PRINCIPAL’S DESK:

Schools Overseas
It is always good to return to Templeton after a break but, while I am away I seem to be drawn to schools in an attempt to learn what different systems are doing and maybe learn something useful that I can incorporate at our school. During my holiday this year I visited schools in France, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands and although they are different in respect to autonomy, methodology and curriculum focus they did have one overriding similarity. The lack of male teachers in their primary schools.

Education world wide is a female dominated industry and in Australia the ratio is 1:6. In the schools I visited this ratio is even less. The reason is glaringly obvious and the stigma attached is difficult for many men to overcome with an increasing number seeking the easy option of a career change. Male teachers are important in a primary setting because they provide a balance, an alternative viewpoint, the modelling of male values and providing young children who do not have regular contact with a man, the opportunity to benefit from this relationship.

Mrs Bavage gave me an article to read on this subject written by Roy Meredith and I include for your interest.

Our children need both male and female influences. Yet in primary schools, male teachers have become an endangered species. Here’s why we need them back.

Do you remember the teacher who had the biggest impact on you at school? Almost everyone has one. In fact, I’m sure their name has jumped straight into your mind.
Let me tell you about Mr Howden, my Year 4 teacher, and my first and only male teacher before high school. He made us feel that the average day at school in the life of a nine-year-old child could be some sort of wild and important adventure. He was out of the box, larger than life. He took appropriate risks. He told outrageous stories that kept us spellbound.

I remember the day we found bees in the schoolyard. He gathered the class close to the “danger zone” and nonchalantly balanced a bee on his outstretched hand. “Palms up”, he whispered. “That’s the only way.” He explained to the saucer-eyed children that bees only sting when they are threatened. “Don’t let them get tangled in the hairs on your arms.”

As I look back now, I realise that it was this man who fostered and inspired many of the things I love today. He gave me a love of reading stories, art, music and nature. He gave me a reason to learn to read and write.

Hopefully, we all have a teacher who inspired us in our school life. The gender is irrelevant. However, children need a balance of styles and perspectives as they grow and develop in their thinking. They need both female and male influences across their school career.

Today, male primary teachers are an endangered species

Statistics show that less than one in five primary teachers are men (http://www.kidspot.com.au/school/primary/real-life/the-reason-male-teachers-are-fleeing-the-classroom). In some Australian states it is one in six. Men in early childhood education are even rarer.

As a male teacher who taught upper primary school for 20 years, I believe every child needs to have a male teacher at least once before high school. Two or three times would be even better.

There are many compelling reasons why all children, boys and girls would benefit from a male teacher.

Let me give you my top five:

1. **Boys need male teachers to imitate**

   They will see men as role models, active learners and advocates. There are many ways to express male gender (http://www.kidspot.com.au/school/secondary/peer-pressure/teaching-boys-resilience) and so boys need many experiences of this up close through their formative years. Mr Howden expressed a very larger than life “maleness”. Other male teachers showed me sensitivity, courage, humour, persistence, creativity and wit. It’s essential for boys to see many ways to be a man. This becomes even more critical with so many children coming out of solo parent homes where time with their dad is limited.

2. **Girls need male teachers to enrich and flavour learning**

   Girls need (http://www.kidspot.com.au/parenting/parenthood/parenting-style/teaching-girls-resilience) to know safe men and learn to trust them. A year in a male teacher’s classroom usually builds a great reservoir of trust. Girls will be better equipped for society as they learn to appreciate the strengths of men. In a classroom environment they can see how male teachers discipline and arrange their classrooms differently to female teachers, and very effectively too. Men will choose different types of stories to read and highlight different areas of the curriculum according to their natural strengths.

