Key to Success this fortnight: Confidence

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Congratulations to all of our Academic Award Winners

This Tuesday and Wednesday as part of our recognition of outstanding Academic Achievement, I presented all students from Year 1 to Year 6 who achieved outstanding results in English, Maths or Science with a Principal’s Academic Award.

Students who have made wonderful progress through hard work and dedication in Word Study or Numeracy Warm ups in Prep to Year 6 were also awarded with a Principal’s Encouragement Award.

It was wonderful to have so many proud parents and family members in attendance at both ceremonies.

Congratulations to all of our award winners. We are very proud of you all!!!

Semester 1 Report Cards

With the end of term fast approaching I would like to remind all parents of the reporting cycle for the 2015 school year.

At the end of term 1 parents were invited to attend a 1-1 parent teacher interview to discuss student progress to date and to gather information on how to support your child as they worked towards their end of Semester Report Card.

On Friday 26th June all students Prep to Year 6 will receive their Semester 1 report card.

This year across Qld is the third year that Prep families will receive report cards. Students in Prep will receive achievement ratings in the National Curriculum Areas of English, Maths, Science and History. The other learning areas in Prep will be addressed using the Qld Early Years Curriculum Guidelines.

Your child’s Semester Report Card will be issued in a labelled pocket inside the Student Assessment Folio. All students Prep to Year 6 have an Assessment Folio.
What is a Student Assessment Folio?

Student assessment is an integral component of the teaching and learning cycle. Teachers assess students in a range of different ways on a daily basis through formative assessment tasks such as observations, checklists, conferences etc. Students also complete summative assessment tasks demonstrating their understanding of key concepts in units of work across all of the Key Curriculum Areas.

The Student Assessment Folio contains a range of summative assessment tasks completed by your child across each of the Key Learning Areas this Semester. These summative tasks are used to assist teachers in making judgements regarding student achievement and are reported as an A-E/VHA-SR in the report card issued each semester. Please note that not all samples of work that contribute to the achievement rating on the report card are contained within the folio.

Parents are most welcome to make appointments with their child’s teacher for further clarification around the Semester Report Card or Assessment Folio.

I would strongly encourage all parents to talk through the Assessment Folio and Student Report Card with your children.

2015 School Opinion Survey

The school opinion survey is undertaken each year by the department’s State Schools Division to obtain the opinion of parents/caregivers, students and school staff about the important aspects of schooling. The survey is designed to help schools identify what they do well and what they can improve.

The parent survey is to be distributed to all families of children attending this school. The eldest child in each family will receive a blue online access letter with your child’s Semester 1 Report Card and Assessment Folio on the 26th June.

Have you Returned your Outside School Hours Care Survey?

Sandy Strait State School is currently considering opening its own Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) service. The service would operate on the school grounds before and after school, as well as on Pupil Free days and during school holiday periods. As part of the service, children attending would be provided with breakfast, morning and afternoon tea.

We are interested in getting feedback from our families about their requirements for OSHC. The decision about establishing a service will be based on this survey, so if you are interested in using this proposed service, please take the time to complete this survey and return it to the Administration Office by 26/6/2015.

A copy of the survey is contained with the newsletter for all families to complete. The survey can also be located on the home page of the school website (in the quick links on the right hand side) at www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au

Last Newsletter for this term

With only just over a week remaining of this term this will be our last newsletter for term 2. Thank you for all of your support throughout this term. It has been a very busy term with many events, learning activities and things to celebrate. I would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing winter holiday and look forward to welcoming all of our students back to Term 3 on Monday 13th July.

Crazy Hair Day—Tuesday 23 June

We have many families who have been touched in some shape or form by cancer.

Each year a number of our children participate in Relay for Life to help raise funds for cancer research.

Students are invited to come dressed with crazy hair next Tuesday, 23rd June, 2015 with a gold coin donation.

Note: Students can come to school with spray coloured hair but are not permitted to bring hairspray/coloured spray to school.

Community News

‘Come & Try’ Day

This Year’s ‘Come & Try’ day will be held Friday June 26th 9.15am – 2.30pm

Your son/daughter will have an orientation of the school and experience a sample of subjects on offer at Urangan State High School.

