Key to Success: Resilience

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Final Newsletter for 2014
With just over a week of school remaining this is our final newsletter for the 2014 school year.

Every year seems to fly by faster than the last and this year has been no exception. It has been a year full of wonderful accomplishments, hard work and very pleasing outcomes across the school in so many areas.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our parents and families for your support over the last 12 months. When schools and communities work in together in partnership we can achieve wonderful things.

For our families who are leaving us I wish you every happiness in the future and hope that you take some fond memories away of the friends you have made and the time you have spent at Sandy Strait.

We Welcome Ms Mason into the Role of Acting Deputy Principal for the Final 2 Weeks of Term
During the final 2 weeks of this term Ms Mason will be performing the role of Acting Deputy Principal Years 4-7. Mr Jackson has headed off on Long Service Leave and will return at the start of the 2015 school year.

Celebrating Academic Success at our Academic Awards
This week we have celebrated the academic achievement of our students through our Academic Award Ceremonies.

On Wednesday 3rd December we celebrated the Senior Academic Awards (Yrs 4-7) On Thursday 4th December we celebrated the Junior Academic Awards (Prep – Yr 3)

This semester we had a large number of children receiving Principals Awards for Outstanding Achievement in English, Maths and Science which was wonderful to see.

We also had a number of students receiving a Principal’s Encouragement Award for improvement in the areas of English and/or Maths.

This Semester there was an additional award, “Principal’s Achievement Award in Visual Arts” for children who have achieved high results through our Visual Arts Program.

Congratulations to all of our award winners for your outstanding achievements and commitment to learning.
Staff Movement for 2015

At the end of the year we will be farewelling a number of staff who will move on to teach in other schools. We also will be farewelling (for a little while) one of our staff members who is welcoming an addition to their family in the new year.

- Mrs Landon, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Bertoli will be transferring to Carbrook State School
- Mrs Ryan will be transferring to Carbrook State School
- Ms Sinclair will take up the role of Local Relieving Teacher based at Pialba State School.
- Mrs Voigtlander (Teacher Aide) will be transferring to Urangan Point State School.
- Ms Pritchard will head off on Maternity Leave this week and will spend the next year at home with her baby
- Mr McNamara (Facilities Officer) will retire on 12 December

We will also farewell Mrs Ncube who has been on a teaching contract with us throughout Semester 2 in 1M, Mrs Morgan who has been on a teaching contract with us in our 6/7 Leap class this term and Mrs Noble who has been on a contract with us throughout this year in our Early Intervention Team.

It is always sad to farewell staff, many of whom have been a part of the Sandy Strait family for a very long time. They will be sadly missed and we wish them all the best in their new teaching locations or in the case of Ms Pritchard we wish her all the best she awaits the birth of her daughter in the new year.

Next year at this stage we welcome two new teachers transferring to our school from Gladstone—Mr Ricky Smith from Clinton State School and Ms Kylie Green from Gladstone West SS.

Christmas Farewell Whole School Assembly Wednesday 10th December

It is not very often that we combine our whole school together for one assembly.

Our Farewell Christmas Assembly is one such occasion.

On Wednesday 10th December we open up the assembly agenda to any class who would like to perform. This year we once again have classes and year level groups who are performing and sharing some Christmas cheer with the whole school.

It is also a tradition here at Sandy Strait that some of our senior classes perform the 12 Days of Christmas Sandy Strait Style. We never quite know what events or activities are going to form the lyrics of year in reflection.

I would like to remind parents that if you are planning on attending this assembly there will be very limited seating as the space in the hall is largely occupied by our students as we must seat approx. all students P-7 in the floor space.

Keeping this in mind if you don’t mind standing or a bit of a crowd you are most welcome to attend and join in the festive cheer as we farewell the 2014 school year, say a whole school goodbye to our Senior students and enjoy some good music and fun.

The Whole School Christmas Assembly will commence at 9.00am in the hall.

Preparing for 2015

On Thursday the 11th December all students in Prep to Year 5 will be issued with their Semester 2 Report Cards. Year 6 and 7 students will receive their report cards and folios on Wednesday.