3. **“Maleness” needs to be celebrated in the community**

   All children need a community of men around them. Fathers, uncles, grandfathers, coaches and club leaders. Male teachers add enormously to this group. When men are safe, sensitive and strong, everyone in the community benefits. The very best of what men bring to society needs to be continually celebrated and aspired to by boys,
because in the long term this will benefit everyone. This is the same in a school community. A school community completely orientated and shaped by women can become a mono-culture, just as a community only shaped by men can, too.

4. Men are fun and engaging

The fact that male teachers are uncommon makes them a novelty. Novelty and curiosity are the key drivers of learning. Your child will grow in a variety of ways because of the different approach men have. I am not advocating that all male teachers take their classes to play with dangerous insect nests around the school like Mr Howden. This was a different era. However, I have witnessed that male teachers choose different types of fun and engaging activities than female teachers. This adds variety and enriches school life. The worst thing a school can be is boring!

5. Male teachers encourage fathers to participate

Many studies show that when fathers take an interest in the education of their children there are many positive results, especially in the achievements of their kids. However, a school can be a scary place for men. It can be hard to find other men around a school. Men have reported that primary schools do not seem very welcoming of men. It is a vicious cycle. The fewer men around a school, the less welcoming and engaging it is for fathers. How does a school create a father-friendly environment? It is a simple equation of having more men around. This starts with a solid representation of male staff.

Men who enter a primary teaching career have many hurdles to overcome. It is not easy to be swimming against the tide. Walking into a staffroom full of experienced female teachers as the only young male teacher is daunting. Those men that choose to persist will likely be committed and distinctive, passionate and highly motivated to succeed. They may even sense they are “called” to this important task. They need encouragement. They need to be supported and honoured. We need to celebrate when one of our kids has the privilege of learning alongside them for a year. These men are gold!

In my 49 year career in education I have worked in a total of nine schools. In two of them I have been the only male and I have witnessed first hand the impact this has on some children. Hence, my desire to have a balance of male and female teachers in any school in which I am Principal and to ensure all children have the opportunity to experience a male teacher at least once during their primary school years.

Have a good long weekend everyone. I hope to get to the football on Sunday to watch the re-birth of the Blues.

Les Boag—Principal
Students of the Week

Karthi S, PS—for always trying your best at school. Your’re a Prep S Superstar!

Azaria J, PW—for listening carefully to all instructions during our Maths lessons this week. You now know how to double a number. Well done, Azaria!

Kye L, PL—for your fantastic effort during Literacy groups this week. Well done, Kye!

Kyle L, PG—for the amazing effort you put into your sounding out, reading and responses during Reading Groups this week. Keep up the great work, Kyle!

Alyssa J, PG—for your excellent work with graphs! You made amazing statements and your “Smarties” graph looked fabulous! Well done, Alyssa.

Alanah S, PL—for your fantastic listening skills and enthusiasm during our CFA incursion. Well done, Alanah!

Kingsley Q, PW—for his enthusiastic participation in our CFA incursion this week. You were listening carefully and trying your best. Well done, Kingsley!

Shlok T, PS—for the extra effort you put into completing all tasks at school. You now show great skill in cutting and colouring in. Well done!

Ethan L, 1B—for the super effort you are making to understand what you are reading. Well done Ethan!

Ethan M, 1Z—for always trying your best in class. Your positive attitude towards learning is to be commended. Keep up the great work Ethan!

Selina S, 1H—for presenting your Show and Tell clearly and confidently this week. We loved finding out how to play your special game!

Lisa O, 1Z—for the great effort you have made with your participation in all classroom activities. It is great to see you being more confident and smiling at all times.

Cooper S, 1B—for the super effort you are making with your handwriting. It is great to see your letters the correct size. Well done Cooper!

Natalie A, 1H—for being a superstar listener! You always sit quietly on the floor making you a great role model for your classmates!

Jai O, 2W—for your wonderful acrostic poem on Autumn. You are a 2W Superstar!

Blair W, 2M—for trying so hard to improve your handwriting and the presentation of your class work. Your homework is also a pleasure to correct. Great job!

