Newsletter No 20

03/12/2015

Key to Success this fortnight: Resilience

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 December-Ribbit Rewards</td>
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<td>- Hall-Junior and Senior</td>
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<td>9 December-Whole</td>
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<td>School Final Assembly-9.00 am</td>
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<td>9 December-Senior Farewell Assembly-5.30 pm</td>
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<td>9 December-Yr 6 only—Student Folios and Report Cards issued</td>
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<td>10 December-Prep to Yr 5 Student Folios and Report Cards issued</td>
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<td>10 December—Break Up Day</td>
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<td>10 &amp; 11 December—Tuckshop closed</td>
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<td>11 December—Last day of school-Clean up day</td>
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<td>25 January 2016—Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>26 January —Australia Day</td>
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<td>27 January —Fist Day of school</td>
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<th>Final Newsletter for 2015</th>
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<td>With just over a week of school remaining this is our final newsletter for the 2015 school year.</td>
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<td>Every year seems to fly by faster than the last and this year has been no exception. It has been a year full of wonderful accomplishments, hard work and very pleasing outcomes across the school in so many areas.</td>
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<td>I would like to sincerely thank all of our parents and families for your support over the last 12 months. When schools and communities work together in partnership we can achieve wonderful things.</td>
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<td>For our families who are leaving us I wish you every happiness in the future and hope that you take some fond memories away of the friends you have made and the time you have spent at Sandy Strait.</td>
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Celebrating Academic Success at our Academic Awards

This week we have celebrated the academic achievement of our students through our Academic Award Ceremonies.

On Wednesday 2nd December we celebrated the Senior Academic Awards (Yrs 4-6)
On Thursday 3rd December we celebrated the Junior Academic Awards (Prep – Yr 3).

This semester we had a large number of children receiving Principal’s Awards for Outstanding Achievement in English, Maths and Science which was wonderful to see.
We also had a number of students receiving a Principal’s Encouragement Award for improvement in the areas of Word Study and Numeracy Warm Ups.

This Semester there was an additional award, “Principal’s Achievement Award in Visual Arts” for children who have achieved high results through our Visual Arts Program.

Congratulations to all of our award winners for your outstanding achievements and commitment to learning.

**Christmas Farewell Whole School Assembly Wednesday 9th December**

It is not very often that we combine our whole school together for one assembly. Our Farewell Christmas Assembly is one such occasion.

On Wednesday 9th December we open up the assembly agenda to any class who would like to perform. This year we once again have classes and year level groups who are performing and sharing some Christmas cheer with the whole school.

It is also a tradition here at Sandy Strait that some of our senior classes perform the “12 Days of Christmas Sandy Strait Style.” We never quite know what events or activities are going to form the lyrics of the year in reflection.

I would like to remind parents that if you are planning on attending this assembly there will be very limited seating as the space in the hall is largely occupied by our students as we must seat all students P-6 in the floor space.

Keeping this in mind if you don’t mind standing or a bit of a crowd you are most welcome to attend and join in the festive cheer as we farewell the 2015 school year, say a whole school goodbye to our Year 6 students and enjoy some good music and fun.

The Whole School Christmas Assembly will commence at 9.00am in the hall.

**Preparing for 2016**

On Thursday the 10th December all students in Prep to Year 5 will be issued with their Semester 2 Report Cards. Year 6 students will receive their report cards and folios on Wednesday.

The report cards will be accompanied by the Student Assessment Folio which contains a variety of key assessment tasks that have contributed to the achievement ratings within the report cards.

Along with the Semester Report Cards and Assessment Folios will be a letter advising parents of their child’s interim class placement for the 2016 school year. This letter will also have the 2016 School Resource and Fee Structure Scheme attached.

Please be aware that the organisation of classes for the commencement of any school year is a complex and challenging one. Staffing for all schools across the State is not finalised until the 8th day of the school year. Up until that point all arrangements are only interim until staffing is finalised in all schools. This is to ensure that all schools are equitably resourced and a period of time has lapsed to allow any last minute enrolments to be included in school staffing models.

A great deal of time and analysis of school data is utilised in formulating classes for the upcoming school year. We appreciate your support and understanding with this matter.

**New Families and Families Leaving Us in the 2016 School Year**

In order to ensure that we are well prepared and staffed appropriately for the 2016 school year it is essential that our enrolment predictions are as accurate as possible.

