From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

School Attendance - Every Day Counts
Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

• they learn better
• they make friends
• they are happier
• they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?
Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness, doing work experience or competing in a school sporting event are acceptable reasons for being absent from school.

Principals decide if the reason given for your child's absence is acceptable.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:
• birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check ups or care such as hair cuts. Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.
With the end of Term fast approaching it is timely to remind parents about the importance of attending school every day until the last day of term.

In a regular school day from Prep to Year 6, our students are involved in many learning experiences from the start of the school day at 8.37am through until 2.50pm. So much of the work that occurs in the school cannot be replicated or “caught up at home” via a worksheet.

We have a large percentage of children who are repeatedly absent on Fridays. Friday is not a finishing off or catch up day. It is just as important as every other learning day in the week. If your child is repeatedly away on a Friday they will miss 40 Fridays in a school year. That equates to 8 weeks of the school year, nearly a whole term of learning.

As a school we will be vigilant in following up on student attendance with the only acceptable reason for student absence being illness or representative sport.

On our school Facebook page we will regularly providing info about the importance of student attendance together with some video links highlighting key points.

Please help us provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child by sending them to school every day.

The Great Work that is Happening in Classrooms
This year across our school we have many new programs and initiatives in place with a whole school focus on the teaching of Reading, Word Study and Numeracy from Prep to Year 6.

Our teachers regularly meet both inside and outside of school hours developing their professional learning, reflecting on their teaching and observing others as they teach to ensure consistency and high expectations for our learners across our school.

Over the past 2 weeks the leadership team including Principal, Deputies and HOSES have been formally observing and providing feedback to our teachers in classrooms as they deliver lessons around our key focus items above.

We have brilliant teachers in our school who are delivery outstanding lessons to students each and every day. Our teachers are focusing intently on students being able to explain their thinking and ensuring they are developing deep understanding in these areas.

We are very proud of our teaching team and the outstanding work they are doing each and every day.

Whole School ANZAC Day Ceremony on Friday 24th April – Week 1 of term 2 Date Claimer
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 9.30am. 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.

This year is an extra special ceremony as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of ANZAC day.

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

Children wishing to march with our school are to come dressed in school uniform with a hat and drink bottle and meet in the Woolworths Carpark (Hunter Street) at Pialba at 9.00am on Saturday the 25th April. The street march is scheduled to commence at 9.30am. Students from Prep to Year 6 are invited to attend and keep the ANZAC spirit alive.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>One Day a Week Doesn’t Seem Much But …………</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>If your child misses………..</strong></td>
<td><strong>That</strong></td>
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<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
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<td>1 day per week</td>
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<td>3 days per week</td>
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An Update on School Sports Shirts

Late last year many families placed orders for Sports Shirts. When the shirts arrived at the school in the beginning weeks of the school year there was an error with the colour of the piping and embroidery and they needed to be returned to the manufacturer to be remade.

We have met with the supplier this week who has experienced some unexpected issues with the shirts and the sourcing of the correct shade of fabric.

This issue with the sourcing of the fabric has resulted in a further delay with the shirts.

They are now expected to be completed by the end of April (the week after the school holidays).

This means that families awaiting sports shirt deliveries will not have them in time for the school cross country carnival scheduled for next Thursday (the regular school shirts are fine to wear on this day in place of sports shirts).

Our supplier was very apologetic for the delay but he wants to ensure that the shirt parents have ordered is accurate and the base fabric matches our other uniforms. He does not want to deliver an inferior product to our parents.

The 300 incorrect shirts that were delivered at the beginning of the year have now been donated to the Vanuatu Appeal and will be shipped to the cyclone zone rather than making their way to landfill.

We thank you for your understanding with this issue.

Maths News—Mr Mark Hansen

All teachers at Sandy Strait State School have maintained the focus on warm-ups as a way of engaging students, utilising maths language and developing a deeper understanding of concepts. Below is a summary of the games the students have been playing and the concepts they teach:

- Prep, Year 1, 2/3M LEC - Playing “shake, shake, drop” and “lemons and oranges” to teach the different ways numbers can be created and partitioned.
- Year 2 - Playing “4 square”, “ladders” and “string sums” to investigate different ways that numbers can be represented and how to work mathematically
- Year 3, 4/5W LEC - Playing “Get Closer” and “4 square” to gain a deeper understanding of number lines and the link between addition and subtraction
- Year 4, 6C LEC - Playing “partition party” and “4 square” to gain a deeper understanding of place value and the link between multiplication and division. Playing “fractions on a line” also.
- Year 5 - Playing “4 square” and “fractions on a line” to gain a deeper understanding of the link between multiplication and division, and fractions
- Year 6 - Playing “ladders” and “4 square” to better understand place value and the link between multiplication and division.

