12/02/15

Key to Success: Confidence

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

2015 Staffing Confirmed.
Last Thursday all schools across Queensland participated in a process known as the Day 8 Enrolment Calculation. On the 8th day of the school year our staffing allocation is confirmed based on the number of children enrolled at the school and a range of other data.

Our planned staffing and class arrangements were accurate which meant no changes were required to our model.

This was wonderful news as we are able to continue to enact all of our support and school wide programs we have planned for implementation throughout 2015.

2015 School Wide Intensive Intervention Program
In all of our classrooms we have children with various learning needs. Some children require extra support and assistance to help master some concepts while others require enrichment and extension to cater for their needs.

For such support to add value it needs to be very specific, target a select group of students and be delivered in small group situations that compliment class programs. It is also paramount that children be present and punctually arrive at school every day as many programs commence at the start of the school day.

During the first week of the school year children from across the school participated in various assessment and data collection tasks. These tasks provided us with additional information to identify children who would most benefit from our intensive intervention program focus.

This year we have also been fortunate to access funding through the Great Results Guarantee Initiative to employ additional staff to implement our programs.

To ensure the success of our Intensive Intervention Programs we have also allocated dedicated teaching spaces and classrooms in which our Intervention Team can work with groups of children giving them every chance at success.

COMING EVENTS

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The following Intensive Intervention Staff commenced their Intensive programs in the following Year Levels.

**Prep and Year 1**
Ms Shaloam Robe (Literacy Intervention Teacher) and Mrs Kylie Smith (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Prep/ Year 1 Intervention classroom in located in Q Block.

**Year 2 and 3**
Mrs Viv Fooks (Support Teacher Literacy/Numeracy) and Mrs Lyn Fallon (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Yr 2/3 Intervention classroom in located in Q Block.

**Year 4 and 5**
Mrs Melanie Mills (Teacher Librarian and Literacy Intervention Teacher) and Mrs Alison Perske (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Yr 4/5 Intervention classroom in located in E Block.

**Year 6**
Ms Diana Ashcroft (Support Teacher Literacy/Numeracy and Extension Teacher). The Yr 6 Intervention classroom in located in F Block.

**Numeracy Extension and Enrichment Support**
Ms Diana Ashcroft is also fulfilling the role of Numeracy Enrichment teacher in grades from 1 to 6. She is conducting Numeracy Extension and Enrichment Support programme in 2015.

This year we also have employed Mrs Tracey Bennion (Speech Language Pathologist) for an additional day each week to support teachers in Prep and Year 1 as they implement Oral Language programs ensuring that our children have the best start to becoming successful readers.

In the coming days letters will be coming home with all children who are participating in the above mentioned programs providing parents with information about the support that is currently being provided to assist children to make Leaps in their Learning.

**Meet and Greet Open School Afternoon—Monday 23rd February 3:00-4:00pm**
Building our school community and strengthening relationships between home and school are an important aspect of our whole school vision in 2015.

On Monday 23rd February all parents and students are invited to our Whole School Open Afternoon Meet and Greet Event.

All classrooms and teaching spaces across the school will be open with teachers and staff in rooms. This also includes our Intervention Rooms and Programs, Learning Enrichment Centre Classrooms and Library.

Parents are welcome to wander and visit their children’s classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about what is happening in our classes throughout the afternoon. There is no set time to be in any classroom as all rooms are open between 3.00-4.00pm.

Teachers will have work on display, photos of various learning events to view and information about their classrooms and programs available for parents.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children along so they can show you around their classroom, and share their work and learning with you.

If children participate in Intensive Literacy Intervention Programs this is also a great opportunity to visit these classrooms, meet the teachers who have been working with your children and learn more about the programs.

The P&C will have a free BBQ and Sausage Sizzle operating in the covered area near the tuckshop during the afternoon. P&C members will also have information available for parents who might like to learn more about volunteering or helping out around the school.

A flyer advertising this event was sent home with all families on Wednesday. On the reverse side of the flyer you will find a school map with all classrooms and teaching spaces marked to help you find your way around during the Meet and Greet Open Afternoon.

We look forward to spending time with our Sandy Strait Families on Monday 23rd February from 3.00-4.00pm.

**Have you Visited our School Facebook Page?**
Our School Facebook page is proving a very effective way of providing up to date information to our parents about a range of school events and happenings.

