



To the Point

09/ 2015 23rd March 2016

- Year 4 Sports Gala Day Thurs 24th March
- Attendance Lunch—Thurs 24th March

Hi Everyone,

End of a busy first term: Well as we come to the end of our short but very busy first term I would like to reflect on the events and learning that has occurred so far this year. Our school improvement focus born from the Four Year Strategic Plan, has our sights firmly focussed on student writing. We have tightened our teaching approach to writing across the whole school and provided valuable intensive differentiated support. Put simply, the children have been placed in ability groups and moved from time to time based on their writing performance. The higher level writing group is naturally exposed to and expected to produce more intensive pieces of writing. Every child's progress has been carefully monitored with specific teacher feedback provided to each individual on their writing to help set new goals for new term. Overall, I am very pleased with the higher quality of narrative and persuasive pieces presented to me during the week eight teacher admin data sit-downs.

Cultural experiences this term: Mrs Miller and Ms Menzies have exposed our musically talented students to challenging lessons and performances. I am and will always be very pleased to budget for cultural events. It was an absolute pleasure watching and listening to our students perform this term.

Sporting prowess on show: Already this term several of our students have experienced the rigours of selection trials. Our school is an active member of the Cumberland Schools Sub-District which feeds into the Mackay District trials. We are very proud of our representatives who have attended selection trials and wish our ten, eleven and twelve year olds the best of luck next term in cross country. Mr Paap and Mr McDowall have set down Wednesday April 20th, week two next term for our Annual School Cross Country championships. We will assemble at 1pm on the oval with the prep students marshalling first. Each year Mr Paap asks for parent volunteers to help man specific checkpoints around the school track. The older children run 2km and 3km distances so your support is much sought after. Bring a hat, water and comfortable shoes. We will provide a chair for your comfort if you prefer.

25 Token Emerald reward day Games Extravaganza early next term: With an unusually short term we have decided to run our cut-off date for the 25 token Emerald Reward Games, Games Extravaganza to the end of week one term two. This allows an appropriate amount of time for the children to achieve their first award for the year. Due to cross country set down for the 20th we will have our Emerald Reward day on Thursday afternoon of the 21st April. The afternoon has been chosen to avoid quality learning time in the morning and escape the heat. Good luck students trying to earn more green tokens.

Writing competition closes tomorrow: We have offered a fun on-line writing competition for all students this term. The children can enter for free and the topic choice is open. They can write a poem or story. The piece of writing can't be too long and it must be typed. See Mrs A in the library or around school today or tomorrow to get an entry in. The prizes are phenomenal.

End of Term Attendance Lunch: Invitations to students without a red card and less than three total absences including early and late departures will be given out by today. The lunch is tomorrow and I congratulate all students with above 95% attendance for the term. Remember every day counts and our school target is less than 50 total school absences each week.

ANZAC DAY: Please remember to plan for week three's ANZAC Day march in town. Our school has a proud history of students and staff marching on Monday April 25th as a sign of respect. Parents are welcome to join us at the rear of the team. So please start planning now. Student's names are recorded and certificates awarded for representing the school.

Have a safe and relaxing Easter break everyone. Remember to always eat your chockies in moderation!

Rod Finney
Principal

Slade Point

362 Slade Point Road
PO Box 9150
SLADE POINT QLD. 4740

Parents & Citizens Assoc meetings are held on the 1st.
Monday of each month. All parents are welcome to attend.

"Caring, Sharing, Learning Together"

Telephone: 4965 7333
Facsimile: 4965 7300
Student Absence Line: 4965 7360
Email: the.principal@sladpointss.eq.edu.au
Website: www.sladpointss.eq.edu.au
Home Research Website: <http://sladpointss.cmeweb.libcode.com.au>

STUDENT AWARDS

Faith, Phoenix, Maia,
Anarchy, Chelsea, Ella, Lilli,
Breannon



EMERALD AWARD 25 TOKENS CERTIFICATE—TERM 1

Mia V, Luca, Shelby, Nate, Slater W,
Usai, Jocoda

COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 1

- ★ **Attendance Lunch** — Thursday 24th March at 11:15am — notes will be sent home to students who have reached 95% or more!
- ★ **Year 4 Sports Gala Day** — Andergrove SS
- ★ **Last day of Term 1** — Thursday 24th March
- ★ **Tokens draw** — Thursday 24th March. Have to be at school to win a movie ticket!

THANKS—NIGHTOWL

Thanks for the continuous support for our breakfast program!

CROSS COUNTRY—TERM 2

Cross Country is held on
Wednesday 20th April.



HAPPY EASTER



We wish everyone a Happy Easter and a safe holiday.

School starts on **Monday 11th April. (This is not a pupil free day)**

NEW PLAYGROUND

Thanks to Mr Bailey for getting this wonderful playground up and running!



RELAY FOR LIFE TRIVIA NIGHT

Is on **Saturday 30th April** 6:30pm in the hall. If you would like to book a table please contact the school office.
RSVP Friday 22nd April.



