From the Principal - Mr Matthew Bulger

Key to Success this fortnight: Persistence

**ANZAC Assembly and March**

On Friday the 22nd of April we held our special ANZAC assembly, to celebrate and remember the service of men and women in the armed services. It was wonderful to see parents and caregivers come along and join in this special occasion, and the behaviour and enthusiasm of the students was excellent. I would like to thank Kate Gay for her time to come and speak with our students, sharing her wealth of experience and knowledge to help us better understand the meaning of this important national day. I would also like to thank and congratulate the School Promotions School Leaders; their work with running the assembly was exemplary.

The ANZAC parade held on Monday the 25th of April was also well supported, thank you to all those students, parents, caregivers and school staff for making the effort to come along and support the town and the school at this great event.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews**

Many parents will have recently met with teachers as part of our formal parent-teacher interviews to discuss the social and academic progress of their child. Thank you for taking a keen interest in your child’s success at school. If you would ever like to discuss celebrations or concerns regarding your child further, please contact the office to arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher.

**School Grounds**

Wow, don’t they look fantastic. I have spoken to a number of parents and school staff recently who have commented about how great the school grounds are looking. Our grounds staff have been working hard to create such a wonderful learning environment – well done Redge and Peter.

**Student Resource Scheme**

Thank you to all those families who have already paid their student resource scheme payment, your
support is greatly appreciated. Outstanding payments can still be made at the office. This money is used to supplement school funding, provide resourcing and some extra curriculum activities for our students. Students of families who have not yet made payment may miss out on these extra curriculum activities until the payment has been made. If you are experiencing financial hardship or would like to discuss a payment option (CentrePay available) or a payment plan, please do not hesitate to contact the office, we are more than happy to work together to ensure all students are able to participate.

News from the Deputy Principal of Senior School—Mr Bruce Jackson

Zone Cross Country
We wish our school cross country representatives all the best this Friday when they take on the Zone cross country course. Our students will be vying for a position on the Hervey Bay team to compete in the Wide Bay Cross Country event to be held in the coming weeks.

USHS Academic Enrichment Day
A big thank you to the staff at USHS who, on Tuesday, invited 15 of our high achieving Year 6 students to their school to participate in learning activities that make up part of their ACE program. The purpose of the day was not only to give students a taste of the ACE program but to encourage our students to continue their good work so they remain eligible to be part of the program next year.

Hats for PE and Outside Play
Just a friendly reminder that students are required to have a school hat each and every day for school. Preferably students will wear a school bucket hat, but otherwise may also wear a different bucket or broad-brimmed hat. Bringing a hat each day ensures that students are able to fully participate in the curriculum program, including outdoor activities and PE.

10 Reasons why we should Encourage our Students to Read Daily

1. **Children** who read often and widely get better at it. This is pretty much just common sense. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything we humans do and reading is no different.

2. **Reading** exercises our brains. Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain than, say, watching TV is. Reading strengthens brain connections and actually builds new connections.

3. **Reading** improves concentration. Again, this is a bit of a no-brainer. Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on the story when they’re reading. If they read regularly as they grow up, they develop the ability to do this for longer and longer periods.

4. **Reading** teaches children about the world around them. Through reading, they learn about people, places and events outside their own experience. They are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs about the world which may be different from those which surround them. This learning is important for its own sake however it also builds a store of background knowledge which helps younger children learn to read confidently and well.

5. **Reading** improves a child’s vocabulary, leads to more highly-developed language skills and improves the child’s ability to write well. This is because children learn new words as they read but also because they unconsciously absorb information as they read about things like how to structure sentences and how to use words and language effectively.

6. **Reading** develops a child’s imagination. This is because when we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. When we’re engaged in a story, we’re also imagining how the characters are feeling. We use our own experiences to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.

7. **Reading** helps kids develop empathy. It does because when you’re reading you’re identifying with the character in the story so you’re feeling what he’s feeling.”

8. **Children** who read do better at school. And they don’t just do better at subjects like reading, English and history. They do better at all subjects and they do better all the way through school.

9. **Reading** is a great form of entertainment! A paperback book doesn’t take up much space so you can take it anywhere and you’ll never be lonely or bored if you have a book in your bag.

10. **Reading** relaxes the body and calms the mind.

News from Class 25MW

25MW are making art with bottle lids which we will put in the Community Garden for the enjoyment of staff and students. You could help us make our art by collecting milk, juice, cordial, water and soft drink bottle lids as well as push-up bottle lids. Any lids that you collect can be put into the buckets at the office or D Block.

We are really excited about our project and thank you for your help.

From the students of 25MW

News from the Bookclub & Banking

**Bookclub**
The next issue of bookclub is due the 29th April.

**Banking**
There will be no banking next Monday 2nd May due to the Labour Day public holiday. Banking will be as normal the following Monday, 9th May, 2016.
School Community Garden re-opens for Everyone to Enjoy, Learn and Share

We are excited and proud to share with you news of the much needed makeover our School Community Garden and chicken coup received last term.