If you find notes and newsletters in the bottom of school bags long after an event has passed then our school Facebook page is a great way of ensuring you stay up to date with all that is happening around the school and that you don’t miss out on important information. Reminders about upcoming special events, notes and payments due, photos and stories that allow us to bring the classroom to our parents are shared daily through our Facebook page.

By ‘Liking’ us on Facebook you will receive all of the updates through your news feed each day.

You can locate our Facebook page from our school website [www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au](http://www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au)

Or through Facebook on at [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/334729921302918](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/334729921302918)

**Thought of the Week:**
“What Lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us”
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

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**Pink Stumps Day—Tuesday 24 February**

Come dressed in pink and pay a gold coin donation to support the marvellous work of the McGrath Foundation. Sausage sizzle ($2) and jelly cup ($1) orders are due by 17th Feb. Raffle tickets $1 Win 2 adult passes on the Spirit of Hervey Bay, and some autographed cricket merchandise. A limited number of cupcakes and jelly cups will be available on the day, prices from $1 to $2.

We will also auction our Pink Stumps Kit, which contains: Pink cricket kit bag, pink stumps, pink leg pads and pink training balls. There is NO cricket bat in the kit. If you would like to bid on the Pink Stumps Kit, send your bid in a sealed envelope with your contact details and the amount of your bid to the Prep B classroom. The kit will go to the highest bidder. For those who would like to contribute direct to our fundraising page: [http://pinkstumpsday2015.gofundraise.com.au/page/SandyStraitStateSchoolPinkStumps](http://pinkstumpsday2015.gofundraise.com.au/page/SandyStraitStateSchoolPinkStumps) A tax deductible receipt will be provided for any donations made via this link.
Welcome back to our students and parents and welcome to our new students and parents as we prepare for an exciting year. Teachers have been preparing for their new classes and are eager to work with your children as they ‘Leap into Learning’ on the many exciting projects organised for 2015.

**Prep**
Prep students will spend some time settling into school routines and their new school environment during the first week. Their English unit will extend over the whole term and develops their knowledge and understanding around language. In class they will start to learn about letters, words, sounds and many of the concepts of print that we all take for granted.

Students have been working through their first units of work in English, maths, Science and History which address the Australian National Curriculum. The following overview will give you an idea of the work students in years 1-3 will be doing in English for the first five weeks.

They will explore stories and make connections with them by sharing their own experiences and stories. They will also explore and talk about feelings and thoughts they may have about events in these texts. Students will extend their thinking to innovate on some of the stories they read by changing characters, words, feelings words etc to change a story. They will also learn how to retell the events in a story which can be very difficult as they will need to remember a number of events.

**Maths**—students will be learning maths concepts to enable automaticity (instant recall) in the areas of counting and understanding numbers to 10. They will learn to count from any given number to 20 and sequence numbers. Students will need to compare numbers as bigger than or smaller than, sort and classify numbers as well as make connections to numbers. They will also copy, continue and create patterns with objects and drawings. You can help your child by practising counting on a daily basis, guessing ‘how many’, playing number games with your child and looking at prices when shopping as these real life activities all help make their maths learning fun and meaningful.

**Year One**
In English students will be focussing on the importance of listening and speaking. They will understand how to use language to discuss characters in literary stories and how to use images and pictures to discuss characters in stories. They will learn about sentence parts and be able to write sentences about characters. Students will use all of this learning to write and present a short presentation.

**Maths**—students will build on their mathematical learning from Prep as they explore numbers to 100, start to learn to do skip counting by twos, fives, and tens and solve simple addition and subtraction problems. Asking your child to ‘split numbers’ helps them with partitioning numbers. E.g splitting up 8 into 3, 5. They will also begin to tell the time to the half-hour, describe duration using months, weeks, days and hours and connect days of the week to familiar events and actions. Discussing what day it is and what events will be happening during the week will assist your child in better understanding the difficult concept. If you help your child to talk about ‘yesterday’, ‘tomorrow’ and ‘today’ you will help them build their language around the time concepts for this early learning.

**Year Two**
**English**—Students in year two will be exploring and learning about poetry. They will be learning that poems carry a message and be asked to identify these messages. They will also be providing their personal preferences for certain poems and explaining these preferences. When learning about the structure of poems they will explore, noun groups, verb groups, rhythmic, sound and word patterns. Their final task for showing their knowledge and understanding about poetry will require them to reconstruct a poem using their own words and ideas.