ANZAC DAY



Notes will be sent home 1st week of Term 2. Please fill out the cream coloured sheet indicating if your child/ren are going to participate in the ANZAC Day March on **Monday 25th April** with the school. Please return the notes to the office by Wednesday 20th April.

YEAR 4 GALA DAY

The year 4 students are going across to **Andergrove SS tomorrow, Thursday 24th March** for the Cumberland Sub-District sports.

INDIGENOUS T20 CRICKET

If your child/ren brought home a blue form asking if they would like to attend the cricket program on Thursday afternoons starting in Term 2, please complete the blue form and return it to the office ASAP.



CHAPLAIN NEWS

Continued from last week: Why are they so compelled to play? It can be hard to think like a tween or teen boy. But imagine, if you can, what it is like for them. Why are they so compelled to play their games? Here are six reasons:

It's fun – In fact, it's great fun! Game-playing produces huge amounts of dopamine. This is a chemical in the brain that is usually produced to make us feel great. It is associated with a variety of addictions. Some researchers suggest that dopamine production as a result of game playing is beyond anything that the real world can produce.

It's rewarding – Not only is playing a game a lot more fun than writing an essay or reading a book (or even kicking a footy with a mate), but the reward schedule of games is designed to provide ultimate positive reinforcement on a cleverly designed schedule. Just when you think you'll run out of fuel the checkpoint appears in the distance. Just when you're about to lose your coins or your ammo, another opportunity to keep the game going pops up – just in time. Playing games is an escape – When our boys are distressed, switching on the game allows them to forget all about what is troubling them. Unfortunately this is a poor coping strategy (similar to turning to alcohol or other drugs), but it does provide temporary relief. Some boys even acknowledge that they don't even enjoy the game, but flicking it on has become a habit.

Social inclusion – Peer support is a critical factor in the wellbeing of adolescents. Being the only one who doesn't play can lead to ostracism. Game ethics – Some games won't let you play in a mission until they've accumulated sufficient status.

Nature abhors a vacuum – Like adults checking their email, their facebook/Instagram, or playing a quick game of Candy Crush while waiting in the doctor's surgery (or sitting at traffic lights!), boys play games when they have "nothing else to do". Should we get rid of games? While research shows that a moderate amount of gaming is positively correlated with wellbeing, games do not make our boys "happy", help them achieve anything worthwhile, or live well-balanced lives. So it's up to parents to actively monitor their boys' game usage and, where necessary, restrict it. This means that after reading this article we should not be demanding that our children turn off their games and walk away. It will only create conflict. Instead, the following tips may be helpful: **First**, talk it through. Be calm – and don't have the conversation while they're halfway through a level or a mission. It will end badly. **Second**, work out why it means so much to them. **Third**, problem-solve together. **Fourth**, minimise control.

You will find that this is harder than it seems. But getting the conversation right will aid you enormously. Even so, your son (or student) will still struggle to regulate his behaviour. The following ideas may be helpful:

Agree ahead of time how long is suitable on games

Agree ahead of time what time games will go off at night Agree ahead of time on a strategy for getting him to switch off when asked

Agree ahead of time to keep games out of bedrooms and in public areas

Agree ahead of time that text messages, a tap on the door, or the oven timer will be used for a 15 minute warning

Agree ahead of time that he must respond to those warnings

Agree ahead of time what the consequences of refusal to get off the game will be

Agree ahead of time that schoolwork and other priorities will be completed ahead of gaming You will note that this approach requires pro-activity, and active parenting. The architecture of these games leads to "time slippage". The games are designed to be as compelling as possible. They are literally designed to trap and compel our children to play and play and play.

Consistent, calm, kind conversations with our boys (at the right time and in the right place – not in the heat of battle) are how we eventually beat the game – and take our parenting and our relationships with our boys to the "next level".

Some good advice to think on.

Chappy Lyn

PEACH PROGRAM

Get your whole family active and eating well
The PEACH™ (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health) program is NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS for groups running in school term 2.

Enrolments closing soon - Groups commencing the week of 18 April.

The program is FREE for families with a primary -school aged child and is run in the local community within a school term and after school hours.

The program covers:

Nutrition – lunchbox and snack ideas, reading labels and ingredients, dealing with fussy eaters, making healthier takeaway choices, making healthy eating affordable and tips on planning ahead.

Physical activity – the benefits of exercise, how to be more active as a family, physical activity recommendations for children, how to reduce screen time and help with setting goals.

Parenting – setting boundaries, planning for change, managing resistance to change, role modelling and how to be balanced and consistent.

Family focus – the program recognises that each family is different and so our facilitators work with individuals to come up with a plan that suits them.

Kids love the PEACH™ program as it helps build their confidence and make new friends. It is run by trained PEACH™ facilitators and aims to help the whole family lead healthier lives.

The PEACH™ program is run by the Queensland University of Technology and funded by the Queensland Government.

The program will only be available in term 2, 2016 so register now.

LAST OPPORTUNITY to access the FREE program - don't delay! Ask us about PEACH™ Online.

Free call 1800 263 519 or
www.peachqld.com.au