

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Share the Responsibility for your Child's Education

For some parents, education only happens in the classroom. Isn't it the teacher's job to encourage enthusiasm for learning?

Developing an enthusiasm for learning in children actually begins at home. Ensuring an adequate diet, enough sleep and appropriate television viewing habits, say teachers, are just some of the things that can't happen in the classroom. Any more than establishing family rules can, or completing homework or demonstrating that as a parent you value education.

Should schools today be expected to take sole responsibility for a child's education? Not so, say teachers, anxious to dispel the most commonly held misconception of all. Teachers believe education is a shared responsibility, and they are unanimous in their desire for parents to encourage learning on the home front in support of classroom learning.

But when it comes to encouraging your kids to learn, the good news, say teachers, is that you don't need to be an Einstein, nor do you need to put hours aside trying to come to terms with maths and science homework.

New South Wales public school teacher, Danny feels that helping kids to learn can be as simple as parents taking an interest. On the home front, suggests Danny, parents can be involved in their child's learning from an early age, simply by reading or listening to them read.

Danny also suggested that kids love having their parents watch them perform whether at school or

in performances outside of school. "If parents display an interest in learning themselves, this is more likely to result in their children following their example", he said.

But teachers don't expect parents to encourage their child's learning without being encouraged themselves. Debb (a primary school teacher in Western Australia), says teachers want to engage parents as much as pupils.

"Encouraging parents and relatives with special talents to do preparation work at home, gives out a positive message about learning."

And it doesn't have to be physical involvement that encourages learning. According to teachers, if physical support is not possible, then verbal or moral support will still be a form of encouragement. Five minutes in the classroom at drop off or pick up time, or checking your child has done their homework, can make a big difference in the encouragement stakes.

Encouraging learning, say teachers, is not complicated, nor does it have to take up huge slabs of parents' time. And for the 'time poor' parent who may be struggling to keep pace with their child's learning, an email or quick phone call can substitute.

Article by the
Australian Scholarships Group

Getting to Know Your Child

Last week the Getting to Know You Interviews provided the teachers with valuable insights to your children, their needs and special interests.

Thank you to all of those parents who put aside some time to attend these important points of first contact. Research shows that when parents get involved in their child's education student performance levels reach new heights.

Open and regular communication between the school and families will foster and grow this partnership. I encourage you all to keep in touch with your child's teacher on a regular basis. If you have a question or concern please voice it sooner rather than later. The classroom teacher should be your first port of call.

If necessary you are welcome to contact the Assistant Principal – Liz Barr or myself for unresolved issues.

Traffic Congestion

I am more than a little concerned at some of the dangerous practices I have noticed when parents are picking up their children from school. Many parents have reported near collisions at the local milkbar as children have been waiting to be picked up. Although I understand that parking space around the school is at a premium, using the milkbar driveway as a designated meeting spot is potentially a dangerous practice.

May I remind you also that the parking bays at the front of the school are pick up zones not parking zones. Before school and after school you should not be leaving your car unattended to enter the school and pick up your child.

Also Our Lady of the Pines school at the rear of Milgate has registered a complaint that some of

our parents are using their car park after school. Out of courtesy to them please refrain from doing this as their parents are understandably upset when they can't find a park.

Working Bee

Thank you to those families who came up to school last Sunday and helped to spread mulch under the play equipment. Thank you to John Warden also for his organisation and direction. We really appreciate you giving up some of your weekend to participate in this work which helps all our children at Milgate keep safe.

Special thanks also to Mark Roberts one of our parents who lives close to the school. Mark regularly mows the grass along the outside of the school fence at the back of our school. Thanks Mark for taking such good care of us – it is noticed and very much appreciated.

School Council Elections

As you would be aware School Council had 3 parent vacancies to fill this year. I am delighted to announce that the 3 successful candidates are

Patrick Ow
Don Rixon and
John Tommasoni

I look forward to welcoming them to the next School Council Meeting.

The 2 staff vacancies were filled by Liz Barr and myself.

Jan Marinakos
Acting Principal

CLASSROOM CLIPPINGS

PE/Outdoor Learning Program

For Your Information: Milgate will be participating in the **National Ride2School Day on Wednesday 25th March.** We are encouraging all students to make their way to school on this day via an active mode of transport. (riding a bike, riding a scooter, skate boarding, walking or running) Let's make this a fantastic day and it would be great to see the whole school involved.

