From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Welcome Back to the 2016 School Year

I would like to welcome all of our students and families to the 2016 school year. It has been wonderful over the last couple of days to see so many happy, smiling faces ready to “Leap into a year of Learning.” Welcome to all of our new students who have joined the Sandy Strait family.

This year due to the timing of Australia Day we have commenced the school year on a Wednesday which makes our first week of school a very short one.

This year term 1 is a 9 week term and term 2 is an 11 week term. As part of our pupil free day activities our staff were involved in curriculum planning tasks to adjust our programs to take into account the varying lengths of both terms in 2016.

Interim Staffing through until Day 8

Schools across Queensland do not have their staffing arrangements confirmed until the 8th day of the school year (Friday of Week 2) to allow for new enrolments and those individuals moving in between schools to settle.

Here at Sandy Strait we use as much information as we have at hand to determine the number of students returning to commence a new school year and also include new enrolments to our school to determine our classes.

All schools across Queensland are staffed on a formula based on enrolments.

If there is any change to class arrangements as a result of Day 8 Staffing collections we will contact parents ASAP to advise of any foreseeable changes.
News from the Principal Continued

Mrs Sharon McMorrow

**Student Booklist Items and the Student Resource Levy**

At the end of last year we organised an online ordering process to take the stress out of back to school shopping via "Staples" as an option for parents to plan ahead and have their booklist items delivered to their home address.

Parents also had the option to purchase the booklist items from local suppliers. I have been contacted by a couple of parents to let me know that some items on the Prep and Year 1 booklist are out of stock with some of the local suppliers.

While parents do not pay fees for tuition/teaching in State Schools, parents are required to provide uniforms and student resources for their children. As the curriculum programs have evolved in recent years, so to, have the types of resources that children require for learning.

For our new families please be aware that the Student Resource Levy of $50 is to provide parents with a cost effective, value for money alternative to purchasing textbooks, resources, consumables and materials **not included on the school’s booklist**.

In the initial days of the school year teachers are working with children to organise all of their booklist items to support the various learning areas across the curriculum. If you have yet to send all of the booklist items to school for your child can you please be sure to send these items along to your child’s classroom.

If you have misplaced your child’s booklist please contact the school office or you can download a copy from our school website at www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au.

**Sauers Uniforms now Stocking our Sports Shirts and Hats**

This year, Sauers will be stocking our school sports shirts and hats along with our regular school polo shirts.

Sauers is located at 1/5 Torquay Road, Pialba.

For our new families it is important that you are aware of your child’s Sporting house (Tulara, Corrawiga or Kondari) prior to purchasing your shirt as each house is represented by a different colour.

School hats (in various sizes) are also now available for purchase in our school office from Wednesday.

**Outside School Hours Care at Sandy Strait**

We are very pleased to announce that Helping Hands Network is joining the Sandy Strait School community to deliver on site Outside School Hours Care – before school, after school as well as during the school holiday periods and student free days.

They are currently working with the Regulatory Authority to organise for the service to be licenced with an anticipated starting date of the 22nd February. In the interim Helping Hands will be providing a bus to their service at Torquay State School until Helping Hands Sandy Strait opens on the 22nd February.

Please refer to the information letter contained for further information about Outside School Hours Care contained with this fortnight’s newsletter.

**Have you Visited our School Facebook Page?**

Our School Facebook page is proving a very effective way of providing up to date information to our parents about a range of school events and happenings.

If you find notes and newsletters in the bottom of school bags long after an event has passed then our school Facebook page is a great way of ensuring you stay up to date with all that is happening around the school and that you don’t miss out on important information.

Reminders about upcoming special events, notes and payments due, photos and stories that allow us to bring the classroom to our parents are shared daily through our Facebook page.

By ‘Liking’ us on Facebook you will receive all of the updates through your news feed each day.

You can locate our facebook page from our school website www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au.

Or through Facebook on at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/354729921302918.

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### News from the Tuckshop

Tuckshop will **re-open** next Thursday, 4 February and Friday, 5 February. Tuckshop will be open Thursday and Friday of each week for the rest of the term.

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### News from the String Music

On Wednesday, I gave a letter to each student who had passed the selection process to begin violin or cello this year. Parents, please check your child’s bag for this letter.

Next Tuesday, 2nd February I will be in the music room checking the new students’ instruments and equipment.

Lessons for **ALL string students will start** on Wednesday, 3rd February.

I will get a timetable for lessons to every student before then.

For continuing string students: string ensemble rehearsal will begin Wednesday, 10th February at 7.30 am.

I am looking forward to a big year of music making at Sandy Strait State School!!

Thanks,
Marsh Robinson, Senior Instrumental Music Teacher
Helping Hands Sandy Strait Outside School Hours Care

Helping Hands Network is joining the Sandy Strait State School community to deliver on site Outside School Hours Care – before school, after school as well as during holiday periods and staff development days. They are currently working with the Regulatory Authority to organise for the service to be licenced and are aiming to commence on 22 February 2016. In the interim Helping Hands will be providing a bus to our service at Torquay State School until Helping Hands Sandy Strait is open.

Helping Hands Network has a philosophy of building stronger, happier and healthier communities through the provision of quality childcare in partnership with children, parents and schools. They tailor their programs to meet the local school community needs.

Parent information packs with enrolment forms are available and contain all of the information required to enrol your children. It is a licencing requirement that any child using the service must be enrolled. There is no fee to enrol with Helping Hands, it is recommended that all children are enrolled so that the service is available for your family, even if only in an emergency.

Email accounts@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au or call our Help Desk if you if you would like an enrolment pack sent to you or if you would like to speak to someone regarding the service.

You can also enrol on line at www.helpinghandsnetwork.com.au/schools-families. Enrolment packs are also available at the school office.

As a school we look forward to welcoming Helping Hands and know that they will add significant value to our school community.

In the interim, if you have any questions about Helping Hands and the service they will be providing to the school, please contact the Helping Hands Help Desk on 1300 612 462.
Community News

SPORTS EXPO

Come along to the Sports Expo and discover what sports, recreation & leisure groups are available on the Fraser Coast.

With over 60 stallholders, club sign-ons, demonstrations, giveaways and kids activities!

$1000 SPORFIRST Hervey Bay voucher door prize for one lucky attendee!

February 7
10am – 2pm
PCYC Hervey Bay

For more information contact
Liz on: 0432 794 129