Welcome Back to Term 2
Welcome back to a brand new term. I hope that all of our students and families had a restful and relaxing break and had an opportunity to spend time with loved ones.

To all of our new families I would like to extend a warm welcome to our school and the Sandy Strait family.

ANZAC Day
The staff and students of Sandy Strait have always had a proud and strong tradition of commemorating ANZAC day. This year we will be conducting our Whole School ANZAC Day ceremony in our school hall on Friday the 24th April from 11.30am. Invited guests from the RSL will address the school assembly as our student leaders share the Anzac Story. Year levels from across the school will be invited to lay a wreath as part of the ceremony.

On the 25th April students are invited to represent the school and participate in the Anzac Day street parade and march to Freedom Park.

Term 2 Calendar and Dates
Term 2 is a very busy term with many scheduled events including NAPLAN, Education Week Celebrations, Academic Awards, School Competitions, excursions, Hervey Bay Sports Galas, the School Athletics Carnival, Strings and Band workshops/concerts and much, much more.

Key to Success this fortnight: Getting Along
I have added many of these important dates onto the calendar which can be located on our school website at www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au. I will update this calendar throughout the term as more dates and events come to hand.

I will also share the above dates and events on our School Facebook page. If you have yet to find our school Facebook page, please be sure to visit us at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/354729921302918 or follow the quick link from the school website homepage www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au (listed on the right hand side).

By “liking” our school Facebook page you will then receive updates and posting regularly through your Facebook newsfeed.

SMS Messaging to Help Keep Parents Informed and Connected

Last year we commenced the implementation of SMS messaging. Information such as student absenteeism, date claimers, reminders etc can now be sent to mobile phones rather than through the regular post.

To help us ensure all of our records are accurate we are asking parents to update their mobile phone contact details with the school office. If you have updated your mobile phone or changed your number can you please be sure to contact the school office on 41970333 ASAP?

We thank you for your attention to this task as we implement further initiatives to ensure we have a connected school community.

2015 Student Resource Levy

Thank you to all of the parents who have completed the documentation and paid the 2015 Student Resource Levy in full or in instalments by the due date of the 28th March. Parents who have yet to return their forms and payments will receive invoices in the coming weeks.

Your prompt attention to these invoices is very much appreciated as we ensure we adequately resource our classrooms to support the range of learning activities that occur each day.

Our Intensive Focus on Student Attendance Continues this Term

One of the biggest factors affecting student achievement is attendance. Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated with higher student achievement. Putting it quite bluntly students need to be here at school to have the best chance at learning and succeeding.

The target for Student Attendance is 95%. In a 10 week school term that allows for children to be absent for only 2.5 days. Ideally we would like every student to strive for 100% attendance.

Our teachers and support staff are committed to ensuring our students have access to dynamic learning programs. We ask that you help us give children the best opportunity at succeeding by working together with us and supporting our focus on student attendance. Remember every day is a learning day and every day counts.

New Date for the School Cross Country

Due to heavy rain at the end of last term we needed to postpone our school cross country event. The cross country has now been rescheduled for Friday 1st May. We will post an updated copy of the timetable of events on our school Facebook page in the coming days. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend cheer our students along.

All Teachers Involved in 5 Weekly Target Meetings This Week with the Leadership Team

This week all teachers will meet with their Leadership Team representative (Principal, Deputy Principal’s, HOSES) to discuss their class data. This data includes the recent school wide assessment and unit 2 assessment tasks that were conducted in the final weeks of term 1.

Teachers analyse this and other student data to set 5 weekly targets in the areas of Reading, Word Study and Numeracy.

These Leap into Learning Target Meetings are a very important component of our school improvement agenda as we focus on the learning needs of all students to ensure that children are supported to make leaps forward in their learning every day.

Cross Country

The school’s annual Cross Country will be held next Friday, 1 May. All children are expected to participate in this event. A program of when students will be running is below. Parents are welcome to come and watch their child run.

Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>Years 1, 2 &amp; 3 gather on the oval in house groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>Grade 1 Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Grade 1 Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.20</td>
<td>Grade 2 Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Grade 2 Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.40</td>
<td>Grade 3 Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>Grade 3 Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>9yr Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.10</td>
<td>9yr Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.20</td>
<td>10yr Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>10yr Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45</td>
<td>Normal Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>11yr Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>11yr Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>Presentation and Clean Up (All students out to the oval)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any students born 2006 should run in the 9yr old races
NAPLAN: This term (Week 4) our Year 3 & 5 students participate in NAPLAN. Below are some details that parents may be interested in knowing regarding NAPLAN.

What is NAPLAN? The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests? NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how? NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. The content of each test is informed by the national Statements of Learning for English and mathematics, which underpin state and territory learning frameworks. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

Who will run the tests? NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests? NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on test days. Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 15 May 2015.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance? A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

Make it easy for your kids to be responsible by Michael Grose Michael Grose revisits how to teach children “responsibility”. Recently I worked with a mother who became really frustrated by her attempts to shift responsibility onto her two school-aged children for some of their basic self-care activities such as packing school lunches, even taking schoolbags to school.