The report cards will be accompanied by the Student Assessment Folio which contains a variety of key assessment tasks that have contributed to the achievement ratings within the report cards.

Along with the Semester Report Cards and Assessment Folios will be a letter advising parents of their child’s interim class placement for the 2015 school year. This letter will also have the 2015 Student Requirements Booklist and the 2015 School Resource and Fee Structure Scheme attached.

Please be aware that the organisation of classes for the commencement of any school year is a complex and challenging one. Staffing for all schools across the State is not finalised until the 8th day of the school year. Up until that point all arrangements are only interim until staffing is finalised in all schools. This is to ensure that all schools are equitably resourced and a period of time has lapsed to allow any last minute enrolments to be included in school staffing models.

A great deal of time and analysis of school data is utilised in formulating classes for the upcoming school year. We appreciate your support and understanding with this matter.

New Families and Families Leaving Us in the 2015 School Year

In order to ensure that we are well prepared and staffed appropriately for the 2015 school year it is essential that our enrolment predictions are as accurate as possible.

I would ask all families who may be moving or relocating a new school for the start of the 2015 school year to please contact our school office so we can update our records.

If you have family or friends who are planning on relocating to Hervey Bay or enrolling in our school for the 2015 school year I would also ask that you encourage them to contact our school office for an enrolment pack so we can also have up to date information about new families arriving.

Your help and assistance with this would be most appreciated as we try and ensure a smooth start through accurate staffing and class numbers for the upcoming school year.

Early Bird Book Packs and Sport Shirts Collection

Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming support of the Early Bird Book Packs and Sport Shirts. All orders for both of these activities have now closed.

The shirts should arrive at school the week prior to school starting. As soon as we have definite delivery day from the supplier I will place a post on Facebook and or school website.

Our Early Bird Book Packs will be available to be picked up from The Lucky Charm Newsagency at Pialba Place from 5th January 2015 by ringing them on 4128 3523 and giving them 2 days notice to pick up. If you haven’t picked up your bookpack from the newsagency by 19 January they can be collected from the school hall on this day.

Once again I will add information to our School Facebook Page when these packs are available for collection.

Farewell to our Senior Students and the class of 2014

This year is a unique year in Education Qld history as we farewell both our Year 6 and Year 7 students in their final year of Primary School. Form 2015 Year 7 will be a part of the Junior Secondary landscape and will be taught in high schools across the state.

Best Wishes to our Year 6 and 7 students who will close the Primary School Chapter of their lives at the end of next week. We will formally farewell our students in a special twilight ceremony on Wednesday 10th December from 5.30pm in our school hall.
As we approach the final two weeks of the school year, I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe holiday break and an enjoyable Christmas.

I’d also like to thank you for your support during the year. Many of you have been invaluable with your support in classrooms, the tuckshop, on class excursions and at special school events. Without parent support we would not be as successful in providing your children with positive school experiences so on behalf of the teachers and students thank you once again and we hope to see you back supporting us in 2014.

School reading books
Over the last week and into this week students have been asked to return any school reading books and library books. Please assist us by helping your child find any school resources that need returning as it costs our school to replace lost books. If by chance you find books from long ago please don’t hesitate in returning these also.

Academic awards
At the end of this week students will be attending the academic awards ceremony for the junior school on Thursday afternoon. This is always a proud and exciting time as we celebrate those students who have achieved outstanding results in their school studies. Please join us in celebrating these students’ academic success.

The final week
The final week of school is always busy and exciting with Christmas craft, class concerts, cleaning up and party day. Students will bring home information about their class breakup party this week if they have not done so already. Each class will organise their own breakup party day for Thursday so please check in with your child as to what they will need to provide for this exciting day.

Next week our students will also begin to bring home their school materials as they tidy out their desks and classroom shelves. Please ensure students bring their school bag each day to allow for this.

Once again I’d like to thank you for working with myself and teachers throughout the year to ensure all students are given the best opportunities to achieve both academically and socially.

Library News
A reminder to return all library books to the library before the end of the Year.
**The year in Review:** We have had lots of Fundraiser's this year, from Canteen Day's on Sports Day, to our very successful Spell a thon, we held our Mother's Day and Father Day Stalls, a School Disco, and smaller ones in between.

