Dear Helensvale Community,

Parent Teacher Meetings

Next week we will be holding our Parent Teacher Meetings to provide feedback on how your child is progressing towards achieving their learning goals for Semester Two. Meetings will be held in your child’s classroom and are 15 minutes in length. If you are unable to make the meeting as planned please contact Administration on 5556 1333 so we can let the teacher know. We have included Michael Grose’s Top 1-Tips for successful parent meetings in this edition of Homelines which provides some helpful hints on how to maximise this time with your child’s teacher.

Year 5 Camp

This week our Year 5 students have been enjoying their camp at Tallebudgera Camp. The weather has been perfect to support the activities provided by the camp and I look forward to sharing more information with you next week.

Do you have a child starting school in 2016?

Our school wants to ensure your child and family enjoy a warm welcome to our community and a positive start to school. A successful transition to school is more than a great first day. It is your child feeling welcome, safe and confident in their new school environment. Please contact us to discuss how we can support your child’s transition to school.

Bus Shelter Update

Due to wet weather experienced last week our Bus Shelter is scheduled to be delivered and installed on Thursday and Friday this week. I hope to be able to share photos with you next week of the completed project. To ensure safety for all members of our school community, access will be restricted while it is installed at the front of the school.

It’s Spring Time!

Congratulations to all our Year 2, 3 and 6 students for their behaviour in the last session on Monday. Due to a few bees flying around TB6, we ensured students returned to classrooms after lunch and were dismissed
safely at 3pm away from the bees. A Bee Keeper attended to the bees late in the afternoon and safely removed them to another location. Thank you to all of our parents who supported us ensuring students left safely. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Administration on 5556 1333.

Class Placements 2016

In the remaining weeks of this term we will be starting to organise class placements for next year. This is a complex task completed by our teachers as they know the students and take into consideration individual learning needs, learning styles, friendships and dynamics of students in groups. As part of our process for organising classes each year, teachers consider friendship groupings so they can place students with at least one friend, if not more, in their new class. Sometimes there may be factors that we do not know, that you may wish to share with us to help with class placement. If you have information around your child’s learning needs that need to be shared before placements are completed, please email Admin at admin@helensvaless.eq.edu.au with the Subject marked - Class Placement 2016.

Although all requests are taken into consideration, placement will be finalised by our staff / administration. No changes to class placements will occur until after day 8, in February 2016.

New senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems

New senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems will commence for students entering Year 11 in 2018. These include a combination of school-based assessment and external assessment, new processes to strengthen the quality of school-based assessment, and a move from the Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) rank.

Samantha Donovan
A/Principal

From Ms Brown’s Desk

We hope you all had a wonderful day celebrating Father’s Day on Sunday. Our students were certainly very excited about the cards and gifts they had made to give their dad and the planned breakfast in bed.

It’s been a very exciting fortnight for me as I am continuing to meet all the youngsters who will start Big School next year. Their confidence and excitement never ceases to amaze me as they perch up on the chair and undergo the BRIGANCE Early Childhood Screen. BRIGANCE is a collection of quick and highly accurate assessments and data gathering tools to use with children enrolled in early childhood programs. The screening, which covers a broad sampling of a child’s skills and behaviours, enables us to identify readily children who may be developmentally delayed or advanced.

If you are aware of children who expect to be attending Helensvale State School next year, please remind parents that enrolments are occurring this week and again next week. It is important that I have a good indication of numbers expected so I can start offering places to those who are not in catchment. Your help with the message to ENROL NOW would be greatly appreciated.

Data

Who reached our 95% attendance target last week? Year 1/2G at 96.5%, plus Prep C and Year 4/5 who hit 95%.

The cohort with highest attendance last week was Year 6 at 93.4%

A big congratulations to Prep C, Prep E and Year 1C who were super duper at ensuring we had explanations for absences.
Missing older siblings

Our students in Prep and Year 1 have certainly missed big brothers and sisters who are currently at the Year 5 Tallebudgera Beach School this week. Our school is unusually quiet this week and I dare say there are a lot of very quiet homes, too. Telephone calls from our dedicated teachers enjoying life near the beach this week, but perhaps not the very late nights, indicate a ton of fun is being had by all. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Friday afternoon with a suitcase of odd socks and lots of washing!

