10/03/2016

Key to Success this fortnight: Resilience

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Attendance—Every Day Counts</th>
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<td>Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Why is regular attendance at school important?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• they learn better</td>
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<td>• they make friends</td>
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<td>• they are happier</td>
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<td>• they have a brighter future.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Why must I send my child to school?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Principals decide if the reason given for your child’s absence is acceptable.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Avoid keeping your child away from school for:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts. Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.</td>
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With the end of Term fast approaching it is timely to remind parents about the importance of attending school every day until the last day of term.

In a regular school day from Prep to Year 6, our students are involved in many learning experiences from the start of the school day at 8.37am through until 2.50pm. So much of the work that occurs in the school cannot be replicated or “caught up at home” via a worksheet.

We have a large percentage of children who are repeatedly absent on Fridays. Friday is not a finishing off or catch up day. It is just as important as every other learning day in the week. If your child is repeatedly away of a Friday they will miss 40 Fridays in a school year. That equates to 8 weeks of the school year, nearly a whole term of learning.

As a school we will be vigilant in following up on student attendance with the only acceptable reason for student absence being illness or representative sport.

On our school facebook page we will regularly providing info about the importance of student attendance together with some video links highlighting key points.

Please help us provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child by sending them to school every day.

At Sandy Strait we have set an attendance target this year of at least 93% by all students. This means that students will fall into less that good attendance if they have more than 10 days off from school each year.

The Attendance Data for Our Year Levels this Fortnight is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96.2%</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
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**Wireless Upgrade Project**

Sandy Strait State School has been very fortunate to be included in the Wireless Upgrade Project this term. With technology being an integral part of our everyday lives having wireless connectivity across all aspects of our school will allow us to have greater flexibility in the way we utilise devices such as laptops, iPads and hand held technology to enhance teaching and learning.

Selection in this project has resulted in Education Qld matching us dollar for dollar in the cost of upgrading our school network to a fully wireless operating system.

Commencing this week technicians will be working across teaching blocks installing the infrastructure required to enable this project. On various days year level cohorts will vacate their classrooms and work in an alternative teaching space allowing the technicians to complete the task.

Please keep an eye on our school facebook page for updates on this project and any planned disruptions to our school network throughout the process.

**Leap into Learning Target Meeting Week Next Week**

Next week is Leap into Learning Target Meeting Week. Every 5 weeks teachers from across the year levels meet with their Leadership Team Rep to discuss the progress of their children in the areas of Reading, Word Study and Numeracy. During these meetings teachers review the past 5 weeks and set targets for their children for the coming 5 week period.

Myself, the 2 Deputy Principals and Head of Special Education each have a team a of teachers that we work with throughout the year, observing classroom practice and working collaboratively around target setting to ensure that our children continue to make leaps forward in their learning.

It is a real privilege to spend this time with our team of teachers and sharing in the progress made by our students.

If you would like to know more about your child’s Reading, Word Study and Numeracy Targets be sure to touch case with your child’s teacher and they will be happy to share this information with you.
**Year 6 Leadership Camp**

Our Year 6 students are having a ball at Maranatha Camp; Yandina. Our teachers have sent through some action packed photos to share with our parents. Please see our Facebook page to see them. We anticipate our students arriving back to school around 3:00 pm on Friday.

**Leap into Learning Target Meetings**

Teaching and Learning is our core business and over the last few years a major strategy that we have utilized to help us remain focused on this has been the setting of regular targets/learning goal. Again this year our teachers will engage in meetings that will see them:

1. Collect student data (through systemic and class based assessment items),
2. Analyse this data,
3. Identify areas to focus on and communicate these focus are as learning goals.

Next week our teachers will check in with the Leadership Team to gauge the level of progress.

**Why set these targets?**

5 Good reasons why teachers set targets:

1. Targets give teachers some clarity on what they want their students to achieve
2. Setting targets encourages teachers to drive forward
3. Setting targets helps our teachers have a laser focus on what is important
4. By articulating targets and making them transparent teachers become accountable for their teaching AND
5. Transparent targets encourage teachers to be the best they can be.

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**Emergency Procedures- Evacuation and Lock Downs**

As part of all school operations we routinely practice “Evacuation” and “Lock Down” Drills. The purpose of practicing these drills is to ensure that in the event of a potential emergency or threat that our school staff and students can respond in a quick and timely manner to ensure the safety of everyone on the school campus.

An Evacuation drill is for the purpose of moving out of the classrooms and buildings to a specified location in the event of an incident such as a fire or bomb threat.

A Lock Down drill is for the purpose of minimising access to the school environment and securing all adults and children in rooms. In each of the above drills children and adults remain in the specified area until the all clear is sounded.

Each term we vary the way in which we practice the drills. We practice a drill during class time and play time ensuring that staff and children are aware of just what to do if they are in different locations within the school.

**P&C Executives 2016**

Congratulations to our new 2016 P&C Executive.

Yesterday we conducted our P&C Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by a General Business Meeting. We had over 12 parents in attendance which was wonderful to see.

Congratulations to the following parents who will form our 2016 Executive Committee:

P&C President – Kylie Dinte
P&C Treasurer- Sarah Jane Thompson
P&C Secretary – Melissa Heaton

It is shaping up to be a great year.

