Principal’s Report
Lesley McCarthy

Today at the Western Metro Divisional Swimming Championships at St. Albans Leisure Centre a Flemington Swim Team consisting of; Leo A, Evie Z, Wyatt B, Angus C, Callum G, Thomas N, Kelsey C, Stella V D, Darcy L, Shaid S, Marcus D, Mitch M, Luca M, and Lucas M competed against the best swimmers in the region. Flemington has 3 swimmers Shaid S, Marcus D (freestyle and backstroke) and Luca M (butterfly) going through to the Western Metro Finals in Geelong on the 22nd of March and were extremely close in the relays to having even more swimmers through to the next round. A fantastic day where not even the weather could dampen the competitive spirit of the Flemington swim team. Go FPS!

The next meeting of School Council is on Monday 21st March at 7pm. At this meeting the office bearers for 2016-2017 are elected and sub committees formed.

The Annual General Meeting is also held at this meeting and the school Budget and Annual Implementation Plan will be ratified.

A draft policy for the new Child Safe Standards will be tabled as well as the list of school policies due for review this year.

As many of you are aware it is that time of year where the 4 houses challenge for the rights to be the Champions of Flemington. Friday the 18th of March signifies the date where Mangalore, Cashmere and Delhi will try to wrestle the title back from Mooltan, who are on for their own “3-peat”. The events will commence at 9:15am with the hotly anticipated sprints taking place at 11:45.

Pupils are to wear their house colours on the day and show their support for their house: Mooltan- Gold, Delhi- Red, Cashmere - Blue, Mangalore – Green

Parents are welcome to come and show their support on the day and are of course invited to represent their house colours too...

Congratulations to our Grade 6T teacher, Fiona Themann, and her netball team who won the 2015 Victorian Team of the Year. Fiona captained her team to victory with an undefeated season. They beat the likes of Hawthorn FC, Melbourne Victory FC and Comm Bank Bushrangers. Pretty awesome!

Reminder to parents that Monday 14th March is a Public Holiday.
**Pupil of the Week**
*Week beginning 7 March 2016*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep G</td>
<td>Lachlan M</td>
<td>For always being safe in the classroom and reminding his friends when they need to be safe too!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep MC</td>
<td>Amina M</td>
<td>Helping and encouraging her friends inside the classroom and outside in the yard. Well Done Amina!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep W</td>
<td>Siraj M</td>
<td>Consistently listening to the teacher and giving ‘5’ on the floor. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Yazeed A</td>
<td>Walking nicely with the group from one class to another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1K</td>
<td>Zach M</td>
<td>Showing care and consideration for others and our classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1P</td>
<td>Malachi S</td>
<td>Always putting his hand up to participate in discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1R</td>
<td>Oscar S</td>
<td>Editing his written work and challenging himself to be the best he can be. You have had a great week Oscar!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2I</td>
<td>Jim C</td>
<td>Willingly joining in class discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2J</td>
<td>Hayden M</td>
<td>For listening to the questions in class time and giving outstanding answers that helped the learning of the class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2S</td>
<td>Ali M</td>
<td>Always caring for others and being a great friend!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Shona L</td>
<td>Shona always shows enthusiasm for learning. She tries hard at all tasks, even when they may be a little challenging. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34J</td>
<td>Ida B</td>
<td>Starting her narrative planning promptly, which has supported her to produce an awesome narrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34L</td>
<td>Emelie A</td>
<td>Showing such passion for writing. It’s not often a teacher gets to hear the delightful words of “Yessss... I love writing narratives!!” Keep up the awesome attitude, Emelie!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34M</td>
<td>Ebony K</td>
<td>For encouraging her classmate and being a positive role model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34T</td>
<td>Josh P</td>
<td>Creating a detailed narrative plan and taking on teacher feedback. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45F</td>
<td>Alex Y</td>
<td>Improving your focus on your tasks, participating in class discussions and completing tasks in the set time. Well done Alex!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Oliver L</td>
<td>Always using his manners in the classroom and out in the playground. Keep it up Oliver.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56P</td>
<td>Idris N</td>
<td>Idris has demonstrated being ‘Ready to Learn’ by making the right choices for his learning and commencing learning tasks independently. Keep up the good work Idris!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56V</td>
<td>Lachlan F</td>
<td>Working incredibly hard on his narrative, extending his vocabulary and focusing on his writing learning goals. Fantastic job Lachlan!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6T</td>
<td>Boyd L</td>
<td>Transferring his knowledge of coding to other students in the class in a supportive and collaborative way. Keep up the great work, Boyd!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Office News**