Year 3 Expressions of Interest for Instrumental Music

Letters went out seeking an expression of interest from Year 3 students who are interested in Instrumental Music lessons next year. If you have a child in Year 3, please ensure the completed letter is returned as soon as possible.

The Zoo

The weeks are flying by and our school musical is not far away – October 22 and 23. Students are practising their singing and dancing to make this the best experience ever. Costumes have been ordered, Chris is sewing madly, kids in 5E and 6E are painting and all is coming together. Mrs Siddell and Miss Poh are shaking their tail feathers in an endeavour to teach the choreography, and Mrs Mehro is hitting the high notes ready for the planned whole day rehearsal on Saturday, October 10. Next week, a note will go home regarding this rehearsal, so please lock this date in if you have a child in The Zoo.

We are still seeking donations of green or brown cardboard, butcher’s paper and paints, and greatly appreciate your help. A big thank you to the Turner family for their donation of newspapers.

We still have fingers crossed for the possible donation of a piano for our PAC, so if you know anyone who has a piano seeking a tree change, please let them know we have the perfect home.

From Mrs Austin’s Desk

Life Education Timetable – Week 9 and 10

As you can see the Life Education Van has returned to complete the final Life Education Lessons with our students. This will see the completion of Life Education lessons for 2015. The feedback we have received from students and teacher has been extremely positive.

Here is an overview of lesson scheduled for the end of week 9 and beginning of week 10.

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<th>Thursday 10 Sep</th>
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Sector Assembly Update

Just a reminder that next Tuesday 15 September, will be our Year 2/3 Sector Assembly. Student Leaders from 2G will be running next week’s assembly whilst 2D, 2E and 2B students will be presenting a class performance. Families and friends are always welcome to attend.

From Ms Ona’s Desk

Congratulations to all the students who have achieved their goals at Being Learner this term.

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<td>• Being prepared</td>
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School News

Published by The Administration Department

Spelling: This week we concentrated on un, re, up and mid prefixes. We also did our levelled words from Words Their Way.

Writing: This week we continued working on writing topic sentences for paragraphs. We also learnt how to proofread and edit using an editing card.

Oral Language: This week’s STRIVE words were instinct, distinguishing and characteristics. Can your child tell you the meaning of these words and successfully use them in a sentence.

Maths: Keep practising time telling at home. It is pleasing to see many students getting a very good grasp of it, but a few are finding it very difficult and need continual practice.

History: We also had a guest speaker from the Helensvale Library who came along to talk to the students about the history of the Helensvale area. Ask your child what they learnt.
Instrumental Music Program

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC RECRUITING FOR 2016

Recruiting will take place early next term for positions in the Beginner Band 2016.

All year 3 students received a note this week and if you would like your child to be involved in the recruitment process for selection in 2016, please return it to the Office by Monday September 14.

Notes will not be accepted after this date.

The recruiting process includes two tests, an Instrument Timbre Preference Test used to discover the sounds each student prefers and a practical test involving actual playing of the instruments. Each student’s academic results and behaviour record is also used in assessing the students’ suitability to the program. I must also take into consideration the overall balance of the ensemble and therefore have set numbers of each instrument within the band.

These tests and recommendations will run next term from week 1 to week 3.

Students will find out actual days and times of testing closer to the time through contact with me at school.

Successful applicants will receive their Letter of Confirmation at the end of Week 3.

The Letter of Confirmation will indicate the recommended instrument for your child and whether they will receive a school instrument or be required to obtain their own. Selecting students to hire the school instruments will be based heavily on the recommendation from their classroom teacher regarding work habits and discipline as well as their potential on the instrument.

An information afternoon will be held on Monday October 26 at 3.15pm in the Music Room.

For more help in understanding the ‘Band’ please watch this very informative presentation called ‘Be Part of The Band’ via the link below.

http://vimeo.com/81811262

Wipe Out Waste

The Gold Coast City Council runs a primary school education programme for all grades levels from Prep to Year 6.

The Programme is called ‘Wipe Out Waste’ and is a fun way for students to learn about how they can help the environment through waste minimisation.