Buses will be organised to transport your child to and from this activity.

Reminder: Your child’s Enrolment Application MUST be submitted to our office BEFORE your child is able to attend the ‘Come and Try’ day.

Information relating to all student enrolments can be accessed by visiting the school’s website: www.uranganshs.eq.edu.au or contacting our Enrolment Management Officer on 4197 0150 Email: enrolments@uranganshs.eq.edu.au
News from the Junior School—Mrs Helen Forbes

Last week was a wonderful week with Under 8’s, Mini Minds Alive and the Teddy Bear’s hospital visit. Thank you to all those parents who donated items and who came and celebrated Under 8’s. All of these events were thoroughly enjoyed by the students as I’m sure they would have shared with you.

This week we have had Academic Awards where we recognise and congratulate those students who through focused effort and hard work have achieved an ‘A’ in English, Maths and/or Science. These awards also provide an opportunity for all students to reflect on and celebrate their own individual progress in our whole school agenda ‘Leap into Learning’.

We also have RIBBIT rewards this week and next, where we acknowledge those students who have shown exemplary behaviour for the term.

Congratulations to those students who have achieved Level 1 or 2 behaviour for the term.

Prep S and Prep D will be heading to the high school this Friday to be entertained with games by high school students who are doing studies on early childhood. This visit will allow the high school students to have ‘real children’ in their lessons and to assess their ability to provide entertaining and successful activities for children.

Next Monday, Year One have the first of their two firemen visits. Teachers will work with the students prior to this visit around staying safe with fire and steps to take if they are involved with a fire.

On Wednesday and Thursday of the last week we have our School Athletics Carnival and it is important to ensure your child attends to allow them to practise the skills they have been taught in P.E. lessons and enjoy the fun and spirit of the day by barracking for their house members and friends as well as participating in the events.

Report cards and attendance

As the semester draws to a close and student report cards are finalised I’d like to thank you for your contribution to the important partnership that exists between parents, teachers and students. Teachers appreciate and respect your support in the education of your child. Thankyou.

During the past few weeks teachers have been writing end of semester reports. Writing reports is a very time consuming task and in some cases frustrating and others exciting. Teachers are generally pleased with their student results and look forward to continued progress next semester.

To allow your child to achieve to the best of their ability it is important that your child attends school regularly.

Students who attend school regularly are better positioned to achieve in their learning and assessment tasks and on behalf of our teachers I need to remind parents of the importance of ensuring your child attends school every school day.

NAIDOC Week and Working bee

The National NAIDOC theme for 2015 is:
We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate

Next term we start with NAIDOC week (13 July-17 July) and as usual Karen Steyger has prepared a timetable of events related to the theme ‘We all stand on Sacred Ground’ for students to help celebrate and educate our students on Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander culture. Parents are invited to the flag raising ceremony on Monday at approx. 8.45 am and to join your child during the class activities.

Theme description:

This year the theme highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. The theme is an opportunity to pay respects to country; honour those who work tirelessly on preserving land, sea and culture and to share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places with the nation.

As the oldest continuing culture on the planet, the living culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is intrinsically linked with these sacred places. Sacred places can be geographic feature like a river or lake, a beach, bays, inlets, hills or a mountain ranges or ceremonial grounds, galleries of rock art or engravings or places used for gathering for cultural practices.

Long before European arrival, these places had traditional names - names that now reflect the timeless relationship between the people and the land. Often sacred places are connected with Dreaming stories or tell of the meaning of an area.

This year’s theme was also chosen specifically to highlight and celebrate the anniversary of the ‘Handback’ of Uluru, one of these sacred sites, to its traditional owners on 26th October 30 years ago.

The National NAIDOC Committee encourages all Australians - young and old - to embrace the 2015 National NAIDOC theme.

Bush Tucker garden

This week, Friday 19th June from 9.00 am - 12.30 pm, Karen Steyger our Indigenous Liaison Teacher Aide, has organised to have a working bee to clean up the Bush Tucker Garden. The garden, as usual is a little overgrown by this time of the year and as we would like to have some of our NAIDOC activities in the garden we need to give it some TLC.

