Developing a strong student leadership culture

How do you encourage children and young people to become leaders within a school environment?

During some recent professional development that I conducted for teachers in the middle years of schooling I discovered that schools were poles apart in terms of their leadership development programs.

At Ormeau we have a comprehensive program that not only actively promotes children’s participation in a broad range of leadership activities but also offers children initial skilling sessions and ongoing support to assist their development.

Student leadership development involves more than a few simple programs that are put in place to train a select group of children. It is an ongoing process where children are viewed as resources rather than products of a system or even as problems. Student leadership development is also a mindset that requires teachers to let go of some of the roles that they traditionally take on.

Ironically student leadership development can be inhibited when schools become highly structured so that there is little opportunity for children to participate in the ongoing life of the school either as decision-makers or as organisers.

Student leadership development requires teachers to focus less on results and more on the process of what children do. This can be hard for many teachers trained to look for improved outcomes. For instance, in one of the sessions where I demonstrated a delegation model that student leaders can use to plan a school event such as a fund-raiser, one of the participants posed the question, “What happens if the student runs into difficulty and the event is not organised or is done so in a shoddy manner?”

Interesting point. However it raises the question of where a teacher places their focus. If we view student leadership development merely through the results of their activity then it may indeed be easier to organise the event yourself. Sometimes students get it wrong but the learning involved can be immense, particularly if you have a sensitive teacher who can assist students to process what they have learned. “What did you learn from the experience?” is the best question available, prompting children to reflect, problem solve and work towards more positive outcomes next time they tackle similar experiences.
Adults need to be more conscious of the process of learning rather than the results of children’s activities if they are to truly develop young student leaders.

Five building blocks for student leadership

The following five building blocks form the basis of the “I Lead” Program currently being used to assist our school train student leadership teams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Blocks</th>
<th>Leadership mindset</th>
<th>Leadership skills and behaviours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>I will step up</td>
<td>Initiate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I take responsibility</td>
<td>I will start</td>
<td>Decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>for my behaviour and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I will change others</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>only by changing myself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>I will speak up</td>
<td>Public speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mediation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>I will listen</td>
<td>Problem-solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>I will empower</td>
<td>Acting strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are some</td>
<td>others</td>
<td>Taking risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>situations</td>
<td>I will act</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and people I fear</td>
<td>confidently</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and want to avoid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but I will overcome</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organisation</td>
<td>I will delegate</td>
<td>Delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I will organise myself</td>
<td>I will plan</td>
<td>Goal-setting</td>
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<tr>
<td>and others to be</td>
<td></td>
<td>Time management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>effective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People skills</td>
<td>I will get along</td>
<td>Accepting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The way I treat</td>
<td>I will help</td>
<td>feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people affects them</td>
<td></td>
<td>Encouragement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and how they respond</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>to me</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wrist Bands/Hair Ties and Bangles

It has come to our attention that a number of girls are wearing hair ties around their wrists, often while also wearing a hair tie in their hair. A hair tie being worn around the wrist is not appropriate for school. The hair ties often leave red marks and indentations on the wrists indicating that the blood circulation to the hand is being affected. We have been instructing girls to remove the hair ties and keep them in their pockets or bags.

We have also noticed an increase in the number of girls wearing bangles (often gold or silver) to school. These bangles are not to be worn to school.

We would like to remind everybody that with regards to “jewellery” the Ormeau State School Dress Codes states – “One pair of sleepers or studs in the ears and watch only. No other jewellery acceptable.” Students wearing other jewellery to school will be asked to remove it, may not be permitted to attend excursions or may not be permitted to undertake activities where the wearing of jewellery can be a safety risk.

Kind regards and happy reading
Your Deputies Jane Tuckett and Brendan Creighton

1B, 1C, 1G AND 1P

We are off to a great start for a very busy and exciting Term 4! Students had a great time at the Halloween Disco showing off their fancy dress costumes and their dance moves! Swimming commences on the 28th of October. Please ensure your child brings appropriate bathers, a towel and thongs for their lessons and that their belongings (including their uniform) are clearly labelled.

We are also looking forward to Book Week in Week Four. This is a great opportunity to encourage reading and raise some funds for the school. Parents and students are welcome to browse books before and after school in the iCentre. Purchases may also be made during lunchbreaks.

Mental Munchies

We would like to thank parents for supporting healthier choices for mental munchies. The students have been prepared each morning with drink bottles and fresh fruit, which is great to see! Keep it up Year One!