**Online Newsletter Subscription**

If you would like to subscribe to receive our weekly newsletters, and other important announcements, please visit our website [http://www.flemingtonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.flemingtonps.vic.edu.au), click on ‘subscribe to newsletter’ and enter your details.

We are not permitted under the Information Privacy Act to do this for you, nor do we have the resources to update information for all our families.

**Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)**

The State Government has introduced a CSEF initiative to assist with the cost of school excursions, camps and sporting activities. The CSEF is available on the first day of either Term 1 (27th January) or Term 2 (11th April)

If you are a holder of a health care card you are eligible to access the scheme. Parents and carers must compete and return the application form, along with copy of card, to the office by Friday 18th March 2016, which is preferred date, or Friday 3rd June 2016 (last date to accept applications).

If you are eligible for CSEF, which is $125 per primary school child per year, you will be able to use this money towards excursions, swimming and camps.

**REMINDER – PROVIDE AND CONFIRM CONTACT DETAILS**

Last week we sent home with the eldest/only child, our record of family contact details. All forms were due back yesterday and to date we still have not received many forms either confirming and/or changing contact details. If you have not already done so, could you please return this form to the office as we want to ensure all contact details are correct should an emergency situation arise. If you have lost your child’s form please visit the office and we will print out a fresh copy.

**OSHC Program**

Camp Australia manages the Before & After School Care program. All bookings, absences and payments need to be made through the Camp Australia website.

Do not leave messages on the school answering machine.

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**Customer Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00am - 6.00pm</td>
<td>1300 105 343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday to Friday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Website**

**Assistant Principal’s Report**

*Sandra McOrist*

**Bikes taken from the school grounds last week**

- Black Bike (medium size)  
  BYK brand  
  White seat and white shock absorbers. This bike was parked in the bike rack next to aftercare

- Avanti Shadow, bright green and black bike  
  which has name (James T) on the green frame at the back wheel. This bike was parked with all the bikes on Ride to School day.

If you know the whereabouts of either bike could they please be returned to the office

**Chewing gum**

We appear to have an increasing number of children coming to school with chewing gum. If your child has chewing gum on the way to school could they please place it in the bins before they enter the grounds that way we don’t have children stepping in it and bringing it inside.

Mrs McCarthy is ill this week, we wish her a speedy recovery.

**Dogs in the school grounds**

Just reminding all families that dogs are not allowed in the school grounds. This is for the safety of the children and the dogs. This also stops us from having to clean up any mess that has been left behind.

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**SRC News**

*Alex Taylor*

A big congratulations to everyone who participated in Ride to School Day.

The large majority of the school rode, walked, scooted or skated to school last Friday.

Well done to 2J who had the highest percentage of participants.

They have won a free lunchtime game session run by the SRC next week.

Also, we have a casual clothes day coming up in the last week of term.

We are asking for a cold coin donation to go towards the Good Friday Appeal.
**Instrumental Music News**

*Vern O’Hara - M 0403777050, Email - o’hara.vern.a@edumail.vic.gov.au*

**Invoices**

Term 1 invoices have been mailed out. This is a very short term so there will be no make-up week this term. You have been invoiced for 6 to 8 lessons depending on what day your child’s lesson is on and their teacher. If your child is hiring an instrument, this will be included on your invoice. If your child is in an ensemble this year, you will be invoiced for the whole year in your term 1 invoice.

