Welcome to week five at Seaham Public School. As we settle back into the new year, our 2016 student leaders are beginning to find their feet in terms of what is expected of them and the extra responsibilities that come with being a school leader. Obviously following school rules and being a positive role model in the classroom and in the playground are the main priorities.

PBL (Positive Behaviour Learning) is coming and one of our jobs in its preparation is to update our student welfare policy. We have fine tuned our ‘responses to negative behaviour’ section to include specific steps in dealing with misbehaviour in the classroom. Shortly we will be introducing a ‘time out’ room which will be a supervised room for students who occasionally require an alternate play space or somewhere to catch up on work. This policy and its updates will be published on our web page shortly.

Speaking of leaders, our four school leaders and I will be attending the National Young Leaders Day in Sydney this coming Monday at Sydney Olympic Park. During the day, we will be hearing from inspiring leaders including Andrew Scipione, NSW Commissioner of Police and Paralympian Ben Austin.

Family involvement in the school: There are a number of ways that families can contribute to and find information about the workings of the school. The easiest one is by attending P&C meetings on the first Wednesday of every month in the school library at 6.30pm. This is where any questions you have about school events and processes can be directly asked to the Principal.

P&C News: The first P&C meeting for 2016 will be held next Wednesday 2 March at 6.30pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. This will be a general meeting talking about Easter events. The AGM will be Wednesday 6 April, 2016.

Mandatory Working with Children Check (WWC): As per Department of Education directive, dated August 2015, it is mandatory for all child related work volunteers in NSW Schools to apply for a WWC or complete the Working with Children Declaration. From 2017, all schools in NSW will require all families who help in any way at school to have the WWC issued per the Children’s Guardian. WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ALL FAMILIES TO MAKE APPLICATION NOW. WCC for volunteers is free of charge. The WWCC last for 5 years. Applications are completed online; an application number will be mailed to you which is then presented to the RMS Agency along with your 100 points proof of identity, to complete the process. Thank you our families who already have their WWC number or completed the necessary declaration. Your ongoing support of our students and school programs is appreciated. Please see information attached with todays newsletter.

LMBR: As previously indicated due to the new LMBR (Learning Management Business Reform) being introduced to NSW Schools there will be changes to how we receive student invoice payments. The two payment systems available at our school are listed below. We thank you for your co-operation.

1. Payments to school office per cash or cheque
2. P.O.P. Systems which is by clicking onto our school website and going to the “Make a Payment” tab and following the prompts.
Have you returned your green family update form?  We have only had half of our students return their green family update forms to date.  These updates are essential to our student management records.  If you have no changes, please return with “No Changes” indicated on the form.  Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.  If you have misplaced your form, please contact the office and another one can be issued.

Anaphylaxis/Asthma/Diabetic/Epilepsy Health Plans:  Health care plans, asthma and diabetic actions plans and request for medication forms are due back to the office prior to 4 March 2016.  Please contact the office if further details are required.

Parenting Ideas:  It’s funny how the seemingly small things cause the greatest angst for kids – a sneer from a sibling; a curt remark from a teacher or being left off a classmate’s birthday party invitation list can leave a child feeling insecure, even sad.

While some issues such as sibling disputes are perennial others such as helping children manage the disappointment of missing a friend’s birthday party is a more pressing concern for primary-aged children right now.  In fact, according to many teachers and parents I meet many children’ birthday parties are creating rifts between children, leading to alienation for those left off the party list.

Issue invitations with sensitivity:  It’s a good life lesson for a child to learn that they can’t be invited to everything.  But not being invited to a party shouldn’t make a child feel isolated or humiliated.  Disappointment is normal; humiliation and alienation are not acceptable.  Which means children need to give out invitations while being mindful of the feelings of others.  This is where good parenting comes in.  We need to remind, and if necessary teach children, how to give out invitations sensitively being mindful of the possible disappointment that some children will experience.  Likewise all children who are going to a party should be reminded of their social obligations to all classmates, not just those who are in the “in” crowd.  Tolerance and social graces are the foundations of a civil society and these lessons start in primary school.

Helping kids handle disappointment:  One of the keys to functioning socially and emotionally is the ability to deal with disappointment and rejection.  So whether it is a case of not receiving an invitation to a classmate’s birthday party or a school playground snub, most children experience some type of rejection from their peers throughout childhood.  One study found that even popular children were rejected about one quarter of the time when they approached children in school.  Most children recover from such rejection.  They move on and form constructive, worthwhile relationships but some children need help.  They often take rejection personally, blaming themselves.  As a parent it is useful to challenge children’s unhelpful thinking and encourage them to look for new friendship opportunities.  Parents can help children understand that rejection may happen for any number of reasons that are unrelated to them.  In the course of a school day children will meet with a number of challenges and even setbacks.  They may struggle with some schoolwork.  They may not do well in a test and they may not be picked for a game that they wanted to play.  Children grow stronger when they overcome their difficulties.  The challenge for parents is to build and maintain children’s confidence to help them get through the rough times.

