From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Leap into Learning.
Across all reaches of our school you will hear the phrase “Leap into Learning”.

Schools are about learning, it is our core business each and every day.

In 2015 we have continued to invest a great deal of time as a staff discussing what our focus for this “learning” will be. We have a very clear and defined goal around improving our results in Reading, Word Study and Numeracy and we are very committed to this plan.

Leaping into Learning is everyone’s business and we all have a critical role to play:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Parents</th>
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<td>• be present at school</td>
<td>• to ensure children are at school, on time every day</td>
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<tr>
<td>• to be organised and ready to learn</td>
<td>• to keep in contact with your child’s teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>• be an active participant in all learning experiences</td>
<td>• to read to your child/ren every day (lower primary)</td>
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<td>• to reflect on own learning</td>
<td>• to work in partnership with the school to support your child’s learning</td>
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I am very proud of the commitment our whole school team have shown towards this most important of agendas and we are looking forward to celebrating our successes and milestones along the way with you.

You will frequently hear us on assemblies, school newsletters and through other forms of communication discussing:

- whether students have made “leaps in their learning”, reaching their targets and aiming to always do better
- whether class teachers have data (every 5 weeks) that demonstrate how their class has made “leaps to reach their targets”, who has “leapt past their target” and who has “further to leap.”
- whether our intervention programs have supported children in “leaping forward”.
- recognising and celebrating the “leaps forward that we all make”
- recognising and celebrating those students who “leap high” through academic awards each semester.
- teachers and staff making “leaps in their learning” as they develop their professional skills and knowledge.

Have you leapt into learning today?

**Pink Stumps Day Raffle Winners**

Congratulations to all our Raffle winners from Pink Stumps day. The school community raised $2800 to help support this charity. Well done to everyone! A special thanks must go to Mrs Vicky Butchers who organises this event each year.

Double Adult pass on Spirit of Hervey Bay—Ashleigh H PB
1 x autographed mini bat—Madison T 1J
1 x autographed mini bat—Alyssa C PB
1 x autographed t-shirt—Ethan T 6H
1 x pink gardening pack—Emily B 4B
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 tasks (PAT Maths, North Coast Diagnostics, PAT Comprehension, Words their Way Spelling Inventories, Early Start Data in Prep) that were conducted throughout week 1 and 2.

Teachers analyse this and other student data to set 5 weekly targets for the children in their class 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.

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. Across the school Friday’s tend to be a day in which our Student Attendance Data spikes.

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.

Parent Meet and Greet Open School Afternoon

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 were invited to our Whole School Open Afternoon Meet and Greet Event.

All classrooms and teaching spaces across the school were open with teachers and staff in rooms. This also included our Intervention rooms and programs, Learning Enrichment Centre Classrooms and Library.

Parents were able to wander and visit their children’s classrooms, meet the teachers and learn more about what was happening in our classes throughout the afternoon.

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

Intensive Literacy Intervention Program Classrooms were also open providing parents with the opportunity to visit these rooms, meet the teachers and learn more about these specialised support programs.

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

Thank you to all of our parents and staff for your participation in this special afternoon.

News from the Student Leaders

Thanks
On behalf of all student leaders we thank the Mayor, the P & C President and Mr Jackson for organising the wonderful assembly to introduce the new 2015 student leaders. Also thank you very much for that delicious cake you brought in for us.

Seattle

Chicken Applications
The chickens are safely back from the holidays, however, they are in need of responsible carers. If you are willing to care for our lovely chickens—Cheepy, Claire, Goldy and our beautiful rooster Little Boy, please fill out an application form (available from the office), circle the days you are available, whether you want to be a morning or lunchtime carer. You can then place your application in the appropriate box in the office. You will then be notified by your teacher if you are chosen. I hope we can all work together to take care of our wonderful chickens.

Destiny

This week, on Tuesday, we celebrated Pink Stumps Day which supports the McGrath Foundation. We wore pink and played cricket and payed for sausages and jelly cups. There were also raffle tickets on sale. We were happy to see boys and girls wearing pink especially the boys. Thank you for wearing pink and helping raise money for the McGrath Foundation. Well done!

Lillian
This week students will be finishing their first units of work in English with assessment tasks appropriate to the work they have been learning. It is always very exciting to listen to our students talk about their work and to observe them problem solving, writing and reading so please discuss with your child the work they have been doing for their English assessment.

Next week our students begin a new unit of work in English.

Prep
Prep students are working towards being able to make connections between texts and their own lives. They will be asked to describe what they like and dislike about familiar objects, events, characters and texts. Teachers will also be assisting them to communicate these likes and dislikes clearly to their classmates.