If you are available to help with weeding, pruning etc please come along with your gardening gloves (if needed) for some light physical activity followed by a light lunch at 12.30 pm. All help will be much appreciated.
USHS Come and Try day
USHS are holding their Come and Try day on June 26th for our Yr 6 students. Please note: Only Students who have submitted an enrolment application to Urangan State High School Administration Office of 2016 AND have returned the Come and Try consent/medical form to our office by Monday 22nd June, 2015 will be eligible to attend.

Inter House Athletics Carnival
Due to a date clash with the Yr 6 USHS Come and Try day the Friday section of our Athletics carnival (Friday 26th June) will need to be changed. Athletics carnival days are now Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

RIBBIT Reward
Our level 1 & 2 students in Yr 2 to Yr 6 will participate in their RIBBIT Reward activity either this Thursday or Friday. This term’s reward is a 1 hour session with The Little Street Circus. Among the activities students will have the opportunity to play on stilts, learn to juggle, and play with diabolos. A big thank you to the P&C who have sponsored this terms reward.

Holiday Reading
The winter holidays will soon be upon us, and the chilly mornings will give us a great excuse to curl up in bed with a good book. With that in mind here are 5 great books students in Yr 5 and Yr 6 could try and get hold of and read:

1. Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party: By Ying Chang Compestine: Gripping story, great intro to China’s Cultural Revolution
4. The Outsiders: By S. E. Hinton: Story of ostracized Children; a timeless favourite of teens and preteens.
5. To Kill a Mockingbird: By Harper Lee: Stunning classic examines racism -- and justice.

5 great books students in Yr. 3 and Yr. 4 could try and get hold of and read:

1. Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing: By: Judy Blume: Toddler antics bug his brother
2. Big Nate: In a Class by Himself: By Lincoln Peirce: A lot of the Diary of a Wimpy Kid, boys will love it.

Here are some tips for nurturing a love of reading that can last a lifetime:

Read aloud: This comes naturally to lots of new parents, but it’s important to keep it up. Children will enjoy it longer than you think. You may have to read your child’s favourite a hundred times, but just go with it. Your child will remember the closeness as well as the story. And try nonfiction for those who are curious about pirates, Vikings, robots, castles, history, sports, biography, animals, whatever. Many parents think that as soon as their children learn to read on their own, they no longer need to be read to. But children still love it and benefit from it as they hear the rhythm of the language, learn correct pronunciation, and get to relax and just take it all in.

Savour the series: It’s common for children to become book lovers for life after getting hooked on a series. And there are lots of good ones that keep children hungry for the next instalment. Some reliable prospects: Ivy and Bean, Judy Moody for beginning readers; Harry Potter, A Series of Unfortunate Events, and the Percy Jackson series for middle graders; and Hunger Games, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, and Twilight (unless you think vampires are too creepy) for older Children.

Grab onto a genre: Children go through phases of genres they’re passionate about, from girl detectives to science fiction and fantasy. Don’t get hung up on whether it’s considered great literature (although some genre books are). Be happy that your child is devouring books one after the other.

Feed the favourite-author addiction: Once your child finds a writer they love, they may want to read all of his or her books -- a great excuse for a trip to the library or an opportunity for book swapping among friends and classmates. Here are some good bets for favourites. Younger Children: Dav Pilkey (The Adventures of Captain Underpants), Beverly Cleary (Beezus and Ramona). Middle grade: Kate DiCamillo (Because of Winn-Dixie), Neil Gaiman (The Graveyard Book). Tweens and teens: Judy Blume (Are You There God, It’s Me Margaret) and Sarah Dessen (Just Listen).

Count on the Classics: Books are called classics because they continue to engage readers generation after generation. There are no guarantees, but you could try introducing your children to books you loved as a kid and see which ones click. Some good ones to try are the Dr. Seuss and Narnia books, Charlotte’s Web, and The Secret Garden.

Find Books about the things your child Loves: If your kid adores horses, try Black Beauty or any of the titles on our list of best Horse Books. If he’s wild about cars, trucks and trains, check out the library. Librarians, booksellers, and Internet searches will help you find books on any favourite topic.

