Welcome Back Everyone
We hope you all had a very relaxing holiday and are now looking forward to another busy term at the Underbool Primary School full of lots of good “stuff”! It was lovely to see everyone again this morning.

Farewell to the Richardsons
We would like to extend our good wishes to Jessica, Kaylene, Chris and Christopher who will be finishing their time with us at the Underbool Primary School tomorrow. We have enjoyed your support at the school for many years and we hope you enjoy your next venture as much as you have the one in Underbool. Hopefully the wintery blast we have been having lately, has in some way prepared you for the weather in Tassie! Once again all the best. Now we need to find a new bus cleaner!!!! (Thank you so much Kaylene).

Playground Update
We have made our second payment instalment to Imagination Play today and we now have to get ready for the installation which will begin on Monday August 1st. The existing equipment, softfall and large tree have to be removed prior to this date and we have two options.
Option 1—as football is at Underbool on the 30th July the removal has to either be completed prior to the Saturday or Option 2—we have a working bee on Sunday the 31st July Please contact Sonia with your preference so working bees can be organised.

Sidney Myer Grant
Thanks to Sonia’s hard work, we have been successful in being granted $10000.00 from the Sidney Myer Foundation to go towards the cost of our new playground. Thank you Sonia!

School Photos
Photo envelopes have been sent home today with each student for school photos which will be taken on Thursday August 4th. Please choose your option and send the correct amount of money in each envelope. If you choose not to have any photos taken, please mark this in the option “No Photos required” and return the envelope to school. All envelopes
Students Water Bottles
It has come to our attention that there are several students who do not have their own water bottle at school. All students must have their own named water bottle to be used in class. Please note all bottles must be of the “pop top” type and not screw caps so they don’t spill on the tables.

Book Club
Order forms have been sent home today and are due to be returned on Monday of next week—18th July

Mobile Library
We will be visiting the Library tomorrow so please bring your books etc for exchange.

Responsible Pet Ownership
We will be having a visit from Cecilia from the Education Department’s “Responsible Pet Ownership” on Monday of next week. This visit highlights the need for responsibility when buying a new pet and all things that must be considered when caring for any pets.

Homework Contracts
Junior Room—Contract No 14—due Friday 15th July
Middle Room—Contract No 17—due Friday 15th July
Senior Room—Contract No 14—due Monday 18th July

Forms to be returned
Families who have not returned Forms by the due date will be listed here until returned.

Book Club—Monday 18th July
Photo Envelopes—Friday 29th July
Parenting for Independence  - Karen Boyes' latest blog

Whilst on holiday, tragedy struck the young girl next door… her mother died. It was unexpected. She had been unwell and the hospital wanted to do an urgent scan and had scheduled it for the following week. She died before that day. The young girl, I'll call her Claire, is 10 years old and an only child. She is my daughter's holiday play friend. We often holiday in the same spot and the girls have been holiday ‘mates’ for many years. What struck me about this horrible tragedy was the lack of independence Claire has. Living only a few doors from the school gates, her Mum has walked her to and from school every day. Every single day of her 5 years of school. It really got me thinking. I know far too many parents who do everything for their children. I know many children who do not know how to do simple tasks.

Now I’m not suggesting parents plan for an early departure. We however do have a responsibility to ensure we assist our children to develop into independent citizens and are ready to leave home when the time is right. I saw a quote once that said; “When your children don’t need you anymore, you have done a great job.” There will always be times we need or want our parents for support, guidance or companionship and I believe the quote is about independence. About being able to do everyday tasks, at age appropriate stages, on their own.

It starts early with small steps – having children help you with the daily tasks. Tasks might take longer, they may even mess it up and this is all part of the very important learning process.

If your children are older, it is not too late. Chat about the importance of working together as a family, sharing the load, preparing for adulthood. Make it fun. Wear cleaning aprons and scarves if it helps. Put on some fun music. Use a timer and small incentive if needed. My teens still love the ice cream challenge! They have 60 mins to clean their rooms (photographs of what their tidy room looks like are on the inside of their wardrobe doors – including under the bed and the wardrobe floor.) If completed to my satisfaction we go out and buy an ice cream each.

As a parent, you may need to let go of the perfectionist – they will make mistakes. They will not do it to your level of skill – they are still learning. Your child did not get up and walk perfectly the first time either. It took encouraging words, affirmations, praise and a helping hand for them to learn to walk. The same is true of all learning and especially if being able to complete tasks independently is a goal. It requires you, as the parent, to be patient, flexible, nurturing, encouraging and forgiving.

It may require you to slow down, take more time. It is easy in our hurried busy world to think it is quicker and easier to do yourself. If so what do your children learn?

Visit www.spectrumeducation.com for further blogs from Karen or simply google Karen Boyes.
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