year P-6 News

Student of the Week

Lilly Fitzallen - for her excellent attitude to her work and for having a great time at Bug Blitz.

Raphael Talaid - for his thoughtfulness and kindness at Bug Blitz.

Toby Peter - for trying hard when spelling words and using neat handwriting.

Mitch Gunther - for always looking out for others.

“Matilda”

Permission forms will be sent home this week and should be returned as soon as possible.

P-6 Sleep-over

Years Prep - 6 students will be having a sleep-over at the College on Thursday, 15th September (second last day of term). Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks contd.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.

Breakfast Club

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
8.30 in the BER

All welcome

Head Lice

Please keep checking your children’s hair and tie long hair back for school

Make Every Day Count
**Tassie Trip**
Only 4 weeks and a few days!!!!!! Students have been given an initial clothing and equipment list for the Tasmania camp today, to allow time for organising things. Any questions can be directed to Mrs Talbot or Mr McCann.

**VCE Orientation activities**
On Wednesday, 24 August, all of our Year 10 students will be travelling by bus to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort Schools and meet some of the staff and students in each school and undertake an in depth tour of the campuses.

**Orchard pruning**
Thanks to Mrs Kaye and her band of merry pruners, the orchard trees are starting to look like they mean business for spring. Let’s hope their hard work bears much fruit!!

**Fiesta Dancing**
A big thankyou to our senior students who have volunteered to teach various dances to the year levels in readiness for the Pyramid Hill Fiesta. Jess, Colby and Olivia are instructing Prep and Grade One; Olivia H, Jorja, Jordann and Fionne are instructing Grade 2, 3 & 4; Teagan & Samantha are leading Grade 5 & 6; and Julia and Feliz are instructing Year 7 & 8. We look forward to seeing these performances evolve over the next couple of months.

**Dates for your diary**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>24th August</td>
<td>PHC year 10 class to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th August</td>
<td>MIPS with Sue Clay</td>
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<td>26th August</td>
<td>Final payments for Tassie Trip due</td>
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<td>31st August</td>
<td>‘Matilda’ Melbourne Trip</td>
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<td>Year 10 – Ballarat</td>
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<td>5th September</td>
<td>NCD Athletics</td>
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<td>12th September</td>
<td>Tasmania Trip -</td>
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**Bugs Blitz**
On Thursday students in Prep to Year 8 from the College and St Patrick’s School participated in the Bug’s Blitz program at the Hill. There were a variety of activities which included catching and identifying bugs, water testing and searching for macro invertebrates, learning about birds of prey, old fashioned games and a Big Picture Project.

The Big Picture Project saw every student at the college photographed with a sign displaying the school values or an uplifting quote. The pictures will be placed together and form a 10m collage that will be displayed at the College.

Students participated extremely well throughout the day. A big thank-you to Mrs Burke for her organisation and other staff who acted as group leaders and bus drivers.

**Staff Professional Development**
Today Primary classroom teachers visited Echuca 208 Primary School to gain an insight into the CAFE approach to literacy. Staff were able to witness the program in action at the School and also had time to look at the way in which the program can be implemented at Pyramid Hill College.

**Year 2 Speeches**
On Friday students in Year two delivered speeches to students in Years Prep-six as well as parents and grandparents. Students did an amazing job speaking on the topic ‘My secret life as a superhero’.

Fiona Moon, Principal