16/07/2015

Key to Success this fortnight: Organisation

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Welcome Back to Term 3
Welcome back to a brand new term. I hope that all of our students and families had a restful and relaxing break and had an opportunity to recharge the batteries for the next phase of the 2015 Learning Journey at Sandy Strait.

To all of our new families I would like to extend a warm welcome to our school and the Sandy Strait family.

This term we welcome Ms Alyssia McGuire back to the year 1 team. Ms McGuire is returning to her role in year 1A after being on maternity leave. Ms McGuire will be sharing the class with Miss Robe for the remainder of the school year.

We also welcome Ms McNall into the role of Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy focussing on Year 2 and 3. Ms McNall is replacing Mrs Fooks who retired at the end of last term.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

This week our school community joins to celebrate NAIDOC Week (which officially falls in the school holidays) with various cultural activities occurring for all year levels throughout the week. The theme of 2015 NAIDOC week is: We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate. Please refer to attached timetable of events and activities. We look forward to having you join us.

Enrolments for the 2016 Prep Year Are Now Open

Enrolments are now being taken for the Prep Year in 2016. Parents are invited to come into the school office and collect an enrolment pack containing information about the Prep Program, our Pre Prep Program in term 3 and 4, enrolment information and other brochures and documentation about the 2016 school year.
Children who turn 5 by the 30th June 2016 are eligible to attend Prep in the 2016 School year.

It is important that we have an early indication of our anticipated numbers for the 2016 school year so we can begin planning ahead.

**Prep Come and Try Open Day Sessions Thursday 30th July**

“A Prep Come and Try Open Day Session” will be conducted on Thursday 30th July from 9.30am. Future Prep children and their families are invited to participate in classroom activities and meet our friendly staff.

An evening session will also be conducted at 6.30 pm to cater for the needs of working parents. This is the first in a series as we introduce a Pre- Prep orientation program for our students and parents.

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**Leap Into our Pre- Prep Program**

At Sandy Strait we believe it is important to provide our students with the best possible start to their first year of schooling. This year we are continuing with our Pre-Prep Program to assist our children and parents to best prepare for the curriculum and learning expectations of the upcoming Prep Year.

**Purpose of the Program:**

♦ To provide an orientation and skill based program to help prepare our future students for the Prep Curriculum in the year ahead

♦ To model and provide activities and ideas for parents to work on with their children at home to ensure that they have the best opportunity to succeed in the Prep Year.

♦ To foster and build relationships between teachers, students and parents prior to the commencement of the school year.

♦ To provide opportunities for our future Prep students to interact with one another and build relationships prior to commencing school.

**How the Program will work:**

♦ The program will be conducted over 4 separate 1 hour sessions throughout term 3 and 4.

♦ Children and parents attend each of the sessions.

♦ At the end of each session parents will be provided with a pack of activities to take home to use with their child between sessions. Each of the activities contained within the pack will have been modelled throughout the morning session. A different activity pack will be distributed at each of the sessions.

♦ Each session will have a particular teaching focus with activities and games developing the following:

**Session 1: Early Number Concepts**

**Session 2: Sounds to Letters**

**Session 3: Developing Reading**

**Session 4: Oral Language**

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**A Reminder about Attendance this Term**

**Every Day is a Learning Day and Every Day Counts**

One of the biggest factors affecting student achievement is attendance. Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated with higher student achievement. Putting it quite bluntly students need to be here at school to have the best chance at learning and succeeding.

The target for Student Attendance is 95%. This term is an 10 week school term that allows for children to be absent for only 2.5 days. Ideally we would like every student to strive for 100% attendance.

This year we have continued with our SMS messaging to alert parents that their child has been marked absent from school, requesting that they contact the school to provide information about the nature of the absence.

In circumstance where we do not have mobile telephone contact details, parents receive letters after 3 days of unexplained absence advising them of the number of days absent their child has accumulated throughout the term and the impact this absenteeism has had on their learning programs.

Parents must explain the reasons for the absenteeism and may be asked to provide medical confirmation.

Posters outlining our focus on attendance are displayed in teaching spaces and the school administration to highlight to our school community the importance of coming to school each and every day. I have once again this term included a parent information sheet outlining the legal responsibilities of school attendance and some common questions and answers for parents with this newsletter.

Our teachers and support staff are committed to ensuring our students have access to dynamic learning programs. We ask that you help us give children the best opportunity at succeeding by working together with us and supporting our focus on student attendance. Remember every day is a learning day and every day counts.
Welcome back to Semester 2 and a very busy and exciting term. All students will start new units of work in English, maths, Science, Geography and this term we have our whole school Visual Arts program. This term kicks off with NAIDOC week and later in the term we have Grandparents Day and Rug reading.