Kind regards
Heather Andrew

FROM THE DEPUTIES’ DESK

Prep Interviews

Letters have been sent to all parents who have enrolled their child for Prep in 2015 inviting them to a Prep interview. Prep interviews will take place on Thursday 13 November, Monday 17 November and Tuesday 18 November, 2014. If your child will be commencing Prep in 2015 and you have not received a letter about the Prep interview please contact our school office immediately.

Reminder – No Playing on Play Ground Equipment after School

There is no supervision of playground equipment by school staff after school, so for the safety of all, no children (school and non-school) should be playing on any school playground equipment. As there are many people in the school grounds and trying to leave at the same time, students should also not be playing games or throwing balls around after school. Could you please remind your children that they should not be playing after school, but rather going directly to where they need to be, and waiting with you, or for you?
Expectations

Term 4 is a very busy time of the year, as teachers are finishing up assessments and preparing for report cards. It is not okay to be away. Attendance is vital. It is also imperative that students maintain a high standard of behaviour. As they prepare for Year 2, students have high expectations to take responsibility for their learning and behaviour. This includes the completion of homework each week and wearing their full school uniform. Ormeau has a No Hat/No Play policy, so students must have a school hat to wear each day. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled.

Curriculum

Ask your child about:

- How to write a command sentence to use in a procedure.
- How to collect and record data
- The properties of different light sources
- How we care for places
- Different techniques to use texture in art works of Australian animals (i.e. how to make a koala’s fur look soft)

Kind regards from the Year 1 Team,
Bernie Chisholm, Kristie Cutter, Fiona Galletly and Michele Pikunic

3C, 3FM, 3J, 3L AND 3M

Welcome back to Term 4. Year 3 classes will be very busy over the next month or so finalising their assessment pieces. Recently, for Geography, all Year 3s walked up to the Uniting church near the Mirambeena Drive roundabout to study a place that was significant to our area. Pastor Trevor Mildren was able to supply some interesting facts about the area, the church and cemetery and also how these are used by the community. We also discussed how these places can be protected for future generations. In History, we have looked at continuity and change in our area especially how natural and built locations are constantly changing. Our Shade Solution for Technology also focussed on natural and built features.

Our focus for Literacy is Poetry. We have been studying traditional poems such as My Country by Dorothea Mackellar and Bellbirds by Henry Kendall. Now we have the challenge of writing our own poetry with rhyme, rhythm, alliteration and onomatopoeia in each stanza. In the Arts, we have finished our focus on Lunar Landscapes and astronauts and have started our Drama unit.

As we move closer to the end of the year, please continue to encourage your child to complete their Homework, particularly Reading, Spelling and Number Facts. Please remind them they need a hat every day. Water bottles are also very important in the hot weather.

Year 3 Teachers
Casey Cameron, Olivia Furner, Natasha Mudri, Jamie Miller, Laura McGhee, Louise McMillan

5C, 5F, 5L, 5Q AND 5S

Welcome back to all of our Grade 5 students. I’m sure you are all well rested and ready for a very busy last term of the year. Teachers will be very busy writing reports this term. Therefore, it is very important we maintain a high standard of attendance, so your child receives the results they deserve.

NAPLAN results have been delivered and there were some very pleasing results. Congratulations to all!

Year 5 students have returned safely from camp which was very successful. Thankyou to everyone that was involved, especially to Ms Saunders for organising it all. We all learnt something new and visited places we had never been before.

As it is coming into summer, the weather is starting to heat up. Please ensure your children are bringing their hats, and keeping well hydrated.

Thankyou,
Grade 5 teachers
Trent Long, Deanna Forrester, Rhiannon Saunders, Fiona Quinn, Erin Mallouk and Kristy Simmonds

7C AND 7W

We thought it best that it was timely that we allowed our students to set the record straight and reveal to you what has been happening behind closed doors, rather than saturating you with more of our propaganda.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Jenna McCann who enthusiastically “volunteered” to showcase her literacy talents in exposing the mystery of the year that was. Over to you Jenna.

“2014 has been a fantastic year for all of us with the numerous prizes and awards won and having a blast representing our school in excursions and sporting teams. Let's cast our minds back to the start of the year to our eagerly awaited leadership camp. The three days camp was definitely memorable for all seniors. It only feels like last week that we were there among the mosquitoes and sandflies, developing our leadership skills, making friends and enjoying the magnificent meals which we were all grateful for. The first night brings memories of lots of laughter and getting away with doing “sneaky” things, unfortunately I cannot reveal these “sneaky” things at this stage for fear of getting a strike against our wet ‘n’ wild excursion. I’m not sure how the boys went, but we sure heard them stomping around the room and going up and down the stairs. Or was it Mr Wright looking for food! The trip was definitely one of the best I have experienced, making new friends and developing our leadership skills.