**Ensembles**

Ensemble rehearsals started this week. Over the next few weeks, if your child is in an ensemble, they should bring home an ‘invitation to join an ensemble’ form to complete and return to me. Ensembles will rehearse on the following days:

- Junior Band - Monday lunchtime
- Junior Choir - Tuesday lunchtime
- Junior Rock Band - Tuesday lunchtime
- Senior Strings - Tuesday lunchtime
- Senior Rock Band - Wednesday lunchtime
- Junior Strings - Wednesday lunchtime
- Senior Choir - Thursday lunchtime
- Senior Band - Friday lunchtime

**Contact**

If you have any questions or queries related to the music program, please contact Vern on his mobile 0403777050, or by email - o’hara.vern.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

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**FPS Bicycle Recycle**

– Volunteers Please

No experience necessary!

Thank you to all the students, teachers and parents who helped make “Ride-to-School” day a fun and successful day. There was a frenzy of activity at the Bicycle Hospital and I would like to thank Phil, Trevor, Bart, Michelle, Daniel, and students Luka, James, Sienna and Hannah amongst others.

We’ve now given away a total of 20 bikes in the last few weeks. We continue to have a great need for bikes suitable for grade 5/6 boys (eg. mountain type bikes) – can you make a donation? Any help to fix bikes would also be valued. If you can help, please join us at the “Bicycle Hospital” (next to the Science classroom) as per the dates/times above.

Finally, a big thank you to Reid Cycles in North Melbourne. They provide our program with helmets, locks and spare parts at a valued discount. Please support this worthy local business.

**How-It-works:** The FPS Bicycle Recycle initiative commenced in 2014 and has to date provided a new home to 177 bikes. The cycle begins with your valued bike donations both big and small. With the efforts of parents and students the bikes are fixed and then re-gifted to anyone in the school community who needs a bike. Any extra bikes are given to the Redcross’ “Wheel Power” for Refugees program. Financial contributions to pay for helmets, locks and parts are always welcomed.

Do you, your neighbours, friends or family have bicycles needing a new home? If so, please consider donating them to the school. If you would like a bike please don’t hesitate to contact us.
Fete NewsFlash

Ride wristbands just released!!!!
Be an Early bird and avoid the rush
Pre purchased wristbands can be ordered for $30
(please complete order form located on page 9 of the newsletter and return to the office with payment.
Wristbands can also be purchased on the day for $35)
Don’t miss out.

FPS Fete Saturday April 16th 11am - 4pm

Donations! Donations! Donations!
A great opportunity to clean up the house.
We need your help if you have any of these items please contact your child’s class teacher or deliver to the office from Tuesday 15th March.

- Coloured hairspray
- Blocks of quality in date chocolate
- Plant cuttings of succulents, herb seedlings, packets of seeds
- A bottle of something lovely (jams, wine, preserves) for the mystery bottle stall
- Recycled 400 g tins eg tomato, baked bean tins
- Cushion inserts
- Items for lucky dip
- Quality books, DVD and Décor magazines (drop in hall foyer before and after school)
- Toys (drop off in hall foyer before and after school)
- 2nd Hand Tools – (drop off at the Bicycle Hospital (near the science classroom) before or after school on Fridays)
- Nothing electrical, broken or rusted please.

Remember every little bit helps All proceeds of the fete will go to resurfacing the quadrangle with soft fall

