Department of Education, Training and Employment

The QSchools app lets you connect with your state school to get up-to-the-minute information including:
- Push notifications and emergency announcements
- Newsletters and documents
- Calendar events and news
- Tuckshop and uniform shop information
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**Principal’s Message**

This week is Be Safe week. Our challenge has been to keep our hands and feet to ourselves during transitions (moving around the school), ‘Keep it small’ (our problems) and use the High Five to solve our problems: ignore it, talk friendly, walk away, talk firmly or report it. Congratulations to Mr Kann’s class for consistently achieving 90% attendance. I’d like to see our Year 1 and 2 students here every day.

**School Audit**

Next week, our school will participate in a Priority School Review. A team of auditors will visit from Wednesday to Friday. They will observe classes and speak with as many members of our school community as possible. If you would like to speak with an auditor, let the office know.

**Using Visuals to Promote Communication**

Next week, Wednesday 10 June, 9.15am to 10.15am, our ECDP will be hosting a parent workshop, Using Visuals to Promote Communication. This workshop is presented by Education Queensland Speech Language Therapy Services. A great workshop on how to use visual aids in communication. Children will be supervised by staff.

**‘Sally and Possum’**

Last week, some of our students were chosen to participate in the filming of scenes for the second online series of ‘Sally and Possum’, a show about kids enjoying activities together using Auslan to communicate. Shilo Nicholson, Marcus Huen, Marilyn Kalati, Kayleigh and Cooper Clein, Kellan and Zoe Honeyball, Zaarah Anderson, Patricia and Chantelle Evans, Billy Makie, Monique James and Leinah Alexander had heaps of fun! What a great opportunity to put their Auslan skills into action. The first series will be released soon.

**Khemistry**

Khemistry is a Brisbane-based film production company.

**Prep Excursion**

Our Prep students had great fun last Thursday, participating in the seventh year of the CityLibraries’ program, ‘Preps at the Library’ at Aitkenvale Library. The feature book of the day was ‘Amelia Ellicott’s Garden’ by Liliana Stafford. The Preps loved acting out the story and dressing up as the characters. Some enjoyed the wheels on the big school bus going round and round too! The morning was a great success, fostering a wonderful memory that aims to promote a love of reading. “I really liked the little chicken puppet popping out of the egg,” Zali Beal declared. “The big bus was fun!” Jehsiah Miskin reported. “I liked meeting the author,” Mary-Jane Fox exclaimed.

**Compliments**

Visitors to our school have complimented us on our calm playgrounds during lunch times and our learning walls in classrooms. Learning walls are walls with posters, vocabulary, flow charts and visuals to help students achieve their learning goals.
You are invited to join us for a parent workshop!

**Using visuals to promote communication**

Grow your understanding about how visual supports can develop communication skills. Learn about types of visual supports that can be used at home and at school for children with a range of abilities. Share your experiences of using visuals with your child or children.

**Where:** Wednesday 9.30-10.15am 10th June 2015

**When:** Wednesday 9.30-10.15am 10th June 2015

**Where:** Vincent LCPD

**Date:** Saturday 13 June 2015  **Time:** 9.00 am – 11.00 am

**Address:** 130 Wellington Street, Aitkenvale

**Contact:** 4779 3434

Come and see our wonderful, natural learning environment and meet our experienced, highly skilled and caring kindergarten teachers and assistants.

A Garage Sale will be operating on the day.

**Fun kids wanted • Where children come first**
Vincent Family Support Program
— Monday to Friday —

Who do we help?
Families with children aged 0 to 12 years who are living in Vincent or children who attend Vincent State School

What do we assist with?
* Family Relationship building
* Parent/child emotional wellbeing
* Family social skills development
* Parent/child routine strategies
* Child development & behaviour
* Parent/child education
* School attendance/achievement

Time: 8:00am to 4:00pm (with some flexibility)
Contact: Good Beginnings Office to speak with a Family Support Worker
Phone: 4725 3353

We Achieved Our Goals Too!

Attendance Award won by Vincent Voucher Winners
Learning to speak is a crucial part of a child’s development and progress made in the preschool and early school years is crucial to mastering the rules of language.

Even though children vary in their development of speech and language, there are certain ‘milestones’ that can be identified as a rough guide to normal development. Typically, these skills must be reached at certain ages before more complex skills can be learned. These milestones help speech pathologists determine whether a child may need extra help to learn to speak or use language.

Preschool Children: 3 to 5 years

Preschool children start to use much longer sentences, yet their speech should still be understood by unfamiliar people (outside of the family) about 75% of the time. By 5 years of age, anyone (including unfamiliar listeners) should be able to understand the child’s speech in conversation 95 – 100% of the time.

What Can Most Children Do?

- By 4 years, children can say most sounds correctly (eg m, n, h, w, p, b, t, d, k, g, ng, f, y, s, z, ch, j, sh, l). They can use many consonant clusters, which are combinations of two or more sounds (eg tw, sp, gl). Children may use clusters at the start (eg blue) or end of words (eg hand). Also children will say most vowel sounds in words correctly (eg ay, oh, ee).

- Between 4 - 5 years, preschool children start to develop skills that will be important for learning to read and write (called “pre-literacy skills”). They become aware that spoken words can rhyme (eg cat – bat), and can be broken into syllables/beats (eg am-bu-lance).

What Do Many Children Still Find Difficult?

- Some sounds are later to develop and children may still have difficulty with them at this age. For instance, preschool children commonly have difficulty with “r” (eg saying “wed” for red), “v” (eg saying “berry” for very), and “th” (eg saying “fank you” for thank you).

- Some children are still developing the ability to use consonant clusters (eg scribble and strawberry), or to say all the sounds correctly in longer words (eg caterpillar and spaghetti). Some children may still produce “s” as “the” (eg a lisp).

What Can Parents Do To Help?

If parents are concerned about their child’s speech development, they are advised to have their child’s hearing checked by an audiologist as hearing is important in learning how to say sounds correctly. Also, parents can visit a speech pathologist if concerned about their child’s speech development. In particular, a visit to the speech pathologist is recommended if children cannot be understood, if they are frustrated with attempts to communicate, if their speech appears very effortful, if they are using very few words, or if they are not using sounds at the start of their words (eg saying ‘ish’ for fish).