Classes are also requiring students to use skills such as problem solving and reasoning through various questions such as:

1. What would be a reasonable answer to this problem?
2. Can you prove your answer is correct?
3. Is your method the most efficient?
4. Which of your strategies worked and which did not and explain why.
5. Can you communicate using appropriate language?

Thanks,
Mark Hansen – mhans78@eq.edu.au
Numeracy Pedagogy Coach
Parent/Teacher meetings
This week and next provide the opportunity for parents to come to school and meet with your child’s teacher. I would encourage all parents to attend this important meeting to work with your child’s teacher in providing your child the best chance for success in their schooling. During this meeting you will be provided with some of the following information:

- Curriculum information from term one and expectations for next term
- Areas of achievement and areas for further focus relevant to your child
- Teacher and classroom expectations around behaviour, school work and attendance
- Your child’s social/friendship relationships
- Intervention and extension programs relevant to your child

Ways your child’s teacher differentiates for student needs

Another important aspect of this meeting is the chance to discuss the activities that parents can also be working on with their child at home to support your child with both curriculum learning and behaviour expectations.

Reading tips for the holidays
Helping your child with reading can provide opportunities for fun as well as practice in essential reading and comprehension strategies.

Prediction is an important strategy that allows your child to make a guess about events in what they are reading or watching.

Encourage your child to predict by asking questions such as, “What do you think will happen next?” “Who do you think ……..?” These types of questions help children as they’re reading help them learn to monitor their understanding of the story while thinking ahead to the next part.

If your child is able to make good and fairly accurate predictions while reading, chances are they comprehend the story well.

Another important strategy to practise over the holiday break is to encourage your child to visualize parts of the story in their mind. These “mind movies” help clarify information and increase understanding, and can be done with fiction or nonfiction text. The images can include any of the five senses.

Many of the books you read with your child may already contain beautiful illustrations, so try visualization practice with the longer books you read aloud or using a picture book, sit facing your child and read a few pages without having your child look at the pictures. Then provide your child with practice developing their mental images by sharing images you have in your mind and talk about the words which helped you make your mind pictures.

As you continue to read allow your child to share what they see, hear, taste, smell and feel. Ask what words helped them create the mental image and emotions.

By doing this, you are providing your child with practice with this new skill. The fun of sharing these mental pictures allows children to see how each of us can have different pictures in our mind based on our experiences and that it’s interesting to discuss these mind pictures.

Cross Country
In the last week of term we have the cross country on Friday 2nd April. Your children have been training for this event at school so please encourage them to attend school on this day and do the best they can in completing the cross country course.

Support of people in Vanuatu
As reported last week Cyclone Pam has left thousands of people homeless on Vanuatu. Vanuatu President Baldwin Lonsdale said the storm had destroyed most buildings in the capital Port Vila, including schools and clinics. A state of emergency has been declared in the tiny state of 267,000 people, spread over 65 islands.

Sandy Strait school community supported the people of Vanuatu by providing necessary clothing, toys, clothing, linen, canned food and school supplies. Mark Hansen, our Maths coach, and some Senior students have boxed up these items and they have delivered to the dispatch point. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this worthy cause as your support will undoubtedly help others in this terrible disaster.

Cross Country
The school’s annual Cross Country will be held next Thursday, 2 April. 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
8.45 Years 1, 2 & 3 gather on the oval in house groups
8.50 Grade 1 Girls
9.00 Grade 1 Boys
9.10 Preps
9.20 Grade 2 Girls
9.30 Grade 2 Boys
9.40 Grade 3 Girls
9.50 Grade 3 Boys
10.00 9yr Girls
10.10 9yr Boys
10.20 10yr Girls
10.30 10yr Boys
10.45 Normal Morning Tea
11.15 11yr Girls
11.30 11yr Boys
11.45 Presentation and Clean Up (All students out to the oval)
News from the Senior School—Mr Bruce Jackson

Year 6 Camp
The Year 6 students had a ball on camp. They were faced with a number of physical challenges that tested their resilience and many discovered that they were capable of doing things that they originally thought they were not capable of doing. Hopefully students will be able to reflect on the success they had on camp when they are faced with other challenges throughout the year.

