PRINCIPAL NASH’S CORNER

What to Teach Kids about Strangers

I have been asked to provide some information about the differences between strangers kids should look out for and strangers kids can trust. Kids see strangers every day in stores, in the park, and in their neighbourhoods. Most of these strangers are nice, normal people, but a few may not be. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about strangers and suspicious behaviour, and by taking a few precautions of their own.

Who is a stranger?

A stranger is anyone that your family doesn’t know well. It’s common for children to think that “bad strangers” look scary, like the villains in cartoons. This is not only untrue, but it’s dangerous for children to think this way. Pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-pretty ones. When you talk to your children about strangers, explain that no one can tell if strangers are nice or not nice just by looking at them and that they should be careful around all strangers.

But don’t make it seem like all strangers are bad. If children need help—whether they’re lost, being threatened by a bully, or being followed by a stranger—the safest thing for them to do in many cases is to ask a stranger for help. You can make this easier for them by showing them which strangers are okay to trust.

Who are safe strangers?

Safe strangers are people children can ask for help when they need it. Police officers and firefighters are two examples of very recognisable safe strangers. Teachers, principals, and librarians are adults children can trust too, and they are easy to recognise when they’re at work. But make sure that you emphasise that whenever possible, children should go to a public place to ask for help. You can help your children recognise safe strangers by pointing them out when you’re out in your area. Also show your children places they can go if they need help, such as local stores and restaurants and the homes of family friends in your neighbourhood.
Recognising and Handling Dangerous Situations

Perhaps the most important way parents can protect their children is to teach them to be wary of potentially dangerous situations—this will help them when dealing with strangers as well as with known adults who may not have good intentions. Help children recognise the warning signs of suspicious behaviour, such as when an adult asks them to disobey their parents or do something without permission, asks them to keep a secret, asks children for help, or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way. Also tell your children that an adult should never ask a child for help, and if one does ask for their help, teach them to find a trusted adult right away to tell what happened.

You should also talk to your children about how they should handle dangerous situations. One way is to teach them “No, Go, Yell, Tell.” If in a dangerous situations, kids should say no, run away, yell as loud as they can, and tell a trusted adult what happened right away. Make sure that your children know that it is okay to say no to an adult in a dangerous situation and to yell to keep them safe, even if they are indoors. It’s good to practice.

Congratulations

Congratulations go to Mrs Smits and her news of a new baby on the way. I know James and Kylie are absolutely ‘over the moon’ at their news and we all wish them well on this new journey.

Mrs Smits will be at school for Term 1 and Term 2 and will be taking leave for Term 3 and Term 4. I will inform parents of 1S who will be taking the class closer to the date.

Welcome back

Congratulations and welcome back to Ms Brown (KB). Katie is back after a lovely honeymoon on Hamilton Island. We wish both Katie and Ryan a wonderful life together. We will all have to get used to calling her Mrs Meyers from now on.

Meet the Teacher evenings

These are really important evenings to visit the school and to hear from your child’s stage team and teacher. The following evenings have been planned:

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) Tuesday 17 February @ 6.00pm
Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Tuesday 17 February @ 7.00pm
Stage 2 (Year 3 and Year 4) Thursday 19 February @ 6.00pm
Stage 3 (Year 5 and Year 6) Thursday 19 February @ 7.00pm

A separate note has been sent home from each of the individual stage supervisors as to where each meeting will be held.

Cyber Safety

Cyber safety is becoming an increasing issue as digital technology, online communities and social media become more prominent in the lives of primary age students. Our children need to know how to enjoy the digital world in safety. We want their experience to be a positive one as they negotiate this online world.

I have engaged one of the most prominent cyber safety educators to address our community for parents and teachers that are concerned about their children’s safety and privacy online.

I was hoping to have The Cyber Safety Lady address each of the stage meetings this week but unfortunately dates and times didn’t match up for us.

Leonie Smith (The Cyber Safety Lady) provides educational talks and workshops about online privacy, cyber safety and cyber bullying prevention with focus on practical solutions to help families to use the internet and social media safely.

Leonie is a Cyber Savvy Mum of four children aged 14yrs – 31 yrs. She has over 18 years’ experience, keeping her own kids safe online with internet marketing, online multimedia and managing online communities.

