

# THE KING'S KEN – 4 JUNE 2009

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### How parents sometimes escalate bullying situations

Many parents who discover that their child is being bullied respond impulsively and try to solve the problem. There are several unhelpful things they do.

Firstly, parents tend to listen only to their child's version of events and accept this as the truth of what occurred. They then act without finding out what actually happened which can result in overreaction or inappropriate responses. In reported cases of bullying or conflict, the victim's analysis of events is often one-sided. Further investigation reveals a different overall picture once both sides of the story have been heard.

Often when children speak confidentially to a parent what they actually want is not action, but a 'listening ear'. However, parents sometimes respond by acting impulsively without their child's consent. This compromises the child by undermining his or her ability to resolve the issue and can also create problems in the parent-child relationship.

Some parents believe that the best thing to do is to confront the parents of the alleged bully so that the adults can sort out the problem. This is often done on the basis of limited information and generally leads to unnecessary open conflict. The parents of the bully protect their child by leveling counter accusations against the victim and both sides talk to other parents and children to garner support. This makes the issue painfully public for the victim.

Other parents confront the alleged bully themselves. I have even seen a parent confront and threaten a child in the school parking lot. This is a very dangerous strategy as it can quickly escalate into conflict between the two families as the alleged bully's parents are forced to retaliate in defense of their child. This course of action also does nothing to empower the victim. Instead, he or she feels even more inadequate at having to call in reinforcements to fight the battle. The victim is also likely to experience great antagonism from other children at school.

Parents' advice to their children when they are being bullied can also be unhelpful. I have often asked children what their parents advise them to do if they experience bullying. Many parents suggest that their child retaliate and "Give the other child a good smack and he won't do it again." This is unwise advice for two reasons. Firstly, the victim is already in a situation in which he feels powerless so to be given this kind of advice may undermine him further, making him feel inadequate and inferior. If the victim does hit the bully, he may be beaten severely in return, further shaming and humiliating him. Thirdly, the victim may be caught and

disciplined for assaulting the bully, which diverts attention from the initial bullying and allows the perpetrator to get away with it. If a victim does hit a bully and stop the bullying behaviour, in all likelihood the bully will find another target and the root problem will go untreated.

It is clear from all of these examples that parents do not assist their children by responding impulsively and emotionally to alleged bullying. In summary, parents should **not** do the following:

- Jump to conclusions regarding blame and how situations actually developed
- Advise a victim to retaliate
- Phone the parents of an alleged bully to settle the matter
- Confront the alleged bully
- Organize a group of parents to pressure the school into action

(With thanks to Simon Weaver, Principal of Cordwalles Prep. School for his thoughts published in Independent Education, Spring 2006.)

**Mr. Ken Langley**

**Principal**

### **HOMEWORK HABITS THAT HELP**

Homework is one of those necessary evils. It reinforces the work done in class, it alerts the teacher to work that is not fully understood and it teaches independence and self discipline. Yet it is also the source of conflict and many tears in most households. For some children, homework may be seen as torture, an extension of an exhausting day.

Good study habits are the foundations for successful work habits as an adult, so it is important to develop a positive attitude and build good habits early in your child's school life. Here are some tips to reduce tension around homework.

### **FOR ALL THOSE THAT LOVE HOMEWORK !!**

This week has been Homework Load-Shedding Week. Apologies to all those children that love homework!

#### **I love to do my homework**

I love to do my homework

It makes me feel so good,

I love to do exactly as my teacher says I should

I love to do my homework

I never miss a day

I even love the men in white

Who are taking me away!

From : Roots and Fruits – courtesy of Anneli de Jager (Grade 2)

## **SUPPLIES**

- Encourage her to take responsibility for her supplies: to let you know in advance when items need replacing; to ensure that her supplies are kept together and not scattered all over the house.
- Make sure that all necessary items are available before she starts her homework – calculator, books, pens, colouring pencils, correct books, etc.
- Keep a dictionary available and encourage her to refer to it often – she will need to have developed this skill for the higher classes at school.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- Ensure that the environment is conducive to your child being able to concentrate well. This means that as many distractions as possible must be eliminated.
- Turn off the TV and don't allow telephone calls until he has finished his homework.
- Encourage other members of the family to respect his need for quiet and calmness in the house in order for him to work to the best of his ability.
- Some children concentrate better with background music, but make sure it is in the background.

