New Out-of-control party laws... a must read for all parents

New laws have now come into effect which will impact anyone who organises or is involved in a party or event that is, likely to become, out-of-control. Police now have greater powers to deal with unruly parties and events, and the power to prosecute irresponsible party organisers, gatecrashers and persons involved in out-of-control parties.

A person who organises a party that spirals out of control can now face a penalty of a $12,100 fine, as well as police costs, if they did not take reasonable steps to avoid the party getting out of control. If the person who organised the out-of-control party is a child, and their parent or guardian gave them permission to organise the party, their parent or guardian could also be committing an offense and responsible for costs.

Information on the new out-of-control party laws is now available on the Queensland Police Service Party Safe website, www.police.qld.gov.au/party, together with some great information for party hosts, parents and guests on organising and enjoying a safe, lawful and enjoyable party.

---

**SCHOOL VISION**

Mena Creek State School is committed to delivering explicit learning opportunities in a safe environment, embracing and respecting students and families to nurture students who believe in themselves and value learning.

---

**Week** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** | **Sunday**
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
8 | 17 | 18 | P & C Meeting | 20 | School Banking | 21 | 22 | 23
9 | 24 | 25 | 26 | School Banking | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30
10 | 31 | 01 | 02 | School Banking | 03 | Last Day Term 1 | 04 | 05 | 06

---

Dear Parents, Carers & Community Members,

Welcome,

Friday saw our Years 4-7 students attend the Silkwood Mena Creek Sports Association Soccer and Netball Gala Day at Innisfail State College. Once again, our students remarkable respect and behaviour was commented on by a number of staff from the college. Well done students, you continue to do our school community proud! Many thanks to the staff and students from Innisfail State College involved in running the day. The facilities were of the highest order and the care and professionalism shown to our students by the ISC community was second to none. Thank you!

**2014 P & C Executive Committee**

Congratulations to our newly elected committee

President: Gary Bonello  
Vice President: Nikki Bonello  
Secretary: Katie Utschink  
Treasurer: Gayle Sly

Late last week we received our Woolworths Earn and Learn stock. With thanks to our parents, carers and community members for collecting a large amount of stickers in 2013, we were lucky enough to receive 48 student whiteboards with whiteboard markers, 30 piece multiplication charts and an Easi-View primary visualiser that allows work to be shared with the whole class by taking pictures and videos to upload onto a laptop or interactive whiteboard.

A reminder that our school has an open door policy in place. If you ever need to have a chat regarding school concerns, or just want to catch up or be a part of a lesson, feel free to call and make a time. We will always make time to see you.

Please ensure students have healthy lunch boxes including sandwiches /roll/wrap, fruits and water bottle. Any prepackaged foods/snack should be limited to two. Remember: what your child eats impacts on their ability to learn as well as their general health and well being.

Until next newsletter - Cameron Wedgwood, Principal

---

**P & C Meeting**

Wednesday 19th March at 5:00pm

**Proposed Agenda:**

- Fundraising Ideas
- Calendar of Events
- Tuckshop
- BBQ at Chemist Warehouse
- New meeting Day and Time

School Times: First Bell 8:40 am  
Morning Tea 10:30—11:00am  
Lunch 12:40—1:30pm  
School Concludes 3:00pm
Letting Kids be Kids

Perhaps the most serious and insidious harm done to children in the last 20 years has been caused by the way we have taken away childhood. This has been done through:

- Exposing them to adult issues and themes
  - Media bombardment – Many TV shows (including the news), and computer games focus on horror, fear, grief and pain, as well as sexual references beyond children’s developmental years;
  - Family issues – Separation, divorce or bereavement are increasingly common occurrences. Adults need to take control of their own situation which will allow kids to feel safe and loved;
  - Substance abuse by adults – Can put children in a role of helplessness, sometimes hopelessness, and often require the child to take on the responsibilities of the adult;
  - Creating overly-busy lives – where evenings and weekends may be spent away from home for activities. This, combined with homework leaves very little time for the child to relax, play and enjoy just being at home with the family. It is thought that busy children are less likely to get into trouble, but there has to be a balance with children learning to relax, have down time to refresh the body and the brain;
  - A competitive attitude – Life becomes a desperate race to get everything done, as well as keep up with academic requirements. Yes some children are born competitive but this coupled with a competitive push by adults creates anxiety. Children as early as prep start to become anxious about their performance;
  - Overworked or stressed parents – who may not have the time or the energy to be available to their kids. Snappy, tense parents do not encourage children to want to spend time with them also;
  - Over-protection or under protection – With increase in traffic, stranger danger and crime, protecting your child is a must; but balancing how this is done is equally important. It is our responsibility as adults to know where are children are, who they are with, what they are doing, who they are talking to (especially on the internet) and put in place guidelines for being safe.

A recent Qld university study asked kids what they need to be happy. Answers reported on TV stated ‘to do well in school, space to play, to have no worries, to have fun.’ Kids did not talk about money or possessions. Kids with spiritual beliefs fared better in coping with adversity.

Here are some tips:

- Limit the TV/computer. Have lots of time, space and materials for simple play
- Creating healthy boredom – stop entertaining them. Let space and books do that
- Play – it is the source of creativity and inventiveness. It comes naturally to kids, and with practise you (the parent) will remember how to participate
- Reconsider your own lifestyle – is it what you want, are you happy, what changes can be put in place. Do you need to ‘wind down’ a little.
- Limit the worries – Avoid undue pressure on kids. Take away adult stressors and adult responsibilities (news, family issues that only adults can ‘fix’) –

The best thing you can do for your children is ‘let them be children’, be a part of their growing up and most of all enjoy them.

Aspects adapted from ‘More Secrets of Happy Children’ by Steve Biddulph

Kathleen Lizzio
Guidance Officer