Organisation for 2016 – Planning and organisation for 2016 is well underway. Even though we are entitled to 6 classes, we will again be having 8 classes, as a result of paying for additional staffing. This additional staffing will allow for more classes, smaller class sizes (less than 20 per class), more personalised learning and better results. We feel that this year, our students have achieved at a higher level, particularly those students who were having learning difficulties. The additional staffing also allows our school to offer the students many more opportunities than most other schools, with students making many fine achievements at the highest level.

School Sports Assembly – Congratulations to the Kindergarten class for running a great assembly last Friday. This week’s sports assembly will be run by the Year 5 class and will start at 10.00 am. We do hope to see you there. Our special guest speaker will be Australian cyclist, Taryn Heather.

Debating and Public Speaking Final – Last Thursday, our Junior Debating Team consisting of Portia Martin, Amelia Hearn, Kate Bulle, Jasmine Young and Millie Walsh (Public Speaking), competed in the final at Billabong High School. All the students can be very proud of their efforts. The junior team won the debate against St Paul’s, Henty.

Schools Spectacular – Congratulations to our five talented singers who had the time of their lives in Sydney performing in the Schools Spectacular, last week. It was the experience of a lifetime for the
School Captain/House Captain Elections and Speeches – Best of luck to all the Year 5 students who have been nominated to participate in the elections this Wednesday. All leaders will be announced at the School Presentation Night.

Billabong High School Transition Day – Year 6 students attending Year 7 at Billabong High School in 2016 will be attending a full day transition this Thursday.

School Presentation Night – A reminder that the School Presentation Night has moved from Thursday 10 December to Friday 11 December, 7.00 pm.

Kinder Orientation – Congratulations to all parents, new Kinders for 2016, Year 5 buddies and Miss Mills, for all their efforts at last Wednesday’s Kinder Orientation. We had many new faces that are all keen for school next year.

Thank You – A big thank you to School Council representative, Wes Black, who has installed new playground seating around the netball court, sand pit and volleyball court. The students and staff really appreciate your efforts, Wes.

Staffing – Congratulations to Mr Mark Wedgwood, who, through the merit selection process, has been appointed as the new school General Assistant. Mr Wedgwood has been relieving in the position since Mr John Jacob retired. Mr Jacob did a fantastic job over the last few years, with the school grounds always looking outstanding. He received so many positive and appreciative comments from the wider community. We are all very appreciative for his efforts. Mr Wedgwood has continued on from Mr Jacob and has the school looking great.

New Principal Classification – From the start of 2016, all Public schools will be part of a new classification based on student numbers and the complexity of the school with which the Principal must manage, particularly, the funding. We received news last week that we will be classified as P1, which is the same as what we were classified this year, so no great change. This is welcomed news, as without the introduction of this new classification, our classification would be changing to a teaching Principal which would have had significant changes to our school, particularly staffing and personnel.

Jason Weaven
Principal
SPORTS ASSEMBLY

Please keep this Friday, 4 December free for our annual Sports Assembly. It starts at 10.00 am and everyone is welcome to attend.

2015 PRESENTATION EVENING

Our annual presentation evening will be held on Friday 11 December, 2015 at 7.00 pm in the school hall. We cordially invite all parents and friends of our students to attend. At the presentation evening, we award students who have achieved excellence, consistent improvement, citizenship and sporting achievements. Each year, the awards are sponsored by the local community. If you would like to make a donation towards the book prizes this year, it would be greatly appreciated and your name will be listed in our Presentation Night program as recognition of your valuable contribution to our school. Donations of cash or cheques, made out to Holbrook Public School, can be handed in to our office.

FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP

PRE-LOVED UNIFORMS IN STOCK NOW!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sizes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Short Sleeve Polo Shirt</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girl's Summer Dress</td>
<td>10, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>Long Sleeve Polo Shirt</td>
<td>6, 8, 10, 12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fleece Jacket</td>
<td>6, 10, 14</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boys’ Trousers</td>
<td>6, 8, 14</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tartan Pants</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tartan Skirt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Windcheater</td>
<td>6, 8, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Sports Shirt</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Track Pants</td>
<td>4, 6, 8, 12, 14</td>
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BEAT THE PRICE RISE

As of 1 January 2016, there will be a price increase on some of our uniform items. We have been fortunate to keep our prices steady for a few years; however, our suppliers have had an increase in production costs which then has a flow on affect. Now’s the time to purchase uniforms and beat the price rise.