To be able to achieve these outcomes our Preppies will need to use oral language and written texts as they explore literacy tasks. Your child will be writing in their ‘Kid Writing’ book each day, listening to stories, viewing pictures, books (fiction and non-fiction) and media clips. They will continue to learn their alphabet, how to hold a pencil, how to write their name as well as some common familiar words. They are learning to listen carefully and nearly all of them are beginning to follow instructions.

Parents can assist their child with all of these tasks by encouraging their child to speak clearly, listen carefully and follow instructions. Parents can also help students by reciting the alphabet with them, reading to them as often as possible, helping them write their name and having meaningful conversations with them about topics of interest.

Year One
Year One students have a speaking task as their assessment for unit One and are busy writing their task this week in preparation for their presentation. Students need to be able to identify with a character from a book and describe the emotions this character displayed. Year One students have all shown a very mature response to being able to discuss emotions and what they mean. Students also will need to link their character to their own feelings and experiences.

When I read Too Loud Lily it reminded me of the first time I rode my new skateboard. I felt nervous.
Jake 1J

I think Lily was excited when she was on stage because she smiled.
Amara 1A

The action words ‘her chest was thumping’ tell me Lily feels nervous. I felt nervous when I went to the hospital.
Sienna 1M

When I read Too Loud Lily it reminded me of when I felt happy to go to the skatepark and skateboard.
Tyson 1J

The action words ‘her knees were shaking and her heart was thumping’ tell me Lily feels nervous. I felt nervous when I came to this school.
Ana 1M

Year Two
Year Two students have been studying poetry. The importance of rhyme, rhythm and punctuation are essential elements in a successful poem. Please enjoy the following class poems and innovations on a familiar poem by year 2 students.

Three Bad Pigs by 2B
Three bad pigs
Three bad pigs

See how they swim
See how they swim
They all swim after the tigers cub
Who cut off their belly with a pointy club
Have you ever seen such a thing in your tub,
As three bad pigs?
Smiggley Wiggly Snap
Smiggley Wiggly Snap!
The bear has eaten the tap!
The lion is in a nappy!
The bird’s in a flappy!
Smiggley wiggly snap!
Katina 2R

Wriggly Piggly Bang
Wriggly Piggly Bang!
The shark has eaten the fang!
The mouse is in a nappy!
The fish’s in a flappy!
Wriggly Piggly Bang!
Indi 2R

Narty Smarty went to a party
In his jelly jet
After tea he hopped in the sea
And he got his hair all wet
Shay 2L

Narty Smarty went to a party
In his jelly jet
After tea he hopped in the sea
And got his food all wet
Jemma 2L

Year Three
Our Year three students are working at persuasion and all the necessary language features required to write and speak in a persuasive manner. Features such as modal verbs, modal adverbs, evaluative adjectives and repetition. Please enjoy the efforts of our year three students as they try their hand at persuasion.

Snowy is a gorgeous snow-white Maltese. All she asks for is cuddles and fun. She loves little and tall kids so if your kids want a dog that is great fun and a tiny cutie who gives awesome cuddles, it’s snowy. Wouldn’t you want that?
Chelsea 3T

Letter to Mum
Dear Mum,
I would like to get a pet Jack Russell. Surely you agree with me that it is the most amazing dog in the world. It’s so cute, I have to have it because it will warn us if there is a snake in our yard. I will take it for walks. I would really like it. I will buy it food and wash it. It’s the last one. It is small and won’t take up much room. It comes with a water bowl and a food bowl. Love from your smart son.
Kaine 3P

Letter to Mum
Dear Mum,
I would like to get a pet tea cup Chihuahua. Surely you have to agree with me to get the puppy. Mum you must get this pet! I promise to be good and take care of it. I will do my chores and clean its mess up. You have to get this teacup Chihuahua before it goes. It’s the last on in the shop. Mum, I need a friend to play with. I’ll teach it tricks and not to dig like Lachlan’s dog. You have to agree please! Love your daughter.
Shannon 3P
Student Leadership Assembly
The 2015 Student Leadership Team were formally welcomed during a badge presentation ceremony last Tuesday. Special guest, mayor Gerard O’Connell, presented the students with their badges and briefly spoke about the key elements of effective leadership. Mr O’Connell also made a point to mention how impressed he was with the polite students in the audience. He also revealed to them that he had a special affiliation with our school because his favourite colour was green (possibly due to his Irish heritage); just like the colour of our school uniform.

The student leadership team have already started their duties performing activities like: supporting teachers and our chaplain coordinate lunchtime activities, assisting with assemblies, raising and lowering the flag each day, contributing to newsletters and providing peer support.