To volunteer contact Alice Blake (aliceblake@bigpond.com)
- Cake stall – Janine Donohue
  (gavneen@optusnet.com.au)
- Craft and plant stall – Lisa Madden
  (lisamadden67@gmail.com) and Kylie Needham
  (oneedham@me.com)
- Toys – Ellen Connor (ellen.connor@senversa.com.au) and Lucy Shaw (shawsathome@gmail.com)
- Kids craft – Nicole Tingey (ntingeey@hotmail.com.au)
- Mystery bottles - Kristine Alleva
  (k.alleva@acquumconsulting.com.au)
- Crazy Hair stall - Jo Selcuk (jo-1013@hotmail.com)
- Book stall - Mary Koulbanis
  (nickmary6269@bigpond.com), Wendy Fraser
  (wendscot@tpg.com.au)
- Lucky dip - Alice Blake (aliceblake@bigpond.com)
- Fairy Floss - Cheryl Smith (smithdroid@me.com)
- Popcorn – Jane Duncan (janeduncan31@gmail.com)
- Lollies / Snow Cones – Mardi Durling
  (mardi.durling@petermac.org)
- Lob a choc – Kate Flanagan (keando@bigpond.net.au)
- Food (includes African food, Asian Food, Canteen, BBQ) - Julie Lam (Julie.lam1@optusnet.com.au), Fiona Hiscock
  (fionahiscock@gmail.com), Monique Nolan
  (lucas-nolan@bigpond.com)
- 2nd Hand Tools - Peter Hormann
  (peter.hormann@bigpond.com)

Please Contact us with any queries.

Special Recess Canteen
The canteen will open at recess this term as follows:
Friday 18 March - School House Athletics Sports (Icy Poles and other goodies)
Thursday 24 March – Last day of school (we will be selling selection of goodies!)
Canteen will continue to sell icy poles and popcorn on Monday, Wednesday and Friday after school throughout this term. Contact Annette
(Annette_andrew@hotmail.com) if you would like volunteer.

The Athletes Foot
To keep you up to date The Athletes Food $5 School reward movements, our school has currently raised $60. Due to the overwhelming success of School Rewards Campaign it is now being run as an annual program (ending at each financial year). So there is still plenty of time for us to raise money before the end of June 2016. So please mention Flemington Primary School when you are next in store

Sponsorships contact Rose Iser at roseiser@gmail.com
Flemington Primary School
Fete 2016
Sponsorship Package

Flemington Primary School has over 450 students from across Flemington, Brunswick, Kensington and Ascot Vale. We’re a large school, with a diverse student population and always in need of additional educational resources.

On Saturday 16th April 2016, Flemington Primary School will be conducting its renowned biennial fete. The FPS fete attracts families from around Moonee Valley. With 475 students from close to 300 families, we will have over 1000 people on fete day and thousands more seeing promotional material on signs, posters and online.

Our fabulous school fetes provide an unmissable opportunity for local businesses to increase their brand recognition and reputation in the community.

We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from sponsors and will reciprocate with generous promotion and advertising for your business. Your business or organisation can nominate a level of support, or negotiate a package with us.

We are also grateful for in-kind support and donations of goods, food, equipment and labour.

Every cent donated by you assists Flemington children get the best education possible. Money raised at the 2016 Fete will be put towards a range of school improvements including soft-fall areas in the school-yard and educational resources for classrooms.

Why sponsor Flemington Primary School Fete?

1. Support the education of local children and their families.
2. Connect your brand with a large and well-regarded school.
3. Have your brand seen by thousands of families before and on fete day.
4. Be visible online through FPS’ social media and digital communications.
5. Create opportunities for face-to-face contact with local families on and before fete day and the promotion of special deals.

Your support is essential and greatly appreciated.

Contact Rose Iser roseiser@gmail.com 0414959427
Order your WRISTBANDS

- Action racer slide
- Jungle Adventure
- Cup-&-saucer
- Fire truck obstacle course
- Trackless train
... plus more!

$30
Pre-sale
Purchase at Office

$35
On the day

On Sale Now
Order your WRISTBANDS

- Action racer slide
- Cup- & saucer
- Trackless train
- Jungle Adventure
- Fire truck obstacle course
...plus more!