Life back in the classroom was slightly different with assessments and work responsibilities due on time and using as much self-control as possible to escape the clutch of detention. On the other hand we still had laughs and joked around, but we all still managed to “get the job done”. It was always such a pleasure to arrive at school and know that you’re going to have a great day of learning.

This year has clearly been full of wonderful memories. I must admit that I am looking forward to high school, although I will miss Ormeau Primary School. I’m sure the teachers will miss us
as well? This year has certainly been better than great. I’m just so happy I got the opportunity to come to Ormeau, even if it was for a year”.

Give it up for Jenna! What a wonderful insight you have given us. Hold fast to the values of Ormeau. Embrace their wisdom and achieve your aspirations….one and all!

Till our next communication

Kindest regards
Rebecca Coplick and The Old Fella

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT NEWS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Nude Food November is just about upon us, which means bringing in healthy lunches with no rubbish packaging – YES - using recyclable containers where we can. Our National Nude Food focus Day, where we hope to have the whole school support this environmental and nutrition initiative will be held on Thursday the 20th November.

National Nude Food Day is a chance for our students to realise what they can do for their health and the health of the planet. An event like this can give all of us at Ormeau State School a taste of the benefits, ease and fun involved in packing a healthy, wrapper free lunch! Teachers and a secret spy will be keeping an eye out for students for the whole month of November that are consistently bringing in healthy lunches with no rubbish packaging, so don’t forget that means using recyclable containers! The prizes have arrived and they include Nude Food ‘Smash’ containers and stickers and certificates to be awarded for students in each year level that are most consistent in the efforts.

So remember, starting the first school day in November – Monday the 3rd the secret spies will be out there watching!!

SOME NUDE FOOD RECIPES TO GET US THINKING

A healthy lunch has four components:

1. A main item, such as a sandwich/wrap/roll, pasta with vegetables, soup, frittata or sushi.
2. A fruit or vegetable snack, such as whole fruit, cup of veggie sticks, fruit or savoury kebab or a small salad.
3. A second snack based on a core food, such as reduced fat yoghurt, grainy crackers with reduced fat cheese, plain popcorn, a slice of raisin bread, a wholemeal fruit muffin, a boiled egg or a can of tuna.
4. And a drink. A bottle of tap water is best, and plain UHT milk is also acceptable.

Ref: Nutrition Australia, 2014.

Kind regards
Carol Moores,
Behaviour Support Teacher

GERMAN NEWS

What an amazing two weeks it has been in the world of German study!

Firstly, the Year 6 students and teachers (and some willing parent volunteers) headed off to the Oktoberfest for Teens festival. There they joined with 2300 other students of German from all over South-East Queensland to celebrate German language and culture. We danced, we sang, we ate, we had rides, we raced, we played games … everything connected in some form to German-ness!

Following this huge event, Ormeau State School was honoured to be selected for a visit from a very special guest from Germany. Over the last 18 months, a number of events have been held in Germany and Queensland to celebrate the anniversary of the birth and explorations of the original explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt. Last week, his great, great, great-nephew was visiting Brisbane and visited with our Year 7 students.
A number of our students posed questions auf Deutsch! (in German) and all were impressed that Herr Leichhardt understood them and the discussions were very interesting. Frau Hay and Frau Kaminski were translators.

We were also pleased to have Mike Latter, State Member for Waterford, as a guest for the morning. Herr Leichhardt presented the school with a newly printed map of his forefather’s explorations, which he signed.

Frau Hay was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her work contributing to the many events associated with the celebrations.

We also celebrated the original explorer’s 201st birthday on October 23rd.

To finish off an incredible week of celebration, congratulations to Dezi C and Ron L in Year 6. Many students participated in the Oktoberfest for Teens Language Perfect Online Competition. Ormeau State School won the competition as the Top School, with Dezi and Ron placing 2nd and 3rd, both achieving over 10 000 points and being awarded Elite Awards. This achievement involved many hours of learning and completing a massive range of activities. They have both been awarded a prize pack of goodies, including a $30 itunes voucher.

Kind regards
Frau Hay

icentre NEWS

Book Fair

Thank you for your support of our currently running Book Fair – it closes at 3:30pm Friday, October 31. Don’t miss out on putting away some great books for Christmas gifts. Big thanks to our parent helpers – Katie F, Kellie P, Michelle S, Kellie D, Sarah B, Dorota and Joanne. We could not get through the chaotic morning sales without you!
Scholastic Book Club

We have started Book Club again! When your child/ren bring home the Book Club Brochures please go to the website on the back of the brochure or use the phone number to place your order. We will not accept cash – all orders must be placed online or via phone with your credit card. Fill out the receipt number on the order form and bring it back to your child’s teacher for order completion.