**Maths**—students will be building on prior learning from year one as they continue exploring number sequencing, counting, grouping and ordering collections to at least 100. Helping students hear and see the counting patterns reinforces their early knowledge on numbers to 100. Year two students will continue to investigate the connection between addition and subtraction through mental number facts and written strategies. They will use this knowledge to solve number problems. Students will use their counting and number patterns to explore multiplication as arrays, groups, and patterns. In time they will be reading time to the quarter hour and exploring monthly and seasonal data and then using this in the creation of data displays.

**Year Three**
Year three students will be starting to explore the text of persuasion in English. They will start by understanding the purpose of a persuasive text and then learn about the language and words people use to write and speak in a persuasive manner. They will revise and consolidate their knowledge of adjectives, verbs, adverbs and paragraphing. They will learn that language can be varied to be more or less forceful and how to present points of view. Their final task will be to write a persuasive text or paragraph.

**Maths**—students in year three will also build upon prior learning as they investigate number patterns with addition and subtraction, investigate odd and even numbers, apply place value up to 10 000, recognise and explain the connection between addition and subtraction, recall and use single digit addition facts, represent money and count change, measure, order and compare length, mass and capacity and tell time to the minute.

I hope the above overview provides you with enough information to know what your child will be learning in English and Maths. Please contact your child’s teacher if you need further advice or information.
Tips for a Good School Year
As parent, there are many things we can do at home to help our children have a good school year. These include making sure they get enough sleep, getting them to school on time, and reading at home every day.

Here are ten important ways to get started!

1. Medical care
Our children need regular medical checkups, vaccinations, and dental care.

2. A healthy diet and exercise
Children who eat a healthy diet and get regular exercise can concentrate better during the school day. It is important that our children eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables, and have opportunities to exercise every day through a sports team, fun activity, or playtime outside.

3. Sleep
Getting enough sleep will help our children get up on time, feel good, and be ready for a full day of learning. Children need different amounts of sleep at different ages. Most need 8 to 10 hours.

4. Getting to school, every day and on time
It will be easier for our children to complete daily lessons, homework, and tests if they get to school on time every day. We should limit the time our children miss school for family trips and activities. Please contact the school immediately if your child will be absent.

5. Homework
We should set a regular time and place for our children to do homework. We should choose a time that works well for our family’s schedule. Find a place that is quiet and has good lighting. Make sure they have pens, pencils, paper, and a dictionary. Ask them to show you their finished homework each night so that you can see what they are learning and confirm that they are doing all of their assignments.

6. Television, video game, and computer time
We should limit the time our children spend watching TV, playing video games, and using the computer. When possible, we should do these activities together with them, and look for educational programs and games. Help them to understand that they should never give out personal information on the computer or talk to strangers online.

7. Talking about school together
We should ask our children to tell us about their school day. Ask them what they have learnt, and how they felt during the day. Listen carefully to their answers, and help them to think of ways to solve any problems they might be having in their schoolwork or in the classroom.

8. Reading
Setting aside time each day to read with our children is important. We can make reading a part of daily routines by reading stories at bedtime and keeping lots of books and magazines in the house.

9. The library
Help our children get to know the library and what we can find there, including books, audio books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs. Libraries also offer homework resources and a quiet place for students to work.

10. Learning at home
Help our children learn at home by sharing activities together, singing, talking, and telling stories. Visit educational places such as museums, the zoo, the park, or a historical monument. Finding out what our children’s interests are is important and look for activities and books that are connected to that interest.

Year 6 Leadership camp
The school is pleased to be able to communicate to parents of Year 6 students that the cost of the Year 6 Leadership camp to Maranatha is $215.00.

Camp will be held from Wednesday 18 March to Friday 20 March and parents are encouraged to make their payments via the office now. The full cost ($215.00) is required to be paid by Friday 27th February.

Welcome back to a very busy 2015. Many children are borrowing from the library, and it is great to see so many library bags – they do a great job helping to keep our books safe, clean and dry. Children are also enjoying books, board games, computers, chess and puzzles during lunch times. We often have a G-rated movie playing as well, as another option to keep our students out of the heat.

We will be holding a Book Fair from March 10-20. We are trialling books from a different company, but due to the other responsibilities of library staff in programs across our school, it will only run from 1.30 – 3.30 in the afternoons. We still have a “Carnival Book Fair” booked during Book Week in August (Books Light Up Our World if you are thinking of forward-planning costumes related to the theme!)