Flemington Primary School
Mt Alexander Road (PO Box 7), Flemington 3031

Telephone: 9376 7137 / Facsimile: 9376 2230

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORISATION

STUDENT’S NAME

GRADE

PAYMENT DETAIL

CREDIT CARD

MASTERCARD

VISA

EXPIRY DATE

<<3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE>>

Card Holder’s Name

Card Number

Transaction minimum $10.00
Secondary School Tours

ESSENDON KEILOR COLLEGE
Where Your Education Matters

Bringing the technology of the future into our classrooms
New or refurbished facilities at all campuses

Join us for our
OPEN DAYS
East Keilor Campus
Years 7 to 9
21st April 2016
Niddrie Campus
Years 7 to 9
26th April 2016
Essendon Campus
Years 10 to 12
Discovery Evening
20th July 2016

Junior Campuses
(Years 7 to 9):
Open Day:
Walkthrough at 9.30am,
11.30am and 1.45pm
Evening:
Walkthrough at 6.00pm
Presentation at 7.00pm

East Keilor Campus
82 Quiney Grove, East Keilor
9328 6199
Niddrie Campus
19 Peters St, Airport West
9379 8499
Essendon Campus
286 Buckley St, Essendon
9399 1300

In Touch e-Newsletter
Page 9

Year 7 – 2017
Information Sessions

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Pascoe Vale Girls College invites prospective students and their parents to attend one of our information sessions at our College.

You will have the opportunity to meet College leaders and hear about our curriculum and programs offered to our students. This will be followed by a tour of the College.

The dates and times for our information sessions are as follows:

- Tuesday April 19 – 9.15am
- Wednesday April 20 – 11.15am
- Thursday April 21 – 7pm

Bookings are essential. Bookings can be made via our website: www.pvgc.vic.edu.au or by calling the College on 9306-2544 to receive a place.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to visit the College and look forward to meeting you.

If you are unable to attend the sessions in April, the College also conducts tours with the Principal on a Tuesday morning at 9.15am. Bookings can be made by calling the College on 9306-2544.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Mt Kay Feeney
Principal

Ms Kerry Hall
Head of Junior School

Inclusive
Investigative + Collaborative = Mount Alexander College

A revolution is happening here
We are empowering young people and enabling them to take control of their learning.

Student led tours at 9.30am, 12 noon, 2pm
Information presentation to be held at 7pm

R.S.V.P
mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au
or call us directly on 03 9376 1622
we also offer school tours at any time during school hours
167-175 Mount Alexander Rd, Flemington VIC 3031
SEAL testing on May 7th 2016
For Sale

Brand New Ipad Air, 16gb, Silver, wi-fi
$400

If interested please contact the office.

DAN DONNELLY TENNIS COACHING PROGRAMS
Royal Park T.C. (cnr Park St & The Avenue, Parkville/Brunswick)

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS CLINIC

Tuesday March 29 - Friday April 1
Monday April 4 - Thursday April 7

Format 1: 9am - 12.30pm (4 days)  $190
Format 2: 9am - 3.00pm (4 days)  $290

All bookings, call or text 0408 991 700

Regards
Dan Donnelly,
Club Coach Royal Park T.C.

For Sale.

¾ violin with blue velvet lined case.
Near new condition.
$100.00.

Linda (aide 21)
0437 450510.
Currently in Gavin’s room if you would like to inspect it.
VIC CRIC PRESENTS:
APRIL 2016
EASTER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
FOOTY, SOCCER & CRICKET CLINICS
2 DAYS OF ACTION-PACKED FUN!
For boys and girls aged 5 - 12

Two days of soccer, football and cricket activities with great experienced coaches who specialize in coaching and developing young children's skills. A flexible program that allows you to attend one or two full, or half day programs. Places are limited to 50 per day with a ratio of 1 coach per 10 children. BYO Lunch & snacks, if provided.