With new wheelchair friendly footpath and garden access, cement slab for the hen house, garden shed and new turf, the Community Garden is a beautiful relaxed setting which is NOW OPEN to Young Greeneries Chicken Carers conducting lunchtime petting activities, for Chappy Trina and her group of vegetable garden Green Thumbs, and for all classes to use as an outdoor learning resource too.

We'd like to thank our most generous sponsors for their kind donations of supplies and their time which have made this wonderful makeover possible:-

Peart Plumbing
Pialba Turf
Airport Nursery
Max Employment
Mother’s Day in Prep

Each year as part of our Mother’s Day excitement our Prep students invite mums, grandmothers, auntsies, adopted mums or a special person in their life to their classroom for some well-deserved pampering.

Prep students will ensure these lucky mums and special people will be able to relax, have their nails polished, shoulders and neck massaged and their hair coiffured.

This will be followed with an afternoon tea to celebrate Mother’s Day. Please come along and enjoy having the students provide a relaxing ‘thankyou’ for all you do in your nurturing role.

What you need to bring: a comb or hairbrush please.

Expectation: You will be provided with a pampering session and a lovely afternoon tea, prepared and served with love by your child.

Where: Your child’s Prep classroom.
When: Thursday 5th May
Time: 2 pm

Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN

In a couple of weeks – 10th, 11th and 12th May our year three and year five students will sit the NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy for the first time. Teachers have been preparing them for the multiple choice type questions of NAPLAN, the writing task, the reading and comprehension type questions and the problem solving of numeracy.

Students will need to concentrate and work uninterrupted for some time to complete all the questions and writing within the required timeframe. It is important for students to have the stamina to complete the tests in the required time so please assist your child on these days with positive encouragement, an early night and a nutritious breakfast. To assist with student ability to concentrate the school will provide breakfast on Tuesday 10th May for those students who will be taking the NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN breakfast will be served in the cottage from 8.15am for all those students sitting NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5).

Chaplaincy News

What a fantastic start to term 2…. This is the time when students have now settled into their classes and have sorted their friendships out, but mostly have the confidence to organise and participate in great events like “Sandy Straits Got Talent”. This is where we, as a school, see them shine!!!!

We are in the second week of “Sandy Straits Got Talent” and I can say the benchmark was definitely set with great acts like “Jet and the Barnical Snail”. He was sooooo funny- definitely a comedian in the making.

It is important that students remain aware of the date and time they are performing, and bring to school any music or props that may need on the day.

Breakfast Club has started again. The Cottage Kitchen will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8.00-8.45am for Breakie. It is a great place for students to come and meet up with their friends grab a bite to eat and be ready for a great day of learning. I am looking for some volunteers to help with Breakfast Club, and it doesn’t have to be every day… It can be a day that will fit in with whatever you are doing. If you are interested please contact me through the school office.

Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) seminars will be held at the school across three terms. The first seminar: “The Power of Positive Parenting” is on Tuesday 24th May at 9.20am and again for those parents who cannot attend due to work commitments, at 6.20pm in the Cottage. If you are interested in attending this seminar, please contact the school office on 4197 0333.

Well that’s it from me…
Cheers
Chappy
Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may be aware, as part of our Numeracy focus, Sandy Strait enacts diagnostics at the beginning of each term to help teachers to identify areas students have difficulty with. These tests are quite high-level and target the ‘big ideas in number’. Students then resit the same test late in the term, to gauge improvement. As you can see, last term all student scores from all classes were 1847.5 on the pre-test and then 3039 on the post-test. This is a fantastic improvement of 64.5%. Well done Sandy Strait students and teachers. Our focus on mathematical warm-ups, targeted teaching, and unfamiliar 3-Act problems is making a significant difference.

![Graph showing student test scores](image1)

**News from the P&C**

A huge thank you to those who supported the Cross Country Sausage Sizzle, and thank you to those who helped out on the day! A huge thank you to Brumby’s, Urangan and Big W, Hervey Bay for their donations in supporting our schools cross country. Over $900.00 was raised for our school tuckshop!

Our 5 cent challenge has commenced for this term. Please send in any 5c coins and place them in the container in your child’s classroom. The class that raises the highest amount each week will receive an iceblock and the class that raises the highest amount at the end of the challenge will win a pizza party. This challenge will end in the 2nd last week of term.

We will also be holding our Mother’s Day stall on Thursday, 5 May and Friday, 6 May, 2016. Gifts will range in prices from $0.50 to $7.00 each and classes will be allocated a time to visit the stall being held in the Cottage. We will also be open during big lunch.

We invite all parents to attend our next P&C Meeting being held in the Cottage on Wednesday, 25 May 2016 at 3.00pm.

Kylie Dinte
P&C President
The Volunteers Expo is a chance for groups to showcase their efforts, encourage new members and for potential volunteers to investigate their options.

Come along and see what opportunities exist for you to participate. Talk to people about ways you can help, how to get started and what you can contribute to our community.

You can make a difference ...

- IPAD will be drawn on the day
- FREE Sausage Sizzle

WHERE
Hervey Bay
Neighbourhood Centre
22 Charles St, Pialba

WHEN
10am–2pm
Saturday May 14

ADMISSION
Free