One way to help children deal with rejection and disappointment is to talk through problems or difficulties, recognising and accepting their feelings.  Talk about various scenarios, discussing possible outcomes.  The age of the child will determine the amount of detail.  Keep things simple and avoid burdening a younger child with concepts he or she doesn’t understand.  Your attitude can make a huge difference to how a child reacts.  If you see rejection or disappointments as problems then your child will be hamstrung by this view.  See them as challenges then your child will, in all likelihood, will pick up your upbeat view and deal with disappointments easily.  After all, confidence is catching!
Parenting Ideas Continued: To help children handle rejection and disappointment try the following four strategies:
1. Model optimism. Watch how you present the world to children, as they will pick up your view.
2. Tell children how you handle disappointment and rejection. Not only is it reassuring for children to know that their parents understand how they feel but they can learn a great deal by how their parents handle situations.
3. Help children recognise times in the past when they bounced back from disappointment. Help them recognise those some strategies can be used again.
4. Laugh together. Humour is a great coping mechanism. It helps put disappointment in perspective. It helps them understand that things will get better. They always do.

Health Alert: There has been a reported case of chicken pox at Seaham P.S. As per the NSW Health Factsheet, please see below symptoms for your convenience. It, as with any illness, if you are unsure if you may have an illness, please consult your doctor.
- Chickenpox begins with a sudden onset of a slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash
- The rash usually begins as small lumps that turn into blisters and then scabs.
- The rash appears over three to four days
- Symptoms usually occur two weeks after exposure to the virus
- Most people recover without complications
- Persons who are previously vaccinated can still get chickenpox

Zone Swimming Report: Last Friday a team of 18 keen Seaham Public School students converged on the Zone Swimming Carnival at Lakeside Leisure Centre, Raymond Terrace. They represented their school well always showing great sportsmanship and helping each other out. Everyone looked great wearing their Seaham Public School swimming caps. It was a tough meet with a lot of very fast times performed by everyone. A big thank you to all the parents who made the day very easy!

Here are the results of our swimmers who received ribbons on the day:

**Archie Lilley**: 3rd 11 years Boys 50m Butterfly and 4th Senior Boys 200m Medley

**Kye Andrews**: 3rd 11 years Boys 50m Backstroke and 4th Open Boys 100m Freestyle

**Shelby Meehan**: 1st 8 years Girls 50m Freestyle

**Max McCulloch**: 4th 12yrs 50m Freestyle

**Senior Boys**: 2nd 4 x 50m Freestyle

**Junior Girls**: 3rd 4 x 50m Freestyle

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**How can you help your child in reading?**

Show your child that you value reading by reading whenever you can.

Encourage a positive attitude to books.

Provide a variety of texts for your child to read to you, e.g. stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines, children’s recipe books.

Encourage your child to borrow books from the library.

Point out words on street signs, packets and labels.

Encourage your child to predict what a book is about from the cover and illustrations.

Talk about illustrations and diagrams in books and discuss how they add meaning to text.

Reread favourite books.

Talk about the different purposes for reading a picture book, a novel, a television guide, a newspaper, a telephone directory, a recipe book, an encyclopaedia.

Point out the different size and shape of words.

Point out the first sound of a word and encourage your child to think of other words that begin with the same sound.

Encourage your child to read books for enjoyment as well as for information.

Encourage your child to talk about characters and events in texts.

Encourage your child to make sound effects for the characters and events.

Ask your child to think of possible beginnings and endings for stories read and heard.

‘Sound out’ difficult words and/or give clues to the meaning of difficult words.

Praise your child when they are reading, e.g. ‘well done — that was a difficult word’.

Encourage your child to have a go at reading words that are unfamiliar.

Ask your child to read on past the unknown word to gain clues from the rest of the sentence.

Show your child how to find the meanings of unfamiliar words in dictionaries.

Encourage your child to watch films and videos of books they have read.

Talk about the ways in which a film version of a book compares with the print version.

If your child is having difficulty with reading, or not enjoying reading, ask your child’s teacher for help.
Due to enrolled children’s life threatening Anaphylactic Allergic reactions to all nuts and peanut products, we would like to encourage families not to send these products to school with their children. These include peanut butter, nutella, sesame seeds, loose nuts, muesli, nut or chocolate bars or any products containing any type of nuts. We appreciate your support in this matter.

**Working With Children Check for Unpaid/Volunteers**

A working with children check is a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work, paid or unpaid. Anyone who works face-to-face with your child must have a Working With Children Check clearance (or a completed application in progress). It does not matter whether they are paid, volunteering or self employed. Please note that there is no fee payable for volunteers and the WWC is valid for five years.

