If Only…

Since my last editorial, I have spent time at a conference with over 140 Christian school leaders from Australia and New Zealand and also visited a high achieving primary school in Auckland where, interestingly, the rest of the community has a reputation for violence, disharmony and dysfunctional relationships. It struck me how important community can be and how blessed we are to have the parent community we have. Thank you.

This fortnight we are taking a break from the usual series we have been working through because I really wanted to pass on to our supporting families how Riverside is a community worth celebrating, but also to seek your considered thought.

They say that motivation and inquiry are the two main ‘gateways’ to deep learning. When you think about the times in your life when you learned much, I would guess that you were either very motivated, deeply interested or both! These are the conditions our brain requires to soak in what matters.

As I move from classroom to classroom the practices I witness, the methods our staff employ, are strongly grounded in a desire to motivate and inspire. Of course the latest computing devices are useful in learning settings, but only as they promote inquiry and encourage learners to seek, dig, persist and master. Gardening is widely known to be motivating and involves vision, research, planning, consistency, patience and skill, but only if such a process is understood by the teacher and students are empowered to initiate and create.

I am excited about the things our team is working on for the future. There is significant initiative amongst this amazing group of teachers and support staff – but this is where bad policy could also get in the way if we are not careful. If we are promoting strong learning practices and we are committed to excellence in our strategic learning goals as a school, but students are permitted to distract, interrupt or steal time from their fellow classmates through lack of discipline or self-control, we will probably fail to achieve our desires outcomes. If teachers have to spend more time controlling and less time engaging their students, the results will be limited.

We, as a staff, are beginning to look at the “if only’s” at RACS. What are the roadblocks? What do we need? How can we reach targets? Is there something in the way of the change process? Are there simple solutions blocked by entrenched practices? I would invite you to jot down your “if only’s” for RACS. Before you email them to me, roll them around in your head, pray about them and think about the consequences of following through. If you are sure they could bring a positive change or long term gain, then please, tell us or email them through.

Here’s a start for you… “If only the parents who have brilliant suggestions would share them with the school first so that Riverside could act on them.” That wasn’t so hard, was it?! I look forward to hearing your thoughts. They might just work!
NOTICES:

PUPIL FREE DAY - STAFF PD

Thursday, May 28th is a pupil free day. The school will be closed and no staff will be present. Mrs Jerrard will be in the office to take care of any queries.

WHEELS DAY

Wednesday, June 10 is Wheels Day. Students are allowed to bring a bike, scooter or skateboard to school to use during breaks that day. Don’t forget to also bring a helmet!

CANTEEN

Monday canteen days are off to a firing start! Don’t forget to place your order this coming Monday.

AITKENVALE CHURCH VISIT

RACS has been invited to take the church service at Aitkenvale SDA Church (the double story building at the start of our driveway) this Saturday, May 30. The students and families who took part in our visit to the Townsville SDA church enjoyed their time and we had lots of positive feedback from the church members there. We look forward to seeing you this Saturday. Thank you to those who have changed plans so their children can be there.

FEES

There is only 4 weeks of Term 2 remaining. Please make sure your fee account is finalised before the end of Term.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos have arrived and are available for pickup from the office.

PARKING

Please do not park on any grassed areas as we are trying to grow the grass.

HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING

The next H & S meeting is on Monday, June 15 at 3:10pm. It will be held in the library. All parents are welcome. We would like ideas for fundraising, social events and the school production.

PYJAMA DAY & TERM BREAKUP

Wednesday, June 24 is the last day of Term 2. We are planning to have a pyjama-themed free dress day with the students. They may come dressed in their favourite pyjamas with a pair of closed-in shoes and a gold coin. In the afternoon at 3pm, there will be a breakup get-together in the breezeway. Afternoon tea will be provided and the kids (and big kids) will be welcome to have games on the oval and playgrounds. Come along for a chat and wind down as we mark half way through our school calendar year. Grandparents, aunties, uncles, siblings and any other family members are welcome to come and join us!

VISITING AUTHOR

Earlier this week, the students got to spend time with a renowned Author/Illustrator, David Legge. They had fun learning the basics of drawing, creativeness and story telling.
**Principals Award**

Jakob Glendinning - For being helpful around the school and showing initiative.

Mikki Quilala - For always showing willingness in all tasks he undertakes.

**Prep/1**

Sammara Jalaleddine - For great story writing.

Ruth Teariki - For being kind to fellow class mates.

Mitchell Hautaneimi - For creative story writing.

**Grade 2/3/4**

Brooklyn Acres - For good work on multiplication.

Harvey Biddlecombe - For an excellent persuasive paragraph.

Tashvi Goundar - For an excellent persuasive paragraph.

**Grade 5/6**

Joshua Dawes - For showing great effort and a positive attitude towards NAPLAN this week.

Lochlan Rogers - For consistent effort in maths and writing.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**MAY 28**

PUPIL-FREE DAY - STAFF PD

**MAY 30**

AITKENVALE CHURCH VISIT

**JUNE 8**

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - QUEENS B’DAY

**JUNE 10**

WHEELS DAY

**JUNE 15-19**

WOW - WEEK OR WORSHIP

**JUNE 18**

MID-YEAR REPORTS TO BE SENT HOME

**JUNE 22/23**

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

**JUNE 24**

LAST DAY OF TERM 2, PYJAMA DAY & SCHOOL BREAKUP

**JULY 20**

TERM 3 COMMENCES
On Friday, the Prep/Grade 1 class got to have a pizza party. They have a marble jar in their classroom that gets a marble added every time a class member displays exceptional behaviour, an act of kindness or quick listening. Finally, the jar filled up and that meant it was party time! The dress up theme was anything beginning with the letter ‘I’. Check out some of the costumes below. A fun time was had by all. They ate pizza, popcorn and iceblocks and then made jelly, watched a movie and played some games. Congratulations to Prep and Year 1 for filling up that jar!