Ashkan E, 2N—for great listening this week and working well, especially during our Maths rotations on Subtraction.

Christopher K, 2W—for your wonderful acrostic poem on Autumn. You are a 2W Superstar!

Milus S, 2C—for always being polite and respectful to others. Milus, you are a great role model in our class.

Jessie S, 2W—for your colourful illustrations and superb bookwork. Well done!


Jack T, 2M—for a well written, descriptive poem about a lion. Your handwriting and the presentation of your work is beautiful. Congratulations. A great job!

Jake T, 2C—for getting organised efficiently at the beginning of the day and packing up quickly after activities. Great work, Jake!

Saesha S, 2N—for a great effort on her timeline oral presentation. Well done Saesha!

AngelinaD, 3R—for persisting and working hard in her Maths groups. Well done Angelina. Keep up the great work.

Erica W, 3W—for the great persistence you show towards the completion of all tasks. You are constantly pushing yourself to be “the best you can be”.

Carys S, 3R—for being an outstanding Templeton student who demonstrated positive learning behaviours throughout our whole Melbourne Museum Excursion.

Yiran W, 3P—for always trying your best in class. It is great to see you enjoy your learning. Keep up the great work!

David S, 3F—for your persistence in Grade 3 Sport this week. You were a star player and an asset to your team.

Eric H, 3F—for working cooperatively with your peers during Grade 3 sport this week. Keep it up, Eric!

Chanel D, 3P—for coming to school with a positive attitude and maintaining your happy demeanour in the classroom. Keep up the great work!

Nevan K, 3W—for the sportsmanship you showed during House Sports this week. Keep up the great work!

Selena C, 4L—for a fantastic oral presentation on the explorer, Sir Frances Drake. It was interesting to listen to, engaging to watch and evidently, well prepared! Well done, Selena!
Bianca A, 4D—for being an enthusiastic member of the class and always approaching your work with a “can do” attitude!

Zak P, 4D—for being a graphing Superstar! You put in a great effort working on Data Collection this week. Well done!

Jamie C, 4L—for the hard work you put into all that we do! You are super organised and manage your time in class well. You are a star, Jamie!

Anita R, 4T—for always offering to help around the classroom. Well done!

Leo W, 4S—for always doing his best; listening carefully, organising his work materials and being a great computer monitor.

John C, 4T—for a comical and informative presentation on Henry Hudson.

Lachie E, 4S—for his happy approach to school life, friendliness to classmates and being a reliable monitor.

Devika N, 5K—for consistently being organised and ready to learn. You are always prepared to listen to instructions in a timely manner. Your stories during “share time” are very entertaining and keep the class amused.

SM, 5S, 5K, 5G Campers—for being so well behaved on camp and representing Templeton Primary School in a positive and responsible manner!

Chloe L, 5M—for a cheerful and positive attitude. You always try your best and have a big smile on your face everyday. Keep it up, Chloe!

Yimiao W, 5S—for working really hard on all tasks this week. Your enthusiasm towards your learning is commendable.

Dion S, 5K—for your outstanding effort during our “Walking Around Australia” program. You have travelled over 57.5 kilometres this year. You are a star!

Edward Z, 5G—for the kind and caring way you work with your Grade One buddy. You always set a good example for others to follow. Well done!

James Z, 6E—your enthusiasm at our first Forest Hill musical rehearsal was awesome to see. Thank you and well done!

Tanay D, 6J—for always presenting his Show and Tell with confidence. Keep it up Tanay!

Kaylene T, 6D—for the tremendous amount of enthusiasm you displayed during our Musical Rehearsal on Wednesday. Your singing was loud, clear, expressive and you were very entertaining to watch. Well done, Kaylene!

Thalia R, 6E—for the care and effort you are putting into the presentation of your work in the history of Knox.

Sanjay R, 6D—for the enthusiasm and curiosity you bring to class each day. We love your thirst for knowledge and all of your interesting questions, Sanjay. Keep it up!