Year 6 Camp
A reminder to parents of our Year 6 students that the Leadership Camp will be held from Wednesday 18th March to Friday 20th 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.

The school sets a target of no less than 80% attendance for school excursions. Thus, this year, we will require about 80 students attend our camp. If this target is not reached camp will be cancelled and parents reimbursed their money.

Key camp activities include:
Mid Ropes
The Mid Ropes course is part of the three different levels of the Maranatha Ropes Courses. The mid ropes course is 10 metres above ground.

Abseiling
At the Abseiling station participants climb a fixed ladder to one side of a towering eucalypt tree to a platform where a facilitator then provides instruction to descend the 11 metre abseil wall on the other side of the tree. Abseilers are controlled by the instructor from above.

Leap of Faith
Climb to the top of the pole to the platform and leap off. At the Leap of Faith there is a sense of anticipation and excitement where each participant tests their preparedness to leap out and try to punch the hanging ball on their way past. The Leap of Faith builds safe risk taking and trust and helps participants to understand their decision-making processes.

Possum Pull
Possum Pull encourages team effort, participation and cooperation. Everyone has a turn at being the ‘possum’. They are harnessed and attached to the rope which runs through a pulley 14 metres up and then back down to the rest of the team. The running team is also attached to the rope and when they run the possum gets a giant swing in the air.

River Rafting
A great activity for the group to work together planning, designing, communicating and constructing a raft from the tyres, ropes, planks and life jackets. The goal is to paddle across the creek.

Challenge Trail
The Challenge Trail winds through the forest amongst hanging foliage, over logs and rocky sections. The group is blind folded and must rely on senses other than sight to complete the course. The group works as a team and needs excellent communication skills to stay together and finish the course. The Challenge Trail is about leadership, discovery and developing an appreciation of the natural environment.

AFL Gala day
Mr Baldwin will accompany 2 teams of boys from Year 5 & 6 classes to compete in the AFL Gala day this Friday. We wish them the best of luck.

Library News—Mrs Melanie Mills
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.

School Banking—Volunteers Needed
School banking volunteers needed. You will need internet and printer access and commit to every Monday 2pm to 2.40pm during the school term. Basic data entry and cash accounting... simple procedures already in place.

Interested parties please contact the school office or Nicole on 0407637150

Bookclub—Volunteers Needed
We are looking for volunteers to assist with collating, ordering and distributing bookclub orders. You will need to have internet and printer access and be able to commit approx 3 hrs per issue (7 more issues in 2015). The procedures are fairly straightforward forward and help is always just a phone call away. So if you are not adverse to simple cash accounting, data entry and a little bit of leg work then bookclub coordinator is for you. Due to unforeseen work commitments Nicole will be unable to help in the future... BOOKCLUB NEEDS YOU. Issue 2 will be in your classrooms soon.
Meet and Greet P&C BBQ:
Thank you to all who attended, especially to Colin Town for separating 300 Sausages for us, Redge for giving up his time to cook the sausages, Sharon Mitchell for spreading the P&C word, and Kim Chilton for helping me give away 300 drinks and sausages. It was a very busy production line. Whilst we ran out of drinks towards the end, our sausages lasted until 4pm, nothing was left. That was first free BBQ, and we have learnt a lot.

AGM reminder:
Our AGM is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 3pm, in the Conference room of the Admin Building.
All positions will become Vacant at the AGM.
P&C Executive Officer Nomination forms will be available from the office.
Please note: The Candidate, Nominator and Seconder must be members of the Association. Candidate’s may nominate themselves, “Moved by” and “Seconded by” may be completed before, or at the meeting.
If you are interested in joining, you can also pick up an Application for Membership from next week, at the Office.
All welcome.
The AGM will be followed by our first General Meeting for 2015, All welcome.

(please note: Our meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 was cancelled, as our Principal will be away)

Your Executive Team
Kim, Tash and Sharon

Payments to School
If you process any payments to the school via Direct Deposit (into the school’s banking account) please ensure that you use your child’s name and what you are paying for as a reference eg John Smith Camp or Mary Bloggs SRS (Student Resource Scheme). We have been receiving direct deposits that have no identification. If you require help with this please phone the office. We appreciate your help with this matter.

We have a transaction from 24/2/15 with the BSB 141 000 with reference Sandy Straits 1754 for $40. If you have made such a payment could you please contact the office?

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 first-hand 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: ____________
Junior training and sign-on starts Wednesday 4th March 2015
@ Norm McLean Oval, Ravel Rd, Torquay

U13’s 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
U11’s & U11’s 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

All 2014 registered players will be notified shortly of how to register online.
All new players welcome. Please bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate.

Any enquiries, please email Lisa at jhvetz@bigpond.com