How can we make reading part of our family’s lifestyle?

Parents play a critical role in helping their children develop not only the ability to read, but also an enjoyment of reading.

Turn off the tube.
Start by limiting your family’s television viewing time. Teach by example. If you have books, newspapers and magazines around your house, and your child sees you reading, then your child will learn that you value reading. You can’t over-estimate the value of modelling.

Read together.
Reading with your child is a great activity. It not only teaches your child that reading is important to you, but it also offers a chance to talk about the book, and often other issues will come up. Books can really open the lines of communication between parent and child.

Hit the library.
Try finding library books about current issues or interests in your family’s or child’s life, and then reading them together. For example, read a book about going to the dentist prior to your child’s next dental exam, or get some books about seashore life after a trip to the coast. If your child is obsessed with dragons, ask your librarian to recommend a good dragon novel for your child.

Two Day Principals Conference
On Wednesday (rain permitting) I will be heading to Brisbane for a two day conference. The Department of Education, Training and Employment will host the second biennial principal’s conference for all state school principals and selected senior departmental officers. The conference provides a strategic forum to reflect and celebrate our achievements, and position ourselves for future success.

The conference will progress the key priorities of pedagogy and parent and community engagement in our pursuit of excellence. The conference will focus on the importance of: implementing a research-validated pedagogical framework to support excellence in teaching and learning practices connecting with parents and the community to support successful student learning outcomes.

There will be keynote presentations by two internationally renowned experts in educational reform and community engagement – Professor Ben Levin and Dr George Otero – and a series of workshops based on Queensland case studies that have demonstrated excellence.

Doesn’t that sound great!

P Day
This week the junior group have been working on the letter ‘P’ so in support of the letter p we will be having a ‘P’ day. Students are asked to wear their Pjs, and for tuckshop we will be having Pizza, Popcorn and a Popper. All this for just $4.

Cheer Andrew
**Date Claimers**

February
27 - 1st Mar  Principals’ meeting Brisbane
March
1st—’P’ Day

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**HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?**

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
1. What type of animal spoke wisdom to Homer Simpson during his “chill’ trip”?   A coyote
2. Which NSW town do David Campese and Mark Webber come from?  Queenbeyan
3. How high is Uluru in metres?  34m
4. Who played Starscy and Hutch in the 2004 movie?  Owen Wilson and Ben Stiller
5. Which Australian city hosted the 2001 Goodwill Games?  Brisbane
6. In which country is the Curragh racecourse?  Ireland
7. How many laps is the V8 Supercar Bathurst 1000 race?  161
8. In which sport is the King’s Cup contested?  Rowing
9. In which city would you find the Forbidden City?  Beijing
10. Which bird’s name means two under par in golf?  Eagle

The world is made up of people who never get into the first team and who miss the prizes at the flower show.

Jacob Bronowski

Below, 10 nine letter words have been broken into chunks of three letters. These chunks have been mixed up, no chunk is used twice and all chunks are used. Can you determine what the 10 words are?
tin som mea and all ple sca eth ile rbr man ssl pol rec hai yes gra wat ing ter ice eap erf ate nwh pin obs ush row day

Can you find the hidden country in the following paragraph:

After many years studying in the field of astrophysics, the bol[Fin]land[ed] a plum job with the National Space Agency, where he became a leading figure in the area of quasars.

Finland
BreastScreen Queensland
Wide Bay Service
is coming to

Gayndah
February 14th – 28th 2013
(approximate dates)

Gayndah Hospital, Warton St

Phone 13 20 50
for a free appointment