## **LOST PROPERTY!!!**

Dozens of items of clothing are handed in as lost property each week at our school. We are asking for assistance from our parents and students in the following ways:

1. Please mark all items clearly, and
2. When an item is lost, please check through the lost property at Reception as soon as possible.

Lost property will be displayed each Friday on the Hall steps. Unclaimed items will thereafter be donated to charity.

## **WE PRAY FOR .....**

- Trys Schwartz who is recovering after an operation.
- Lizette Martins who is recovering after an operation.
- Mrs Wilna le Roux who sadly lost her father during this last week.

### **Important dates for the 2<sup>nd</sup> term**

- Homework Load Shedding Week - 1 – 5 June 2009
- Reading Week - 1 – 5 June 2009
- High School Extra Mural Practices end - 5 June 2009
- Exams start (Grade 8 to Grade 12) - 8 June 2009
- School Holiday - 15 June 2009
- Primary School Extra Mural Practices end - 19 June 2009
- Grade 9 subject choice assessment - 25 June 2009
- Exams end - 26 June 2009
- School closes - 26 June 2009
- Grade 9 subject choice assessment - 26 June 2009
- Winter School - 29 June to 3 July 2009
- School Starts - 21 July 2009

### **MIA MOMENT – Every day is a reason for giving**

Every day is a reason for giving, and giving is the key to living .... So let us give ourselves away, not just today but every day. And remember, a kind and thoughtful deed or a hand outstretched in a time of need is the rarest of gifts, for it is a part not of the purse but a loving heart, and she who gives of herself will find true joy of heart and peace of mind.

**Please note that Grade 10 will come out  
at 13:15 on Friday 5 June 2009**

### **TELEPHONE LINES OUT OF ORDER**

During the school holidays our school's telephone lines were all stolen. This means that we have no e-mail, fax or telephones available. Should you need to contact the school, please phone us on our cell phone number:

**079 512 1287/8 or (011) 958 5188 or (011) 958 5189**

### **THE SCHOOL WEAR SHOP**

**Operating hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 07:45 – 12:00

If parents need assistance or to make alternative arrangements, please contact Liza on 072 108 3670.

### FOR FRIENDS FRIDAY

Collection for **Friday 5 June 2009** will be **POWDERED MILK/LONG LIFE MILK.**

12 June - Cleaning Products (i.e. Handy Andy, Dishwashing liquid)  
19 June - Cold drink/Juice  
26 June - Sugar

In addition to the above, any warm clothes for children from 3 months to 9 years old will be greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT!**

### TIMES OF THE INTERMEDIATE INCLUSION PROGRAMME FOR TERM 2

Grade 4 and 5 – Teacher Melanie  
Grade 6 and 7 – Teacher Robyn

**MONDAY** 13:45 – 14:15 Power spelling / Afrikaans  
All grades : Teacher Robyn / Teacher Melanie

**TUESDAY** 13:45 – 14:30 Maths  
14:30 – 15:30 Language and Writing

**WEDNESDAY** 13:45 – 14:45 Reading, Comprehension and Language  
14:45 – 15:15 Maths

### THURSDAY CYCLE ASSESSMENT – PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE	11 JUNE	18 JUNE	25 JUNE
4	Maths		Theme Project
5	Afrikaans		Social Sciences
6		Afrikaans	
7		Maths	

### ADMIN CLERK NEEDED

Laser Park, Honeydew Area  
Must be computer literate  
Call Dennis on 082 851 6682

**Thank you from the Principal**

We would like to thank Joshua from Grade 3, for his kindness to provide a plan for a 'watch house' for the teachers. You are loved and appreciated, my boy!