WANTED

The second hand clothing shop would be most grateful for any donations of pre-loved uniforms in all sizes. Recycled uniforms are always in high demand and looking for a good home.

If you’re a family with a Year 6 student and don’t have younger children or a family with students who are leaving our school at the end of the year to move to another school, please consider donating to our second hand shop.

Thank you

School DANCE

When: Monday 14 December 2015
Where: School Hall
Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (There will be no supervision before 6.00 pm)
Dress: Smart, casual (Please wear sensible, covered dancing footwear)
Entry Fee: Gold Coin donation will be taken on entry and will be forwarded to Stewart House

Please bring: your own water bottle (labelled) and either a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable as we will be cutting it up to share amongst the children.
STARS OF THE WEEK

Izak Schirmer, Year 2

Mrs Wedgwood, Year 5/6

AWARDS

Miss Mills
Holly Hall – For being mature and responsible while walking to and from the pool
Henry Nevinson – For making great progress in spelling
Isabel Yensch – For effort and success in all assessments

Miss Luff
Dominic Valena – A reliable, responsible and honest student
Will Wood – Quickly identifying numbers to 100

Miss Murphy
Annabelle Bickley – For writing an outstanding information report about a crocodile
Madison Lumsden – For excellent work with o’clock and half past time activities

Mrs Preston
Hamish Bull – For an informative presentation of his project
Cruz Schirmer – For great work during our reading unit

Mr Preston
Tia Charles – For displaying a mature approach to her learning during literacy
Will Satchell – For working very well during numeracy

Miss Lavis
Abby Holt – Being kind and considerate towards others
Rohan Jepson – Quick recall of times tables

Miss Peterson
Tia Charles – Her perseverance and improvement in maths
Logan Wright – His improvement in literal and inferred comprehension

Mrs Wedgwood
Kate Bullé – Excellent debating skills and a great result in the final
Amelia Hearn – Excellent debating skills and a great result in the final
Portia Martin – Excellent debating skills and a great result in the final
Angus Swan – A much more confident approach in maths activities
Millie Walsh – Excellence in public speaking and representation of HPS
Chloe Watson – Excellent debating skills and a great result in the final
Angus Wright – Consistently pleasing efforts in all areas of English
Jasmine Young – Excellent debating skills and a great result in the final

Mrs Ross
Hayley Vankerkoerle – A great effort in reading and writing tasks

VALUES AWARDS – RESPONSIBILITY

Junior: Lachie Kingston
Senior: Tia Charles

STAR CARD WINNERS

Yellow Playground Star Cards
Bella Harrison

Blue Classroom Star Cards
Tahlia Francis and Digby Gulliver

175 NIGHTS READING AWARD
Ned Harrison, Jim Henry, Archie Swan

200 NIGHTS READING AWARD
Annabel Pincott

225 NIGHTS READING AWARD
Madison Lumsden, Ryder McKillop, Isabella Weaven
250 NIGHTS READING AWARD
Lachie Parker, Isabella Weaven

275 NIGHTS READING AWARD
Isabella Weaven

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
Isobel Atkinson, Maddie Black, Cooper Glass, Nethanael Tepper, Hayley Vankerkoerle, Logan Wright, Jasmine Young

SPONSORSHIP:
The following businesses of Holbrook sponsor our newsletter. Please support them when you can.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Keeping our kids safe around schools
Your child’s safety depends on you

Drop off and pick up by car
Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly.
Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone as children are about.
Look for buses pulling out – watch for flashing red or yellow lights.
Always park and turn legally around schools. Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns.
Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road. In your school’s designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
It’s safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.

Walking together to and from school
Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible. Always hold your child’s hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.
Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.
Talk with your children about stop, look, listen and think every time they cross the road.
STOP: one step back from the kerb. LOOK for traffic to your right, left and right again.
LISTEN for the sounds of approaching traffic.
THINK whether it is safe to cross.
Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

Start the Christmas fun – for preschoolers and their families!
Activities include making cards, decorations, painting, giant games, playdough, songs,
This is a free program!
Children must be supervised.
Stay and have a BYO picnic in the park.
All are welcome.
When is it?
5.30-7pm
Tuesday 8th December 2015
Tea Tree Creek Gardens
Young Street, Holbrook

Register your interest
Rois Bock
Intereach Family Links
Phone: 02 6067 7800
Mobile: 0420 030 237
www.intereach.com.au
Manage like a cat, nurture like a dog

Here’s how to get the mix of firmness and nurturing right when communicating with young people.