We have a new computer system operating in our library, called DAVE. We hope to be able to introduce you to the ‘how to’ of accessing our library catalogue from home, in the coming months.

Last semester, Sandy Strait State School was fortunate enough to take part in a Numeracy Project with Greg Robinson entitled “Success Schools”. The targeted focus was the big ideas in number and algebra. As a whole school we utilised high-interest Numeracy warm-ups to identify misconceptions and inefficient methods and to encourage problem solving and reasoning. Teachers worked collaboratively to plan the best practice Numeracy teaching for students.

This year, in 2015, Sandy Strait State School will build upon this project, working with all grades to encourage positive disposition in Numeracy lessons and a focus on problem solving. We will also continue our work around Numeracy warm-ups. Students are very excited about the continuation of this project, and teachers are looking forward to the genuine difference it makes in student learning.

Teachers will have meetings each Monday fortnight with other year level representatives, and our Master Teacher, Mark Hansen, to forward plan the Numeracy for the coming period. Mark will then work in classes on alternating weeks to ensure all classes benefit from this project.

Please discuss this information with your child, or if you have further questions, or would like to be added to a discussion list to get more information about Numeracy at Sandy Strait State School, please email Mark Hansen – mhans78@eq.edu.au
Dear Parent,

As a part of our school's new approach towards the way we communicate with you, we offer interactive, graphically rich, full colour electronic newsletters to all our parents.

The concept of eNews is similar to the printed paper newsletters which we already send out regularly, but with added benefits - eNews is personally delivered directly to your email inbox via the Internet. This delivery method has many advantages.

It is cost effective, time efficient & personalised to your name. Most importantly school receives this service completely free of charge from Australian Newsletter Services who also supply our paper newsletters with the help of advertisers.

To receive this service all you need is a computer with internet access and email. Those who currently do not have internet access at home can still receive our traditional paper newsletter.

With our eNews service the distance between the school and the parents will be further shortened as the parents will be able to experience firsthand what activities the school is currently undertaking and the latest information on Academic, Health, Sport and other areas that may interest you. This way the whole family can share the success stories of your children as these eNewsletters can be forwarded to anyone with email.

To sign up for our eNewsletter please type in the link below into the address bar of your browser. Australian Newsletter Services has made the signup process automated and only takes a few minutes when prompts are followed. Your email address will only be used to send out school eNews and nothing else.


If you experience any difficulties please feel free to contact AustNews IT department on 1800 245 077 or email help@austnews.com.au.

Thank you.

Please hand in to your child’s teacher so they can update number of paper copies required for class.

I have subscribed to the e-newsletter service. Child’s Name: ____________, Class: ____________
Silicon Coast Extracurricular Code School

Silicon Coast Extracurricular Code School (SCXCS) has been established to teach young people how to develop computer programs.

Although there are code schools in major Australian cities, people in regional, rural and remote Australia have few opportunities to learn to code. There are many on-line tutorials but it is not easy to learn to code without professional assistance. Over the past year, we have developed and trialled a methodology which is based on on-line learning plus assistance from professional tutors.

The new High School curriculum includes some very basic coding. SCXCS will teach students languages used commercially so that they may either use their skills to develop Apps or games or commercial systems used in major enterprises throughout the world. Using technology available now, skilled programmers can work anywhere in the world. There is no need for programmers to move to major cities to get work.

SCXCS is led by Ann Moffatt who has extensive experience in delivering computer education. Ann started in the Computer industry in 1959. She has worked as a programmer, analyst, designer and manager and has served on several Boards. Her experience in computer education includes 4 years as Director of the Institute of Information Technology at UNSW where she managed the delivery of IBM’s customer and internal Education throughout Australia and parts of SE Asia when IBM outsourced their education to UNSW.

On establishing her own company in 1993, she managed the delivery of Digital’s Customer and Internal education throughout Australia, and later all Intel’s Education throughout Australia and NZ.

Other key members of SCXCS are graduates and 4th year undergraduates in ICT with expertise in both computing and education.

Starting in Hervey Bay in February, courses will be held at USQ’s Fraser Coast Campus. Each course will last 12 weeks with one hour a week guided training from 4-5pm. Students will be expected to continue on-line learning between formal classes.

Following the successful delivery of our first course in Hervey Bay, we intend to deliver courses throughout regional, rural and remote Australia.

For more information please contact Ann Moffatt.

moffatt.as@bigpond.com

Tel 4129 5796