Developing a growth mindset ..... from an article written by Professor Carol Dweck, a psychology professor at Stanford University

People with fixed mindsets believe that their achievements are based on innate abilities. As a result they are reluctant to take on challenges. People with growth mindsets believe they can learn, change and develop needed skills. They are better equipped to handle inevitable setbacks and know that hard work can help them accomplish their goals.

What does this mean for parents and educators?
We should think twice about praising our kids for being “smart” or “talented” since this may foster a fixed mindset. Instead we should encourage their efforts, acknowledging their persistence and hard work and in doing so, will support the development of a growth mindset – better equipping them to learn, persist and pick themselves up when things don’t go their way.

What are some steps a parent or teacher can take to help a child develop a growth mindset?
We can show children that we value learning and improvement, not just quick, perfect performance. When children do something quickly and perfectly or get an easy A at school, we should not tell them how great they are. Otherwise the children will equate being smart with quick and easy success and they will become afraid of challenges. We should, whenever possible, show pleasure over our children’s learning and improvement.

We should not shield our children from challenges, mistakes and struggles. We should teach our children to love challenges.

We must also stop praising our children’s intelligence. Dweck’s research has shown that far from boosting children’s self esteem it makes them more fragile and can undermine their motivation and learning. Praising their intelligence puts them in a fixed mindset, makes them afraid of making mistakes and makes them lose confidence when something is too hard for them. Instead, we should praise the process – their efforts, strategy, perseverance or improvement. Then children will be willing to take on challenges and will know how to stick with things – even the difficult ones.
As a staff we have discussed Dweck’s article and the implications it has for our work with the children in our classes. The points raised by Dweck fit very closely with the work we have undertaken with, and will continue to use in, Assessment for Learning (AfL) as well as in the delivery of Ann Baker’s Natural Maths Strategies.

From behind the principal’s desk ..........

Student Leaders

Congratulations to the following children on being selected by their peers to represent their class at Student Leaders’ meetings.

Year 5-6-7: Casey Wallace and Jake Howkins
Year 3-4: Jena Cearns and Jake Baker
Year 1-2: Amelie Bishop and Jett McLeod

Some of our Student Leaders, Casey, Jena, Jake and Amelie with our 2013 School Leaders, Thomas and Courtnie.

The leaders had their first meeting with Kerry and myself last week and discussed the sorts of things that leaders need to do. The ideas thrown around the table were fantastic and point towards this group being extremely successful in their role.

Woolworths Earn and Learn program

Our Earn and Learn goods arrived last week. We received some Jolly Phonics dictionaries and magnetic letters to help with the Junior Primary literacy, games to assist with the Special Ed program, million place value boards for the two upper classes, and a whole school solid shapes kit to support our numeracy programs.

Thank you parents and community members who saved their Woolies tokens and donated them to the school. We are very pleased with the goods received.

Flag Monitors

Isn’t it wonderful to see the Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders flags flying proudly in front of the school each day?

Well done Lucas and Curtis for taking on the responsibility of putting the flags up each morning and bringing them in each afternoon.

Volunteers

Thank you to the 15 people who attended and the 10 who gave an apology for the Volunteer’s Information morning on Thursday 31/1. If you were unable to make the Information morning and plan to help out at school by volunteering in any capacity please make an appointment to meet with me so that I can talk with you about the requirements of the role.

We greatly value the work and efforts of our volunteers and want to make their time helping at school rewarding and enjoyable.

Email: Graeme.milne59@schools.sa.edu.au
www.maccyps.sa.edu.au

Mobile: 0401 120 388
Macclesfield Horse Show and Family Picnic Day

At the end of last year Kerry worked with each of the classes to make scare crows for a display at the Macclesfield Horse Show and Family Picnic day. These have now made their way back to school and will be placed out in the garden. Hopefully they will deter those pesky parrots from eating the fruit that is beginning to ripen.

Virtues Program

In each newsletter and on the blackboard at the front of the school I list the fortnight’s Virtue......but what are they?

The virtues come from the Virtues Program. The virtue for the fortnight is discussed at Monday’s assembly where the children are asked to relate it back to one of the school’s Values and what they need to be doing to demonstrate the virtue. The staff look for children carrying out the virtue while at play or in the classroom and nominate these children for a yard Star.

The next Virtue is Excellence.

It is described in the program as:

Excellence is doing your best, giving careful attention to every task and every relationship. Excellence is effort guided by a noble purpose. It is a desire for perfection. The perfection of a seed comes in the fruit. When you practice excellence you bring your fruits to fruition. Excellence is the key to success.

You are practising excellence when you:

- Give your best to whatever you do
- Give your best to relationships
- Set noble and realistic goals
- Remember to plan and practice
- Don’t try to do everything
- Develop your special gifts

Governing Council AGM

At Wednesday’s AGM the following people were elected onto the Governing Council:

Julian Holdstock, Sherise Bentley, Christyna Williams (Treasurer), Chad Brunner (Secretary), Tracey Wallace, Wally Bolt, Geraldine Jones (Community Rep), Mandy Bottroff, Sylvia Clarke, Amy Wouters, Rod McDougal (Community Rep), Christine Cain and Kelly Snel.

There are still vacant positions on the Governing Council. If you would like to join and assist with the governance of the school please let me or any of the councillors listed above know. The more helpers we have the better off our school will be.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the school community, to thank Peter Bridge for his wonderful leadership, compassion and dedication to Macclesfield Primary. After two and half years as the Governing Council chairperson Peter made the decision to resign at the AGM. Peter guided the council through some exciting and at times challenging issues but always with a sense of justice and with his eyes firmly focussed on the big picture. I wish you and your family all the very best for the future Peter. Feel proud of what you have achieved and know that you leave Maccy PS a better place.