VENUE: Strathmore Secondary College, Fawcett Vale Rd, Strathmore
DATES: Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th April, 2016

FULL DAY PROGRAM:
Times: 9am to 3pm
Cost: $50.00 2 day option
$75.00 1 day option

HALF DAY PROGRAM:
Times: Morning 9am - 1pm OR afternoon 1.30pm - 5pm
Refreshments provided

Participating Name:
DOB:
Primary School:
Email:

METHOD OF PAYMENT (Please select one):
Cheque payable to VIC CRIC, accompanied by form, send to 28 Spencer St Essendon
RESERVE your place by sending a form to 28 Spencer St Essendon, VIC 3040 or scan and email to vic.cric newsletter@gmail.com

Enquiries Contact: Mike Bishop Tel: 0418302402 OR Email: viccric.newsletter@gmail.com
Disclaimer: Children play at their own risk. Vic Cric Pty Ltd. Accepts no liability.

MOONEE PONDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
SUNDAY 20 MARCH
10AM TO 4PM
The Original Fun Fair
87 Wilson Street, Moonee Ponds
OPPOSITE MOONEE VALLEY RACECOURSE
www.mpp.vic.edu.au

The Helping Hand Project
Adopting to a new home can be difficult. Mentoring helps.

Starting a new life in a new country is a challenge. Young refugees often need additional help to become and stay connected in their new community.

Working together to transform lives

We match adult mentors with young refugees young aged 13-21.

Mentors help build the skills of young people in our community to improve their own lives, creating lasting change for their future and their community.

Starting Local

The Helping Hand Project was started in Flemington 14 years ago and was locally focused. The program has now expanded its horizons to incorporate northern and western suburbs.

The Flemington Primary School community has historically provided mentors, committee members and support to the program.

Funding

The program is self-financed through grants and fund raising activities.

The Helping Hand Project, in conjunction with Blow Up Cinema (http://blowupcinema.com.au), will be undertaking a social evening in the form of a Film Night at Flemington Primary School on the evening of Friday 29th April. Food and alcohol will be available.

More details on the Film Night come but please keep this date free for a fun night.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, making a financial donation or providing any other form of support please contact Noel Newell at newelln@telstra.com.au.

Website: http://www.helpinghandproject.org.au/
Dear Friends and Music Lovers,

We are pleased to announce that bookings are now available for the 2016 Melbourne Sinfonia Concert Series. Concert dates are as follows –

Concert One - Friday evening March 18th, 2016.
Hayden Symphony No. 101 "Clock" and Brahms Symphony No. 2.

Concert Two - Friday evening June 24th, 2016.
Program TBA

Concert Three - Friday evening September 9th, 2016.
Program TBA

Concert Four - Friday evening November 25th, 2016.
Program TBA.

All concerts will be held at the James Tatoulis Auditorium, MLC Kew, commencing at 8.00pm. Remember all surplus funds will add to our annual donation to support Gatehouse, at the Royal Children's Hospital. So enjoy not only four terrific musical evenings, but support a very worthy cause as well!

To subscribe to the four concert Series, please go to -
http://www.trybooking.com/KJLX

To book for Concert One only, please go to -
http://www.trybooking.com/KJKR

To take out Membership of the orchestra for 2016 please go to -
http://www.trybooking.com/KJML
Parenting insights

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Social skills for children

School brings different types of learning, including social interactions and how to make friends. Parents can lay the foundations at home by teaching their kids these 7 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.

Friendships skills are generally developmental, but they don’t develop in isolation. Kids 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 kids develop important social competencies by teaching them sociable behaviours at home, being good role models and providing opportunities for kids to play with each other in a variety of situations.

Here are 7 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 kids 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: your 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 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 you are listening by making eye contact and not interrupting.

5. **Winning and losing well**

Kids need to learn to win without rubbing others noses in it, and lose gracefully without throwing tantrums and making excuses.

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.

parentingideas.com.au

© 2016 Michael Grose
... Social skills for children ...

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 kids feel bad, but kids need to control their negative feelings so that others will play with them again.

**Approaching and joining a group**
The ability to approach strangers in social situations is a valuable skill that opens up many doors, both friendship-wise and business-wise. These skills can be learned and practised during childhood, so that it becomes second nature in adulthood.

**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 kids 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.

Michael Grose