The Tuck shop held its Pizza and Popper Day, this helped towards the cost/installation and appliances of the Tuckshops new oven.

- We contributed $2,700 to the cost of a School Lectern
- Pledged $15,000 to the purchase of a Shade Sail, to be bought next year.
- Donated $400 to the School to subsidize the cost of the Buses to Kidsing 2014
- Paid a deposit of $1387.50 on our Sports Shirts for next year (300 shirts)
- Bought 300 School Hats at a cost of $1950.00.
- Pledged between $2,000 to $3,000 to the purchase of Bibs and Sports Shirts for our sporting teams.
- Paid for the Installation cost & New Appliances for the Tuckshop.
- Paid for Catering for World Teachers Day
- Paid for Catering for Grandparents Day
- Donated stock to the Breakfast Club
- Donated Stock to the Tuckshop for a Fundraiser in Term 4
- Purchased a laptop/printer/stationary for the P&C's Bookkeeper
- Purchased a coin counter to assist the P&C with their Fundraising efforts.

We are also looking at putting in some shade in the Playground area behind the Grade 2 Building early next year, Mrs Wood has given us a few quotes, we will make our final decision early next year.

We also welcomed a new Bookkeeper, Kim Chilton. It is great to walk into the P&C room, and to be greeted with a big smile. Kim is doing a great job, and is greatly appreciated.

I would like to say a big thank you to my Executive, Tash Cornack and Sharon Mitchell, it has been great to bounce things off each other over the course of the year.

Thank you to my Committee as well. To Danielle & Nyree who assisted with lots of Fundraising throughout the year, to Kerry our Tuckshop Convenor, who gives much of her time freely. To Karlee, who comes up with great ideas, and advice, to Sharon McMorrow for helping me with lots of the technical stuff, and again for being able to answer my questions at all times of the day and into the evening.

Thank you also to both Bruce Jackson and Helen Forbes for assisting me at various times of the year, enjoy your time off.

Thanks to all of those that Volunteered their time this year, or bought a ticket to our Disco, raised money for the spell-a-thon, etc, we could not have had such a successful year without you.

On behalf of the P&C I would like to thank our Tuckshop Convenor, Kerry Searle, Dee Hoffman, Bec McIntyre, Heidi Sulzenbacher, Kylie Dinte and Libby Thornton for all off their hard work in the Tuckshop this year. From applying for grants, to shopping for kitchen accessories, to assisting with fundraisers, and having great fun along the way. Hearing the laughter and the music coming from the Tuckshop always makes me smile, keep up the great work.

**Tuckshop Hours:**
The Tuck shop will be closed on Friday, Dec 12 (the final day of school). On this day the Tuck shop staff and Volunteers will be conducting a stock take and deep cleaning in preparation for the holidays.

REMINDER: The Tuck shop will be open for Business in the FIRST week of school in 2015. The Tuck shop days are WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

To each and every one of you, have a happy and safe holiday, see you all next year.

Thanks for your Support,
HERVEY BAY AQUATIC CENTRE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY DAYS

Mon 15th – Fri 19th Dec
Mon 22nd – Wed 24th Dec
Mon 12th – Fri 16th Jan
Mon 19th – Fri 23rd Jan

8.30am – 4.30pm

Looking for exciting activities to keep your children occupied these school holidays? Then consider our School Holiday Activity Days (for children 8-14yrs)

Drop your children off from 8.30am and let them enjoy a range of fun action-packed activities. Our program is designed to keep the kids active and entertained all day, activities may include:

- Ball games
- Slack lines
- Swimming lesson
- Stroke correction
- Recreational swimming
- Pool inflatable fun
- Circus and acro activities and games

... then pick your children up anytime up until 4.30pm

Cost: $55.00 per day
Bookings essential

PHONE: 07 4125 9722

Are you in need of After School Care in 2015?

BAYSIDE KIDS offers After School Care during school terms, every Monday to Friday from 3 - 6pm.
We provide pick up from school and afternoon tea in a relaxed, child focussed & family friendly environment.
Please contact Bayside Christian Church on 41243327 or 0421 397555 for further information.
Vacation Care is also available.

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