Speech and Language Program

Dear Parents and Carers

To help support and improve our students’ speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, in 2014 we implemented a Speech and Language program into Kindergarten and Year 1. After the positive outcomes for the students and teachers last year, it was decided to further develop these skills by implementing the program in Year 2 and Year 3 classes. The class teachers and some support teachers will be working collaboratively with Miss Loren Apokourastos, a qualified Speech Pathologist who works for Educational Speech Pathology and Therapy Services. Miss Loren will be working at our school each Wednesday and Friday, and will be presenting lessons with our teachers in classrooms. As part of their professional learning, our teachers will develop greater knowledge about our students’ receptive and expressive language skills; will learn how to identify difficulties; and how to promote speaking and listening activities to enhance reading and writing in all classroom lessons. This will extend the skills of students of all abilities. Miss Loren will also be presenting sessions for parents, as well as meetings for teachers and support staff.

It is important to note that this is not a therapy program for individual students. It does not replace speech pathology that students might already be having out of school. We believe that we will see improvements in our students as they participate in these lessons, as our teachers will continue to use the strategies introduced by Miss Loren in their lessons – not only on Wednesdays and Thursdays when she is working in our school.

The program will start this week and run for Semester 1. To measure improvement and monitor progress, we will gather some data on randomly selected students at all abilities, both at the beginning of the program, and then again at the end of Term 2. These students will be assessed on:

- Listening skills (comprehension)
- Ability to express ideas (expressive language)
- Awareness of sounds in speaking and reading
- Speech clarity (articulation)

Please notify your child’s teacher if you DO NOT want your child to take part in a screening process, if selected. If you do not notify your teacher, then your permission is assumed.

Please note, we cannot conduct the screening if your child currently attends or has attended speech therapy in the past 12 months. Please let your teacher know if your child attends therapy.

Please feel free to contact the school on 9587 3963 if you have any questions.

Mrs Anne Hewson             Mrs Jenny Cooper
Principal                   Relieving Deputy Principal