31st May 2012

Principal Awards

Last week at assembly I was delighted to present three awards to students who had demonstrated exemplary behaviours. In each instance, the behaviour of the students surpassed expectations of student behaviour and set wonderful examples for us all.

Brooklyn’s kind caring manner and the friendship skills that she demonstrated were so natural and were delightful to observe. Kayden and Alexey demonstrated great citizenship skills and their actions reflected their sense of belonging and connection to Cranbourne Park Primary School. Thank you for being such wonderful Cranbourne Park students.

Aussies of the Month

Congratulations to Brianna-Lee Burner and Prathana Maharaj, our Aussies of the Month for the month of May.

Brianna-Lee and Pranthana are both hardworking, conscientious students who always demonstrate exemplary behaviour and are outstanding role models. Congratulations and well done on this great achievement Brianna-Lee and Prathana.
Congratulations to Damiun and Allison Passmore

Congratulations to Damiun and Allison Passmore on the safe arrival of their first child, a son, Benjamin Harry Passmore who was born on May 15, weighing 4020 grams and measuring 53 cm in length.

Damiun enjoyed his paternity leave and returned to work last Tuesday.

Open Night

Thank you to the families who attended our Open Night last Monday. We hope that you enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Book Fair, purchase hot dogs and soft drinks for dinner, observe displays of children’s work and participate in the range of activities offered in the classrooms.

Many thanks to staff for their great work on the night.

CyberSafety

Please continue to monitor your children’s internet usage at home and to frequently discuss with your children the importance of cybersafety. Too often identifying information can be inadvertently provided via medium such as MSN.

In the past I have published an article that I came across which warns us about how easy it is for predators to obtain information. I have included the article again as a timely reminder for us all. I find the article extremely disturbing and it is a reminder to us all to be extremely careful about information that we disclose on the internet. Although in this case, the “predator” was apparently working to demonstrate to children the importance of cybersafety, the article demonstrates how easy it can be for cyber predators to obtain information about potential victims.

You might like to share this story with your children and use it as a basis for a discussion focusing on the importance of protecting your identity online.

"IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU"

Shannon could hear the footsteps behind her as she walked toward home. The thought of being followed made her heart beat faster. "You’re being silly," she told herself, "no one is following you." To be safe she began to walk faster, but the footsteps kept up with her pace. She was afraid to look back and she was glad she was almost home. Shannon said a quick prayer, "God please keep me safe." She saw the porch light burning and ran the rest of the way to her house.
Once inside she leaned against the door for a moment, relieved to be in the safety of her home. She glanced out the window to see if anyone was there. The sidewalk was empty.

After tossing her books on the sofa she decided to grab a snack and get on line. There she could talk to strangers without being afraid. After all, no one knew who she really was and couldn’t hurt her.

She logged on under her screen name ByAngel213. Checking her Buddy List she saw GoTo123 was on. She sent him an instant message:

ByAngel213: Hi I’m glad you are on! I thought someone was following me home today. It was really weird!

GoTo123: LOL You watch too much TV. Why would someone be following you? Don’t you live in a safe neighborhood?

ByAngel213: Of course I do… LOL… I guess it was my imagination… cause I didn’t see anybody when I looked out.

GoTo123: Unless you gave your name out on line… You haven’t done that have you?

ByAngel213: Of course not. I’m not stupid you know.

GoTo123: Did you have a softball game after school today?

ByAngel213: Yes and we won!!

GoTo123: That’s great! Who did you play?

ByAngel213: We played the Hornets… LOL..their uniforms are so gross! They look like bees… LOL

GoTo123: What is your team called?

ByAngel213: We are the Canton Cats. We have tiger paws on our uniforms. They are really kewl.

GoTo123: Do you pitch or what?

ByAngel213: No… I play second base. I’ve got to go.. My homework has to be done before my
parents get home. I don't want them mad at me...Bye

GoTo123: Catch you later..

GoTo123 decided it was time to teach Angel a lesson. One she would never forget. He went to the member menu and began to search for her profile. When it came up he highlighted it and printed it out. He took out a pen and began to write down what he knew about Angel so far.