Lessons are based on waste related themes and practical steps in order to reduce waste and run parallel to Helensvale Environmental Programme.

Dates the Wipe Out Waste activities are from Thursday 10th September to Friday 18th September with each class given a 30 or 45 minute lesson, depending on year level.

The session is conducted within a classroom and is a free service offered to students.

Any queries please contact Kim Ona.
A new payment method is now available to pay for invoices from the school. Some families may now be receiving invoices for excursions etc and have not received them in the past. This is due to the new payment method being offered. BPoint is now the preferred method for payment. An advantage of this is you will receive a receipt through BPoint as soon as payment is made. Please ensure you use the correct CRN and invoice number when making payment. When invoices are received by email you will also receive a permission note the same day with information about the excursion/activity.

Leonie Foster

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**Student Absence Line**
**Email:** absence@helensvaless.eq.edu.au
**Phone:** 55561370

Don’t forget we have a convenient absence line- email & phone, for parents/carers to access 24/7. Parents can leave a message in relation to student absence for the class teacher by this email or phone line. Please phone or email with the following information:

- Child/Children's Name
- Child/children's class
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence
Parenting ideas

Michael Grose’s top 10 parenting tips for school meetings

Conflicts and meetings between parents and professionals offer an opportunity to discuss a child’s progress, share information or resolve social and learning challenges. They may also be the source of conflict and stress as views can differ or it helps to remember that everyone’s goal is to work to the best interests of a child or young person. Here are some tips to help make the meeting or conference more productive and less stressful for everyone involved.

1. **Prepare well**
   Before a meeting or conference, bring any questions you want to ask. Keep the questions clear and to the point. Similarly, it may be useful to be more specific about your child’s strengths and areas of improvement that you’ve seen at home. Writing down ideas in advance ensures your points of view will be expressed and that critical information is covered. Similarly, make sure you take notes during the meeting so that vital information isn’t lost.

2. **Listen first**
   Give the teacher the chance to make an assessment of your child’s progress or behaviour. This may sound obvious but sometimes meetings never get off the ground because an enthusiastic parent takes over.

3. **Ask specific questions**
   Clarify the information you don’t understand, asking for concrete examples. Write down to get a clear picture of any issuesaddocking behaviour or learning. “He doesn’t listen in class. Specifically, when does he seem to have a go?” If your conference is student-led, then take your own notes and rephrase it in your own words. Ask your child what their teacher is doing in the classroom.

4. **Plan the next steps**
   Agree on a plan of action on what has been discussed and the next steps to be taken.

5. **Follow up**
   Keep in touch with your child’s teacher to monitor progress and keep an open line of communication.

6. **Encourage your child**
   Encourage your child to join in and participate in school activities, as well as providing support at home.

7. **Support your child**
   Show your child that you are there for them, and that you support them in any way you can.

8. **Seek other professionals**
   If you feel that your child needs additional support, seek out other professionals such as a speech therapist or a psychologist.

9. **Stay informed**
   Keep informed about your child’s progress and any changes in their behaviour or learning.

10. **Set realistic goals**
    Set realistic goals for your child’s progress and celebrate their successes along the way.


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Michael Grose

more on page 2 >>

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AUSTNEWS ePublisher
10/09/2015

... Michael Grose’s top 10 parenting tips for school meetings ...

1. Remain calm
If the meeting doesn’t go well, stay calm. Meetups involving your own child can be very emotive because you and your child’s teacher are often discussing issues that are outside your direct control. Calmly stating your needs and views is far more effective than general accusations or indirectly taking a stand. Ask for a break if you feel one, ever so suggesting you may not at time if your emotions are running high.

2. Consider there are many ways to be right
Keep in mind that everyone wants the same thing: your child to make progress. Teachers view your child through a different lens than you, and their conclusions and solutions can seem odd to your own views. It may be time to point out to your child’s teacher who has more than likely experienced some challenges before.

3. Ask what you can do
Show your commitment to producing better results by adding to outcomes: that you can help them develop skills. It may be a good opportunity to ask for recommendations for outside resources to help you and your child. Other teachers know about camps, activities, organizations, or events that can encourage education and social growth.

