From the Principal

Leading Quality Teaching and Learning

I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the approaches we are taking with goal setting as an important part of learning. Our students at Cameron Downs are working hard developing their skills at goal setting. We follow the SMART Goals format, where students set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely goals that ensure they are working towards developing their knowledge and skills.

Collaborating in goal setting helps students to monitor their own progress, reflect on their achievements and celebrate their successes. Encouraging students to be more responsible for their learning journey promotes success. Research shows that significant gains in student achievement are made if students are involved actively in goal setting.

Feedback is a key feature in the effective use of goals. Students receive timely feedback on their progress which helps them to make decisions about what to learn next and this enables them to move forward to the next part of their learning journey. Peer and self-assessment are also part of this process as students become more responsible for their learning targets.

This approach is another piece of the fabric of teaching and learning.

New Touchboard installed

In early August our new Touchboard arrived and has become an instant hit with the students. Through the Education Queensland websites and more broadly across the internet, we have access to a wide range of educational software. Access to this range of educational material in combination with the interactive capability of the Touchboard forms the foundation for many creative ways of learning. This technology actively engages the students, gaining and holding their interest, while participating in learning tasks in an interesting and colourful environment.

Rudy Schumann from Regional Office kindly located a spare computer for us to run the Touchboard, thus saving us from having to use an existing classroom computer.

As part of the Touchboard installation we have put up new display boards along that wall of the classroom so as to maximise the area for display of student work and curriculum material.

Learning about fractions without knowing it is schoolwork.
Country music Festival in Hughenden

On Friday 29th July and Sat 1st August, we attended the Country Music Festival in Hughenden. On Friday morning our students joined Hughenden State School (HSS) classes, and then in the afternoon they attended the Performance Workshop at the Diggers Hall. This workshop was facilitated by Karen Thompson and John Quinn, who are accomplished performing artists, instructors and judges in the country music world.

For the workshop, our students performed the poetry pieces that they are preparing for the Winton Bush poetry festival in September. Karen was able to provide very useful tips on how to polish their on-stage performance of the poems. Following a dinner at the Chinese restaurant the school group attended the Festival Concert on Friday night. After an overnight stay in Hughenden, the students attended another session of the workshop on Saturday morning. These activities over two days were tiring but a very useful experience for our students.
**Flinders Sports Day**

At the Flinders Region Sports Day in July, both Prairie SS and Cameron SS students combined in the same team to form the Small Schools Athletics team. Our little team made up of four Year 5 and Year 6 students made us all very proud, with Lily Duddy winning age champion and sharing most points for an athlete with Angela Corrigan. Amelia Wearing did very well to win first place in both the discus and the shot put. Thanks go to Mrs Townley for her coaching and training efforts which have led to these great results.

In the end our Small Schools Athletic team walked away with BOTH of the trophies up for grabs on the day! We won both the Champion trophy for overall points and the Rotary Most Competitive team trophy for the team’s collective efforts. Well done students!

Thanks go to Brenda Townley and Vicki Horton from Hughenden State School for all their efforts to have the event run so smoothly, and thanks to the St Francis and HSS teams for being such great competitors.

---

**Religious Education**

This Term we have had two visits from our flying pastor, Rev Steve Cavill from Outback Aerial Missions based in Longreach. There is much excitement when Steve flies in and lands at Cameron Downs. After an hour or so of Religious Education and usually morning tea, he flies off again to the next remote school.

---

**Meetings, meetings, meetings …**

Mrs Crocos was in Townsville for the week of 27th to 31st of July. Firstly, there was a Professional Learning Session at Regional Office aimed at developing clarity around curriculum issues, followed by a two-day Principal’s Forum where school Principals met at Willows State School for training, workshops and information about the latest departmental policies.

Mrs Crocos was again in Townsville on 24th and 25th of August to attend the “Leading Quality Teaching and Learning Workshop” at Vincent State School.

On Monday August 31, Mrs Crocos and Linda Wearing travelled to Charters Towers for a Finance Masterclass.
**Teacher’s Aide changes**

Chelsea’s last day at school before embarking on maternity leave was Friday 4th September. A farewell morning tea gave us all a chance to recognise her much-appreciated efforts at the school and to wish her well with her expanding family. Thanks for all your great work Chelsea; you are a valued member of the school.

The Teacher’s Aide position for the period of Chelsea’s leave has been advertised, and we are happy to announce that Lindy Hick will now take up this position. Lindy will start duties at the school in the first week of Term 4.

---

**Variety Bash visit**

On Saturday 8th August we had the visit from the Variety Bash Rally. Around 200 rally cars and about 375 people rolled into Cameron Downs from 8:30 am onwards. Wow, there was certainly plenty of variety and imagination expressed by the rally participants, with over-the-top costumes and quirky modified rally cars being the order of the day.

The morning tea provided by the P&C was more like a banquet, and was very well received by the visitors. As well as the free-flowing tea and coffee, the food tables set up by the P&C members were laden with a bountiful array of food: sausage rolls, pikelets, sandwiches, cakes, slices and biscuits. A feature of the spread was the excellent damper organised and cooked on-site by Toby and his able assistants. All in all it was a full-scale country welcome much appreciated by the visitors.

The Cameron Downs students used this opportunity to present some poetry to the visitors. Speaking to this quite large group, our students presented the poems they are practising for the upcoming Bush Poetry Festival at Winton. They performed well to an appreciative audience.

Many of the Bash visitors took the opportunity for an inspection of the classroom, so Mrs Crocos did a lot of tours for different characters in various costumes! They were particularly interested in our new Touchboard. After Cameron Downs the rally group headed off towards Muttaburra.

The Variety Club is a charity to assist children, and despite some initial confusion, we now anticipate that the Variety Club will make a donation to the school in recognition of the hospitality received.
Geoffrey and Alan on the job, cooking damper

Cameron Downs School was busier than usual

Gifts, an early start, and it was cold

Geoffrey welcomes a visitor

Arthur tells it like it is …

Boy, these Bash visitors are weird!

Young Abby Thomson enjoyed the Day

Mrs. C. on classroom tour duty
There were plenty of small gifts for the kids

Jack Pensini enjoyed the Day

Typical Bash cars

Be careful John, they’ve got guns

Our Preps were not too sure about this bear….

Amelia, did you ask your Mum if you could have a sleeve tattoo?
Hey kids this article is for you! It is about friendship.

If you want a good friend it is good to think about being good friend. If you could pick the perfect friend, what attributes would you like them to have? What attributes do you have as a friend? Maybe you have some of these attributes I have listed below? Or maybe you would like to? It is a joy to see our Cameron Downs kids play well together. Let’s take a look and remind ourselves of some of the attributes good friends have.

**Good friends:**

- Remember important things (birthdays, etc.)
- Do kind things for one another.
- Use kind words.
- Are good listeners.
- Share and are thoughtful
- Don’t get offended easily.
- Help out when a friend is sad or has a problem.
- Like to spend time together.
- Don’t talk meanly about their friend
- Work together.
- Will take turns playing games the other person wants to play.
- Have fun with one another.

Some useful books to read about friendship are:

"Frog and Toad" series by Arnold Lobel. Frog and Toad’s relationship have the characteristics of a good friend (helpful, thoughtful, supportive, generous, good listener, etc).

"Elephant and Piggie" series by Mo Willems. These books show how friends can be very different from one another and still get along. They emphasise the importance of being kind, sharing, and working together to solve problems.

Hope you have an awesome week!