Throughout the year in my editorials we have been looking at six key habits that research suggests will assist us in building lasting, loving connections with our children. Time, the most expensive of all commodities in western life, is at the heart of each of the six habits.

In the Week 8 newsletter last term, we looked at habit number 4, ‘stories’. There can be a lasting impact on our children’s lives when we tell our stories and create an environment where the stories of our own journeys are shared for the purpose of binding us together. Our families’ stories can begin to form a legacy.

My family is currently working on what we call “The Humphries’ Family Way”. We are putting together a list of principles, mottos or traditions that we, as a family, want to live by or be known for. We use our nightly family worship time to discuss them together. It’s been a great way to develop our ‘stories’ (habit 4) and pass on lessons of Mummy’s and Daddy’s successes and failures. It’s almost a mix of what Joiner and Ivy proposed to be habits 4 and 5. Habit 5 is one of the habits that should be fun. My internal parent radar says, “You can do this!” When I think about what my family could do to strengthen our connections, Habit 5, “Tribes”, sounds both interesting and achievable.

To my surprise, when I baked a giraffe cake for my son’s third birthday, my wife applauded the beginning of a Humphries tradition. In a weak moment, feeling personal pride at my achievement, she decided Daddy was the ‘birthday cake maker’. And so it continued until I ‘adjusted’ the tradition to be only up to 10 years of age! But what a special bond that created for my boys. We love to look back at the photos of our monkey, golf green, hot rod, tiger and snake cakes (just to name a few).

To create a positive ‘tribe’ atmosphere in your family, try writing down current traditions and family-building practices and then discuss adding to them. Adding to the tribal feel, which is about creating a welcoming and familiar environment in your space, should be done with connectedness in mind. Ask yourselves, “What will build our bonds, bring us together or keep us communicating with one another?”.

Belonging to other ‘tribes’ is important, too. Research clearly reveals that a warm, connected church family positively impacts our child’s development and maturation. Eating meals together, routinely, especially without our screens or devices visible, can be a way to advance your tribal bonds.

Other clubs and groups, like Pathfinders or Scouts, can be great tribes, but could also be roadblocks to your family tribal connections if overused. We need our children to have circles to belong to and flourish in. These tribes, or communities shape our lives and strengthen us all over time. There’s that word again – time. Does your diary have any space for tribe? How many ‘circles’ are supporting your family?
NOTICES:

TERM FEES
Last week, Term fees went out to all families. If you have not received yours please call the office for another copy. Prompt payment discount ends Friday, August 2.

HELPERS FOR TUCKSHOP, PIZZA DAY & FRUIT PROGRAM
Parents, friends and family, if you are available and can provide any assistance for any of the following please let the office know:-

- Tuckshop on Mondays 11.00-12.00
- Collecting pizza at 11.00am on Tuesdays
- Cutting fruit between 12.30-1.00 everyday

GRADE 5-6
Mrs Thomas is on long service leave for the first 5 weeks of Term 3. If you have not already met Mrs Ross, who is doing relief work, please pop in and say “hello” and make her feel welcome. She is coming to us all the way from NSW and is already feeling like part of the Riverside family.

WOOLIES EARN & LEARN ...
We are participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn promotion. For every $10 you spend at Woolworths, you will receive an earn & learn sticker. Please stick them in the booklets & bring them in & pop them in our collection box in the office.

YOUR INSPIRATION AT HOME
This term, our fundraiser is “Your Inspiration at Home” spices. Catalogue & order form is attached to this Newsletter. Orders are to be in to the office together with payment by 17 August, 2015.

Should you miss this opportunity to order the spices you want this term we will run this fundraiser again in Term 4 and beyond.

TUCKSHOP ON MONDAY
“Monday Super Special”
Deli slices & cheese sandwiches/wraps
$3.00 each

DATES TO REMEMBER:
AUG 4
NAIDOC DEMONSTRATION 8.50am
AUG 11
SMC MEETING 5.00pm
AUG 30
WORKING BEE 8.00am to 12.00pm
SEPT 18
LAST DAY OF TERM 3
SEPT 22-27
JUNIOR CAMP MAGNETIC ISLAND
SEPT 27-OCT 4
TEEN X 2015 HINTCHINBROOK
PRINCIPALS AWARDS

Lissin Anil - For a beautiful attitude and wonderful, positive leadership at Riverside
Joshua Dawes - For persistence & maturity

CLASS AWARDS

Prep-1
Joshaviah Mote - For a big effort on sports day
Seth Tarr - For writing a long & exciting story
Lilita Harlock - For a big effort on sports day

Grades 2, 3, 4
Hunter Dale - For making good behaviour choices
Pierre Jayme - For showing good listening skills
Tashvi Goundar - Always listening & doing the right thing
Kamoa Scott - For better behaviour choices & being attentive in class

Grades 5, 6
Mikki Quilala - For a great effort in all work
Delton-Leigh Pardon - For seeking to do her best work and doing a thorough job. Great leadership with her house group

SPORTS DAY MEMORIES