4. Consider how to discuss at home
Give a meeting an even chance how you will talk about your child. Discuss areas that need work if positive, specific terms. “We talked about your writing and your teacher suggested that we need to...” involves your child in discussing plans for improvements. Make sure these plans are digestible rather than leaving them to get in an exhaustive list of suggestions. Small results in progress or improved behavior have been found to have a snowball effect, improving on broader ways of improvement.

Parent teacher meetings and conferences take many forms including the direct involvement of children. Regardless of the form you will always be more effective if you go in with a positive attitude, an unpremeditated demeanor, and a willingness to work collaboratively with your child’s teacher to reach the best outcomes possible for your child.

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Parenting ideas INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships
WENDY Michael Grose

Exploring the New Frontier in Parenting

So what is this new frontier of parenting? Emotions are now recognised as an important part of the parenting landscape. Here are five ideas to help you explore the alien landscape of kids’ emotions.

It’s official
Emotions are now part of the parenting and educational mainstream.

So far, these have been conducted in a similar vein to the main events of our lives: confidence building, character building, and building resilience.

Not now.

This is a real revolution inside the brain, as with all emotions it’s a feedback process of what we want our kids to have, and it’s now in parenting and teaching.

The traditional way of being happy and giving in the emotional and emotional interaction with others will help the child build, cooperation, connection, and resilience.

Emotions are messy. They can’t be fixed. They can be invited. They can be explored.

What do you mean you said? What will I watch on TV? What will I do with my money?

Emotions are hard to control and difficult to see. Life varying emotions in a child, you know that they are strong thoughts build it’s hard to get rid of just what that is doing.

It’s a wonder parents haven’t been encouraged to invest in their emotional health and their kids’ emotional health. We know that the less stress we give our children the more resilient they will be in the long run.

When you feel your child’s emotions, you will also feel their joys, their sadness, their fears, their successes, their failures, and their sense of self.

When you let your emotions in, you are choosing to feel the way you feel.

What do you like about your child? What do you love about your child? What do you dislike about your child? What do you wish you could change about your child?

We are all different, and we all have our own unique set of emotions. This is normal, and it’s okay to feel this way.


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... Exploring the New Frontier in Parenting ...

Avoid trying to force the situation just shows misunderstanding and frustration. There is no better teaching than being understood.

1. Encourage them to manage (set your kids do the managing). Children’s behavior can become trapped in positive or negative patterns. It is hard to recognize their behaviors when they are young. Sometimes, a baby, a toddler, or a child, you have to take them in your hands and give them the space to move and explore their own needs. We don’t have to do it for them.

2. Know that emotions can be pleasant and unpleasant. When you allow children’s emotions to come out without judging whether they are good or bad, then you develop their emotional intelligence. If you do that, they will understand their emotional state, whether they are happy, sad, or angry, without judging. Other people’s emotional patterns are not. If you do not let children’s emotions out, they might become uncontrollable.

3. Build a vocabulary around emotions. Just as feelings have names, there are words for the emotional intelligence of parenting. For instance, how do you feel? Ask children to explain what they are feeling. Help your young children to identify these emotions. Let them talk to other children so they can understand what other children feel.

Listen first. When your child is slow to talk, ask questions: Where is your heart? How does it feel?
How to raise a child to be a giver

Michael Grose highlights why it is so important to teach your child to be a giver not a taker, and gives five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids.

Young children are egocentric by nature. As any three-year-old knows only too well, the world revolves around them. "I want..." "Give me..." "It's mine" and other variations on the same theme for this age group. This self-centered stage is developmentally, which means it's something they grow out of as they're suppose to, but somehow never brings the gap that with self-control to permanency. They become sullen with an inflamed sense of entitlement rather than giving who do, who can do to be considered the need of others... While it's true that some children may have self-control by temperament, it's not viewed that we are to thrive. Nature prevails.

There is a doubt that parenting projects innocently as it's a flight of generosity is seen as a sign of mature. Children who are able to share the freely and themselves freely from more friends and experience a greater success than those who are self-centered and inner-directed. It's clear that they are developmentally aware. I like most facets of child rearing, developing a sense of community and fairness can be a frustrating task that perseverance, modeling and separations are parents' greatest allies when it comes to things that really matter.