- Her name: Shannon
- State where she lived: North Carolina
- Hobbies: softball, chorus, skating and going to the mall.

Besides this information he knew she lived in Canton. She had just told him that. He knew she stayed by herself until 6:30 every afternoon until her parents came home from work.

He knew she played softball on Thursday afternoons on the school team and the team was named the Canton Cats. Her favorite number 7 was printed on her jersey. He knew she was in the seventh grade at the Canton Junior High School.

She had told him all this in the conversations they had on line. He had enough information to find her now. "She'll be so surprised," he thought, "she doesn't even know what she has done."

Shannon didn’t tell her parents about the incident on the way home from the ball park that day. She didn’t want them to make a scene and stop her from walking home from the softball games. Parents were always overreacting and hers were the worst. It made her wish she was not an only child. Maybe if she had brothers and sisters her parents wouldn’t be so overprotective.

By Thursday Shannon had forgotten about the footsteps following her. Her game was in full swing when suddenly she felt someone staring at her. It was then the memory came back. She glanced up from her second base position to see a man watching her closely. He was leaning against the fence behind first base and he smiled when she looked at him. He didn’t look scary and she quickly dismissed the fear she had felt.

After the game he sat on a bleacher while she talked to the coach. She noticed his smile once again as she walked past him. He nodded and she smiled back. He noticed her name on back of the shirt. He knew he had found her. Quietly he walked a safe distance behind her. He didn’t want to frighten her and have to explain what he was doing to anyone.
It was only a few blocks to Shannon’s home and once he saw where she lived he quickly returned to the park to get his car. Now he had to wait. He decided to get a bite to eat until the time came to go to Shannon’s house. He drove to a fast food restaurant and sat there until time to make his move.

Shannon was in her room later that evening when she heard voices in the living room. "Shannon, come here," her father called. He sounded upset and she couldn’t imagine why. She went into the room to see the man from the ballpark sitting on the sofa.

"Sit down," her father began, "this man is a retired policeman and he has just told us a most interesting story about you."

Shannon moved cautiously to a chair across from the man. How could he tell her parents anything? She had never seen him before today!

"Do you know who I am Shannon?" The man asked.

"No..." Shannon answered.

"I am your on line friend, GoTo123."

Shannon was stunned. "That’s impossible! GoTo is a kid my age! He’s 14 and he lives in Michigan!"

The man smiled. "I know I told you all that... but it wasn’t true. You see Shannon there are people on line who pretend to be kids; I was one of them. But while others do it to find kids and hurt them, I belong to a group of parents who do it to protect kids from predators. I came here to find you to teach you how dangerous it is to give out too much information to people on line. You told me enough about yourself to make it easy for me to find you... your name, the school you went to, the name of your ball team and the position you played. The number and name on your jersey just made finding you a breeze."

Shannon was stunned. "You mean you don’t live in Michigan?"

He laughed. "No, I live in Raleigh. It made you feel safe to think I was so far away, didn’t it?"

She nodded.

"I had a friend whose daughter was like you. Only she wasn’t as lucky. The guy found her and murdered her while she was home alone. Kids are taught not to tell anyone when they are alone, yet they do it all the time on line."
The wrong people trick you into giving out information a little here and there on line. Before you know it, you have told them enough for them to find you without even realizing you have done it. I hope you’ve learned a lesson from this and won’t do it again."

"I won’t," Shannon promised solemnly.

"Will you tell others about this so they will be safe too?"

"It’s a promise!"

**HOW NOT TO HAVE THIS HAPPEN TO YOU**

**The story you just read was not true. Yet it could have happened; it was based on true information given out by kids on line. It could easily happen to the teens that chat so freely with strangers. While it is not meant to frighten you, it is a lesson in being safe. This message is for boys as well as girls. They have been victims of predators on line too. The following are ways to protect yourself:**

- Never tell anyone your full name, address, phone number, city or any other personal information about yourself or your family.

- Watch what you put on your profile. Don’t put your date of birth, especially the year. Remember you are not required to put any information on the profile you don’t want to.

