

## From Deputy Principal Prep - Year 2

### Oral Language: How important is it?



Our world is rapidly changing place. Technology is changing how we do things, how we share information and how we spend our entertainment time.

Sometimes it makes us wonder what skills our children might need as adults to be successful in this changing world. Research has already found that oral language is a major building block for learning to read and write. In high school, students often have to perform oral presentations as part of their major assessments and workplaces rely on people being able to communicate effectively with each other.

It is no surprise then, that communication skills will be a key to our children's success as they become adults. In schools, teachers work hard with students to further develop their oral language skills. This is not just something that occurs in Prep or Year 1. All the way through primary and high school, teachers work with students to improve their communication skills so that they can read, write, listen and speak effectively.

*'Communication – the human connection – is the key to personal and career success.'*

Here are some simple ways that parents can really help to grow children's oral language:

- ◆ **Talk, talk, talk.** Conversations help children practice listening, understanding and sharing of messages. It can be as simple as talking about your day, talking about an activity or talking about what you can see around you.
- ◆ **Read, read, read.** This can start when children are babies. The goal really is to help children to enjoy reading. We can start with simple board books and move to picture books and longer stories as they get older. Story times at the local library or bookstore are also a great way to get children excited about books. As they show interest, we can talk about the pictures, talk about the story or share our ideas about the books we love.
- ◆ **Enjoy music together.** Young children love music and movement. When they listen to lively songs, like nursery rhymes when they are younger, they learn about the world around them and the rhythm of language.
- ◆ **Tell stories.** Make up stories with characters, problems, adventure, messages and happy endings. This can be a fun way to play with words and to show children how we can use our imagination to make stories.
- ◆ **Chat in the car.** Talk about what you can see out the window. Play games like 'Eye spy' or count coloured cars. As they get older, chatting in the car can often be the time that our children tell us about their friendships, their learning, their worries or their dreams.

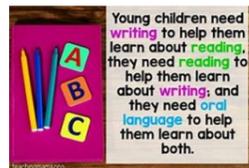
### A learning story from Prep

In Prep D, students practice their oral language during class routines. Each day starts with the morning circle time and students talk about the days of the week, organise their calendar and practice describing the weather. They then talk with each other and Miss Terri helps children to share their ideas in full sentences.

For example, if Miss Terri asks children to talk about the weather they will often list words like *sunny, hot, cloudy, windy, cold.*

Miss Terri helps students to take their word and put it into a sentence so they learn to tell their classmates 'Today, the weather is sunny.' Practising sharing our ideas in complete sentences is an important building block to be successful readers, writers and communicators.

### A learning story from Year One



In 1C, students practice their formal speaking skills by taking turns to share some news or 'show and tell' with their classmates most afternoons.

Mrs McCann helps the students to introduce their topic and begin to practice some of the formalities of presenting to a group. For instance, they begin their talk with 'Good afternoon 1C, my name is \_\_\_\_\_' and end with 'Do you have any questions?' and 'Thank you for listening 1C'.

### A learning story from Year Two

Year 2 teachers engage students in a vocabulary lesson a few times each week and encourage students to talk about what the new words mean and practice them in sentences. This is a great way to learn new words so that students

Without language, one cannot talk to people and understand them; one cannot share their hopes and aspirations, grasp their history, appreciate their poetry, or savour their songs.

Nelson Mandela  
- www.writerswrite.co.za

can use them when speaking, understand them better when reading and be more descriptive or effective during writing. Solomon in 2B enjoyed telling me that the word 'repetition' meant to say something over, and over again. He then could tell me that the author had used repetition in a poem the class were learning about.

Kellie Stanton  
Deputy Principal

## From Deputy Principal Years 3 & 4

### Great Students, Great Work

This week during my classroom visits I was fortunate enough to see some great students completing Maths activities. Cameron from 4B showed great delight in sharing his work. Charlotte from 4A was proud of her achievements. It is lovely to see such neat book work and active learners at Silkstone State School. Well done!



