Start of the year
Welcome to our new students and families this year. We look forward to a successful partnership in supporting and creating life long learners. The students have started the year with enthusiasm and kindness to others. Well Done!! A welcome BBQ will be held next Tuesday. The classrooms will be open from 5.30pm to 6.00pm which allows you to informally meet and talk to the classroom teachers, followed by a bbq dinner, dessert and a small performance.

School Uniform, jewellery, hair, Sun Smart, electronics and medications
A big well done to all our students with their school uniforms this year. Students are reminded that they should not wear jewellery to school for safety reasons and if they have their ears pierced they should only wear small sleepers or studs.

All students who hair is shoulder length or longer are required to have their hair tied back.

Tyers Primary School is a Sun Smart school and students are required to wear a school wide brimmed hat whilst outside during Terms 1 & 4. Students are discouraged to bring mobile phones, iPods and other similar items to school. If students need to bring these items to school for any reason they must be handed into the office in the morning and may be collected at the conclusion of the school day.

If students require medications at school these should be sent along in the proper medical container, have the name of the student on it, the recommended dosage and time for administration and be within the expiration date. Students who require an asthma puffer at school need to ensure that the puffer is clearly labelled with the student’s name.

The school does not have insurance to cover medical or ambulance attendance. Parents can take insurance for accident and ambulance cover.

Class Requisites
Please note class requisites are to be paid by 27th February.

Preps – No School On Wednesdays For February
Just a reminder to parents of Prep students, that for the month of February, Preps are not required at school on a Wednesday.

uEducateUs
This year we will be using uEducateUs again for communication between school, students, teachers and parents/carers. If you have need a new password please contact Lee-Anne in the office. Parents/carers of new students will receive their login details today. The mobile app can be downloaded from the app store or play store or login can be done directly through their website at www.ueducateus.com.au.
Working with Children’s Check
We encourage parents to provide support in many areas of our school including classroom help and assisting with fundraising activities ie hot lunches etc. To volunteer within a school it is a minimum requirement that you hold a current Working with Children’s Check. You can apply for one free of charge at Australia Post. If you have a current WWCC please bring it to the school office for copying and placing on file. If you do not have a valid WWCC, please apply for one so you are able to assist around the school. Application forms are available from the school office.

Changes to class times
This year we have made some changes to the start of day times to allow students to be ready for learning at 9am. The school times are as follows;

8.47am - music for class preparation
8.50am - enter classrooms/change readers/silent reading
9.00am - class starts
10.00am - healthy snack
11.00am - recess
11.20am - class
12.45pm - eating lunch in classrooms/school serial
1.00pm - lunch recess
1.30pm - class
3.00pm - dismissal

Monday’s - 8.50am Assembly

Welcome to our new students
Developing friendship skills in children

Michael Grose

Research into children’s friendships shows that those children who are able to form friendships at school are far happier and also learn better. More significantly, a positive beginning to friendships has long-term implications for social and academic success.

Studies also indicate that children can be taught friendship 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.

It is also useful to teach children alternatives to fighting and arguing when there is disagreement and conflict within groups.

Gender impacts on the ability to make friends. Recent research has found that girls are further advanced along the stages of friendship than boys.

Gifted children are further advanced along the continuum of friendship behaviours than their peers. They look for more intimate friendships at a far younger age than their peers. This challenges the perception that gifted children have poor social skills. It seems that they have a different concept of friendships than those around them.

Try This . . .

To promote friendship skills in children try the following four strategies:

1. Help them start up a conversation. Give them some good conversation starters. Make sure they don’t talk about themselves but focus on what interests others.

2. Play games with children and make sure they learn to be gracious winners and good losers.

3. Have one friend at a time over to your home so that they can form friendships one at a time.

4. Show children how to resolve conflict with others by compromising rather than refusing to give some ground.

Action Plan

First Step . . .

Next Step . . .

For more ideas about developing friendship skills in your children visit www.parentingideas.com.au

What’s your child like?

Does your child behave like a good friend?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your child hold confidence with others?</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More easily if conflict occurs rather than hold grudges</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually have a positive outlook and show enthusiasm about most things</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know how to share his time, space and possessions with others?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Give and receive compliments easily?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Score:

1-3: A friendly child, probably very popular with peers.
4-6: Knows how good friends act but may need to work on skills or attitude.
7-9: Maybe a little self-centred. May need more exposure to a variety of social situations and help with basic friendship skills.

Quote

‘Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by your friends.’

Czech proverb

parentingideas.com.au