I heard Leonie’s presentation at a conference last year and deem this so important for our community that I urge you to attend her lecture on Tuesday 3 March @ 7.00pm. I will send a flyer home as well but please pencil this into your calendar as a not to be missed event for our school. There will be no cost as Leonie’s fee will be covered by the school. I hope to see the school hall full of interested parents that wish to learn more to ensure online security for their households.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
He has the right to criticise, who has the heart to help.
Abraham Lincoln
SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
School photo envelopes were sent home last week. These envelopes are to be completed and brought to school with the student on photo day.

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY
Please do not send photo envelopes prior to that date as they are processed directly through the photographer and not the school. Each child needs to bring a photo envelope on the day even if payment is in a sibling’s envelope. If you wish to pay online, go to photograph website www.theschoolphotographer.com.au and follow screen instructions. The completed photo envelope will still be needed to come to school on photo day.

If you wish to have a photo taken of siblings together please collect a special envelope from the office.

P & C Highlights

School Club
Cake day is an important School Club fundraiser (and fun event) that occurs once each month. Funds raised are used by School Club to purchase resources for the school. Each class is rostered to supply cakes only ONCE each year. Cake Day is held at RECESS. Volunteers are always extremely appreciated to help serve on the cake stall between 11:20am-12pm.
Please see attached the roster for this year’s cake stalls – please note the first cake day is the 25th of February with classes 2T & 6R first up.
If you have not received your School Cook Book yet please contact Jackie Short on 0432932991.
Thank you.

Uniform Shop
Acting Manager – Sia Coelho
E-mail: scoelho@iinet.net.au
The Uniform Shop is open every Thursday from 9-10am outside the KW classroom in C Block

Summer Uniform: All students should now be wearing their full Summer Uniform. All uniform requirements are outlined in the School Website and the P & C Website.

Thank You: Many thanks to Andria Philippou, Linda Henderson, Rowena Shek, Belinda Lien, and Carmel S who all stepped in to help. Another busy week at the Uniform Shop, with all help greatly appreciated.

Uniform Orders: if you are unable to get to the Uniform Shop, an Order Form can be completed and dropped in to the school office, the current Order Form is dated September, 2014. Please note, the preferred method of payment for Uniform orders is Credit Card or Cheque as we cannot be held accountable for lost cash/orders. All orders will be delivered to your child's classroom on Thursday when the shop is open.

Parent Volunteers: Uniform Sop is run by volunteers. If you have an hour to spare weekly, fortnightly, monthly or even just once or twice a team, your help will be appreciated. Please contact Sia Coelho on scoelho@iinet.net.au
CAKE DAY ROSTER 2015

Cake day is an important School Club fundraiser (and fun event) that occurs once each month. Funds raised are used by School Club to purchase resources for the school.
Each class is rostered to supply cakes **once** each year. Individual jelly cups, popcorn, and biscuits are also popular.
Cake Day is held at **RECESS**. We ask that parents of the class supplying cakes, come and help serve on the cake stall, if available between 11:20am-12pm.

Junior students are served under the COLA, and senior students outside the library.

**CAKES ARE 50cents each. Correct change is appreciated.**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY PRODUCTS CONTAINING PEANUTS**
If you are sending commercially produced cakes or biscuits please check they do not contain nuts

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>JUNIOR CLASS</th>
<th>SENIOR CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th February</td>
<td>2T Mrs Hennigan / Mrs Twining</td>
<td>6R Ms Ross</td>
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<td>25th March</td>
<td>2O Mrs O’Reilly</td>
<td>6F Miss Farah</td>
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<td>29th April</td>
<td>2L Mrs Laarman</td>
<td>5L Mrs Laurence</td>
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<td>27th May</td>
<td>1S Mrs Smits</td>
<td>5A Ms Aravanopoulos</td>
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<td>24th June</td>
<td>1J Mrs Ramsay</td>
<td>4K Ms Knott</td>
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<td>29th July</td>
<td>KE Ms Manual + KS Ms Sheehy</td>
<td>4G Mrs Innes</td>
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<td>19th August</td>
<td>1B Mr Ballantyne</td>
<td>4/5M Mrs McDonald</td>
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<td>16th September</td>
<td>KB Ms Brown</td>
<td>3W Miss Warren</td>
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<td>28th October</td>
<td>KM MS Morgan</td>
<td>3B Mr Burr</td>
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<td>25th November</td>
<td>1/2H Miss Hart</td>
<td>2R Ms Ross</td>
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