Key to Success this fortnight: Confidence

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMING EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 February—Meet &amp; Greet Open School Afternoon—3.00 to 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February—Bookclub due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 February—Senior Assembly—1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February—Junior Assembly—1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 February—2016 Student Leadership Badge Presentation—9.00am—Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 March—Senior Camp fees due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March—School Resource Scheme (SRS) fees due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11/02/2016

2016 Staffing Confirmed

Last Friday all schools across Queensland participated in a process known as the Day 8 Enrolment Calculation. On the 8th day of the school year our staffing allocation is confirmed based on the number of children enrolled at the school and a range of other data.

Our planned staffing and class arrangements were accurate which meant no changes were required at this time to our model.

This was wonderful news as we are able to continue to enact all of our support and school wide programs we have planned for implementation throughout 2016.

2016 School Wide Intensive Intervention Program

In all of our classrooms we have children with various learning needs. Some children require extra support and assistance to help master some concepts while others require enrichment and extension to cater for their needs.

For such support to add value it needs to be very specific, target a select group of students and be delivered in small group situations that compliment class programs. It is also paramount that children be present and punctually arrive at school every day as many programs commence at the start of the school day.

During the first 2 weeks of the school year children from across the school participated in various assessment and data collection tasks. These tasks provided us with additional information to identify children who would most benefit from our Intensive intervention program focus.
News from the Principal Continued

Mrs Sharon McMorrow

This year we have also been fortunate to access funding through the Investing for Success Initiative to employ additional staff to implement our programs.

To ensure the success of our Intensive Intervention Programs we have also allocated dedicated teaching spaces and classrooms in which our Intervention Team can work with groups of children giving them every chance at success.

The following Intensive Intervention Staff commenced their Intervention programs this week in the following Year Levels.

**Prep and Year 1**
- Ms Shaloam Robe (Literacy Intervention Teacher) and Mrs Kylie Smith (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Prep/Year 1 Intervention classroom in located in Q Block.

**Year 2 and 3**
- Ms Diana Ashcroft (Support Teacher Literacy/Numeracy) and Mrs Lyn Fallon (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Yr 2/3 Intervention classroom in located in Q Block.

**Year 4**
- Mrs Melanie Mills (Teacher Librarian and Literacy Intervention Teacher) and Mrs Alison Perske (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Yr 4 Intervention classroom in located in D Block.

**Year 5**
- Mr Russell Pitts (Literacy/ Numeracy Intervention Teacher) and Mrs Alison Perske (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Yr 5 Intervention classroom in located in E Block.

**Year 6**
- Mrs Melanie Mills (Teacher Librarian and Literacy Intervention Teacher) and Mrs Colleen Sempf (Literacy Intervention Teacher Aide). The Yr 6 Intervention classroom in located in D Block.

**Numeracy Extension and Enrichment Support**
- Mr Russell Pitts is also fulfilling the role of Numeracy Intervention/Enrichment teacher working initially with identified children in Years 3 and 5 to support their learning in the lead up to NAPLAN as part of our school wide Numeracy Program in 2016.

This year we also have employed Mrs Tracey Bennion (Speech Language Pathologist) for an additional day each week to support teachers in Prep and Year 1 as they implement Oral Language programs and SSP (Speech Sound Pics Program) ensuring that our children have the best start to becoming successful readers.

In the coming days letters will be coming home with all children who are participating in the above mentioned programs providing parents with information about the support that is currently being provided to assist children to make Leaps in their Learning.

**Meet and Greet Open School Afternoon- Monday 15th February 3.00-4.00pm**

Building our school community and strengthening relationships between home and school are an important aspect of our whole school vision in 2016.

On Monday 15th February all parents and students are invited to our Whole School Open Afternoon Meet and Greet Event.

- All classrooms and teaching spaces across the school will be open with teachers and staff in rooms. This also includes our Intervention Rooms and Programs, Learning Enrichment Centre Classrooms and Library.

- Parents are welcome to wander and visit their children’s class rooms, meet the teachers and learn more about what is happening in our classes throughout the afternoon. There is no set time to be in any classroom as all rooms are open between 3.00 - 4.00pm.

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

- Parents are encouraged to bring their children along so they can show you around their classroom, and share their work and learning with you.

- If children participate in Intensive Literacy Intervention Programs this is also a great opportunity to visit these classrooms, meet the teachers who have been working with your children and learn more about the programs.

- “Helping Hands”, our Outside School Hours Care Provider will also have an information booth set up in the school hall to answer any questions you may have about Before/ After and Vacation Care at Sandy Strait.

A flyer advertising this event was sent home with all families on Monday. On the reverse side of the flyer you will find a school map with all classrooms and teaching spaces marked to help you find your way around during the Meet and Greet Open Afternoon.

We look forward to spending time with our Sandy Strait Families on Monday 15th February from 3.00-4.00pm.

