Welcome back to another awesome term of learning at Broken Hill Public School. We hope you all enjoyed the school break.

**Term 4**
As is the case with most terms these days, there are plenty of events and activities happening in Term 4. We are putting the final touches to the term planner which will be sent home later this week. Please contact the school should you require any information about upcoming events.

**Year 5/6 Excursion**
On the last day of Term 3 our Year 5/6 students returned from their excursion to Bendigo/Ballarat. All arrived home safely and were very tired from the activities and the long journey. A great time was had by all with many long lasting stories to remember. A very big thank you goes to Miss Harris, Mr Hosken and Mr Thomas for organising the excursion and supervising the children for the week.

**Gala Days**
Well done to our teams that competed in the PSSA Gala Days in the last week of Term 3. Our Junior Girls Basketball and Senior Boys Cricket teams all played exceptionally well, representing our school with pride. It was terrific to hear about outstanding behaviour, effort and sportsmanship from our teams.

**Kindergarten/Preschool 2016**
We are now in the process of taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2016 and Expression of Interest, Round Two for Preschool 2016. If your child is starting school next year it’s time to come in and see us. Please come in see our office staff for all the information required. Orientation programs will start early in Term 4.

**Stage 2 Excursion**
The cost of the excursion to Mutawintji National Park of $50.00 is to be paid by Friday, 9th October, 2015.
School Hats
Term 4 is an opportune time to remind everyone about wearing school hats when in the playground. We require the children to wear the wide brimmed school hat and ask those not wearing the brimmed hat to remain under the COLA during playtime. Children wearing caps will also be asked to stay under the COLA. We thank you for helping to keep the children safe from the effects of our harsh sun. Hats can now be purchased from the front office during school hours. No hat, no play.

Spelling Bee Regional Final
The last week in Term 4 the Spelling Bee regional finals were held. Cohen Sullivan and Emerson Chesterfield were our school’s junior representatives. They competed via video conference with 37 other school representatives from schools as far afield as Jindabyne in the NSW snow fields, Burke, Ungarie and Wentworth. Cohen got to the third round, while Emerson made to round 6, which placed her in the top 9 of the Western Region.
In the senior competition, Jet Johnson represented our school and got to the third round in a very tight contest filled with extremely challenging words! Congratulations to all on their incredible efforts and thanks go to Mrs Walker and Miss Zacharia for the organisation of this event.

Yours in education
Michael Fisher

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Moxie Drama Group
Moxie Drama Group starts Term 4 at Theatre 44, 189 Wills Street, this Sunday. This is an opportunity for kids in Year 3 to 7 (aged 8 to 13), to learn theatre skills such as speech, acting, working in a group, stage presence, confidence etc.
Time: 10.30am to 12.00pm Sundays
Cost: $25.00 per term
Phone Marilyn Harris on 8087 9585 or 0413 905 048 for more details and bookings.

Whole School Assembly
this Friday, 9th October, 2015, commencing at 11.30am. All welcome!!

FAIRYTALE SPECTACULAR 2015
Songs for Frozen Fever, Snow White, Mary Poppins, The Descendants, High School Musical and others. All in costume at Theatre 44 on Saturday 17th October at 7.30pm Sunday 18th October at 2.00pm Sunday 25th October at 2.00pm
Tickets at door.
Adults $15.00 Conc. $10.00

After School Sporting Schools Program
This program will commence Tuesday of Week 3 (20th Oct). If you wish your child to attend this term, a new enrolment will need to be completed and returned to the admin office. New forms are now available from the admin office.
CHILDREN'S SAFETY COMES FIRST from BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

Care in dropping off and picking up children is paramount. Broken Hill City Council Rangers have been monitoring school zones and remind parents/carers of their responsibilities in ensuring children’s safety. Council’s Rangers have issued a number of infringement notices as motorists have failed to obey school signs and signage. Not only are the fines larger than fines outside a school zone, but demerit points also apply to certain offences within a school zone.

The most common offences detected are:

**Stopping in a No Stopping Zone:** A driver must not stop at all in the zone to drop off or pick up a child. **$319** fine and **2 demerit points.**

**Stopping on or near a Pedestrian Crossing:** Stopping within 20 meters of the approach side and 10 meters of the departure side of a crossing is an offence, and includes stopping to let a passenger out of or into the vehicle, regardless whether someone is using the crossing. **$425** fine and **2 demerit points.**

**Stopping/Parking on a Footpath/Nature strip:** It is illegal to park on a footpath or nature strip. That means it is an offence to stop or park anywhere at all between the kerb of the road and a property boundary, including a driveway. **$177** fine and **2 demerit points.**

**Stopping in a Bus Zone:** It is an offence to stop in Bus Zone, which means you cannot stop to pick up or drop off a passenger. **$319** fine and **2 demerit points.**

**Double Parking:** It is an offence to stop/park on a road to pick up or drop of a passenger, next to a vehicle that is parked at the kerb of a road. **$319** fine and **2 demerit points.**

**Stop within 10 meters of an Intersection or Junction:** It is an offence to stop within 10 meters of the approach or departure side of an intersection of Junction. It could result in a **$248** fine.

Council thanks parents for being responsible and keeping the protection of children in school areas front of mind.
TEDDY BEAR’S PICNIC

On the last day of Term 4, K-2 students enjoyed the Teddy Bear’s Picnic at Duke of Cornwall Park. They were treated with a visit from Lead Ted and everyone had a lovely time. The students enjoyed many activities throughout the afternoon and also enjoyed taking their teddy bears. A big thank you goes to the teachers that organised such an awesome event.
“If a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.”
This mantra always pops into mind whenever I’m about to cut some corners or do a rushed job in any endeavour. As a result, I double-check every article I write for mistakes. I never prepare every talk I give. And I continually edit and re-edit my books. This message keeps me at the top of my game.

I can thank, or blame, my mother for inserting this mantra in my mind as she repeated it whenever I did a rushed job as a youngster making my bed, doing homework or cleaning up my bathroommess.

Parents of every generation have always found ways to frame messages of safety and success for their children to remember. Parents of past generations who only had to contend with the offline or real world intuitively knew that they needed to teach child important lessons about safety and manners rather than assume they’ll be understood.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. “Is this worth posting?”
The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2. “Have you taken a big breath?”
A child who blurs out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind.

more on page 2
... Developing your child's social media scripts ...

The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn’t mean they post it. ‘Take a big breath’ may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

1. "Do you want the principal to see this?"
An invitation to a teenage birthday party posed on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

2. "How will you fix this?"
Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it’s fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It’s reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.

I agree with Guilt Breen author of Kindness Wins who says that parents should have conversations with children around social media before they reach the teenage years. Starting these conversations when they are younger means that they are more open to our parenting opinions, as well as being a little more amenable to the messages of tolerance, kindness and empathy that we need to encourage.

Michael Grose

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.