### Religious Instruction

Religious Instruction will begin this Friday for students who have permission to participate, it is fantastic to have such wonderful volunteers to support this program. I have attached to the newsletter some information about the program for your information.

Katrina Harris  
Deputy Principal



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# SILKSTONE STATE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

15 February 2018 Term 1 Week 4

**Mission Statement:** We at Silkstone State School, in partnership with the community, aim to create an environment of active learners. We believe all children are capable of reaching their full potential. We commit to building resilient students who strive for excellence and become responsible, respectful citizens.

### Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we are 4 weeks into the first term of school. Classroom routines are well underway and students are fully immersed in their learning. The Deputy Principals and I have spent time in the classrooms supporting teachers and students in the first few weeks of school. It has been great to see our students, your children settle so quickly into classroom routines, and build good relationships with their teachers. Good relationships are the foundation for success in the classroom. One of the highlights of the first few weeks has been seeing how quickly the Prep children have settled into school. They have come so far, and are now quickly understanding the need to be in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing.

Those of you who come to assembly will also have noticed that we have a new weekly award which sits side by side with our traditional Reader of the Week. The new award is the Writer of the Week. In 2018, we are committed to getting our students excited about writing again, so each week, a teacher may nominate a student who has excelled in writing. On assembly this week, we heard some fabulous examples of the writing our students are capable of.

In terms of student behaviour, the vast majority of our students, your children, continue to do follow our four school expectations. I still, however, have a concern that a small number of students are still being too physical when solving any problems that might arise. Mrs Taylor (Deputy Principal Years 5 and 6) have started working with a group of boys in years 5 and 6 to teach them to understand that physical aggression and violence is NOT OK in schools or in society. Parents and carers, we need you to reinforce this. It is NOT OK!

This week, our focus for behaviour is "I will use manners when talking to staff and student". Manners are important in our lives because they are a cornerstone of respect and relationship building in our society.

Congratulations to all our new student leaders for 2018. They were presented with their badges at our recent Leaders' Assembly. I look forward to working with them in 2018 to ensure they have a successful leadership year and continue to be outstanding role models for all students.

Finally, our P and C AGM is on Tuesday 6 March. We will be looking to elect a new executive, which is made up President, Treasurer, Vice President and Secretary. I encourage parents to consider nominating for these roles. They are very important roles in our school community. We have a strong P and C and we need to ensure the P and C continues to be able to support the school through fundraising and other activities.

Have a great fortnight everyone  
Mike Sawbridge  
Principal

## From Deputy Principal Years 5 & 6

Wow! What a hot week we have had! Lots of classes have been having regular water breaks and I have also seen many enjoying a cool ice block! Students, please remember to take it easy during the break times so you don't overheat!



In Year 5 and 6 classes, students have been working hard in their RVI lessons. Robust Vocabulary Instruction is a school wide practice that focuses on our students learning new words, improving their reading. It would be great to hear some stories from parents where their children have used their weekly words at home!

Have a great week, I am off to Year 6 camp on Monday.

Shannyn Taylor  
Deputy Principal

## 🎵 Music Notes 🎵

Monday 8am B.R.A.S.S.S. Boys' Choir  
Tuesday 8am Senior Band  
Tuesday 11am Girls' Choir  
Wednesday 7.50am Harmonies Choir  
Thursday 8am String Ensemble

### Practice

All students have received a Practice diary which needs to be completed and returned to each lesson. It is essential for progress to ensure your child plays on their instrument at least 5 times in the week. Times and days might vary according to other activities but the



more time spent working through set exercises and handouts will ensure mini musicians are made! You can help your child learn their instrument by following these suggestions:

**Help** by providing a safe area to practice their instrument  
**Establish** a regular practice time and routine  
**Listen** to them play and encourage them  
**Play** their Tutor book CD/DVD so you both know what to expect.