**The Best Place to Wait for Children After School**

We understand that due to the parking issues around both the high school and our school our parents need to arrive early to find a park. To ensure that learning can continue in classrooms and our parents also have a cool place to sit and wait for children, we are asking all of our parents this year to utilise the main under cover areas to wait prior to the afternoon bell.

The horse shoe shaped seating areas outside our teaching blocks are not suitable places to wait for children of an afternoon as these spaces are often utilised for hands on teaching activities in Science and the Arts.

If parents and younger siblings are seated in this area of an afternoon prior to the afternoon bell their voices carry through the classrooms making it very difficult for our children to hear and focus on their learning. Our children also become distracted when they know that their parents are just outside the classroom doors.

With the extreme heat at this time we need to keep all of the windows open and therefore the sound travels into the classrooms. Our facilities team have moved additional seating into the Junior Under Cover Area for our parents and we are in the process of having more permanent seating constructed for these areas.

We thank you for your understanding with this issue and for supporting our classroom learning programs.
Tips for a Good School Year

As a parent, there are many things we can do at home to help our children have a good school year. These include making sure they get enough sleep, getting them to school on time, and reading at home every day.

Here are ten important ways to get started!

1. Medical care
Our children need regular medical checkups, immunizations, and dental care.

2. A Healthy Diet and Exercise
Children who eat a healthy diet and get regular exercise can concentrate better during the school day. It is important that our children eat a balanced diet with plenty of fruits and vegetables, and have opportunities to exercise every day through a sports team, fun activity, or playtime outside.

3. Sleep
Getting enough sleep will help our children get up on time, feel good, and be ready for a full day of learning. Children need different amounts of sleep at different ages. Most need 8 to 10 hours.

4. Getting to School, Every Day and on Time
It will be easier for our children to complete daily lessons, homework, and tests if they get to school on time every day. We should limit the time our children miss school for family trips and activities. Please contact the school immediately if your child will be absent.

5. Homework
We should set a regular time and place for our children to do homework. We should choose a time that works well for your family's schedule. Find a place that is quiet and has good lighting. Make sure your child has supplies such as pens, pencils, paper, and a dictionary. Ask your child to show you his/her finished homework each night so that you can see what he/she is learning and confirm that he/she is doing all of this/her assignments.

6. Television, Video Games, and Computer Time
Limit the time your child spends watching TV, playing video games, and using the computer. When possible, do these activities together, and look for educational programs and games. Help your child understand that he/she should never give out personal information on the computer or talks to strangers online.

7. Talking About School Together
Ask your child to tell you about the school day. Ask him/her what he/she learned, and how he/she felt during the day. Listen carefully to his/her answers, and help him/her to think of ways to solve any problems he/she might be having in her schoolwork or in the classroom.

8. Reading
Set aside time to read with your child each day. You can make reading a part of daily routines by reading stories at bedtime and keeping lots of books and magazines in the house.

9. The Library
Help your child get to know the library and what you can find there, including books, audio books, magazines, CDs, and DVDs. Libraries also offer homework resources and a quiet place for students to work.

10. Learning at Home
Help your child learn at home by sharing activities together, singing, talking, and telling stories. Visit educational places such as museums, the zoo, the park, or a historical monument. Find out what your child's interests are, and look for activities and books that are connected to that interest.

Year 6 Leadership Camp

The school is pleased to be able to communicate to parents of Year 6 students that the cost of the Year 6 Leadership camp to Maranatha is $220.00.

Camp will be held from Wednesday 9th March to Friday 11th March and parents are encouraged to make their payments via the office now. The full cost ($220.00) is required to be paid by 4th March.

Finance News

Coming home with your child this week will be a statement of fees owing to the school. The Student Resource Scheme Fees (SRS) are payable by Friday 24 March 2015 for Year Prep – Year 5 students. Year 6 students are required to have their SRS fees and camp paid by Friday 4 March if your child is attending camp this year.

The $50 Student Resource Scheme has been set up to offer parents a cost effective alternative to purchasing resources, textbooks and materials that would otherwise be listed on the booklist. Parents have the option to pay this either by EFTPOS, BPoint or Centrepay. If you wish to utilise the Centrepay option please collect a form from the office.

If you do not wish to participate in the SRS you must fill out a form at the office stipulating your intentions of not paying this fee and you will then be responsible for supplying your child with the resources required that are covered under this scheme. All SRS fees not paid by the 24 March will be taken as non-participation and parents will be issued with a list of resources/site licences/textbooks that they will be required to supply for their child.

Contact Details

Over the next week we will be sending home contact details as they are listed in our school's database. Please take the time to peruse these details and update any information as required. It is very important that all contact details are kept up-to-date at all times.

We will be moving towards text messaging to keep parents updated with relevant information as well as regular updates on our Facebook page.
Welcome to Sandy Strait State School 2016

Welcome back to our students and parents and welcome to our new students and parents as we prepare for an exciting year. Teachers were preparing for their new classes weeks before school started and are now working with your children as they ‘Leap into Learning’ on the many exciting projects organised for 2016.

