

Principal's Column

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As we start another school year, it is great to finally have some summer weather to go along with it. It means we can make use of the Mt Somers Community Pool and get our pupils into the water as many days as we can before the cooler weather sets in. Not only does it help our pupils with the learning of an important life skill, but it gives our teachers a chance to get to know more about the child they are teaching. How you might ask?

Well, the walk to the pool and the conversations held along the way can give a teacher a great insight into what makes each child tick. Teaching is all about finding out about a child's needs, strengths and interests so that the teacher can develop a programme that captures each child's imagination, interest and keeps them engaged as learners.

In thinking about all of this, we then need to keep in mind the new children transitioning into the school at the beginning of a year. Not only do we get new five year olds, we also get children across year levels whose family may have made a shift for work or other reasons to the area. Making them

feel like they have always been here is something the staff and children already at the school work hard to get right. Often we have new staff to the school, and the transition for them can sometimes be harder than for new children. Staff have to get used to the systems, the people they work with, perhaps even a new community to live in. It takes time to adjust and we all have a role in making that as successful as it can be for the people coming in. Remember, the easier it is for them, the better prepared they will be to work with your children and give them the best possible learning environment to be in.



Last Friday, we combined all three of these things for our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. A picnic dinner in the grounds of the Mt Somers Pool was the setting for children to swim, families to meet and for returning and new staff to be introduced. This was an informal evening where important relationships could be established. The relationships built help provide a support network for new families, and familiarisation for families with the school staff who will be caring for their children.

Schools are all about the relationships they build with their community, and are the most important factor in determining each child's success at school. Like any relationship, this one won't always go smoothly and will require nurturing along the way, but it is an important one to foster so that the needs of each child are best served during the term of that relationship.

Have a great school year.