From the Chair...

Saying sorry can seem so difficult beforehand but so sweet afterwards. To apologise for a mistake or an offence is so suitable and helpful. It has benefits for the person who caused offence by releasing them from the guilt and anxiety, and for the other party, it brings healing to wounds and grievances. Without an apology, the situation fester and does not receive proper closure. The air remains thick, there is no release, barriers start to appear and bitterness and grudges take over. Time will not wash the hurt away. Although the damage may not be obvious, the relationship will suffer and be altered in some way.

Whilst in Europe at the teachers conference, some children were playing quite loudly outside the room where an elderly gentleman was having an afternoon sleep. He told his wife to ask the children to play somewhere else for a while until he finished resting. The children ran off and played somewhere else – no problem. Later on, one of those children came back to say sorry for the noise and for interrupting his midday nap.

This is the spirit of the revival. The child cared to put it right and make sure the situation was completely settled.
There are many ways to react when I make a mistake or give offence. The choice is mine. Do I choose to justify myself? Those children could have justified themselves with the doctrine of *ignorance* – ‘we didn’t know someone was trying to sleep, why should we say sorry?’ Or with the doctrine of *insignificance* – ‘such a small matter, hardly worth worrying about.’ Or with the doctrine of *incidence* – ‘it happens all the time or it could happen anytime.’ Or with the doctrine of *indifference* and *insensitivity* – ‘I don’t care about the other persons feelings.’ Or the doctrine of *inconvenience* – ‘it’s too hard, too much of a bother.’ Or the doctrine of *increase* – ‘there are so many offences already, another one won’t make a difference.’ Or the doctrine of *indefinity* – ‘I’m not sure what happened, I really don’t know what to say.’ Or the doctrine of *indirectness* – ‘I’ll just make up in some other way, buy some flowers or chocolates, anything other than saying sorry.’ Or the doctrine of *inexistence* – ‘it didn’t really happen, therefore it will just go away.’ The list goes on…

Although it feels like I am losing face, a humble apology can make a relationship stronger and sweeter.

Remember, you won’t lose any jewels from your crown if you apologise, even if it is to someone much younger than yourself… a child or an employee.

“When you’ve done something wrong, admit it and be sorry. No one in history has ever choked to death from swallowing his pride.”

Of course, an apology is more effective if there is forgiveness as well.

Think I’ve gone on too long again…

So Sorry!

Martin Jaeger

**Volunteers...**

We have finally been approved as a VOAN holder (Volunteer Organisation Authorisation Number). This means that your volunteer requirements can now be processed including your National Police Clearance (NPC), free of charge. Please see Mrs George if you require forms and instructions on how to start the process.
Cows Create Careers [CCC]

It was a somewhat sad moment as the students said goodbye to the calves as they were loaded onto the trailer on Friday. It was an excellent experience for the students to learn about the dairy industry and about responsibility.

A big thank you to the Kowalds for the loan of Dotty and Spotty and for help and advice throughout their time at DSC!

The students were divided into three groups for CCC activities. Two of the CCC requirements were to provide a 3 minute video for each group and a crazy photo. Most of the filming was done at the Kowald farm and with the help of Mrs Ziegelmann and Miss Wojnar. Some excellent Mootube videos were produced. Thank you to our helpers!

Somehow the Weekender paper got to hear of our involvement in the CCC program and asked to do a story. When they asked for photos the only ‘decent’ images we had were the crazy group photos for CCC. The journalist was very pleased with the images supplied...
Performance notes...

Annelle and Nicki played violin for us in assembly on Friday. Thank you for presenting the music which you have been working on. It's always a joy to listen to all that hard work!

CCC colouring in competition...

The 1-6 students are involved in a colouring competition as part of the Cows Create Careers program. Their work is being displayed in the assembly hall. Parents and staff are invited to view their work and to vote for a winner.

Student Work Samples...

Some excellent work has been produce as part of the 4-6 history program. Our focus last week was migration during the gold rush. The following two in particular stand out.

Australian Mining

Dear Journal

It all started on a foggy morning in 1851 on the 5th of May. I was just boarding the Botamayer, the boat that was taking me to Australia. I live in Europe so it is a very long journey. I just happened to skim across the morning paper and I found that one of the Chinese had found a 7cm nugget of gold. “Toot toot”, everybody boarded the boat and we hit the sea.

A few days later and we were there. I travelled from Adelaide to Ballarat. There I brought my permit, tools, food, water and other things I needed for mining.

It has been hard work since I came to Australia. I’ve found it hard to blend in sometimes. People make fun of my accent. There were lots of rules that I have to obey because if there weren’t any, it will be very higgledy piggledy.

Today the 18th May, I started digging. When you go shaft mining, you hop into a big hole and start digging. I heard so much commotion going on outside my tent and looked to see a Chinese man was selling a 30cm nugget of gold for nine thousand pounds.

Week two I was fitting in alright. The population was growing so much from 6 million to 6.5 million people. Towns turned into suburbs, suburbs turned into cities. I have been digging for over 14 days now but I have to stick to it to provide money for my family.

I finally found it, a glistening golden stone. In a few days I was back in Europe celebrating with my family.

Brandon George

Year 4
September 21st 1840
Dear Journal,
The year is 1840 and my family and I have just arrived in the north coast of Queensland. We have come from the United Kingdom because of the gold rush. I wonder what life will be like here. One thing I already know, is that we were not the only people here looking for gold. There are Chinese, North American, European and of course British. I’ll write more later on. Oh, one more thing, we came here as part of the free migration. Bye!

September 22nd 1840
Dear Journal
You won’t believe what I saw! I saw a group of chocolate coloured people huddled around a small campfire today. Their skin was so very dark. I was shocked! Daddy didn’t look at all bewildered. Well, I guess he probably read about them in a book from the London Library. He’s such a book worm.

September 24th 1840
Dear Journal,
I never see Daddy reading anymore. He’s always working down at the Alluvial. Oh, I forgot to say that we had a choice of Alluvial or shaft mine. My dad chose an Alluvial because shaft mines take forever to dig. I’m slowly getting used to the climate here. Dad got used to it straight away (he’s just like that). Mum’s still not used to it. I don’t know about Jenny though.

Jael Skoczek
Year 6

Bonfire Notice...

On Friday 3rd June we will be having a bonfire on the school oval. There will be sausages available to toast for lunch.
Students are expected to come in full winter uniform. However, a change of old clothes can be brought for the event. The bonfire will be held from lunchtime onwards and parents are welcome to join in.
Closing assembly will probably be held outdoors.

Thank you
Jennifer George
Receptionist