“Stop teaching our kids to kill”: As educators, it is important for teachers to keep up to date with current research in areas relating to children. Staff often attend professional learning sessions and workshops and then share information gained with other staff. Sometimes it is a reading which will be found to be most useful in understanding our children and their ways of learning. Unfortunately one of the latest books published is “Stop teaching our kids to kill”. I say ‘unfortunate’ as it appears to be such a sad reflection on our society that someone could see the need to write a book with this title.

However, in our schools we are seeing the results of children’s engagement with violent video games. Not only are children spending many, many hours absorbed in these games, (often alone), but they are actively involved with what is happening on the virtual screen. Once upon a time, criticism was thrown at the makers of violent TV shows. NOW our children are actually ‘stepping into’ these games. They are taking up arms (such as knives, guns, swords and bombs) and killing, maiming and terrorising people. Racist and bullying comments with explicit and sickening language are repeated over and over again. Recently, I overheard a 7 year old at the shops say that he wished video games were real so that he could kill people properly.

An even bigger question is “How do we undo the damage already created’. Children are like sponges and absorb everything around them, making choices and decisions on this. One book offers “incontrovertible evidence, much of it based on recent major scientific studies and empirical research, that movies, TV, and video games are not just conditioning children to be violent-and unaware of the consequences of that violence-but are teaching the very mechanics of killing”.

So think – how many violent images does your child see in a week? What are the ratings of the games and shows in which your child becomes absorbed? Do you discuss, with your children, the inappropriateness of violence and aggression to solve a problem? Do you discuss the savagery of some extremist groups with your child after the news? Let our children enjoy the pleasures of being children. With more peace in this world they will have plenty of time to grow up.

Kerry Wellham
Principal
**CALENDAR**

4th September Father’s Day Stall  
8th September Regional Athletics  
11th September Young Black and Ready for School  
15th September Archibrooke concludes GulangFest Art commences  
16th September – P&C in staffroom @ 9:15am  
16th September Stage 2 Excursion  
17th September Stage 1 Excursion  
19th September Stage 3 Cake Stall

Want me to know something? Email me at kerry.wellham@det.nsw.edu.au

School phone numbers: Please note that the school has 2 phone numbers. Ensure you have BOTH of these in your contacts list: 43331022 & 43331081.

**The 2014 Archibrooke Exhibition:** Our fabulous annual Archibrooke exhibition is on display during Weeks 8 and 9 at Charter Hall Square (Bay Village) shopping centre. This year’s theme was “Food, Glorious Food” with one winner in each grade selected from more than 100 entries. The Year 1 category was exceptional and the judges had tough decisions to make given the high standard of artworks. Congratulations to our talented winners-Riley W, Kalvin G, Ari M, Riley A, Breanna P, Damini M and Cassidy A- and thank you to all artists who submitted such creative entries this year. Well done!

**Chaplain Awareness Month:** This is School Chaplain Awareness month and we want to thank our Chaplain for all the great work they do for our school community. A lot of our Chaplain’s work goes on behind the scenes as they support the wellbeing of our students, staff and families through programs, mentoring and care. To find out more information and how to support our school Chaplain visit www.mychaplain.org.au

**Stage 3 Fundraising:** Stage 3 will be having a cupcake stall on the last day of term – Friday 19th September. They are raising money for the Year 6 Farewell.
The most important message I will remember from Life Education is....

- Not to smoke or take drugs. Don’t go into a medicine cabinet without asking. Jade H.
- Don’t give up and don’t sook. Jai P.
- Don’t be a bully. If you feel bad, don’t let it get to you. Deegan A

The part I enjoyed the most was....

- When Healthy Harold came out with undies on his head. Shannon C.
- When I won the spelling test. Riley A.
- When Harold was using a light saber. Akira G.
Kindergarten News

- Wow- what a busy week we have had in Kindergarten! On **Wednesday 27th August**, we welcomed our new Kindergarten 2015 pre-schoolers to our **Teddy Bears’ Picnic**. Despite the rainy weather, our wonderful Brooke Ave Kindergarten children played games with the preschool children and were delighted to show them some of the fun activities they do in their classrooms. We even brought our **Buddy Bears** out to join in the celebration of friendship too!

- Then on **Friday 29th August**, we went to Golden Ridge Park at Dural. It was so exciting travelling on a bus all the way to Sydney and then experiencing so much at the farm! We held chicks, ducklings, rabbits and even bottle fed some very hungry baby goats! Children fed bread to the sheep and goats and even milked a cow! The Kindergarten teachers were very impressed by the outstanding behaviour and positive attitude demonstrated by everyone.

- **Fantastic effort Kindergarten.** Look out for our photos on our classroom windows soon.