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**WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD IS BEING BULLIED?**

**DO**

- Work with the school to fix the problem.
- Arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher.
- Teach them to deal with the bully by saying ‘leave me alone’ and walking away; staying away from bullies; making new friends; reporting bullying to a teacher they trust.
- Listen; be supportive; get the facts.
- Help your child to learn about good behaviour.
- You can also meet with the school’s counsellor.

**DON’T**

- Tell your child to fight back.
- Try to fix the problem by talking with the other children or parents.

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**WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD IS BEING A BULLY?**

**DO**

- Stay calm and work with the school to fix the problem.
- Help your child to learn about good behaviour.

**DON’T**

- Try to fix the problem by talking with the other children or parents.

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**WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP STOP BULLYING AT MY CHILD’S SCHOOL?**

**DO**

- Report any bullying (even if it does not involve your child).
- Tell them why bullying is wrong.
- Encourage them to make and keep happy friendships.

**DON’T**

- Accept bullying in the house

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News from the Senior Deputy Principal—Mr Bruce Jackson

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**News from Bookclub**

Bookclub due Friday, 11 March, 2016.
Over the next couple of weeks our students will be doing their assessment tasks in **English**. The units of work that are studied in English develop students ability to read, write, speak about and listen to quality literature and provide opinions and reflections about the characters and stories they have studied. This requires students to use grammar, punctuation, text structure, spelling, oral language and vocabulary in their work as read and comprehend many different texts.

**Term One English**

**Prep**

**Speech, Sounds and Pictures and Retelling a Familiar Story**

Our Prep students have been working very intensely on their skills in speaking and hearing sounds in a word. Students have been segmenting words into sounds using actions (duck hands) and in writing. Teachers are excited to see how quickly students are developing in these skills and knowledge of sounds and the alphabet.

Teachers have been working to develop students’ knowledge of literature and their ability to identify characters, settings, feelings of characters and vocabulary that describes characters, events and setting.

For their assessment this term Prep students will need to describe and talk about a favourite story by retelling the story using illustrations to help them with this task. They will also continue to be monitored in their SSP (Speech, Sounds, and Pictures) learning.

**Year One**

**Exploring Emotion in Picture Books and Explaining how a Story Works**

Year One students have been developing an understanding of character emotions and using vocabulary that describes characters and their behaviour. Students are expected to have an opinion about certain characters they have read and talked about in English and be able to describe these characters. They also need to write a retell about a story they have read a number of times and be able to write the beginning, middle and end of the story.

**Year Two**

**Poetry and Stories of Families and Friends**

Year Two students are reading texts that explore character actions and the emotions these actions create in the reader. They are reading stories that have a message about issues relating to families and friends. Students need to identify these issues and use words that describe the actions as well as the emotions of the characters.

Year Two students will then use some of these characters as well as creating their own characters to write an imaginative story about family relationships and/or friendships. Year Two studied poetry earlier in the term and have completed their assessment of writing an innovation on a rhyme.

**Year Three**

**Analysing and Creating Persuasive Texts and Investigating Characters**

Year three students have been studying the art of persuasion and honing their ability to convince, influence, demand and coerce through use of language both spoken and written. Students have read, viewed and analysed persuasive texts to understand ways persuasive language features are used to influence an audience. They have used this language to create their own short paragraphs of persuasive texts.

They are also studying how authors use descriptive language when creating their characters by studying characters from a novel and at the end of this term will write their own short imaginative narrative.

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**News from the OSHC—Helping Hands**

Helping Hands Sandy Strait is now in its second week at the school. Before and After school care is held in the school hall Monday to Friday 6:30am until 8:45am and 2:50pm until 6pm. We are getting new enrolments every day. The children are enjoying the program and are included in the program planning.

Some of the activities the children have been enjoying is craft, cooking, building, board games, soccer, hand ball, table tennis and badminton.

Breakfast and afternoon tea is provided. Our vacation care program for Easter is now out and is available at the school office or at the hall.

Families are welcome to drop in and see us.

Best Regards,

Cassie Grace, Coordinator

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**News from Finance**

A reminder that the **School Resource Scheme fee** is **due Friday, 24th March, 2016**.
### Confirmation and First Communion Program for Children

Hervey Bay Catholic Parish

For those children wishing to enrol in the Eucharist/Confirmation program for this year:

The two Parent Information Nights (you need to attend both please) will be held on Tuesday 19th April, and Wednesday 27th April, at 7pm in St Josephs Church, Bryant St, Pialba.

The preparation will take place during May, and the celebration will be on the weekend of 4/5 June.

Please note that children must be at least in Year 3, and have already celebrated their First Reconciliation.

No need to register before the Information night.

Any enquiries: Parish Office 41243334

Julie Lynch 0408382023

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### Red Day—Wednesday, 16 March

This Red Day helps raise much needed funds for our school tuckshop. All monies raised from this day will go towards the purchase of an industrial sandwich press.

We are offering a pre-order system using tuckshop brown bags.

Orders will then be sent to classrooms at Big Lunch via tuckshop boxes.

The tuckshop will also be open with Red Day items for sale at BIG LUNCH ONLY. Normal menu items are not available on this day.

Libby and Heidi, Tuckshop Convenors

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### Easter Raffle

All monies from sale of raffle tickets, together with any remaining unsold tickets, are to be returned to the office no later than 18 March, 2016.

The Easter Raffle prize winners will be drawn on 21 March, 2016.

Thank you for supporting our P&C Fundraising efforts.