

Communication:

Group 1

- Newsletter – great information, up-coming events etc / student achievement / check website for weekly newsletter if your child does not bring it home
- Website to be more updated / vital for new people into the community / **school's profile**
- Surveys: an annual event for overall performance / as specific needs arise i.e. uniforms
- Phone home from academic point of view – a letter, note, homework book
- Open door – 8.30am morning meeting – to be consistent

Group 2

- What's currently in use
 - Newsletters – school
 - Phoning and making appointments
 - Surveys
 - Start of term newsletter
 - Phoning home if issues arise
 - As website is new we found we haven't accessed it a lot. Maybe a reminder

We think everything is wonderful

Suggestions for perfection:

- Email the link for the newsletter each week
- Teachers use the homework book to give parents messages – stationery / feedback etc.
- A photocopy of child's work occasionally to show any improvements / or something needing work
- Parent interviews could be more specific
- New parent induction – once a term

Group 3

Newsletter Email [Trees]

- Survey
- Newsletter
- Information pack for parents at the beginning of the year
- Chat line / info line idea class pages / website

Ideas

- Meeting forum
 - beginning / half way through the year
 - general questions / discussion
 - up-coming events etc
- Like general survey – as a way of voicing your opinion
- More reports
 - What are the goals?
 - Expectations
 - Achievements for various age groups / year groups
 - Testing / types of testing / info sheet on types of testing used i.e. PAT / STAR / Running Records / Maths Testing

Group 4

- Re Newsletter distribution:
 - Receive it by email rather than hard copy – reduce cost of paper and print
 - Reduce font / reduce paper
 - We love the inclusion of student's work

- Dates for diary is good
- Newsletter
 - We always read them
 - Info related a wee bit late
 - Info is noted to be a bit repetitive makes it a bit blasé to want to read
- Surveys
 - Frequent but shorter / less scary
 - Combine statistical with chance to comment [tick box versus comment] both have a place based on subject
- Website
 - Promote more
- New Entrant parent
 - More detailed info for new entrants – what happens
- Love to see Principal greeting and firewalling parents and students at the bus bay and car park – this is great

Group 5

- Newsletters
 - Email newsletter
 - Special talks events
- Junior school – possible book for feedback to parents to improve child's learning eg Billy needs to learn about the Olympics
- New parent info booklet with basic info i.e. when is lunch / sports groups / music groups/ uniform / golden rules / what s expected of children i.e. writing, alphabet numbers 1-10 etc
- Musical options: extra curricular activities –n what is available and at what age
- Also events – sports clubs
- Would like to see local Franklin sporting events put in newsletter to gauge interest so children get the chance to be involved i.e. orienteering

Group 6

- Behaviour letters to parents from child
- Website to be updated more regularly
- Phoning home works well
- Teachers appear approachable for quick chats
- Newsletters are great
- Short, more concise surveys / per child – a vote – survey per child

Group 7

- Class newsletter could be on website
- Website links to learning programmes
- Survey:
 - Was some overlap on curriculum questions
 - Timing?
 - Rating scale
- Have notice of events as early as possible
- Is it possible to know if your child is getting an award at assembly?
- Utilise homework books to make notations to parents
- Linda is fantastic in the office

HOMEWORK

- Yr 7/8 Students need to be responsible for their own homework and not wait for the parents to do it!
- Homework is needed but have 7 days to achieve it e.g. be given on Monday, back in on Monday.
- Prepare Yr 7/8's for college's homework by providing more work projects etc.
- Homework at parent's discretion.
- Project homework is great, encourages parent/child interaction or non action, and shows parents intellectual ability. Project work needs to be appropriate to level/age.
- Projects/research sparks interest in children – time management can be difficult and depends on other after school activities.
- For the Boys – Just copy Ms Coers & Mrs D's – **The Basics** x6 – timetables, spelling and 20 minutes reading (all marked daily or else!!! – Fear factor). Support homework that reinforces learning – basic facts, spelling, book reading.
- Consistency throughout classrooms for homework, accountability of homework put onto child.
- Over time create or establish homework routines and accountability.
- Homework must be achievable with out parental input.
- Love no homework, let kids be kids.
- Homework enables parents to stay in touch with what their children are learning and how they are doing
- Needs to be year appropriate and relevant
- Depends on home life – is the parent available to support the homework getting done.
- For Juniors – Reading is main focus – Parents to read to children (support this on a daily basis).
- Happy to support any homework as long as it gets marked. Teachers to put comments on homework. x3
- Specific info given about homework
- Target specific homework for children's 'weak' areas.
- Music practice, sports activities, community type activities (helping community organizations. Monday – Thursday different from Friday – Sunday, Practicing 'life skills')
- Flexibility about when it gets done.
- Homework in moderation
- Homework installs good habits
- Reading, reading, reading
- Homework in a fun way that children can relate to – e.g. number games scrabble etc
- Through homework children learn how to source information from different resources, books, internet which is vital for lager school years. Parents also learn with children's homework – some things have changed.
- Comments from teachers indicating what has been covered over the week
- Homework needs to be fun – enjoyable and challenging

- Spelling Rules – need to be taught early – year 1
- Website to support learning and measure what they need to know for each group – guide indicators.