A big thank you to the staff who attended camp as well. The challenges that a camp of this type provides cannot be overstated. Staff even had the insight to take some photos for the school to share with parents (on Face Book), giving parents a real time update on what the students were doing on camp.

USHS 2016 Transition
Staff from USHS visited our Year 6 students last Tuesday. Key discussion topics included:

- Introducing Student Representatives
- Providing an overview of high school life including what students can expect at the high school, And
- Providing details about how the ‘Application for Enrolment’ process works

A Parent Information Night for Year 7 2016 will be held Wednesday 1st April 6pm to 7pm.

This will be held in the Year 7 Precinct (GD Block) area at Urangan State High School.

The School will be accepting Enrolment Applications from Monday 20th April 2015.

News from the Student Leaders

Camp
Well done to all the Year 6s who went to camp. Hope you had a great time and enjoyed yourselves. Also, thank you to the teachers for organising this wonderful camp.

Seattle

Year 6 went to Maranatha Camp to push beyond limits and experience new things. We faced fears we never knew we had and encouraged our fellow friends to push harder. We all enjoyed our time although some could not complete the tasks.

Lilly

Gala Day
Gala Day is an Interschool sports day commencing this Friday 27 March. This is a day when students are able to participate in a variety of sports such as netball, touch football, soccer, tennis and much more. To prepare for this day of fun remember to put on a lot of sunscreen and drink lots of water, teamwork and have lots of fun!

Destiny

USHS will be hosting an information session at your child’s school on Tuesday 17th March 2015 11.15am to 12.15pm about the transition to High School life in 2016.

This information session will be presented by Mr Marty Mills – Head of Year 7 for 2016 and will include:

- Introduction
- Student Representative/s
- Overview of High School life including what students can expect at our High School
- Handout of our ‘Application for Enrolment’ packs
- Question and Answer session
- Parents/Caregivers are welcome to attend this Transition Session.

A Parent Information Night for Year 7 2016 will be held Wednesday 1st April 6pm to 7pm.

This will be held in our Year 7 Precinct (GD Block) area at Urangan State High School.

Our School will be accepting Enrolment Applications from Monday 20th April 2015.

Information relating to all student enrolments can be accessed by visiting the school’s website: www.uranganshs.eq.edu.au from Monday 20th April 2015 or contacting our Enrolment Management Officer on 4197 0111 or Email: enrolments@uranganshs.eq.edu.au

Year 5 & 6 Gala Sports Day
This Friday our Yr. 5 & 6 students will participate in the Autumn Gala Sports Day. Sports on offer include: Rugby League, Touch football, Hockey, Netball, Tennis and Soccer.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Parents are encouraged to accept the invitation to meet with their child’s teacher during Term 1 parent teacher interviews. Here are a few questions parents might want to consider asking teachers during the interview:

- How is my child doing in your class?
- How does my child’s work compare to your expectations?
- Do you have any concerns about their academic progress?
- Are you satisfied with the quality of their homework?
- Does my child listen in class?
- Does my child contribute to class discussions? Are they confident talking in front of the whole class?
- How are their social skills? Do they get along with other students?
- Who are their friends? Who do they play with?
- Is my child liked by other students?
- Are there any issues in the playground? Do they behave appropriately?
- Are there any subjects which my child is reluctant to participate in?
- What can I do to help?
ELDERS SWIM CENTRE
Winner of
AUSTRALIA’S BEST
AUSTSWIM CENTRE 2013
HOLIDAY fast track SWIM LESSONS

- SMALL classes … (max. 4 students)
- 7th Tuesday - 10th Friday April. $55
- 13th Monday - 17th Friday April $70
$114 both weeks.
Infant, Stroke correction & squad classes also available.

URANGAN POINT STATE SCHOOL
PERMANENT TEACHER AIDE – SWD x 2
14 hours per week commencing Term 2 2015

Applications are invited for the above Teacher Aide positions at Urangan Point State School. The successful applicants will perform a range of teacher aide duties within our SEP Program. The Role Description and relevant information is available from Urangan Point State School office in Miller Street, Urangan, email gkenz2@eq.edu.au or by phoning 41948333.

Your application must address the “How you will be assessed” section of the role description and be submitted, with a current resume, to:
Attention:  Business Services Manager
Urangan Point State School
P O Box 7088
URANGAN   QLD   4655
Private & Confidential

Applications may also be emailed to gkenz2@eq.edu.au

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 1 April 2015.
The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000 requires the preferred applicants to be subject to a Working with Children Check.
Education Queensland actively supports and encourages workforce diversity and equity.