*"Music can change the world because it can change people".*

**Bono**

### Strings Day Correction

Please note that the wrong day was listed for String Ensemble (continuing children only) in the letter. **ALL** strings lessons and ensemble practices happen on **Thursdays only**. My apologies for any confusion.

### Beginner Strings Day Workshop

All Beginner Strings children will have brought home a letter today regarding a one day workshop being held, in conjunction with other Ipswich schools, on Tuesday 27 March at Brassall SS. Parents will be responsible for transporting their child to and from the venue. There will be no organised transport by our school for this event. **Also please note that the cut-off date-Friday, 9 March - for return of forms and payment is adhered to. Late forms and money will not be accepted.**

### Boys' and Girls' Choirs

It's not too late for Years 3 – 6 children to grab a letter if they are interested in choirs. Letters are available from the Music Room.

[Linda Weatherhead - Music Teacher](#)

## P & C Association

**The next P&C AGM (where all positions are declared vacant) & General meeting is on Tuesday 6 March at 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome.**

[Sharyn Schulz](#)  
President

### Parent Group Next Meeting

Parent Group AGM will be followed by a General meeting on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 1pm in U Block (the demountable located Molloy Street, near the Blackstone Road oval. We look forward to seeing some new members this year. If you have any queries, please contact Nichole President on 0499 974 578

[Nichole Coad](#)  
President 0499 974 578

## Payments

**Money will not be accepted after the cut-off date for excursions/ incursions. Our money window is open every day Monday to Friday 8-11am. Anyone paying via Direct Deposit will need to pay at least 3 days before the cut-off so payment is received before the cut off date.**

**Please remember that all outstanding fees must be paid before we can accept payment for new excursions/incursions.**

**Student Resource Scheme money can be paid off during the year but all payments must be paid no later than end of Term 3.**



## Lost Property

Lost property is located outside the first aid room near the office. Please check the basket to see if your child's belongings are there. It is good practise to write your child's name on all items of clothing so we are able to return items to your child. There are a lot of swimming items in the basket at the moment.



## Wanted

If you have any Woolworths/Coles plastic shopping bags you do not want can you please drop them into the office. Thank you.

## Year 6 T-Shirts

Order forms for Year 6 T-Shirts have been sent home. Please return your order to the office no later than Friday 23 February 2018.

## Step-Up Playgroup

Playgroup runs every Monday and Friday morning from 9am-11am in Q Block (school terms only). The group is open to all families in the Ipswich community with children aged 0-4yrs. This is a FREE playgroup and we provide morning tea. If you would like more information please call Melissa on 0456 682 868 or call in for a chat and information flyer.



## Updating Contact Details

Quite often we need to contact parents in emergency situations. This is not possible if emergency contact details are out of date. Please advise us immediately if:

- ✓ you change your address, telephone numbers or email address
- ✓ there is a change in your preferred emergency contact people
- ✓ any significant changes occur with regard to your child's health
- ✓ you feel we should know of any other factors that relate to your child e.g. custody.



## Coming Events

Mon19-23 **Feb** Year 6 Camp  
Fri 23 Year 6 T-Shirt orders Due  
  
Tue 6 March P&C AGM / General  
Thurs 15 **Mar** Principal's Morning Tea 10.15am  
  
Wed 18 **April** School Class Photos  
Thurs 19 School Class Photos  
  
Wed 12 **Sept** Extra Curricular Photos

### Money Window

Open Monday to Friday 8am - 11am (only)  
EFTPOS is available

### Direct Debit Payments

BSB: 064-417 Account Number:00091102  
(Include child's name and what payment is for)

### Uniform Shop

**Terms 1 & 4** Monday 8-10am & Thursday 1.30-3.30pm  
**Terms 2 & 3** Thursday: 1.30-3.30 pm  
(Cash and EFTPOS are accepted)

### Accompanying Handouts

- ⇒ Religious Instruction Information
- ⇒ Additional Swimming Support (selected children)