She was caught in two extreme modes – either she told her children what they should be doing or she left her children to their own devices. She swung from authoritarian (“Do this!”) to laissez-faire (“Whatever?”) modes. Both strategies were problematic. Telling them what to do just meant she assumed responsibility for packing bags, lunches and the like, which often became a nagfest. It also encouraged parent deafness.

Alternatively, letting them figure out what they should do themselves meant that sometimes they remembered and sometimes they didn’t. Some children need some help along the way rather than being left to their own devices. The point is that you need to make it easy for some children to be responsible for their own well-being. This requires us to move into teacher mode, which can be a challenge at those busiest times of the day.
Here are three ways you can make it easy for children and teenagers to take responsibility for their basic tasks of life without assuming responsibility yourself as a parent:

1. Remind them: “Have you got your bag/lunch/homework/wallet?” said in a non-whining, non-accusatory way as a busy or distracted child or teen heads off to school is sometimes all it takes to get their head thinking right. If they choose not to take action or need further reminders then you are taking responsibility for their self-care.

2. Use a ‘to do list’: One particular gender needs more help with personal organisation than the other. Yes, boys can find ‘to do list’ helpful but don’t put too many things on the list. No more than five items and make sure they are the essentials. Use photos for non-readers and make sure they touch each photo once they have done the task. This makes a great anchor for young learners.

3. Rehearse in low stress situations: My motto with some kids is NEVER ASSUME! That is, just because you have told them what to do doesn’t mean they know how to do it. If getting off to school fully armed with books, homework, food, clothing and the rest is important then have a bit of fun rehearsing it at night – a number of times. Okay, it maybe going overboard but some children really need this type of help in low stress, low pressure situations. Combine this rehearsal with a ‘to do list’ and you are really making it easy for kids to be responsible.

If you find that you are making it too easy for children to be responsible then make yourself scarce at times and see how they do without you being around.

While redundancy may be the aim for parents we need to be mindful that some children need more assistance than others. There is a middle ground (of making it easy to be responsible) we can adopt between nagging and leaving kids to struggle when we want children to take responsibility for their basic self-care activities.

Reminder—Year 6 Senior Shirts Orders
A reminder to our Year 6 Parents that orders for Senior Shirts must be made and paid by 3pm Friday 1 May. Sample sizes of shirts are available to try on at the school office. Please make sure you select the correct size for your child as once order is made shirts cannot be exchanged or refunded.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

For those that don’t know me, my name is Kim and I have just completed my third year as P&C President.

I am very proud of the P&C, and all of its achievements over those years, however I let it be known that I would not be standing again as I feel it is time for someone with new ideas, and drive to step up to the role. At present I am staying on as a signatory on the Account so as the P&C can still function in a limited way.

At our AGM held on March 25, the following positions were left vacant:
• President
• Secretary

The P&C NEED your help in filling these positions. If these positions are not filled the P&C are unable to raise funds, or operate a Tuck-shop, and the whole P&C may have to close.

With a great team of like-minded Parents/Caregivers and Teachers there is no reason that this school can’t have a great P&C. Come on and be a part of it and give it a go!

A Parents and Citizens’ Association (P&C) is a group of community minded people, parents and citizens, who take on a more formal role to assist the school in providing:
• feedback on school policies and activities
• additional resources to be used to enhance student learning
• parents with opportunities to be involved in their child’s education.

Please find on the reverse of this letter the Role Descriptions. If you feel that you would be interested, or would like to know more, call Kim on: 0497379793, or email: kjpettet_parnell@hotmail.com

Our next General Meeting will be on Wednesday April 29, at 3pm, in the Admin Building, all people interested will be endorsed as members at this meeting, after filling in a P&C Membership form. This meeting will be followed by a quick Special Meeting where we elect our new Committee members.

*Reminder: You must be a member of the P&C before you can be elected to an Executive position.

Regards,

Kim Parnell
(Out-going P&C President)

The P&C President should:
• provide leadership
• Develop and maintain a close working relationship with the principal and the school community and act as a representative of the P&C
• ensure time is used effectively
• ensure decisions are made and followed up
• oversee accountability of the Association
• ensure everyone has a say
• manage dominant personalities
• foster good communication between the P&C, school and community
• encourage participation
• conduct meetings in an efficient and timely manner so that all members feel valued
• be familiar with the rules, operations and meeting procedures of the P&C.
• Ensure controls for handling cash are used
• Ensure records are kept up-to-date
• Maintain security of accountable forms
• Watch for and declare any conflicts of interest.
• Monitor that payments are approved for appropriate purposes
• Ensure all accounting is open and that the atmosphere at meetings accepts questioning of accounts as normal rather than critical
• Ensure that P&C members are aware of the requirements of the Constitution, Operations Manual and Accounting Manual

The P&C Secretary should:
• maintain attendance records and a register of members including life members
• assist the president in preparing an agenda for each meeting
• collate agenda papers for each meeting (including subcommittee reports)
• prepare and present minutes of P&C and officers’ meetings at each general meeting
• record and deal with correspondence in/out as directed by the P&C
• generally organise, record and maintain information pertaining to the activities of the P&C
• maintain custody of P&C Association documents on the school site where possible.

All Information taken from www.pandcsqld.com.au – this is a great source of knowledge for those wanting to know more about the positions, or about the P&C in general.