Dear Parents / Carers,

On the 27th May Southwell Primary School and the community acknowledged Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. We would like to thank all the parents and community members who attended our Sorry Day breakfast which was put on by our marvellous school canteen ladies. Just to add to the general busyness of the day we also conducted our annual Walk to School Day where all our tired walkers were also welcomed by a wonderful nutritious breakfast. These events are integral to Southwell and it is good to see that by the healthy number of parents and community members they too share our sentiment.

On the 25th May we thought that we would like to enrich our senior students experiences by taking them to the ballet. The West Australian Ballet had very generously gifted us 25 tickets to see Beauty and the Beast. The feedback from the staff was that the students were well behaved and they appreciated the story and how much training the dancers needed to put in to become a professional ballet dancer.

Southwell Primary is part of a national project about students with disability and/or learning difficulties. We have been asked to provide data about the number and learning needs of children at our school. The name of the school and the name of the students will not be reported. Information about the different types of needs and the programs and resources the school uses to overcome barriers and support children with special educational needs will be collected. We believe it is important to contribute to this because it will help Governments and the Department of Education develop better policies that acknowledge the level of resources needed in schools to meet the needs of all students in Western Australia.

If you would like to learn more about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data for School Students with Disability you can visit this website: http://det.wa.edu.au/supportforschools or contact the Western Australian Department of Education NCCD Helpline on 0477 741 598.

Thank You

Brendan Hodge
Thank You

Appreciation and thanks to all families that have returned the ‘Tell them from me’ survey forms. We hope your child/children enjoy their $5 canteen voucher. The 24th of June is the last day for you to return the survey and earn your child a $5 canteen voucher as well.

Celebrations

Here are some photos from our Sorry Day celebrations and Walk to School breakfast.
Have you noticed lots of turtles around our classrooms???

It's because we have been introducing a new social and emotional program called PATHS® (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies).

All classes at Southwell Primary School are implementing this new social program. We hope that by implementing a whole school approach, staff and students will begin to use consistent language when dealing with their thinking, emotions and problems solving. In order to answer some of the questions you might have about PATHS, here is a brief description of the program:

PATHS was written to help primary school children develop better thinking skills, more mature and responsible ways of behaving, and improved academic performance. PATHS lessons are being taught in the classroom on a regular basis with each lesson lasting about 20 to 30 minutes. There are five goals of the PATHS curriculum:

1. Increasing children's abilities to think and solve problems for themselves
2. Increasing children's abilities to use their thinking skills to act responsibly and maturely
3. Improving children's understanding of themselves and others
4. Improving children's feelings about themselves (self-esteem)
5. Increasing children's abilities to learn more effectively in the classroom environment

Here are some examples of PATHS activities.
Gardening  
Pre Primary and Kindergarten  

Last week the Pre Primary and Kindergarten classes were very busy gardening. Bunnings very generously donated plants, soil, wire and a wonderful helper named Sam to assist on the day. Many thanks also to the parents that joined us.