

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

As you most likely noticed I was not around school last week.

I was attending a chaplains' conference at Alexandra Headlands. Somehow instead of bedding down in the camp site some of us were placed in a nearby resort. Sitting at night on the fourth floor balcony, looking out across the ocean with a moon close to full moon, was delightful. Sitting down and listening to speaker both as a total group (over 600) or in the smaller electives was not only interesting but also informative and challenging.

Such conferences are meant to educate us so that we can be better chaplains. They not only encourage us in our job, but also in our personal life. They attempt to equip us and remind us that as we live in a changing world, we need to sometimes change our approaches. For instance, the most obvious is in language. Some of the things my generation said as kids, would not be understood today. To talk of going for a round or two for a pound or two, would find some people asking what I meant by a pound. (It was also called a quid and equalled two dollars.

Schooling is also a way in which we are equipped for life. Not only in our local schools but in TAFE and Universities. Never let us forget the learning that comes informally from our families; from our elders; and from people in our community that have knowledge we do not have. I'm also learning that I can learn from younger people, especially in the area of computers and other modern technology.

Let's never forget that all of life is learning formally and informally.



"Chappy"  
School Chaplain

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## Cyberbullying

The internet and mobile phones offer an exciting world of experiences for children and the whole family.

However, just as in the real world, these rapidly developing technologies also have

risks and challenges. "Children have the potential to experience cyberbullying the moment they gain access to technology".

There are a few simple things that a parent can do to help their child from becoming a victim of cyberbullying or limit its potential harm.

- Have the computer in the family room where its usage can be easily monitored
- Set time or usage limits and enforce those limits
- If supplying your child with a mobile phone, buy a phone that does not have MMS technology, it is expensive and unnecessary

To help children address unwanted contact, encourage them to try the following.

- Do not respond or retaliate.
- Block the offender. Many email and instant messaging services allow the user to block and report someone who is behaving badly.
- Save every message in case this has to be followed up by the Internet Service Provider (ISP) or mobile phone carrier or the police.
- Don't share your online passwords.
- Think twice about accepting new 'buddies' or friends in their social networking sites and only accept people they know.
- If the unwanted contact involves physical threats, notify the police.

Your child needs to understand that any message or picture they send or post is thus public domain and can not be taken back. Once it is out there it can be used to prosecute, therefore kids think of all the consequences before you press send. As in life, relationships come and go, when you are growing, that naughty picture you send to your special friend can find its way out to the whole world if that relationship breaks down.

And all parents need to remember that you are the adult, you have control of the technology in your house, use that control wisely. You kids still look to you for guidance and instruction, make sure you have all the tools to assist your children in this.

Useful book for parents on this subject:

**Real Wired Child: By Michael Carr-Gregg  
What parents need to know about kids  
online**

A desperately needed guide for parents who want to know what their children are doing online, and what they can do to ensure their children's wellbeing when they venture into cyberspace. *Real Wired Child* gives practical advice to parents on how they might manage their children's online communications, social networking, web surfing, downloading and gaming.

**Reading With Your Child**



**Hot tips to share with  
parents.**

**Let your child choose what they want to read.**

Let your child choose what they want to read and just keep opening up the invitation to the smorgasbord of books available. Say things like... 'I found this really interesting comic book today. Would you like to read it or something else?'

'Do you know that Paul Jennings has a new book out? Would you like to read that? You might want to borrow it from the library next time we visit.'

'Let's look at this book of poems and see if there is one that you would like to read.'

'Here are five books from your shelf, which one would you like to read tonight?'

**BOOK WEEK 2009  
BOOK SAFARI**



During the week of 22-28 August Wondai State School will be celebrating Book Week! The theme for this year is 'Book Safari'. To help celebrate we are going to have a dress up competition on Wednesday 26 August!

**Dress up as your favourite character!  
(Years Prep-7)**

Come to school dressed up as your favourite book character. A parade will be held at 9am for you to share your character with everyone and you might even win a prize!

The awards for 'best book borrower' will also be announced at the parade.

**Other activities during the week include:**

- Story teller
- Indigenous 'story time' in the library during lunch (TBC)
- Library transformed into a jungle safari

Extra details will be in next weeks RAPP!

Start thinking of your costume now!!!!

**Habits of the Mind**

**Accept Myself**

**Accept Myself** means not thinking badly about yourself when you make a mistake or when someone is mean to you.

**Community Announcements**

**For Sale**

Black tube king single bed with mattress \$170  
Vgc – 41690085

**Emma Robertshaw - MUSIC STUDIO**

For private tuition in Voice, Pianoforte & Theory of Music. For more information phone 0431 945 910.

**For Sale**

Second hand uniforms – size 4 shirts and shorts,  
size 18 secondary shirts  
Contact office if interested.

**BLUE LIGHT DISCO  
KINGAROY TOWN HALL  
28 AUGUST  
6.00 PM – 8.30 PM**