Here are five practical ways to develop a sense of generosity in kids:

1. Shop-free kids

With family shopping, kids get fewer opportunities to help more than they do. With this in mind, introduce your kids to helping without being asked. Regular chores and activities that benefit others, such as setting the table or helping a younger sibling get dressed, are the first step. Once the connection is established, do it every week.

2. Don't let them get away with misbehavior

Children won't do what's expected of them if they're not rewarded. Regular chores and activities that benefit others, such as setting the table or helping a younger sibling get dressed, are the first step. Once the connection is established, do it every week.

3. Think giving

It's a part of modern life that parenting is an individual endeavor. "What's in the best interest of my child?" has replaced "What's in the best interest of the family?" as a key parenting principle. Encourage children to make allowances for the other who may mean everyone, whether it's a sibling's special concern rather than some
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... How to raise a child to be a giver ...

1. Develop a sense of other
   Children and teenagers don’t live in a bubble. The socialisation process demands that kids be accountable for their own behaviour. What does this socialisation reasonably require of any child at this age—age and stage of development? It is a great question to ask yourself if you wish to develop a sense of other, rather than entitlement in kids.

2. Encourage giving
   During the độc tinh bách of a few years ago, I heard the story of a nine-year-old whose parents had given him a six-weeks salary at the school. The school had stopped the kid at the front of his class. There were plenty of stories like this. When the kids of the world start to get up to ten years old, we just have to understand that they are in everyday life, rather than the school. A tragedy is to give, give generously a lot of them.
   You can help by encouraging them to give toys, books and clothes away when they have finished with them, or things good food by a neighbor or friend. The skills that kids need for future success are changing: technology, more flexibility and mobility, and new economic forces are transforming workplaces as an astonishingly rapid pace. But the basic abilities and character traits needed to succeed such as teamwork, initiative and generosity haven’t changed too much over time. Ask any employer and he’ll tell you that day they’d hire a winner even at a lower salary as they are just so valuable to have on a team. Hopefully this year becoming a reality as well.

Michael Grose

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Once upon a time — why reading is important

Reading aloud and sharing stories with your child is a good way to spend time together and help your child's development.

Readings with your child from when they are young gives them positive messages about learning to read.

Tips for reading and storytelling:

- Read to your children everyday, even for a few minutes. Readtime is a good time.
- Take your children to the library for story telling sessions and to choose books to borrow.
- Find picture books that don't have words and make up the story together.
- Be guided by what your child loves books they like, and read their favorites over and over again. Say when they want to stop, skip the bits that they want to skip. Avoid reading stories they don't like.
- Try a range of different books and stories.
- When a story is in a song, sing it and let your children join in.
- Copy expressions in the books, for example, point to the nose on the picture.
- If you have more than one child, read or tell stories that they all like, for example stories about your childhood. Notice time is spent in each child individually.
- Talk to your children about the things you read, such as the newspapers, so that you can see that reading is important to you.
- When your child reads out words on signs or food packets with you, praise them for their reading.

Other benefits

Reading stories with children builds a new, positive relationship, building the groundwork for your child's later social, communication and interpersonal skills.

By looking at books with your child, you can be a great interpreter and a very good role model for using language and books.

Your child will learn by watching you hold a book the right way and seeing how you move through the book by gently turning the pages.
When to read

- Make books part of the daily routine.
- Encourage your child to sit with you and read a story book. This helps to create a bond between you and your child.
- Encourage your child to read on their own. This helps them to develop their reading skills.
- Set aside time for reading. This helps to create a routine and encourages your child to read regularly.

What to read

Young children are naturally curious and enjoy reading. Reading is a fun way for children to learn and explore the world around them. Reading is also important for developing language skills, improving vocabulary, and enhancing comprehension.

Children like stories that are full of adventure and excitement. They enjoy stories about animals, fairy tales, and magical lands.

Books can be a great way to encourage children to read. Children can read books on their own, or you can read to them.

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Books can be a great way to encourage children to read. Children can read books on their own, or you can read to them.

More information

This section provides information about the benefits of reading for children. It also provides tips for parents and caregivers on how to encourage children to read.

- Reading is essential for developing language skills, improving vocabulary, and enhancing comprehension.
- Reading helps children to develop a love of learning and a sense of curiosity.
- Reading is a fun way for children to explore the world around them.
- Reading can help children to develop critical thinking skills.