**Please follow the steps to complete this process.**

- go to www.newcheck.kids.nsw.gov.au
- Click the start here button on the right hand side of the page. You will be taken to a new page.
- Click the apply for your check tab to the right of the page. (Green Tab)
- Select Blue Tab Continue & Apply
- Complete form. If you are a volunteer ensure that you select “volunteer” in the section, “purpose for check”
- Select Volunteer under the purpose check tab
- In the child related sector, Parent Volunteer—Other.
- Continue the application following the prompts and hit next.
- You will need to also complete the known as other name section if you known by any other name but your Maiden name.
- The second page is the consent form, which you will need to tick both boxes, and complete the verification code given.
- Please print out or copy the New Application Receipt, add your name to the top of the print out and either give to the office or email it seaham-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- You will now need to take this receipt to a NSW Motor Registry or NSW Council Agency to verify your identity. Attached is the proof of identity documentation that you will need.
- Once the verification process is complete (which will take approx. 4 weeks) at the NSW Motor Registry or NSW Council Agency, you will be issued with your WWC number.
- Once you have received the WWC number and documentation, please give a copy to the school office.
### Working with Children Check - Declaration for volunteers and contractors (other than contractors in the Assisted School Travel Program)

1. Subject to section 2 below, this declaration is to be completed by (i) volunteers who will have direct contact with children; and (ii) contractors (other than contractors in the Assisted School Travel Program) who will have direct contact with children in the provision of administrative, clerical or maintenance services or other ancillary services, however the work will not ordinarily involve contact with children for extended periods.

   Once the person has completed and provided this declaration, along with Proof of Identity that meets the 100-point check (Appendix 6), the person can commence engagement as a volunteer or contractor. The completed declaration and Proof of Identity are to be filed in secure storage by the area engaging the volunteer or contractor.

2. This declaration does not apply to:

   (i) volunteers and contractors who will provide personal care services to children with disabilities involving intimate contact with those children (such as assistance with toileting, bathing or dressing), or mentoring services as part of a formal mentoring program provided by a government or non-government agency – who will be required to obtain a Working With Children Check (WWCC) Clearance Number (as issued by the NSW Children’s Guardian) as a condition of engagement. If they do not have this yet, they must apply to obtain this from the NSW Children’s Guardian (per Appendix 4: Information sheet for applicants).

   (ii) contractors in the Assisted School Travel Program, and all other contractors whose work will ordinarily involve direct contact with children for extended periods – these contractors will be required to have a WWCC Clearance Number as a condition of engagement.*

*Note: Transitional provisions apply to existing volunteers and contractors (i.e. those engaged as a volunteer or contractor, or placed on a volunteer or contractor engagement list, immediately prior to 15 June 2013). Refer to Appendix 9: Transitional arrangements for existing child-related workers.

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Appendix 5

It is an offence for a disqualified person as defined in section 18 of the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 to undertake or remain in child-related employment. Without limiting the application of section 18 of the Act, this includes persons who have been convicted of the following offences (including equivalent offences in other states):

- murder of a child;
- manslaughter of a child (other than as a result of a motor vehicle accident);
- an offence involving intentional wounding or causing grievous bodily harm to a child by an adult who is more than 3 years older than the victim;
- the common law offence of rape or attempted rape;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault in company, assault with intent to have sexual intercourse, indecent assault, aggravated indecent assault, or the attempt to commit any of these offences;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to sexual intercourse-child under 10, Attempting, or assaulting with intent, to have sexual intercourse with child under 10, Sexual intercourse-child between 10 and 16, Attempting, or assaulting with intent, to have sexual intercourse with child between 10 and 16, Persistent sexual abuse of a child, Procuring or grooming child under 16 for unlawful sexual activity, Sexual offences-cognitive impairment, Sexual intercourse with child between 16 and 18 under special care;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to incest, incest attempts, bestiality;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to Sexual assault by forced self-manipulation, Causing sexual servitude, Conduct of business involving sexual servitude;
- kidnapping unless the offender is or has been the child’s parent or carer;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to Promoting or engaging in acts of child prostitution, Obtaining benefit from child prostitution, Premises not to be used for child prostitution, Production, dissemination or possession of child abuse material;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to Injuries to child at time of birth, Abandoning or exposing a child under 7 years;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to Voyeurism, Filming a person engaged in private act, Filming a person’s private parts;
- an offence under the Crimes Act 1900 relating to Installing device to facilitate observation or filming;
- an offence under the Criminal Code of the Commonwealth relating to Sexual intercourse with child outside Australia, Aggravated offence-child with mental impairment or under care, supervision or authority of defendant, Persistent sexual abuse of child outside Australia;
- an offence under the Criminal Code of the Commonwealth including Procuring child to engage in sexual activity outside Australia, "Grooming" child to engage in sexual activity outside Australia;
- an offence under the Criminal Code of the Commonwealth relating to Sexual servitude offences against a child;
- an offence under the Criminal Code of the Commonwealth relating to Using a postal or similar service for child pornography material; or
- attempt, conspiracy or incitement to commit the above offences.

Declaration

I declare that I am not a disqualified person within the meaning of section 18 of the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012.

I am aware that providing false or misleading information in this document may lead to the following:

- the Department withdrawing any offer of engagement that it has made to me; or
- the Department terminating my engagement; and
- the Department considering any false or misleading information I provide, when considering any future applications by me for employment or engagement.

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Appendix 5 - 15 June 2013