Interschool Sport: We played our 2nd Round of Interschool sport on Thursday 19th February, with the Green Team playing at home against Templestowe Heights PS and the White Teams playing away against Serpell PS. We played our 3rd Round of Interschool sport on Thursday 26th February, with the Green Team having a BYE and the White Teams playing away against Andersons Creek PS. The results from our 3rd and 4th Round will be in my next WHAM article.

ROUND 2:		
GREEN TEAMS	MILGATE PS	TEMPLESTO WE HEIGHTS PS
Cricket	Won 2/76	2/51
Bat Tennis	Won 38	20
Mixed Rounders	Won 27	15
Girls Rounders	Won 54	3
Boys Softball	Won 13	3
Girls Softball	Won 14	4
WHITE TEAMS	MILGATE PS	SERPELL PS
Cricket	Draw	Draw
Bat Tennis	Won 36	35
Mixed Rounders	Lost 3	34
Girls Rounders	Won 24	12
Boys Softball	Draw	Draw
Girls Softball	Won 11	3
ROUND 3:		
GREEN TEAMS	MILGATE PS	BYE
WHITE TEAMS	MILGATE PS	ANDERSONS CREEK PS
Cricket	Won 2/74	9/45
Bat Tennis	Won 53	18
Mixed Rounders		Andersons Creek had no team
Girls Rounders	Won 24	8
Boys Softball		Andersons Creek had no team
Girls Softball		Andersons Creek had no team

Go For Your Life: The Premier's Active Families Challenge is on again this year. Please register as a family and all that is involved is that you have to undertake 30mins of physical activity for 30 days between 8th March – 19th April 2009. If you register, **Milgate PS will have a chance of winning \$3000 worth of sporting equipment.**

For more information visit:

www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au

Outdoor Education: I have now finalised the staffing for our Yr 5 & 6 Camp for 2009 and Parent Helpers who are needed to attend have been contacted. I must say many thanks to all the parents who put in an expression of interest in 2009. It has been a long and involved process deciding on parent helpers and I believe that I have a terrific balance this year between parents who have helped before and new parents coming on board for the first time.

If you wish to know more about how you could help out with any aspect of the PE/Outdoor Learning Program, please contact me at school.

James Will
PE/Outdoor Learning Coordinator.

Visual Arts Thank you!

A huge belated thank-you goes out to all the parents and staff members who donated various sorts of materials and resources to the Art room last year, your continual support towards our Visual Arts program is always valued highly.

There are a large amount of egg cartons, margarine containers, meat trays and magazines stocked in the art room at the moment; therefore we won't need any additional supplies of these. However, it may be handy to check with year levels or your child's/children's teacher as to whether they could use recycled items such as these.

Smock Reminder

If you are planning on buying a new art smock for your child/children, I would recommend buying a long-sleeved thick, long plastic smock that provides full coverage. This is due to the fact that paint, ink, clay and water can seep through fabric smocks, and aprons do not offer enough coverage. Milgate's uniform shop sells long-sleeved plastic smocks for a retail of \$15. There are also major retailers such as Target/K-mart and Big W that sometimes stock art smocks.

I have already had some students mention they don't own an art smock, and this can be due to a number of reasons, eg. losing their smock, growing out of it or their old one has worn out, sharing it with a brother or sister etc.

If this applies to your child/children, it would be greatly appreciated if they could be provided with a new one promptly. I have a number of smocks in the Art Room that have been left behind or found in lost property and am in the process of checking with students and classes to see if their lost smock may be uncovered here.

It would be very beneficial to your child/children if their smock can be easily identified by them by a large label on the

outside, or on the inner collar, or any type of identification that differentiates their smock from others. This is due to the fact that there are tonnes of blue/green and chequered smocks.

I thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Milgate and valued meeting many new faces. I look forward to seeing you all and celebrating your children's artistic endeavours in 2009.

