Calendar of events 2014

Friday 27 June
Assembly—attendance raffle and awards
Last day of term 2
2.30pm finish
Don’t forget, over the holidays, read, read, read and practice your times tables.

Premiers Reading Challenge
Reading is like dreaming with your eyes open!

Monday 14th July
Term 3 begins
Be at school by 8.55 ready for learning time at 9.

Wear your Team Colours
End of Term Fun Day
Wear your favourite team colours tomorrow.
Bring a gold coin donation.
Enjoy your day with your buddy.
Don’t forget, we have a 2.30pm finish.
Wishing you all happy and safe holidays.

Descriptive Writing—'My big score'

My legs are dirty with mud. I am definitely not going to choose softball next year. I feel like I’ve just been run over by a truck. “Come on team B! One more game!” No!
Not another game! I’ve only sat out once and everyone else has sat out at least three times! I feel so hungry! I begin to drag myself to second base. “Come on Jessika! Let’s get going! Glove up!” I tell myself. I’ve managed to pull myself to base two, hold my glove up and stand in the deep mud. The weather is not helping.
My glove is unbearable. It’s too small for me but, it’s the only right hand glove. The first batter is up. He’s huge! He looks fourteen! Cling! The ball and bat meet and I whisper under my breath: GAME OVER. The ball is coming towards me now. “Jessika! You won’t be able to catch it!” I put my hand over my face to protect my face and THUMP! My hand moves, hitting my face. My face is in pain now. “OUT!” I know I’m out. Well… I’ve probably done something against the rules. I pull down my hand, barely, and I find a yellow ball in my glove. Oh MY GOSH! I’ve done it! The boy looks pretty embarrassed. All of team B has a smile on their faces. As the next batter comes up, the sun flitters in my eyes, making me blind. Suddenly I feel happy. All my pain has turned into happiness. It’s almost like the pain acts like fuel for my happiness. I’m so telling my family about this! By Jessika Palacios, S13

Student Reports Feedback
Did you enjoy your child’s Student Led Conference?
Do you have any feedback for us on:
Your child’s report? The new report format? Your child’s conference, the time allocated or the information shared?
Using the Parent Portal on Sentral? Our communication with you? What can we improve on?

We would love to hear from you. We enjoy receiving parent feedback, it helps us to improve our communication with you and assists us to improve your child’s educational experience. A Parent survey will be on our website soon, please take the time to give us your feedback or, write us a short note. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
Recently I read this great article by Karen Boyes, it re-iterated the importance of why we have and why we follow rules. Some things do seem very irrelevant but as Karen points out, we are preparing students for life by teaching them to do the right thing, not just when it suits them, but all the time. Karen has some great articles on her website. Please have a read of this one.

Rules are a two way street...

I recall at high school participating in a debate "Rules are meant to be broken." To be honest I cannot recall if I was on the affirmative or negative side, nor whether we won or lost - however I have never forgotten the topic.

In recent media coverage this old topic has come back to me - however I am certain that my perspective now is totally different.

The wearing of a school uniform is often the way schools enforce the rules that they have - I recall being in a private girl's school and seeing a student on detention because she had the wrong coloured hair tie - I was outraged - surely this was taking the rules a bit far - I questioned how the colour of a hair tie impacted on educational outcomes, surely teachers and principals had bigger issues to concern themselves with ... then I heard David Koutsoukis speak about the Broken Window Theory made popular by Malcolm Gladwell's book The Tipping Point.

The broken windows theory was first introduced by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling, in an article titled "Broken Windows" which appeared in the March 1982 edition of The Atlantic Monthly.[1] The title comes from the following example:

Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside.

Or consider a pavement. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving bags of refuse from take-out restaurants there or even break into cars.

So back to the school rules... if a rule is broken and is not dealt with then it looks like no-one cares and the I don't care either attitude creeps in. This is how it escalates.

My husband and I had a discussion with our children (aged 12 & 14) last night - Mr 14's school rule is, and was stated clearly in the school newsletter lately, that students are not to wear their sports jacket (school issue with logos ) to, during or from school - yet Mr 14 does - his argument is "no-one ever tells him off" - in fact he wore it today and says "the Principal saw me and never said anything."

In a similar refrain, Miss 12 's school does not allow chocolate biscuits, junk food, food colouring etc in lunch boxes - yet when we say no at home we hear, "Sam had one yesterday and the teacher didn't say anything!"

So there in lies the challenge - and the two way street - as parents we have seen the rules and are working to reinforce them with our children, however they perceive that it is not an issue as they are not told off. For us as parents, it sometimes seems like a losing battle...

Maybe these rules seem like a good idea when management meet and decide on the behaviour that is acceptable or not. Perhaps, however with the added pressures on teachers to cross and tick so many boxes, additional paperwork etc and with a class of thirty students, teachers have far more pressing issues to deal with than whether a student has the correct coloured hair tie, their socks up or a healthy lunch.

The bigger picture for me is the wonderful quote "Integrity is what you do when no one else is watching." It is the bigger picture of our education system - preparing students for life by teaching them to do the right thing, not for reward, through ego or for points on a scoreboard - but simply because it is the right thing to do. It is picking up the rubbish because it will make the place look tidier, not because you know someone will reward you for it. Offering to help a neighbour or stranger to lighten their load and so on. Ultimately I believe this is the bigger goal of education; teaching students to have integrity, values and a moral compass to lead them to success in whatever form that takes.

For further reading please visit http://www.karentuiboyes.com/2014/06/rules-are-a-two-way-street/
Congratulations

These children won a prize last week in the Playground Raffle:

Azariah, J3 for picking up rubbish
Waka, J4 for picking up rubbish
Aadith, M15 for listening to the teacher and not kicking a ball onto the basketball courts.
Andy, M17 for picking up someone else’s rubbish
Jessie, S12 for helping someone who was hurt
Bailey, S12 for picking up someone’s rubbish
Road Safety: It is the responsibility of everyone in our Community to ensure that children are safe near our roads. Before and after school and school holidays are particularly dangerous times for children given the volume of traffic near the school. Please remind your children to take care near roads and look both ways before crossing.

Ensure your child is at school every day. Every Day Counts and every minute in the classroom counts.

Arrive by 9 for optimal learning time. No excuses.

Remember, before returning next term, take a peek! Please keep checking your child’s hair over the holidays.

Winter Arts for Casey Kids

Winter Arts for Casey Kids returns for the July school holidays as part of the City of Casey’s annual Winter Arts Festival. Activities on offer this year are:

- Magical Lantern Workshop
- Jewellery Making

Customers are invited to participate in these workshops to create a piece of stunning jewellery to take home. The session is taught by experienced ceramic and jewellery artist Jenny Corrin.

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To book a place in any of the workshops, please visit www.casey.vic.gov.au/winterartsfestival. For further information, please call the City of Casey Customer Service on 9708 6200.

Please note: there is a limit of two workshop bookings per child. Maximum numbers apply for all workshops and bookings are essential as places are strictly limited. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Second hand school jumpers are available for $2. If your child needs a jumper you may send $2 to school with your child and we will assist them in finding the right size.

Animal Plates by Ridge and Destiny, J3

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