I would ask all families who may be moving or relocating to a new school for the start of the 2016 school year to please contact our school office so we can update our records.

If you have family or friends who are planning on relocating to Hervey Bay or enrolling in our school for the 2016 school year I would also ask that you encourage them to contact our school office for an enrolment pack so we can also have up to date information about new families arriving.

Your help and assistance with this would be most appreciated as we try and ensure a smooth start through accurate staffing and class numbers for the upcoming school year.

**Farewell to our Senior Students and the class of 2015**

This year we farewell our Year 6 students as they transition to high school for years 7-12.

Best wishes to our Year 6 students who will close the Primary School Chapter of their lives at the end of next week. We will formally farewell our students in a special twilight ceremony on Wednesday 9th December from 5.30pm in our school hall.

I am sure you will all hear special words of farewell from a number of guest speakers on 9th December.

I would like to leave our Year 6 students with this special thought for the future:

_In years to come people will not remember you by the way you looked, how much money you have, or how many accomplishments you have displayed on your wall. They will remember you by the way you made them feel._

As you close this chapter of your lives and open a new one please take the time to treat others kindly, make the most of every day and every opportunity and to treasure your parents and family. Your parents love is unconditional and they are there to support you through your journey into adulthood.

Be proud of all that you do and never be afraid to ask for help.

I wish you all every success in the future. It has been a pleasure to have watched you all grow throughout your time here at Sandy Strait.

**2016 School Year Commencement Dates and Office Opening Times**

The school office will be closed over the Christmas holiday period and will reopen on Monday the 18th January at 8.00am. All teaching staff will be participating in professional development activities and pupil free day tasks on Wed 20th – Friday 22nd January.

Please note that the school office will be closed on Monday 25th January and Tuesday 26th January.

School resumes for all students Prep – Year 6 on Wednesday the 27th January 2016.
Dear Parents

It has been a very successful year so far in Numeracy at Sandy Strait State School. Students (and teachers) have been enjoying the focus on mathematical warm-ups, mathematical language and the “big ideas in number”, and are well on our way to creating “confident, creative communicators of mathematics”. Sandy Strait’s numeracy NAPLAN results earlier in the year showed some of the highest amount of students in the top 2 bands in our history, and overall students have shown amazing progress. We have also seen this progress in our diagnostics, and class discussions.

In 2016 we will continue this focus, and also look to engage students even more through the use of real-life problem solving situations.

Congratulations again on the hard work of your child, and with only a few weeks left in the term, it is timely to provide some fun ideas for how you can continue to assist with your child’s mathematical development:

- Talk about the maths you see in everyday life – cooking, shopping, driving, money etc
- Play board games (and allow the children to choose whether they want to move forward or back with the 2 dice)
- Play lego

It is also important to remember, that your attitude shapes children’s attitudes in maths, as discussed in this news article: http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/parents-affect-kids-attitude-to-maths-says-melbourne-professor/news-story/c43214c31992a1e059bfbf072a4b4f21

We also have “Mathsercise” booklets available for free via email for all grades 1-6. If you are interested, please get in touch with our Master Teacher, Mark Hansen – mhans78@eq.edu.au.

Best Wishes for Christmas and Wishing You a Safe and Happy Holidays

On behalf of all members of the Sandy Strait Team I would like to wish all members of our school community a safe and happy Christmas.

School Banking

Thank you to those students who returned their prize order forms by Monday, 30 November to claim their prizes.

Any remaining tokens that you have and students who did not redeem their tokens to claim a prize, your tokens will be transferred to next years school banking. You can save these tokens and use them to redeem prizes next year.

Thank you to all who banked through the school year, in doing so the school earns money through the Commonwealth Bank, based upon the amount of money which students bank each week.

Book Club

Thank you to everyone who purchased books through the school Book Club throughout the year. When students purchase books via Book Club, the school earns points which can be redeemed with scholastic, with which the school is able to purchase resources for the school library.

Books for issue 8 will arrive at school later this week (week ending Friday, 4 December, 2015) or early next week (week ending Monday, 7 December, 2015).

Thank you.
2016 Student Leadership

We are in the final stages of identifying the students who will make up the 2016 student leadership team. There will be specific portfolios in which student leaders will be primarily responsible. These include:

**Student Leader: Student Welfare/ Activities:**
- Welcome new students and check in on their progress
- Check in on the welfare of injured, unwell students, and students with anxiety issues
- Plan, implement and evaluate lunch time activities eg: chess tournament, trivial pursuit quiz, lunch-time dance lessons, library rotations
- Have input recommending students for good behaviour awards.