Finding your inner cat

We all have some cat and dog in us. It’s just a matter of accessing those parts and bringing them out when we need them. The cat is the credible side we all have, but find difficulty accessing. It is always expressed through your non-verbals – that is, your tone of voice, your posture and your head.

A cat speaks with a flat, clipped voice. His or her head is very still and body upright and confident. The quickest way to access your inner cat is to speak with your palms facing the ground. You can try this now. Stand up with both hands in front of you with your palms facing the ground. Now start speaking. You’ll find you’ll naturally speak like a cat – clipped voice, still head and body and more serious expression. This is your credible (and calm) side.

When you speak from your cat side people will usually believe what you have to say. It gives you authority.

Australia’s foreign minister Julie Bishop is a good example of using cat behaviour.

Like her or loathe her you can’t deny she has authority. That’s because she accesses the cat side of her nature in public.

You manage a teen like a cat by speaking calmly, quietly and staying still when you speak. Cats will also withdraw eye contact rather than stand and argue so look away or respectfully walk away rather than become involved in argument.

Cats also look for ways to manage visually (look away to indicate not arguing) or kinaesthetically (a touch on the shoulder, move close and whisper) rather than repeating themselves. If they do repeat themselves they are more likely to lower their voice than raise it to get attention. These cat behaviours work well when managing teens.

Using your inner dog

We also have a dog side to our nature. This is the approachable, conversational, relationship-building side. When you access this side you’ll speak with lots of inflection in your voice.

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.
... Manage like a cat, nurture like a dog ...

Your head will bob up and down. You’ll probably lean forward as you speak and you’ll smile a lot. The quickest way to access your dog nature is to speak with your palms up. You can try it now. Stand up; put your hands out with your palms up and start speaking. You should notice a big difference in how you deliver your message from when you spoke with palms facing down. If not, alternate speaking with palms up and down until you see a difference.

The dog side of our natures is what many of us feel more comfortable with. If you are in a management position there is a fair chance that you spend more time accessing your cat then your dog. Although effective managers will move seamlessly between the two accessing their dog when networking and relationship-building then finding their cat for negotiations or when making decisions.

Actor Hugh Jackman is an example of a public figure who is dog-like as he usually speaks with lots of cadence in his voice, a big smile and open body language. However, I’ve seen him switch to cat mode in interviews when he talks about something serious. He will invariably speak quietly, calmly and his head will stay very still. We believe him when he speaks. He’s no lightweight. It’s his ability to switch from cat to dog and back again that makes him so charismatic.

Bringing cat and dog to your parenting

From experience I’ve found that effective parents nuance their communication. That is, they alter their style to suit the situation rather than let their moods dictate their communication styles. This is not necessarily conscious. However do it often enough and switching from cat to dog and back again becomes a habit.

My challenge for you is to bring your cat to the table when you want to manage teenagers and access your dog side when you encourage them, build relationships and listen to them.

Get your cat and dog wrong and you’ll be ineffective. Manage like a dog and you’ll do one of three things:

1. Whine at your kids
2. Use an angry voice
3. Do nothing because you don’t want to offend them

Build relationships like a cat and you’ll be distant, stiff and unapproachable. Get the mix right and you’ll be able to give your young person exactly what they need. That is, the leadership and safety that cats provide and the nurturance and encouragement that comes naturally to dogs.

So does the cat side or the dog side come more naturally to you? Think about it. When you discover what you default to then you need to be aware of two things. First, you will need to work a little harder to access the other side. Second, make sure you don’t rely on one side of your nature to do the work in your communications with your young people. If you do then you will more than likely either manage or nurture well but rarely do both well. However get the mix right and your parenting (or leading of any group of people) and you’ll have discovered the key to charismatic parenting and leadership.

‘Manage like a cat, nurture like a dog.’

Who would have thought it’s that simple!

Michael Grose

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