EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO BE HEARD

St Lucy’s Week Without Words Work Kit
5-9 September 2016

Week Without Words
Helping children with verbal disabilities to communicate

To find out more go to weekwithoutwords.org.au
OR call the St Lucy’s Development Office on (02) 9487 1277
What is Week Without Words?

Week Without Words (WWW) campaign, is our annual fundraising and awareness campaign to highlight the challenges of those who struggle to verbally communicate. For 95% of our children, conditions like dyspraxia, autism or cognitive difficulties make speaking an everyday challenge.

The aim of our Week Without Words campaign is to raise awareness for those who live with a communication disability in our community and to raise the much needed funds to pay for speech therapy and communication devices that enable our children to have a voice.

Money raised in 2016 will help us give every verbally impaired child at St Lucy’s an effective communication system and will also pay for:

- Speech therapists working with class teachers to identify the communication ‘gaps’ of every child with a verbal disability
- Training in the use of communication devices for students and their families,
- Programs to address behavioural problems that are linked to the frustration of not being able to speak or communicate effectively
- Literacy for Life reading program to help students read the signs and notices they see everyday in the community
- ipads and Proloquo2Go licences.
IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING AT WORK

1. Recruit your work team to get sponsored to stay silent for any timeframe communicationg only through notes and emails

2. Nominate your boss to stay silent for money

3. Nominate your most talkative workmate

4. Hold a silent morning tea (or just stay silent as the host)

5. Hold a silent meeting using powerpoint slides

6. Sell tickets in our Week Without Words raffle

7. Run a session of team bonding silent corporate games
CASE STUDY: Saskia

Sneeze near Saskia Roberts and there is a high chance she will dissolve into a fit of giggles. Her mother Angela says almost anything will make her laugh—dancing, cheeky head moves or just the word ‘boo’ is enough to tickle her funny bone. Saskia also loves to learn and has memorised around 60 Key Word Signs, leaving her parents racing to catch up.

“Saskia’s progress is amazing considering when she was born, doctors said she might never learn to communicate,” Angela says. Saskia was diagnosed with Rubenstein Taybi syndrome, a condition characterised by short stature, moderate to severe intellectual disability, communication difficulties and a happy, fun loving nature.

Angela says Saskia’s life has been a wonderful journey, especially since she was enrolled at St Lucy’s. Her most significant gains have been in the area of communication. “I can’t tell you how it melted my heart when I was putting her to bed and out of the blue she signed ‘I love you’ for the first time,” Angela says.

St Lucy’s new focus on communication as a result of Week Without Words means that Saskia can now verbalise some complete sentences. “Right now we are aiming for her to sit on Santa’s knee this Christmas and ask for a gift using her iPad!”

“I can’t tell you how it melted my heart when I was putting her to bed and out of the blue she signed ‘I love you’ for the first time.”

To participate in Week Without Words or find out more please contact the St Lucy’s School Development Office on 02 9487 1277 or visit www.stlucys.nsw.edu.au
What is a communication disability?
A communication disability occurs when one or more of the areas of communication is impaired. People may have difficulty understanding others, expressing themselves and producing speech or interacting in general. Communication disabilities can be mild, moderate or severe and be present from birth or acquired later in life. 95% of St Lucy’s students have a communication disability. Some reasons for this are:
• the mouth and tongue don’t move easily
• the brain has trouble planning and producing words
• language doesn’t make sense to them
• they don’t know or can’t remember the words they want or the meaning of words
• they are deaf and don’t hear speech
• they do not comprehend the meaning of non-verbal communication e.g. gestures
• they can’t follow social rules like eye contact, taking turns, sharing ideas
• they have difficulty processing information
• they have difficulty attending to what people are saying when there are other things happening in the environment or lots of noise

What communication supports do St Lucy’s students need?
Low tech devices:
• Laminated picture cards attached to a communication book with Velcro
• Topic Boards, which are a series of pictures relating to a particular topic or activity. *(In both cases the child points to or looks at the image of the word they want to say).

High tech devices:
• Electronic apps on iPods or iPads or other electronic devices that “speak” in a recorded voice when the child presses an image or word.
• Many St Lucy’s students also learn Key Word Signs which are a simplified version of Auslan in which only the key words of a sentence are signed.

Why do children with disabilities need to learn to communicate?
Communication is what makes us human - it is almost impossible to live an engaged life without it. Being able to communicate effectively enables students to express their needs, thoughts and ideas and relate to others.
St Lucy’s students will benefit from communication teaching in different ways, depending on the nature of their disability. For some it will mean independence – to be able to use an electronic device to go shopping or to a café on their own and ask for what they need. For others it will mean security – to learn to communicate the words they need to stay safe. For students with more complex needs, communication will mean being able to express a choice between two things – whether they want apple juice or orange juice with their lunch, or what story they want to hear.
Communication training will help all of our students to develop closer relationships with their families and friends. It will also reduce some of their frustration at not being able to communicate what they need and in some cases result in improvements in behaviour.
Different ways you can collect money from your Week Without Words 2016 Fundraising event

Online fundraising via EVERYDAY HERO


If you have any questions or need any guidance you can contact Alex Fisher, St Lucy’s Communications Officer on 8355 3159 or contact Everyday Hero Supporter Help Centre on https://supporter.help-au.everydayhero.com/hc/en-us or calling 1300 798 768. You can also email help@everydayhero.com.au.

Donation Receipt Form

You can collect money with a donation receipt form and forward it to us. Every donation over $2 will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Use a St Lucy’s Collection Box

If you would like to use a collection box you can contact Alex Fisher on 8355 3159 and she can arrange to get you these for the event. Alex would be happy to design a card to promote your event which sits in the collection box.

How to Pay your money in

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

When your Week Without Words event is over, all that is left is for you to send your donations in to us.

You can do this via bank transfer:
St Lucy’s Foundation Trust
Commonwealth Bank
BSB: 062 264
Acc No: 10209271

IMPORTANT: Please note WWW plus (your surname/company/school) when you transfer the money so that we know the donation came from you and your event.

Or by writing a cheque made payable to St Lucy’s School Foundation and sending it to:
Development Office
St Lucy’s School
21 Cleveland Street
Wahroonga NSW 2076

Please include an email address so we can send you a receipt. Thank you for your generosity!
# Week Without Words Donation Receipt Request

Please only complete if you require a tax deductible receipt for your donation.

To help keep our administration costs down, please provide an email address. This way, more money will go towards our cause.

**Contact Name:**

**Company:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Tel:**

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## DETAILS OF DONORS WHO REQUIRE RECEIPTS

To help keep our administration costs down, please provide an email address. This way, more money will go towards our cause.

**Title:** ______

**First name:** __________________

**Surname:** ____________________________________

**Email:** ______________________________________

**Tel:** __________________________

**Address:** ____________________________________________________________

**Postcode:** ____________

**I do not wish to receive further information of other events from St Lucy’s School by email**: 

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# Week Without Words


21 Cleveland Street, Wahroonga NSW 2076 | Tel 02 9487 1277 | Fax 02 9989 8056 | ABN 60 085 372 863
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