Funny Is Fine: Some parents wrestle with letting their children read Captain Underpants, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, and other edgy humourous books about children getting in trouble. Talk to your children about the content, but keep in mind that children like these books not because they want to imitate the characters’ actions but because they can live vicariously through their bad behaviour. Humor is a great pathway to book loving.

Comics Are OK: Graphic novels are among the hottest trends in children’s publishing, and they can get Children hooked on reading. Children may start with Squish and Baby mouse and move on to Diary of a Wimpy Kid. But these series can also lead to more sophisticated fare such as Marzi and American Born Chinese.

Engage with ebooks: Children can cuddle up with a Kindle, Nook, or iPad before naptime or bedtime. Some recent studies say more than half of U.S. Children are reading digital books at least once a week. The electronic format has proved to be especially engaging for boys and reluctant readers, and you can download or access many books on an e-reader, which make it a great choice for air travel and car rides.

But note that some studies show that book apps and interactive “enhanced” ebooks, while fun, can be distracting and inhibit reading comprehension. So to promote reading skills and encourage your kid to be a frequent reader, you might want to stick with ebooks that have the look of a bound paper book. Some even have animation that mimics turning the pages.

Make Reading a Family Value: Actions speak louder than words. Take your children to the library once a week or once a month to get new books, make regular outings to your local bookstore, hunt for low-cost books at used bookstores or second-hand shops, and show children that finding a good book is like a treasure hunt.

Fit reading into your family lifestyle: Set aside time for reading only -- turning off the TV, computer, and cell phone. Encourage focused reading time, either for independent reading or reading aloud.

For older Children, a parent-child book club can be fun. Read to children at bedtime. Provide time and space for your children to read for pleasure in the car (if they don’t get car sick!), on vacation, after homework is done, on their own before bed. Warning: It could be habit-forming!
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Community Survey

Sandy Strait State School is currently considering opening its own Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) service. The service would operate on the school grounds before and after school, as well as on Pupil Free days and during school holiday periods. As part of the service, children attending would be provided with breakfast, morning and afternoon tea.

We are interested in getting feedback from our families about their requirements for OSHC. The decision about establishing a service will be based on this survey, so if you are interested in using this proposed service, please take the time to complete this survey and return it to the Administration Office by 30/6/2015.

The Government supports families accessing OSHC, with various financial assistance including the Child Care Benefit (CCB) and the Child Care Rebates (CCR). For eligible families, this rebate would be deducted from the fees before you are charged. Following are some indicative fees for the service. After the available rebates have been deducted, the minimum and maximum costs for the service would be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One Child / Session</th>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Minimum cost after rebates For families eligible for max CCB, and CCR based on one child attending</th>
<th>Maximum cost after rebates For families eligible for CCR only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before School Care (includes breakfast)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$2.08</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Care (includes afternoon tea)</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
<td>$3.27</td>
<td>$8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation Care (includes breakfast, morning and afternoon tea)</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
<td>$1.40</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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</tbody>
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* Rebates increase with each additional child attending.

1. If OSHC services were available onsite at Sandy Strait State School, would you use them?
   Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. If you are interested in OSHC, please move on to question 3. If not, can you tell us why?
   Do not need OSHC [ ]
   Have alternative arrangements [ ]
   Cannot afford it [ ]
   Other reason—please specify:
3. Which year group are your children in?
   Please indicate how many in each year group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep—Year 2</th>
<th>Years 3-4</th>
<th>Years 5-6</th>
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4. When do you think you would be most likely to use the OSHC service?
   Please indicate number of children at each session

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Regularly</th>
<th>Occasionally</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before School Care</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacation Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pupil Free Days</td>
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</table>

5. What times would you require the service to open by in the morning to drop off your child/children and stay open till in the afternoon for you to collect your child/children?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before School Care</th>
<th>After School Care</th>
<th>Vacation Care/ Pupil Free Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.30am</td>
<td>4.30pm</td>
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<td>8.00am</td>
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Name: 

Email: 

Phone: 

Thank you for your participation.