



## Community Newsletter – Issue #8 – Term 2 - 2017

Dear community members,

As we head towards the holidays and we have our children around a great deal more it's worthwhile considering what social skills we want and could concentrate on, for our children. The following is an article by Michael Grose – An Australian author of nine books on parenting: *School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their children these six important social skills.*

*Children who are able to form friendships when they start school are happier at school and also learn better. More significantly, positive friendships have long-term implications for social and indirectly, academic success.*

*Friendship skills are generally developmental, but they don't develop in isolation. Children acquire these skills when they play with their siblings and interact with children and adults outside their family. Today's children grow up with fewer siblings, fewer opportunities for unstructured play and less freedom to explore friendships than children of even ten years ago.*

Parents can help children develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for children to play with each other in a variety of situations.

HERE ARE 6 IMPORTANT SOCIAL SKILLS TO HELP CHILDREN TO DEVELOP:

### 1. Ask for what you want

Help children ask for what they want. It means they don't throw tantrums, whinge, and sulk or expect parents to guess what's on their minds. While we need to be patient with toddlers, we need also to give older children the chance and opportunity to ask for what they want.

Sometimes we need to ignore shrugs and grunts and expect them to articulate their wishes. This is the basis of civil behaviour, as well as a basic human skill.

### 2. Good manners

Teach children good manners, in particular the three 'power words'. These words are very persuasive because they have a way of breaking down barriers and people's defences. These three words are: their listener's name; please; thanks. These terms are the basis of good manners, and, when used, will increase the likelihood of getting what you want.

### 3. Sharing

Sharing is a basic social skill. Developmentally, very young children like to keep their possessions to themselves. As they get older and move into Pre School and beyond, the notion of sharing becomes a pre-requisite for playing with and forming relationships with others. Other children like to play and be with those who share their time, possessions and space with them. Sharing is the start of empathy as it shows sensitivity to other people's feelings.

### 4. Holding a conversation

Holding conversations with others is a lifetime friendship skill. Conversations require self-disclosure, which can be challenging for some children. Good conversationalists give of themselves, but also take an interest in the person they are talking to. Many children forget that good conversations are two-way events, and tend to focus solely on themselves. Children within conversations need to learn to ask good or interesting questions; to take turns when speaking and to show they are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.



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### 5. Winning and losing well

Children need to learn to win without rubbing others' noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses. Wanting to win is natural, but they need to do so in a way that they maintain a relationship with other players so they will play again. Losing may make children feel bad, but children need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

### 6. Handling fights and disagreements

Disagreements happen in families and among friends. The key is to make sure disagreements don't lead to the breakdown of friendships. It's important to get across to children that having an argument or disagreement doesn't mean that a friendship is over. Strong friendships, like strong family relationships, withstand disagreements. In fact, they only serve to strengthen friendships. The results of a number of studies indicate that children can be taught friendships skills. The strategies are simple and revolve around teaching children a range of friendly behaviours such as: talking with others while playing, showing an interest in others, smiling, offering help and encouragement when needed, a willingness to share and learning how to enter a game or social situation.

As parents we often focus on the development of children's academic skills and quite easily neglect the development of important social skills, which contribute so much to children's happiness and wellbeing.

**Absent from school**  
**(Don't let it be unexplained)**  
**Ph: 4946 9522**  
**Drop by the office or send a note**  
**ALL DAY – EVERY DAY!**  
**Aiming for 95% or better!**



### for Attendance News

**Overall current attendance has further improved to 94.84%. The school is committed to a target of 95% or better. The Year 4, 5 and 6 students all had 100% attendance for the past fortnight. This class is starting to show some excellent leadership capabilities.**

**Who's going to have the highest at the next assembly?**

Key Dates
June 20 -Assembly
<b>June 21 - PJ and Pancake Fun Day</b>
June 22 - Athletics Carnival and last day
<b>June 23 – Show Holiday</b>
July 11 -1 <sup>st</sup> Day Term 3

### Tuckshop

Tuckshop orders are taken on Wednesday morning out the front of school. All orders will be finalised by 12pm Wednesdays. No further orders will be accepted after this time. You can email orders to [lylelee@bigpond.com](mailto:lylelee@bigpond.com) or text 0439119739 up until 12.

Product
Sausage Roll
Spinach & Cheese sausage roll
Pie (any type)
Vegemite Scroll
Bacon & Cheese scroll
Ham & Cheese Sandwich/roll
Chicken & Cheese Sandwich/roll
Egg & Lettuce Sandwich/roll
Salad Sandwich/roll



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This term has gone so quickly and we'd like to share what we've heard from you, the school community, about what is working well at Hamilton Island State School.

- Improvement in student reading
- Student attendance
- P&C – hardworking / great fundraiser
- Dedicated teachers who have great rapport with students
- Parent/teacher communication
- The new Facebook page
- Updates in newsletters
- Students know what is expected of them
- Teachers and aides who are doing a fantastic job
- Children are happy to come every day!
- Friendly and approachable staff
- The playground will be fixed!

### Playground Update

Over the next few weeks contractors will be on site to start work on fixing fences and repairing the play area. There will most probably be temporary fencing installed, closing off the playground for the remainder of the term. The aim is for the works to be finished by the start of next term. Again, things may change and all stakeholders will be kept in the loop. Watch this space.

