



# Safety Bay Primary School

Respect, Responsibility, Reflection, Relationships, Resilience

## From the Principal

Newsletter 06  
13 May 2015

### Principal's Word

The term is flying by especially when so many things are happening. This week is NAPLAN, which for some reason is seen as a stressful time, the Treasure Trail last Friday which was a huge success and the first P&C meeting for the term on Thursday.

Last week I spoke about Authorial and Secretarial Roles in teaching writing to students. Although both processes are important in the process, it is important for teachers not to focus on secretarial as the following explanation indicates:

"Some teachers cling to the notion that part of their job is to root out and correct every error. Errors are a natural by-product of learning; they are a result of taking risks, reaching out, and trying something new. Overzealous correction teaches children to avoid risks and short-circuits the learning process. It teaches children to play it safe, which is the opposite of good writing."

For this reason you will find teachers not correcting everything in the students draft writing process. We want students to be confident in their writing and to have a go with spelling and punctuation.

Margaret Menner, the presenter at our Writing presentation spoke of a study where poor performing students wrote for 15 minutes nonstop on self-selected topics and did not stop to ask for difficult spelling. The teacher then repeated the process and wrote only positive comments with no corrections made or faults identified.

		Spelling (Poor Spellers)	Quality
Baseline with no written or oral comment	72 words	96.4% correct	
Specific positive comments	91 words	99.8%	More imaginative and wider use of vocabulary

The research shows that students need the opportunity to write freely and to receive positive feedback to build confidence with their writing. Please speak to your child's teacher about how they are doing writing in their classrooms.

### Parking

Once again there have been concerns raised regarding parents parking around the school. As parents of Safety Bay Primary School, it is important you support your fellow community members and not park on their lawns, across their drive ways or on footpaths. I realise parking is at a premium but unfortunately this will not change. Please try to put yourself into their shoes. Thank you for your support.

### Treasure Trail

As I mentioned earlier in the newsletter the Treasure Trail was a huge success. This year more than \$1500 was raised for the P&C. At the meeting on Thursday, discussion will be had on how this and other funds raised will be utilised within and about the school. If you wish to have some input or to be a part of the discussion, please come and become a member of our great team, which is providing fantastic support for our school.

### Kindergarten and Pre Primary Enrolments

Just a reminder about Kindy and Pre-Primary enrolments. We have placed a sign up on the fence advertising enrolments which will close on the 24th of July. Please contact the ladies in the office if you want to know more.

### KidsMatter

It is very disappointing that once again no one responded to our call to attend a KidsMatter workshop. KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of children, specifically Safety Bay.

We have tried several different approaches to encourage parents to attend a workshop without success so we would be very interested to hear what would enable you to attend. Please provide us some feedback as to how we could support your attendance.

**Quote: To me old age is always 15 years older than I am.**

Wayne McKay  
Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Thurs 14th May**  
**P&C Meeting**  
**1.30pm in staff room**

**Fri 15th May**  
**Assembly**  
**C12 & C13**  
**Group B**

**Fri 29th May**  
**Assembly C17**  
**Group A**

**Mon 1st June**  
**Western Australia**  
**Day Public Holiday**

**Fri 5th June**  
**P&C Walkathon**

**Funky Friday**

**Mon 8th June**  
**SBSHS Concert**  
**Band Tour 9.30am**

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## What does autism look like?

### Ash is on his own track

Meet Ash. Ash is 10 years old. He can tell you anything you want to know about trains. He can probably tell you things you don't want to know about trains too. Ash never stops talking, mostly about trains. He talks about which trains run better and which ones he wants to buy next time the family goes shopping. He talks on and on and doesn't seem to notice when people have stopped listening. He has been told many times not to talk so much but it doesn't help. He does it at school too, and it sometimes makes his teacher angry. Ash does well at school and loves reading – especially about trains. Ash doesn't have any close friends. His parents think that it's because he talks on and on without listening to others. He usually wants to play games his way. But often his games end because he is obsessed with the rules. No one is having fun. He often asks his mother why boys come over to play with his brother but no one wants to come to play with him. Ash seems to think more about trains than about people. Children who have difficulties with social communication like Ash benefit from learning how to tune into others' feelings and needs. Tuning into others helps them find better ways to relate and gives them tools to communicate more effectively in social situations.

### Does Ash have an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Ash shows some of the behaviours that may be found in children with autism spectrum disorders. These are life-long conditions that affect children's development in lots of ways. Experts think that autism spectrum disorders are due to differences in the way the brain develops and works. This can lead to patterns of difference in children with autism spectrum disorders and cause a number of difficulties for these children including social relationship difficulties (eg difficulty relating to peers). Diagnosing autism spectrum disorders is not simple. Ash's behaviours can be seen in all children from time to time.

