COMING EVENTS
23 October—Disco form/payment due
28 October—P&C Meeting—3.00pm in conference room
28 October—Shell Questacon Science circus payment/forms due
29 October—Music Count Us In—11.30am
30 October—Day of Daniel
30 October—P&C Halloween Disco—Junior—5.00 to 6.30pm—Senior—7.00 to 8.30pm
2 November—Shell Questacon Science Circus visit
5 November—Prep Beach Excursion
6 November—Pre Prep Program—Session 4—Oral Language Concepts

Key to Success this fortnight: Getting Along

Please Support our P&C Disco. All Ticket Money due this Friday 23rd October

As you would all know we now have a full P&C executive and are able to start fundraising and organising school events once again.

The P&C have a Junior and Senior Disco planned for Friday 30th October in our school hall.

- Junior Disco runs from 5.00-6.30pm and is for children in years Prep to 3
- Senior Disco runs from 7.00-8.30pm and is for children in years 4-6.

All tickets both for disco entry and disco plus meal deal must be pre-ordered as there are no ticket sales at the door on the night.

Children are invited to come in fancy dress with a Halloween theme if they wish. Please note that fancy dress is optional and children are welcome to come dressed in regular clothing if they so choose also.

The cost of entry for the disco only is $5 per child or $10 for disco plus pizza deal. All money for disco tickets or disco plus meal deal are due THIS FRIDAY THE 23RD OCTOBER.

If you have misplaced your disco letter and ticket order form we have copies available in the school office and flyers will also be included with this fortnight’s newsletter.

It is important that we have a clear indication of our numbers of children and parents attending both disco’s so we can ensure the event is viable to go ahead.

Please support our P&C as they plan a great evening of dance and games for our school
**News from the Principal Continued**

**Mrs Sharon McMorrow**

**Landscaping our Environmental Area is Well Underway**

You may have noticed some big changes to the area at the front of the school after returning from school holidays.

As part of a special employment project the area at the front of the school is being landscaped to create a useable, environmental area in which classes can come and participate in science and environmental studies and families can sit and greet children at the end of the school day.

Prior to the project commencing this area was unusable and overgrown, creating a haven for snakes and mosquitoes. A number of trees had to be removed as they were dead, termite infested and posed safety hazards in the storm season.

The natural water way that was all silted up and damaged has been cleared out with river pebbles soon to line the water way to ensure that we have a free flowing creek area for frogs and other wildlife to call home. The clearing of the damaged trees has opened up the area allowing natural light to filter in so when new vegetation is planted it has the best chance of survival.

Walking tracks and additional seating will also form part of this major landscaping project.

We have already had some kangaroos in giving it the tick of approval and we look forward to seeing this area beautified creating a very unique and calming place to visit and utilise for outside learning.

**Day for Daniel 30th October**

Our school is registered to participate in the Day for Daniel on Friday 30th October.

All members of our school community are encouraged to wear red as we focus on raising awareness about “keeping kids safe” as we teach children to recognise, react and report.

Across our year levels children will participate in a range of classroom activities focussing on personal safety.

Please note that this is not a fundraising event, child, staff and community members are encouraged to wear red to show support for this great cause.

**2016 Prep Enrolment Forms**

Thank you to all of our future Prep families who have completed and returned your enrolment documentation. Your child’s enrolment and confirmed placement in our 2016 Prep Program is secure and guaranteed with the return of these forms.

If you have yet to return your completed enrolment documentation and forms can you please do so ASAP.

If you have friends or family who have yet to return their completed paper work who wish to secure their placement in our 2016 Prep Program can you please pass on this message.

Many thanks for your assistance with this important task.

**Leap Into our Pre- Prep Program- Session 4 “Oral Language Concepts” Friday 6th November**

On Friday 6th November our 2016 future Prep students and their families are invited to attend the final in their Pre Prep Program focussing on Oral Language Development.

Over the past sessions it has been lovely to see our future students grow in confidence as they become familiar with the school, our staff and make new friends.

At the end of each session the children have been given a Takeaway Pack of activities based on the specific session focus so they continue their learning at home.

