

— MV10 —

## Kindergarten Orientation Day 27 October 2011

Welcome everyone - especially those parents who are doing this for the first time  
–haven't been in school for a long time (School hall –listen carefully)

- Captains will be compares today and speaking later – value their leadership  
Noticed they acknowledged the traditional owners – we always do that for our functions here so I would like to pay respects to elders past and present
- **Orientation:** (great idea – you didn't get one did you? – I sent my kids on the bus – can't blame everything on that!)
  - gives an opportunity for you to really familiarize yourself with the school and some of the teachers
  - Lets you get a feel of the school and its community
  - We don't want to overload you with information but rather open up ways of communicating for the rest of your years connected with Caringbah PS
  - The teachers have worked out a great program for you

- **Happy you chose Caringbah Public School.**

- Why Caringbah? - already know we value the relationship that needs to be established with you and your child. I've already met most of you individually so we can personalise the experience of starting school.
- We want your child to feel safe and for you to know we will be doing the best we can to help your child be the best they can be. – I'll talk more about that next week so hope you can all be here.
- One of the smaller schools in the area and we value that. It doesn't stop us giving a broad range of extra curricula programs – band, Japanese, choir, sport public speaking
- Students are supported to engage in these challenges – be they sporting, academic, social.
- Strong student welfare policies including anti-bullying plan that have been implemented and are part of the culture of being the best you can be
- Personal Development Program at Caringbah looks at the development of the whole child. Bounce Back (resilience); Better Buddies; Child Protection

- Ongoing process is Teaching values - a strong part of the curriculum at Caringbah – with personal **excellence** something to strive for as the motto says –“ever our best”
- Everything we do is underpinned by these values
- **We consider Respect another important aspect of Caringbah school life**
- **For self** learning to recognise and value individual talents

*every student is 'special, precious and unique'.*

**For others** - forming the foundation of good relationships that can be positive and opens communication

- **We also think Responsibility is important to teach-** Encouraging students to be accountable for their behaviour and learning
  - Empowering students as they develop a link between their actions and the consequences *'What they do, affects what happens'*.
- **Care** - Concern for the wellbeing of yourself and others –*'Help others be the best they can be'*.
- **And of course - Integrity** - Being consistently honest and trustworthy –if you can lie about the little things you'll lie about the big things

- **What else is good about Caringbah Public School?** - you can see we have a new library and a new toilet block. (Next week the meeting is in the library) We are also getting the covered walkway extended to take children easily to the library
- **IWB in all classrooms**, 2 computer labs 2 connected classrooms - for a small school, that's fantastic – the possibilities to make lessons better and engage the children is just great.
- **NAPLAN** results above the state average Yr 5 showing excellent growth. We Look at results as a way to improve. Not only look after social aspects of education, we certainly ensure strong academic foundations for their future learning.
- **Mixed feelings right now** – the first time mums and dads those who haven't got their hands up know it's an anxious time – lived through it
  - Starting off on whole new part of their life, just another journey, when this one's finished they'll start another one.
  - You might be feeling anxious about next year but it works out, we're all here to support this big step
- **Empathise with parents** – it's a roller coaster ride sometimes
  - no handbook to show the way
  - lots of criticism levelled at you
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- **Balance –supervision has to** be appropriate with their age – as they get older, they are able to sort things out themselves and make decisions – that’s the hard part
- **Bike analogy** – when they were learning to ride a bike you were hanging on to the back. You didn’t let them know when you let go. Never learn to ride the bike if you keep hanging on to the seat. They need to learn to make decisions. Sometimes you might keep us in the loop without them knowing to help them along.
- Stress the importance of communication. We are currently going through a difficult time as a community where I’m sure you’ve heard what happened at the Before and After School Care Centre through the media
- There’s been a serious child protection issue concerning a worker who has been immediately stood down by the employing agency (not dec) The worker has since been arrested. Since then we have put in support measures as they have been needed. It’s important to stress that if you ever have any doubts, or concerns you must let the school know and trust that the school will implement the appropriate child protection strategies. Regarding this issue, we are being appropriately pro-active regarding parent concerns and I have organised a meeting for all the schools in the area to provide parents

with specific advice about child protection strategies. The meeting will be at night so it's easier for those who wish to attend – everyone is welcome. It will be at Burraneer Bay PS Hall. Call the school as the date hasn't been finalised as yet.

- **Education in schools today** –has lots of changes going on all the time – changes about technology, national curriculum, national testing. Research in neurosciences is showing us more and more about how we learn and what conditions are important in learning. **It's now the 'Science of Learning'** That's what I really want to talk about next week. It's important to link how our brains develop and learn to the social influences on us today. It has more impact than you would think. I want to show you how you can support a lifelong learning approach
  - **Some things don't change** – the importance of the relationship with the teacher
  - **Importance of the environment we create at this school** and the predictable supportive structure within that environment .
  - **Caringbah PS** takes on board all these things and applies them to our school – all to get best for our children. Fabulous professional staff here with such a range of skills – all **leading the learning** in their classrooms, and the school.
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- **Structure of the school 2011 – 12 classes and a special language class**
  - **New teacher** replacing Sylvia McKenzie who retired officially earlier this year
  - **Example of the community feeling** at this school where everyone gets in and does whatever they can and whatever is needed to be done.
  - **We Value the Partnership with the community, P&C**
  - P&C covers a range of committees – the Canteen is run by P&C and contributes so much – most of the literacy resources at the school
  - Uniform committee contribute to the school pride – they have ensured a fabulous sport uniform so students can represent the school at PSSA with pride. Support them by keeping your child in the uniform. They have even provided paint shirts for the new kindy next year
  - **Several Fund raising** committees who work tirelessly raising money to support the school in their endeavours. We had a Trivia night that raised money to put ACs in the remaining classrooms
  - **It's this community spirit that once again is proof our core values underpin everything we do here.**
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- **My goal for the school** – you might have worked it out. Your children are just starting and I don't need to tell you how important education is.
  - When parents are asked what they want for their children they most frequent answer is they want them to be happy second most frequent answer is to develop to their best potential. I would like to add that our young people need to feel free to have aspirations - whatever their sex, religion, race. I want them to have the confidence to pursue any career they want.
  - To make this school a place where real education is front and centre of all our endeavours is what this school is about. We want to guide students so they are **free to set personal goals and work towards them. That's the vision**, - we are charged with this huge responsibility – we need your help to do it. We can only do it together. Come on board and help us show your children how to be the best they can be and help others to be the best they can be.

So now I'd like to introduce the teachers your children have next year.

- **the kindy teachers for 2011**
  - Lucky you've got such experienced teachers



- Mrs Kemp – has been the Kindy teacher for several years. However she will be moving to another grade in the school next year.
- Mrs Debnam is a very experienced teacher and will continue with Kindergarten next year –
- Mrs Williams is our new teacher – very lucky to have her. She has a wealth of experience on kindergarten at a school near Camden. She's very excited to be here and work with Mrs Debnam and Mrs Remollino
- We will need to have a K/1 next year as we did 2 years ago and that will be taken by Mrs Remollino – as you know our Assistant Principal and Stage 1 leader.
- I know they share my desire to work as a team with you
- Thank Mrs Remollino one of our dedicated APs who organised today
- Evie will now tell you about her time at Caringbah