Corey W, 6P—for being an organised, responsible and reliable student. You have displayed a mature attitude towards your education throughout Semester One. Well done Corey.

Gemma V-G—6E—for the effort and enthusiasm you have shown during Mathematics this term. Well done.

Hayden S, 6E—for the conscientious manner in which you approach your work in all subject areas.

Taylah B, 6P—for working consistently hard throughout Semester One. You always put in the extra effort to complete well presented work, and your homework is forever spectacular! Well done Taylah!

Kiana M, 6J—for making a huge effort to contribute to our classroom discussions with great information. Well done Kiana.

TEACHER OF THE WEEK!

Miss Potter—from all Year 5—for making sure that our first school camp was fun, exciting and full of great memories. Thank you from all of the teachers and students!

MUSSOP AWARDS

Khushdip K, PW—for your acceptance of all the children in Prep W. You are always happy and friendly to everyone. Well done, Khushdip!

Leila D, 1F—for her willingness to take on board and act upon advice offered to her.

Antara D, 2M—for playing nicely with others and being a special friend to all. You are so kind, caring and accepting of others. Congratulations Antara!

Danni B, 2C—for acceptance and you recognise the difference in people but you treat everyone gently, with care and respect.
A note from Musicorp, our Instrumental Tuition Company

As you may be aware, Musicorp lessons have been taking place on Thursdays at Templeton, where students are learning a variety of instruments, including alto saxophone, clarinet, flute, trumpet, trombone and percussion. This semester has been a lot of fun and, as always, has included a before school band, where students have been working together on some great songs including “Watermelon Man” and “Tequila”. These will be heard at an assembly later this term! A special mention to Tongfei, Monique, Corey and Oliver for their outstanding efforts this term.

Mr Jarryd Gordon.

YEAR 6 MUSICAL

ALI BABA AND THE BONGO BANDITS

This year our Year 6 students will take to the stage with ALI BABA AND THE BONGO BANDITS. The production will be held at the Forest Hill Secondary College Theatre in Mahoneys Road, Forest Hill at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd June (the last week of Term 2).

Tickets can be purchased through Try Booking (www.trybooking.com). Just type in Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits, or Templeton Primary School and the event will appear.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Pamela Wood - Performing Arts Co-ordinator

School Banking

Win a wildlife family holiday to the Sunshine Coast including a full day wildlife adventure to Australia Zoo.

Students who make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 will be automatically entered into the draw.

For further details and full terms and conditions visit www.commbank.com.au/personal/kids/school-banking

Drawing & Painting Classes

with artist Fiona Valentine featured on Colour In Your Life TV Show

Mondays 4:00 – 5:00pm

AGES 7 – 18

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ATTENTION JUNIOR FOOTBALLERS

EASTERN RANGES

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TRAINING CAMP
IS HERE!

Join our School Holiday Training Camp!
July 8  9.30am - 3.00pm

The Eastern Ranges are holding a development and testing holiday program for all junior footballers aged between 12 and 15.

Registrations now open!

PROGRAM INCLUDES

- AFL Draft Combine style testing including AFL agility, 20m sprints, vertical leap and more
- Skill development session with Eastern Ranges coaches
- Individualised detailed fitness testing report
- Certificate of completion

- High performance nutrition advice
- Injury prevention & recovery session with Eastern Ranges High Performance team members
- Talent pathways to the AFL discussed with Eastern Ranges Talent Manager, Len Villani
- Lunch, snacks and drinks provided

DETAILS
DATE       July 8 2016  9.30am-3.00pm
VENUE      Rowville Secondary College
           Eastern Campus
           Humphreys Way, Rowville 3178
AGE        12-15 year olds
COST       $100 per player
REGISTRATIONS CLOSE JULY 4

St Mark Dental Clinic

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children aged 2-17 years.
Eligible with CDBS.

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