<b>A child with autism spectrum disorder may....</b>	<b>Parents and carers might notice their child....</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have trouble understanding non-verbal communication cues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't look at them when speaking</li> <li>• Doesn't notice if they are bored or in a hurry</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have poor conversation skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talks on and on</li> <li>• Talks over others and doesn't listen</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have strong memory for facts and details</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembers obscure information, and may insist on all fine details being right</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have interests that totally take over</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obsessed with one thing (eg knows everything about a particular make of a car and never stops talking about it)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes things literally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If they are told to 'hold on', may take it literally and take hold of something</li> <li>• Doesn't understand jokes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be good with computers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May prefer to work with computers rather than with people</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have difficulty making friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers to be with adults or younger children</li> </ul>

### How parents and carers can help.

- Comment on what other people are feeling. For example, you may say, "Your dad is frowning. He looks angry."
- Help your child to recognise social rules for communication. Try to make sure he or she listens to others and lets them take a turn in the conversation.
- Tell your child directly what to do if he or she is not sure how to communicate.
- When things go wrong, help your child to talk about what he or she was doing and feeling, what others were doing and feeling and to talk about what he or she could do next time to get a different result.
- Tune into strengths. Try to appreciate your child's unique perception of the world.

### Are you worried that your child is a bit like Ash?

Here's how to get help:

- Talk with your child's classroom teacher about how your child is managing at school and find out what resources the school can offer.
- Talk to your doctor about the possibility of an assessment and referral to a children's mental health specialist.

To be diagnosed with one of the autism spectrum disorders, a team of mental health professionals will need to make a careful assessment. The team includes a psychologist, a speech pathologist, and a paediatrician.

## P & C NEWS

The P&C has been busy since the last P&C News update...

Our Easter Egg Raffle took place on 29<sup>th</sup> March and we raised \$2639.65...thank you for all the Easter Egg donations and ticket sales!

On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April the P&C had 10 very helpful volunteers paint Chess, Hopscotch and Snakes & Ladders around the school...thank you to these wonderful volunteers!



May 8<sup>th</sup> the P&C held a very successful Treasure Trail fundraiser. The P&C raised \$1532! The winning class was C21...their trail was 37.01m long. Thank you to the parents, students and teachers for supporting this event... we made \$400 more than last year!



Term 2 upcoming events...

May 14<sup>th</sup>- P&C Meeting at 1:30pm in the staffroom. Please come along...we will be discussing what big school item we are saving for this year.

June 5<sup>th</sup> – Walkathon Fundraiser

June 11<sup>th</sup> – P&C Meeting at 1.30pm

June 17<sup>th</sup> – WACSSO training 9 .00am -11.00am

## MERIT CERTIFICATES ASSEMBLY 1st MAY

Congratulations go to the following students, the latest recipients of our prestigious Merit Certificates. Well done!!

W8	Freddie	Georgia
W5	Ashley	Rory
W1	Shehara	Petra
W2	Blake	Jasmine
S3	Hannah	Cheyann
P10	Mikhael	Ella
P9	Jessica	Seth
S4	Aiden	Lucy
C16	Kai	Samantha
C17	Benton	Rachel
C18	Zak	Nyomi
C21	Jeremiah	Challenger 21

**P & C MEETING  
THURSDAY 14TH MAY  
1.30PM IN THE STAFFROOM**

**ALL WELCOME!!**

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Safety Bay Primary School would like to congratulate several of our students who entered the City of Rockingham—Castaway Recycling Poster Competition.

We are proud to announce that:

Siena W1  
Bridget C14  
Shaelyn P9

had their posters selected from over 270 entries.



Siena, Bridget and Shaelyn will have their entries converted to posters and placed on the recycling stations in the Castaways Exhibition on the foreshore from 7<sup>th</sup>—17<sup>th</sup> May. Their entries will also be displayed in the City of Rockingham's Administration Building foyer and they will also appear in the Castaways catalogue alongside all of the other professional artists.

The girls will also receive a certificate, a copy of the Castaways catalogue and a small prize which will be awarded to them at this Friday's assembly.



## KIDS HEALTH

Thirst quenchers

- ⇒ Water is the best thirst quencher. Carry a water bottle with you every day and refill it often.
- ⇒ Remember to clean it well at the end of each day.
- ⇒ Drinks high in sugar contain mainly empty kilojoules and can increase the risk of tooth decay.
- ⇒ Being dehydrated will affect thinking. Drink plenty of fluids, such as water, after sport or exercise.



## DENTAL CLINIC NEWS



Due to policy changes, parents are now required to attend all appointments with their child. If the appointment is inconvenient please contact the Dental Clinic.

## LOST PHONE

A mobile phone was found after the ANZAC Day Assembly on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. If you believe this may be your phone please pop into the office to claim.

## 2015/ 2016 ENTERTAINMENT BOOK



The 2015/2016 Entertainment Book is now available to purchase. There will be limited numbers of both the printed Book and the digital version available so make sure you get in early so you don't miss out!

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/851v04>

# ANZAC DAY ASSEMBLY 24th APRIL 2015



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**PRIMARY AGE YOUTH GROUP**  
Come along to Youth Group on Friday nights!  
Enjoy games, make friends,  
learn Scripture, eat supper.  
(Planned and supervised)

**Who:** Years 1-6  
**When:** Friday nights, 6-7:30pm (school terms)  
**Cost:** \$2 donation p/child (or \$4 p/family)  
**Dress standard:** Casual (neat and respectable)  
**Where:** Rockingham Church of Christ,  
cnr Rae Rd & Frederick St, Safety Bay

**9592 2495** [www.rockinghamcofc.org.au](http://www.rockinghamcofc.org.au)

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