At the upcoming session we will be awarding all of the students with a Pre Prep Certificate recognising their commitment and participation in our Pre Prep Program.

If you have yet to confirm your attendance at 6th November session can you please do so ASAP to ensure we have a takeaway pack and certificate prepared for your child.

**Planning Ahead for 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 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.

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**News from the Junior School—Ms Wendy Mason**

**Prep Beach Excursion**

Prep classes will be going on an excursion to the beach, Wet Side and the all abilities playground on Thursday 5th November 2015. The excursion ties in with their Science and Geography units this term. They are learning about the weather, special places in the community and how they are cared for. The cost is $7 and this covers morning tea, lunch and the bus.

Prep students received their note this week. Please return your child’s payment and permission note to the Office by Monday the 2nd of November. Please note that as this is an extra curricula activity and students who have not had the Student Levy paid will not be permitted to attend.

**Arriving on time to start the school day**

Please remember our school bell, to commence the day, rings at 8.37am. Students need to be at school, to start the day, on time to ensure they are organised and do not miss any important messages or key learning tasks at the beginning of the day.
Welcome Back
Welcome back to school for the last term of the year. Term 4 is usually a term that is extremely busy. Sometimes in Term 4, usually towards midterm, teachers and students have some minor disputes over what “we” should do: Teachers keen to complete final assessment tasks and students keen to down tools and “take their eye off the ball”. As you would be aware, through previous newsletter correspondence, schools are now required to implement a National Curriculum. To engage in this curriculum effectively requires considerable focus and commitment from both our students and teachers. So while there will be time to celebrate the wind of the year, our core focus will be as usual……teaching and learning.

Here are 3 things parents can do to help make Term 4 a success for their child:

- Ensure their child attends school EVERY DAY
- Encourage their child to read something (preferably a good book but the newspaper or magazine is good as well) for 10 to 20 minutes EVERY DAY
- Enquire from their child about what they have learnt at school EVERY DAY

Positive peers make a huge difference by Michael Grose
There is little doubt that positive peer relations impact on a child’s academic success, emotional well-being and state of mind. A big claim but the truth is that we tend to reflect the views and attitudes our peer groups. It is hugely beneficial if a child’s predominant peer group cares for him, has positive expectations about the future and places high value on helping others as well as personal improvement. Children’s peer groupings can be quite complex and dynamic. Most children will have a prime peer group consisting of between two and up to five others. These children are generally referred to as best friends, buddies or best mates. These social relationships are often formed early in children’s lives and are strengthened by shared school, extracurricular or informal outside school activities.

Children also have one or two secondary peer groups, which can be larger and generally reflect shared interests or shared best friends. When these groups contain children from different grades and even different schools they have an insulating effect if adverse events happen and also offer exposure to wider peer groups.

Being a member of a positive a peer group lessens the likelihood of a child being bullied or harassed. Children in positive peer groups look out for each other and don’t engage in such behaviours, whether verbal or physical, themselves. Positive peer groups tend to be tolerant of differences and have loyalty and caring as key values. Having friends who care also lessens the impact of bullying and helps prevent it from impacting on other areas of a child’s life.

There are a number of broad strategies parents can use to encourage positive peer groups to form and emerge. These include:

- providing opportunities for children to mix and share experiences,
- drawing children’s attention to friendship behaviours and focusing on socialisation rather than achievement when they play sport or are involved in creative or group activities.

In this achievement-oriented society we need to value positive peer relationships and ensure that they are not ignored or undervalued in our efforts to provide the best possible start for our children. To help your child become a member of positive peers groups try the following four ideas:

1. Discuss with your child how a good friend behaves. Ask him to identify some good friends and talk about what makes them a ‘good friend’.
2. Encourage them to join at least one outside school group and be a member of at least one school artistic, sporting or interest group.
3. Limit your child’s time in passive, solitary activities such as television-viewing, computer activities and Internet chatrooms.
4. Make an effort to get to know some of your children’s friends and their parents.