Dimie Dertilis
Art Teacher

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure your child/children's items of clothing and belongings are all clearly labelled with a dark, permanent fabric marker or any other appropriate type of labelling (eg. Stitching for clothing, sticker labels for lunchboxes, containers, drink bottles etc). It is also important that last names are included.

There have been a large number of items found in lost property that only have first names which makes it difficult for items to be returned to children/classes due to the large double-up of first names at the school. If items are easily identified, this makes the process of returning them to the relevant children much easier. The lost property cupboard gets checked and cleared regularly to prevent a mass build-up of clothing/items. These are returned where possible. Please ensure that either you or your child checks

the lost property cupboard immediately if they have lost an item.

**Parents and Friends Update
AGM held last week**

Thanks to everyone who attended our AGM last week. It was great to see a number of new faces - as well as the familiar ones too. We have now elected a new P&F team which we will introduce to you in our upcoming newsletter.

**STARLIGHT CINEMA NIGHT
Friday 27th March**

The winning movie, as voted by the children at Milgate, was Get Smart ... and it won by a huge margin! By now you will have received the flyer with the details of the night and how to purchase your tickets. There are spare order forms at the office.

This night is really about coming together as a family and as a community to just enjoy a movie under the stars! Make sure you get your orders in and put this date in your diary.





ADVERTISING for Starlight Cinema Night

Do you or somebody in your family have a business you would like to advertise to the Milgate school community? Your business details will be up on the big screen before the start of the movie for just \$50. Please call Kristy Hourmouzis on 9841 9693 / 0408 730 750 for further details.

Parents & Friends Committe

**MILGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL CANTEEN
\$3.50 LUNCH PACKS**



<p>Mar 10th + Mar 11th only</p>  <p>3 Chicken Nuggets Cheese Jaffle Fruit Jelly</p>	<p>Mar 10th + Mar 11th only</p>  <p>Hot Chicken Roll <u>or</u> Hot Cheese Roll Fruit Juice Box</p>
<p>Mar 17th + Mar 18th only</p>  <p>Hot Dog (plain <u>or</u> with sauce) Choc Chip Muffin Jelly Fruit Drop</p>	<p>Mar 17th + Mar 18th only</p>  <p>1 Chicken Tender 4 Potato Smiles Ice Cream Cup</p>

You can simply cut out or write down the lunch pack you want and attach to a paper bag with your child's name and grade.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please see our Community Noticeboard (located outside the Art room) for any interesting community events. The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education and Training (DET) or Milgate Primary School Council for accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

Bushfires and Asthma

With the devastating Bushfires that have occurred throughout Victoria and with fires still burning across the State, there is an increased risk of asthma. Parents and carers of children with asthma should remain alert and ensure the child carries their blue reliever medication with them at all times.

Tips to minimise the effects of Bushfire smoke:

- Smoke and increased air pollution from fires can cause people with asthma to experience increased symptoms, such as **wheezing, coughing, chest tightness** or **shortness of breath**.
- Children are one of the first to feel the effects of smoke and particle pollution for this reason extra care needs to be taken.
- Always follow the child's written Asthma Action Plan.
- Parents and teachers need to be aware of the additional risk and be prepared.
- Ensure the child has access to blue reliever medication and continue use of preventer medication.
- When smoke is in the air, but fire is not directly threatening, keep children indoors, and close all windows and doors.
- Avoid doing physical activities outdoors.
- If a child develops symptoms, seek medical assistance immediately.
- If the child's blue reliever medication is not reducing asthma symptoms, start Asthma First Aid and seek medical attention without delay.

For further information, please call the Asthma Telephone HelpLine on 1800 645 130 or visit The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's website www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au



Back to School Spike

Back to school time presents a phenomenon called the 'February Epidemic', which is a well-documented occurrence of an increase in asthma hospital admissions in children. This trend occurs two weeks after school goes back, with the spike generally occurring in mid to late February.

- An increased exposure to colds and flu, the most common triggers for asthma, can explain the peak.
- Schools can ensure that all students with asthma have a written Asthma Action Plan that outlines their asthma management, including details of medication, emergency contact details, asthma triggers and what to do in an asthma emergency.
- Knowing the probability of an asthma attack is higher during this time of year, it is vital that parents ensure their children take their prescribed preventer medication and carry their blue reliever medication at all times.