- If anyone IM’s you or e-mails you and asks where you go to school, where you live or any other personal questions you don’t feel comfortable with, do not hesitate to say, "I’m sorry, I don’t give out personal information" or "My parents have asked me not to tell that."

- If someone sends you a e-mail form with personal information about themselves on it and suggests you fill one out just like it, be alerted and don’t do it. Who knows to where and to whom it will be forwarded!

- If you go into chat rooms and anyone pressures you to talk to them, won’t leave you alone or asks for personal information, leave the room immediately!

- If you ever get suggestive, angry or abusive messages tell your parents at once and contact the Internet provider you use and seek assistance.

- Don’t respond to e-mail from people you don’t know. If you believe you’ve received something strange, tell your parents.
Parking Around the School

Please be aware that road rules relating to parking must be adhered to at all times. This includes rules relating to double parking, parking on nature strips and parking in restricted areas. It is the jurisdiction of the City of Casey Road Traffic Officers to enforce road traffic infringements. Officers patrol outside the school from time to time, monitoring parking and imposing traffic infringement notices.
For everyone’s safety, I ask that members of our school community abide by the parking regulations.

School Uniform

It is a condition of enrolment that students wear school uniform as detailed in our “Student Dress Code” policy. If you would like a copy of the policy, please contact Christine in our General Office. If your child is not in school uniform (e.g. the uniform is in the wash), please ensure that your child hands a note to the class teacher.

Home Reading Program

Learning to read can be tricky! Can you decode the following passage?

Once upon a time, there was a little cottage in the woods. Three bears lived in the cottage. They were: Daddy Bear, Mummy Bear and Baby Bear. Every morning, they cooked a big pan of lovely porridge for breakfast. One morning, the porridge was too hot, so they decided to go for a walk while it cooled down.

When listening to a child read, “Pause, Prompt, Praise” (and having patience!) is a great strategy.

Pause: If a mistake occurs, pause; wait to give the student a chance to solve the problem. Allow a few moments for thinking time before expecting an answer.
Prompt: Give a hint or lead to encourage a response:
If the student stops at an unknown word and cannot continue, ask him or her to read on to the end of the sentence or to reread from the beginning of the sentence and to try again. A brief discussion of the content or storyline may help the student to make a sensible guess at an unknown word.
If the student makes a substitution that does not make sense, prompt with clues about the meaning of the content or story, e.g. ask a question.
If the student makes a substitution that does not look right, prompt with clues about the way the word looks, e.g. ask about one part of the word that looks wrong.

Never agree to meet anyone face-to-face that you have talked with online.
If the student makes a substitution that does not sound grammatically correct, prompt by drawing attention to the way it sounds.
If the word is not correct after two prompts say, ‘the word is …..’

**Praise:** At all times it is important that students are praised and encouraged in their efforts. Use a variety of encouraging words and phrases to support students with their attempts. Your praise will greatly assist students’ literacy development:

- Praise when the student reads a sentence correctly: ‘I like the way you…….’
- Praise when the student corrects himself or herself after a mistake: ‘I liked the way you worked that out’.
- Praise when the student gets a word correct after your prompt: ‘you worked that out well’.
- Praise your students with comments that provide feedback: ‘that’s great, well done’.

Reference: [Making a Difference Department of Education, Victoria 2004](#)

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**“Tell Us What You Think About Parenting”**

The Parenting and Family Support Centre at the University of Queensland is conducting research into parents’ thoughts about parenting and parenting programs around the world. If you have a child between 2 and 12 years, we would love to hear your views on your parenting and the services that are available to you as a parent. We are looking for parents with a child aged 2-12 to complete a short survey. To find out more or to participate please visit [http://psy.uq.edu.au/ips](http://psy.uq.edu.au/ips).

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**Dates to Remember:**

- June 6th: Bookclub closes
- June 11th: Queens Birthday Public Holiday
- June 29th: Term 2 concludes
- July 16th: Term 3 commences

**CHEQUES DISTRIBUTED IN 2011**

**Reminder:**

If you received a cheque for money owing to you at the conclusion of 2011, we would be pleased if you could attend to banking it at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.