Congratulations—Brenden of 5C—Primary Schools Athletics Championship
Brenden in 5C has just returned from the Primary Schools Athletics Championship in Townsville. Brenden’s best throw in the shot put event was good enough to place him sixth (6th) in the State. An outstanding effort/result. Congratulations, Brenden.

Music Count Us In
Music Count Us In is back for 2015! Every year Sandy Strait State School along with over 2100 other schools around Australia takes part in this national event. This year it is taking place on Thursday, 29th October at 11:30am.

This much loved and highly anticipated event within the national school calendar, is now in its ninth year and reaches over 500,000 students all over the country when we all stop to sing the same song, at the same time. Our school will be gathering together in the Sandy Strait State School Hall just after morning tea on Thursday the 29th to sing this year’s song ‘Gold’.

All families are welcome to join us in the hall from 11:15am. So come along and celebrate Music Education in Australian Schools and support our kids who have worked so hard to learn the song.

As Australian icon and 2015 Music Mentor for the program Marcia Hines says, ‘Music Count Us In plays such a vital role in bringing the joy of music to school children around the country. Kids should have the opportunity to be involved in music at an early age, and this program does that. We want to spread the word music opens doors and creates opportunities for everyone.’

Kylie Hunter, Music Teacher
P&C HALLOWEEN Disco
Sandy Strait State School

Where: Sandy Strait State School Hall
When: Friday, October 30, 2015
Junior Disco (Prep – 3) 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Senior Disco (Grades 4 – 6) 7.00pm – 8.30pm
Cost: Disco plus pizza $10.00  Disco Entry Only $5.00
Cash only please!

Theme: Halloween - Come dressed in free dress or your spookiest Halloween costume.
All ticket sales for this Disco are to be pre-purchased (NO ticket sales at the door). Students, please bring your ticket on the night, and we will have your name marked off at the door when you are dropped to the Disco by your parents/specifed adult. Pick up from the Hall at the conclusion of the Disco by parents/specifed adult.

Please bring only a small amount of cash, as only glow products, lollies, chips and drinks will be available for sale on the night.

Students from other schools, brothers and sisters not in the age range listed will not be able to attend, and the student must be at school on the day of the disco to enter. Parents are welcome to attend with children, and will be asked to sign themselves in as a volunteer or as an observer. Come and join the fun!!

Please note: If you are a registered volunteer on the night, NO younger siblings are allowed into the disco, and NO children at all are allowed in the canteen area, this is against Workplace Health and Safety regulations, and the children will NOT be covered if an accident occurs.

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CASH ONLY PLEASE!

My Child...........................................will be attending the Junior Disco/ Senior (please circle).

Disco plus Hawaiian Pizza / Disco plus Meatlovers pizza / Disco only (please circle)

My child will be dropped off by...........................................and picked up by...........................................

I am/am not able to help on the night to supervise/and assist where needed (please Circle)

Please return the bottom section of this note, and payment in the envelope to the P&C box in the office.

Thanks. All tickets will be issued to students one or two days prior to event. Please ensure that correct money is included, as no change will be given. If more than one child is attending, we need a separate form and envelope filled in per child.

ALL FORMS AND MONEY ARE TO BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY,
23 OCTOBER 2015
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
Dear Parent,

You are considering enrolling your child into Prep School in 2016.

**FREE**
- 4 years Growth & Development check
- Hearing screen
- 4 year Immunisation

**BOOKING**
- 4 Year Check & Hearing screen

RING Child Health: 4122 8733

1. Tell the staff which site you are wanting to attend: Maryborough or Hervey Bay child health service.
2. Bring your RED BOOK (Personal Health Book).

**IMMUNISATION.**
1. Ring Fraser Coast Regional Council on 1300 794 929 to register.
2. Attend the Child Health Service for Immunisation: Maryborough or Hervey Bay.
3. Bring Red BOOK.

We encourage you to make the most of Child & Family Health Services. This free service is here to provide information and support to you and your family.

Department of Health
Wide Bay Hospital & Health Service
FRASER COAST COMMUNITY & ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES
Child, Youth & Family Services

Enquiries to: Reception
Telephone: 07 4122 8733
Facsimile: 07 4122 8709