Twenty five top books for boys aged 7 – 12.

Do you have a son who struggles to find books he loves? It is a common complaint from parents of boys so this list may help...

http://planningwithkids.com/2014/10/13/25-top-books-for-boys-7-12/

Books with strong female characters

Not wanting to leave the girls out, how about a list of great books for boys and girls that feature awesome females in the lead...

http://planningwithkids.com/2014/10/20/8-books-for-boys-featuring-awesome-girls/

Happy Reading
Linda Langes and Maree Bawden

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome back for Term 4.

There have been many musical opportunities for our Ormeau students to enjoy over the past month.

This Term, Choir Captains Isabella (7C) and Kirah (6G) were presented with their Choir Captains badges for 2014. This is a new role introduced in 2014, as in previous years Captains roles have only been presented to students in the Strings and Band program. Both Kirah and Isabella have proven themselves worthy of the position, regularly attending choir rehearsals. They also were nominated and attended an advanced choral camp earlier this year. As members of Senior Choir, they have competed in the Quota Beenleigh Eisteddfod, Ormeau Fair Primary Schools Competition, Pimpama Arts Fusion Day and other school based events.

In week one, Pimpama State Secondary College opened their door to local primary schools for their 2014 Arts Fusion Day. The Arts Fusion Day ran over 2 full days where our Strings, Band and Choral students in upper primary immersed themselves in Music, Dance and Drama. Each group was also given the opportunity to rehearse repertoire in small ensembles, as well as a large Symphonic/vocal Orchestra. The event concluded with a Culmination concert on Friday night in our school hall to showcase student’s musical works over the 2 days.

The Ormeau instrumental program provides our students with many opportunities and it is reaching that time of year where instrumental recruiting for 2015 begins. You may have noticed that your child has brought home an expression of interest note. Students in Year 3 in 2015 are eligible to start learning the String Instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass). Students in Year 4 and 5 in 2015 will be eligible to learn band instruments (Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Tuba, Trombone and Percussion). There is a cost to be involved in the program ($50pa), in addition to a rental fee if your child hires a school instrument (($120pa). We have a limited number of school instruments available therefore it will be a first in first serve basis. If you have any queries, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Naomi Kircher
(Classroom Music)

P AND C NEWS

Thank you to all that attended our recent Trivia Night and Halloween Disco. Fun was had at both events. It is great to get together with friends and families of the Ormeau School and Community and have a great time...if you missed these events not too late to join in the fun and come along on our Shopping Tour on the 8th November. Please book your seat at the Tuckerbox.

We are coming to the hot end of the school year so don’t forget to pack a school hat and a large bottle of water!

Kind regards
Ormeau P and C

ADMINISTRATION REMINDERS

ALL ACCOUNTS TO BE FINALISED PLEASE

We would appreciate all accounts to be finalised as soon as possible due to Education Qld closing off our accounts mid-November. We appreciate your assistance and please feel free to call the office for any further information.

For your convenience we have internet banking (use your child’s school ID- available at the office), cash window on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8.00am - 9.30am, or you can call the office ladies (55466500) and give the
information of your credit card over the phone. You can also email the school on admin@ormeauss.eq.edu.au

Many thanks for your attention to your accounts.

Lost Property

Lost Property is located outside of the administration building, could you please remind your child/children to check for any lost items. We have a large number of school jumpers which have not been named. Please ensure all drink bottles, lunch boxes, hats and jumpers are clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.

Centrepay - the easy way to pay your bills

Ormeau State School is now able to accept Centrepay payments directly with your approval.

There is a form you can collect from the administration office that you take to Centrelink nominating an amount to come directly to the school each week/fortnight. You as the parent or caregiver can choose where these payments come from eg: (Family tax benefit, Newstart Allowance, Pension or Parental paid leave). This payment will go as a credit onto your child’s payment screen and can be used for any activities throughout the years of your child whilst attending Ormeau State School. This is a no hassle and convenient way for payments to be received from Centrelink on your behalf.

Parents can also nominate a target amount so that once the target is reached Centrelink will cease payments automatically or you can choose for payments to come consistently to cover all costs throughout the year.

If you need to know anything further please don’t hesitate to contact the administration team.

Kind regards
Ormeau Administration Team

COMMUNITY NEWS

Helensvale Netball Club

Helensvale netball club are hosting their second annual holiday clinic in January 2015. Come along and develop your netball skills and learn how to play netball.

For more information please see attached flyer