**FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2022**

**PUPIL FREE DAY REMINDER**

The ACT Government is supporting all ACT public schools to hold two staff planning days during term 2. These days will provide public school teachers with some extra space to complete student reporting and additional planning for semester 2. These days will correspond with the Local High School to support families in the local area, Our school will hold staff planning days on:

* Wednesday 25th, May 2022, (NEXT WEDNESDAY) and
* Wednesday 22nd, June 2022

Where possible, we ask that students do not attend school on these days. Students who can’t stay at home will be able to attend school and be supervised by minimal relief staff while undertaking general learning activities.

Please confirm via phone on 6142 0177 or email [info@conderps.act.edu.au](mailto:info@conderps.act.edu.au) if your child will be attending school on these days.

If you have any further questions about our staff reporting and planning days, please reach out to our front office and speak with myself.

**PLAY IS THE WAY PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

On Saturday 7May, staff at Charles Conder participated in a day of Professional Learning regarding a new innovative approach to developing Social and Emotional learning in all students. As I have reported through previous principal messages, you may have heard your children talk about the games they play. The "Play Is The Way" games are used to provide active real opportunities for social-emotional learning.  They are actually designed to provide those opportunities/challenges within a group context.  These games are used throughout each week and are integral and highly successful in reinforcing the school's PBL Expectations, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be a Learner and achieving the improved social outcomes.

The Play is the Way (PITW) approach sees SEL as, “behaviour education” and requires these skills to be taught like other subject areas. We cannot expect children to demonstrate these skills if they do not receive the appropriate modelling and education. As stated PITW uses physically interactive games and activities that both require and develop personal and social capabilities as they are being played. They have **five guiding concepts** that serve as a moral compass supporting children to pursue their personal best. When embedded, these concepts prevent children from drowning in life and learning – hence, they are aptly called **Life Raft concepts.**

The Life Raft Concepts are:

1. Treat others as you want them to treat you.
2. Be brave – Participate to Progress.
3. Pursue your personal best no matter who you work with.
4. Have reasons for the things you say and do.
5. It takes great strength to be sensible.

These concepts provide an empowering self-reflective language that helps children to master appropriate skills in preparation for a responsible life in a free and democratic society. **Six key virtues** are what we call our Pathway To Empathy virtues. When understood, practised and habituated, these virtues result in people of strong character and empathy.

The Six Key Virtues are:

1. Good manners
2. Friendliness
3. Courage
4. Persistence/Resilience
5. Tolerance/Acceptance
6. Compassion

It is our belief that personal and social capabilities must be addressed in all learning areas and at every stage of a student’s learning. This is only possible if students and teachers have the language, concepts and understandings that are applicable in all contexts. Play Is The Way sees social and emotional learning as a tide that floats all boats. The aspect of SEL doesn’t take away from our Positive Behaviour for Learning Framework, but provides some meat in the sandwich. The work in classrooms implementing the games and Life Raft concepts is new and we will be building momentum in the coming months ahead.

**FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR**

Hi lovely Charles Conder families,

Just a quick note to let you know that I’m back at school Monday-Friday after taking some time off to care for my little one. I’m excited to be back and see all of our families. For those who don’t know me, I am the family and Community Engagement Coordinator. My role is to support students, families and the community. I can provide assistance with parenting stress, referrals for external support, information and support about a variety of wellbeing issues, help with filling out forms or even just a cup of tea and a chat.

I also run some community events here at the school including playgroup, parenting groups and other opportunities for families to come together and connect.

Please get in touch if you would like to catch up. You can reach me via the following details:

[cate.robson@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:cate.robson@ed.act.edu.au) or 6142 0177 (front office).

I look forward to hearing from you and please say hi if you see me around.

***Cate Robson***

Family and Community Engagement Coordinator





***Jason Walmsley***

Principal