**Student Leader: School Promotions**
- Meet and greet new parents
- Meet and greet visitors to school
- Be an ambassador for school at local events eg ANZAC Day, etc
- Coordinate student leaders column in the newsletter
- Help perform promotional activities for the school and be the school's public face
- Coordinate student assembly
- Speak at special school occasions eg. teacher's retirement, special assemblies, World Teacher's Day.

**Sports Captains**
- Assist Mr Baldwin in set up, pack up and coordinating school sport activities including: cross-country, athletics carnival, gala sports days, under 8 activities and give speeches during these events
- Promote lunch time participation in sport activities
- Coordinate and run lunch time sport activities
- Participate in opportunities to represent the school in sporting events.

Yr 6 ….High School Q&A

A small group of Year 6 students are planning to present a Q & A type event to their Year 6 peers, giving them tips on transitioning to high school. Part of their presentation will include a short video, interviewing current Year 7 students at USHS. The presentation will be held this Thursday.

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**News from Tuckshop**

Tuckshop will be **open** Monday, 7th December to Wednesday, 9th December with **ice blocks for sale**.

Thursday, 10th December and Friday, 11th December tuckshop will be **closed** for cleaning and stocktake.

Red Day was a complete success with many children purchasing items for sale. Thank you to Mrs Duffy, Kylie Dinte and Mrs Butchers for their assistance on the day.

Thank you to parents, students and staff for supporting the tuckshop throughout the year of 2015.

Regards Heidi and Libby

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**Goodbye Year 6**

Well I am sure these last 6 to 7 years for our Year 6 students have passed in a flurry of activities: grades attained, extra-curricular activities and social events attended and lesson learned. It is hard to believe that in the next few months, after you have welcomed the new year and have concluded your summer holiday you will all be facing new horizons and challenges in the form of High School.

Most of you are moving next door to USHS, some of you are moving to other high schools

*Where ever you may find yourself* and whatever high school you have chosen to attend - hold true to what shaped your *yesterdays*: acknowledge and appreciate what you are today and *dare to be all that you can be tomorrow!*

As you depart from Sandy Strait take the time express your *gratitude for the wonderful opportunities* that you were exposed to at this great school. Take the time to reflect on the teachers who have helped shape your life so far and the friendships you have formed. As you make the relatively smooth transition into high school, I am sure that the fine education that you have received here will stand you in good stead.

Thanks must also be extended to all your *parents*. They have remained committed to you and your education. They have stood by your side, especially when things may have seemed a bit rocky - steadfast and constant.

It is time for reflection…. a moment to reflect on everything that you have achieved so far. To take a moment to look back and to see and appreciate just how far you have all come since your very first day at school.

Some of you may have achieved more than others with relative ease. Some of you may have had to work harder…may have had to dig deeper to find the resolve to continue to meet the challenge - and perhaps even some of you may have even let opportunities pass you by.

Either way, you need to *acknowledge where you are at*. You may find that your primary school years were years well spent. You may find that you regret some of the opportunities that you allowed to slip by. Acknowledge them, accept them and then prepare to move on….tomorrow! You need to *dare to dream to be all that you can be tomorrow*.

**Dare**
- to chase your chosen career
- to excel
- to go the extra mile
- to show compassion
- to make your mark in the world
- to have empathy
- to be the best you can be.

Goodbye and good luck to you all.

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Community News

**ELDERS SWIM CENTRE**
Winner of **AUSTRALIA’S BEST SWIM CENTRE 2013**

**HOLIDAY fast track SWIM LESSONS**

**SMALL classes...**
LEARN TO SWIM, STROKE CORRECTION, INFANTS classes
DECEMBER 14th - 18th, JANUARY 11th- 15th & 18th-22nd,
Cost $60/4wks, discounts avail. for multiple wks.
Ph. Penny 4128 4888

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**Sandcastle Competition**
Saturday 2/1/2016
Scarne’s Beach (Under the Pier)
4:00-6:00 pm
Free entry
*Entrants chosen by popular destination. All entry goes to cancer council
There are lots of prizes to be won!*

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**Online Booklist Purchase**

As we start to plan for the New Year ahead, we are pleased to announce that we have partnered with Staples for Back to School 2016. To order visit:
www.staplesbacktoschool.com.au
Passcode: 121720