Additional resources

- Australian Reading Council: http://www.readingcouncil.org.au
- Australian Reading Association: http://www.ara.asn.au
- National Reading Council: http://www.reading.org.uk

Acknowledgment

This publication is a collaborative effort between AustNews ePublisher and Young Discoverers.

References

- Australian Reading Council: http://www.readingcouncil.org.au
- Australian Reading Association: http://www.ara.asn.au
- National Reading Council: http://www.reading.org.uk
September - October 2015

School Holiday Program

1. Tuesday 22nd September - Coomera Sports Park, Beattie Rd
2. Tuesday 29th September - Firth Park, Somerset Drive, Mudgeeraba
3. Friday 2nd October - Tugun Park, Tugun

Children who are clients of a Kalwun Service are invited to attend a School Holiday Program at a location near you.

IMPORTANT: All children attending must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Times:
10am to 1pm

Activities:
Yarning circle, traditional games, touch footy, boomerang throwing, ochre face painting

Participants to bring:
Packed lunch, water bottle, hat, covered shoes.

TRANSPORT IS NOT PROVIDED,
EVERYONE IS TO MEET AT THE VENUE

Registration forms are available from any of the Kalwun Health Service clinics, Miami, Bilgola or Oxenford.

You must register by Monday 14 September. Forms can be handed in to reception at any health service.

For more information contact Paul or Shontelle on 07 5526 1112
DISCOVERY PARK
SCHOOL HOLIDAY
TENNIS CAMP

KEEP THE KIDS ACTIVE & ENTERTAINED THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT DISCOVERY PARK TENNIS CENTRE! NO PREVIOUS TENNIS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. KIDS WILL HAVE A BLAST PARTICIPATING IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FUN ACTIVITIES ON AND OFF THE COURT.
MONDAY 21ST – FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2015
8:30AM – 12PM DAILY
$160 FOR 5 DAYS OR $35 PER DAY.
WHAT TO BRING: TENNIS RACQUET (IF YOU HAVE ONE) HAT, SUNSCREEN, WATER BOTTLE & MORNING TEA.
BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL BY 18TH SEPTEMBER.
PLEASE CONTACT JOHNNY ON 0416011378.
CNR DISCOVERY DRIVE & WOLVI PLACE, HELENSVALE 4212
Dyslexia Empowerment Week 2015
Gold Coast Dyslexia Support Group

Outside the Square

Free Community Screening
"Understanding and Identifying Dyslexia"
Followed by a Q & A Forum

Venue: Robina Community Centre Auditorium
Date: Saturday 24 October from 2pm

Our expert panel includes:
- Renea Bugeja Foley, MSL Specialist Classroom Teacher
- Jodi Clements, President of the Australian Dyslexia Association
- Tanya Forbes, Filmmaker and Founder of Gold Coast Dyslexia Support Group
- Marion McMahon, Executive Officer of Speld Qld
- Robyn Monaghan, Principal Speech Pathologist at READ Speech Pathology
- Ainsley Robertson, Speld Qld Education Advisor for Assistive Technology
- Dr Craig Wright, Principal Educational Psychologist at Understanding Minds

Special thanks to Councillor Jan Grew for supporting our event.
Families on the Gold Coast can now sign up to the free healthy lifestyle program called PEACH™ - Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health. Registrations are open for a new group to commence in term 4, 2015.

The program is fun for kids and helps parents and carers make healthy eating and activity a part of everyday life. It is available to families with a child aged between 5-11 years who is above a healthy weight their age and consists of 10 group sessions that run for 90 minutes each.

Topics covered include nutrition skills, reducing screen time and being more active as a family. While the parent sessions are taking place, children enjoy active play with a trained child physical activity facilitator.

What: PEACH (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health) program
When: Term 4, Tuesdays 4.30-6pm (weekly)
Where: Coomera Springs State School
Cost: FREE

The program is funded by the Queensland government and being delivered state-wide by the Queensland University of Technology.

If you would like more information about the PEACH™ program or to register please contact free call 1800 263 519 or visit www.peachqld.com.au

Kind regards,
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