For further information, please call the Asthma Telephone HelpLine on 1800 645 130 or visit www.asthma.org.au or www.asthmafriendlyschools.com.au

MILGATE ACHIEVERS**Week Ending 20th February 2009**

PJP	Lydia F.	For working sensibly as she got to know her buddies.
PLM	Mia M.	For being a responsible student and a good role model.
PPK	Petra E.	For helping clean the classroom.
PPM	Aaron F.	For using lovely manners all the time.
1CH	Spiro D.	For consistently working well during all activities.
1KG	Simon R.	For his super efforts during literacy.
1LS	Will P.	For being a fantastic role model and grade leader.
2KW	Riley S.	For having a go and his friendly nature.
2SL	Kevin S.	For his terrific sense of humour and smile.
2WH	Angela L.	For excellent reading with great expression.
34H	Vihaan N.	For his excellent knowledge of the times tables.
3DM	Jake S.	For being a positive role model for his classmates.
3JG	Jakob-Daniel A.	For his caring and considerate behaviour to others.
3MN	Christian T.	For living our Milgate values consistently!
4CJ	Jarryd W.	For being so considerate and respectful.
4KB	Ethan C.	For being helpful to classmates and working quietly at his table.
4TK	Heath C.	For his great effort and persistence with his work this week.
5AA	Ed P.	For presenting his work so well in his books.
5GP	Ariella H.	For excellent poster about the Nutcracker and great manners.
5SE	Stephen G.	For his effort in demonstrating the positive qualities of a Class Leader.
5TW	Jessica D.	For the great effort she puts into her work.
6AH	Ben G.	For working persistently well and sharing his ideas with the class with a sense of humour.
6GA	Zoe P.	For her excellent application to all tasks.
6JA	Aaron C.	For his excellent work with his Prep Buddy.
6TS	Sandra S. & Stephanie A.	For organising and running a great class meeting.
LOTE	Ashton C. (3DM)	For being such a responsible learner.
MUSIC	Alana K. (2WH)	For making sure she knew all the right words to the anthem and could write them accurately.
ART	Ashton C. (3DM)	For always being a responsible, creative and turned in student.
PE	Laura S. (4TK)	For always being so enthusiastic during PE.

MILGATE ACHIEVERS**Week Ending 27th February 2009**

PJP	Dominic C.	For wonderful reading and writing.
PLM	Sara P.	For consistently being kind and caring towards her peers.
PPK	Andrew C.	For finding the most words beginning with 'f' and 'g'.
PPM	Thomas J.	For being a wonderful, caring friend.
1CH	Jessica M.	For her great recount about our class exercise.
1KG	Richard F.	For concentrating hard and producing great work!
1LS	Nicole L.	For always giving her best effort in all her work.
2KW	Elvina J.	For her sensational reading and concentration.
2SL	Carissa M.	For being a responsible Junior School Councillor so far.
2WH	Harrison T.	For reading with great expression.
34H	Jemma P.	For her brilliant joined handwriting.
3DM	Laura D.	For her positive approach to her work.
3JG	Henry L.	For his excellent work and fantastic approach.
3MN	Rhys C.	For including others when playing.
4CJ	Alex Y.	For being so kind and considerate.
4KB	Micaela B.	For always showing honesty and integrity.
4TK	James M.	For consistently displaying our classroom values especially cooperation.
5AA	Atiqah M.	For learning the meaning of her spelling words.
5GP	Max G.	For an excellent project on Troy and great manners.
5SE	Ashley H.	For consistently being organised and efficient in class.
5TW	Sammy Z.	For constant participation during our class discussions.
6AH	Naomi Z.	For preparing and presenting to the class an excellent "Novel in a Bag" report.
6GA	Jana C.	For her consistent assistance in the classroom.
6JA	Emma R.	For working well and 'having a go'.
6TS	Melissa A.	For her care and hard work with her buddy.
LOTE	Monique H. (1LS)	For being an enthusiastic new LOTE learner.
MUSIC	3JG	For their undivided attention and focus in our 1 st recorder session.
ART	Isabella T. (2SL)	For her excellent efforts and talent in Art.
PE	Jessica P. (6AH)	For showing much improved Bat Tennis skills.