Please make time to attend our meet and greet session with your child and your child’s teacher on Monday 15th so you can find out all the necessary events, classroom routines, curriculum information and classroom expectations around behaviour. Teachers and students are looking forward to sharing their school world with you.

Our Major Focus Areas

This year we will continue with our success schools maths project. Our coach, Mr Mark Hansen has included information on this in this newsletter. You will hear your child talk about maths ‘warm-ups’, three act problems and other terms that you will not be familiar with so please encourage your child to share what they are learning about in mathematics.

Students will continue with word study where they will be working with letters and sounds and word sorting as teachers tailor spelling to cater for student’s developmental progress in spelling. When your child presents with spelling words for homework that may seem too easy it is because our biggest challenge with spelling is having students transfer their spelling knowledge to their writing tasks. Teachers will be continuing to work with students around connecting spelling and writing this year.

Reading programs are underway with students working to decode and make meaning using our school wide reading and comprehension strategies. Please find time to read with/or to your child as often as possible (15 minutes a day/night will have the greatest impact). This will provide a strong foundation for the many aspects of literacy learning (story sequence, rich vocabulary, rhyme, sentence structure etc) as well as promote enjoyment of reading.

Care and concern

The first few weeks back will be tiring for many of our students, especially our Preps as they adapt to a new class and teacher so please help your child with ensuring they have all the necessary school resources and make time to assure them they will soon get used to a new way of doing many things as well as new learning.

News from the Chaplain

“Ahh… Thank God for School...” I hear you say…Six weeks is a long time, the kids are pretty keen for holidays when they begin but are going mad by the time they end; along with parents who are pulling their hair out trying to think of what else they can do to keep the kids occupied that won’t cost sooooo much… (Does that sound familiar?)

Sooo…Welcome back to school all continuing students and new students!!!

It has been a wet start to the new school year with all the destructive rain and winds. It has been heart breaking to see and hear of the devastation that the rain has bought, and my heart goes out to all those families in the community who have been effected by the weather. Also, I would like to introduce the 2013 Welfare Leaders of the school. They are Madeline, Lacey, Emily, Kye, David and Jesse. The Welfare Leaders are here to ensure that all students are welcome in the school community, to help new students settle in and make friends, to send cards to students who are sick and let them and their families know we are thinking of them, and to meet the general concerns of students. Each Leader will certainly bring with them their diverse abilities that will only serve to enrich this school community.

I am still collecting grey shopping bags for Chappy activities, just drop them into the box in the office.

Cheers,
Chappy Trina
News from the Numeracy Coach—Mr Mark Hansen

Since Semester 2, 2014, Sandy Strait State School has worked intensively with students on a range of strategies to ensure they become "confident, creative users and communicators of Mathematics". Teachers and students have been working on the four components of the Numeracy lesson—Maths warm-ups, Explicit Teaching, Problem Solving and Reflection. Initially our focus was on engaging mathematical warm-ups; and now with these embedded at Sandy Strait, we have been developing perplexing numeracy problems for students. We have been working extensively with the work done by American educator, Dan Meyer, and his 3-Act problems. This year will see the consolidation of this, placing more emphasis on students discussing their thoughts and strategies, rather than just concentrating on the answer.

On Mondays I will holding meetings with half the school teachers and will then assist them in their classrooms throughout the week. The following week I will replicate this process with the other half of the school teachers. Key priorities include a the ‘big rocks of number’, common mathematical language and common strategies.

Parents can assist by encouraging their children in maths, by being optimistic about maths in general and reassuring them that they will become better at maths the more they persist at it. This attitude is part of the GROWTH Mindset, which we are encouraging everyone to have (as shown in the poster below).

If you see any perplexing maths problems in your daily life or you have any questions please send them to Master Teacher, Mark Hansen at mhans78@eq.edu.au

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What Kind of Mindset Do You Have?

Growth Mindset

I can learn anything I want to.
When I’m frustrated, I persevere.
I want to challenge myself.
When I fail, I learn.
Tell me I try hard.
If you succeed, I’m inspired.
My effort and attitude determine everything.

Fixed Mindset

I’m either good at it, or I’m not.
When I’m frustrated, I give up.
I don’t like to be challenged.
When I fail, I’m no good.
Tell me I’m smart.
If you succeed, I feel threatened.
My abilities determine everything.

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News from Banking Co-Coordinators

Banking has resumed for this year. Parent packs were sent home with students over the past week. Monday is our banking day.

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News from Book Club Co-Coordinators

The first issue of book club was sent home last week. Book club is due back at school by Tuesday, 16th February. We had an issue with classes for parents doing loop orders but hopefully that has now been resolved.
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.
A breast screen appointment takes less than 30 minutes.

Phone 13 20 50

BreastScreen Queensland invites all women over 40 to have a FREE breast screen.