- Homework teaches children about deadlines and responsibility
- Speech and Calf Club time – less homework
- No Projects x 2
- Uncompleted work to come home as homework each day.
- Maybe twice or three times per week and marked.
- Stress on time
- Homework needs to be as consistent as possible, time and age appropriate
- Worksheet for Jnr School 1 for the week
- New parent expectations – expectation handbook
- Worksheets – prepackaged
- Projects outside the square – art work 3D, Fish project, Posters – creative, Descriptive guidelines
- Varied homework tasks i.e. project 1 week, timetables next etc.
- Involves interaction with our children sharing of teachers ideas

Reporting to Parents

- An Understanding of the report – to the board.
- Communication of issues before it is too late to act on them.
- Setting goals for parents as well as children, i.e. Reading levels etc.
- Curriculum information evenings (after school or before school) – when was the last one – so more needed through teachers who specialize in subjects – e.g. Barbara Bellingham (reading) Tony Machin (Numeracy). This would help in particular Junior School, New Entrants so we can help our kids at home. Curriculum evenings are a fabulous idea. (x4)
- An understanding of teacher's strategies.
- Written reports followed by parent/teacher interview 10-20mins. Parent interviews not long enough for parents or teachers. (x4)
- Not enough info given in interviews – strengths, weaknesses, issues – What testing marks, scores.
- Teachers should be given extra time
- Report content – suggestion is a scale of where the child is sitting in class like Australasian exam results.
- Basically we want to HELP teachers by working in partnership. Tell us (the parents) what we can do to help you.
- Parent interview – concise informative, with accurate results – where they are in class i.e. underachieving, average etc.
- Need to have the option to follow up on interview if the 10mins is not long enough – flexibility.
- Parents feed back on child's development.
- Written report – honesty is integral!! Straight to the point – can they read, write etc, what level.
- Positive that parent interview in term 3.
- Underachievers/high achievers – broaden interests – advise to parents – early intervention.

- Curriculum information – come to class and learn.
 - Suggestions – 15 mins for parent interviews, stagger over 3 nights.
 - Information on reporting standards, levels, and 6 yr nets etc.
 - Good to know how Glenbrook School performs nationally (high level BOT report)
 - Parent interviews are too short, don't need to know 'he's a lovely boy' – need to know how he's doing. Need to know the good and bad. x 2
 - Found level & grading can be confusing – need to be able to keep referencing this back to the definitions – suggestions writing comments from teachers are the most useful (on written reports) 4 boxes for tick options.
 - Reports – please add a tick box of weather my child is – reaching potential, making an effort, not making an effort, lazy.
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- Make term 2's report the same as term 4 so progress can be measured from ½ year to full year based on the same information.
 - We like the option of been able to include the children into the interview of not
 - No news is good news – if at the end of the year there is a problem and it has not been addressed that raises concern to parents.
 - Parents need to be encouraged that they are welcome to attend BOT meetings to air their concerns.
 - Teach us parents the new way to do Math's
 - Written report – I feel it is a tick or miss system and needs to be more comment on subjects, attitude etc.
 - A & Q Evening for parents of new students to understand procedures and how it effects the child
 - Be as honest and frank as possible – e.g. “.....is disruptive” rather than “.....is not achieving”
 - Sometimes / usually / consistently ticks are not specific enough.
 - Put results in context as compared to expectations - i.e. for years
 - Test results should be available to parents.
 - Written comments valuable for Numeracy/literacy/work habits.
 - B.O.T student achievement reports – maybe emailed to parents.
 - Parents need to be aware of all testing carried out at school i.e. 6 yr nets
 - 1 report for the whole year filled out each term and returned to school each term signed or 2x a year? Comment on each term so parents have a comparison over the whole year.
 - Reporting to the community newspaper and gazette
 - Specific examples of strengths and weaknesses suggestions for parents on moving forward with their child's learning.
 - Casual notification e.g. Principal stickers, certificates if possible more notification
 - Positives – the things we think are being well done – recognition of external achievements.