**NAIDOC Week**

Karen Steyger our Indigenous teacher aide has organised a number of activities for our students that focus on Indigenous culture. She has also invited members of the community to come and work with students to share their knowledge and skills.

This year the theme of NAIDOC is ‘We all stand on sacred ground’ and highlights Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. Please join your child’s class for their activity this week or contact Karen if you would like to help out during the week. There will also be a display of children’s work next week so please come and enjoy this display if you are visiting school.

**Visual Arts**

Next week our students will begin work on their Visual Arts lessons and portfolios. Students will have lessons in the elements of line, shape, colour and texture as well as exploring some of the work of noted artists. After their initial skills lesson each student will be given the opportunity to create their own piece of art work related to each of the elements studied. Student’s final pieces of work will be displayed in the hall in the last week of term.

**Leap into Reading**

Last week I attended a reading symposium in Brisbane which focused on reading and improving learning. The symposium brought together a rich mixture of research and practice and shared the reading initiatives of many countries. A common concern shared by all countries was engaging students in reading and having students see themselves as readers. Another common theme was equipping students with the skills and knowledge to read and learn in an ever changing technological world.

It was affirming to know that at Sandy Strait we are providing the lessons and practices that were promoted at the symposium as good practice. We have a focus on reading across the school which allows our students to develop their reading skills using both traditional texts and electronic texts and devices. We have a dedicated time to teach and practice reading and we encourage our students to share their knowledge and understanding of texts they are reading. All students are provided with instruction at their level and are given a range of reading experiences to help them develop their skills in reading.

As parents you are your child’s first teacher of reading by modelling reading as you read to your child and by reading yourself for enjoyment. Providing quality literature for your child to read at home and discussing texts your child is reading are invaluable in helping your child engage with reading.

**News from P & C**

Our school is collecting the Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. Please keep an eye out for the Sandy Strait State School box at the Woolworths’ Stores. A box will also be in the school office to place your stickers in.

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**Start collecting for your school now**

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program gives Schools and Early Learning Centres around Australia the chance to earn new educational resources.

**Make a difference for your local school**

- Simply shop at Woolworths and you will receive one Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker for every $10 spent.*
- Stick the Woolworths Stickers onto the Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheet inside.
- Once it is complete, pop it into a Collection box at your school or local store. You can download more Woolworths Earn & Learn Sticker Sheets from our website: woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

*excluding莪sage.ourandgift cards

Last year more than 14,500 schools and Early Learning Centres benefited from the program, boosting supplies in classrooms, libraries, music rooms, gymnasiums and science labs.

It’s easy to earn valuable resources to help your local school, so start collecting your Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers today.

Go to woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn for more information, terms and conditions and answers to frequently asked questions.
Athletics Carnival - Mr Baldwin

Thanks to all of our parents and spectators for their wonderful support of our students during our 2015 Athletics Carnival. It was a very busy 2 days with some excellent performances from our students. Just as important was the engagement of all of our students in the various events and activities and the sportsmanship and house spirit that they showed. Competition for our house shield was very close with Corrawinga being the eventual winners.

A huge thanks to all of our teachers and staff who assisted with running the carnival and to our house captains who excelled showing some great leadership qualities.

The following students were named age champions:

- 9 yr Girls: Montaya
- 9 yr Boys: Ethan
- 10 yr Girls: Dakota
- 10 yr Boys: Zak
- 11 yr Girls: Renese
- 11 yr Boys: Chase
- 12 yr Girls: Georgie
- 12 yr Boys: Dan

Our 9 yr, 10 yr, 11 yr and 12 yr students who have been selected in our Sandy Strait State School Athletics Team will be notified by the end of the week. This team will compete in the Hervey Bay District 9 yr—12 yr Carnival to be held on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st July. Good luck to all of our selected athletes.

3 Ways to Make Sure Your Child is Ready to Return to School

During the holidays children tune out from school. A break is good for your child's mental health as well as giving them an opportunity to enjoy being a kid. Let’s face it, many of our pleasant childhood memories involve holidays of some type.

Unfortunately holidays are over and it is now useful to turn your child’s attention to return to school and help him or her get ready for the semester ahead. Some kids are excited by the prospect of going back to school whereas others are less than thrilled that holidays are over and reality is about to kick in.

Here are 3 ways to make the going-to-school experience a little easier for your child:

1. **Be positive about the semester ahead.** Children often pick up the cues of their parents so your attitude to school, your child’s teacher and learning can set the scene for a positive semester ahead. Often children’s fears and concerns about returning to school subdue after few days back, so talk the return to school up even if you have some reservations yourself.

2. **Readjust routines.** Remember to readjust children’s routines. In particular, bedtimes and wake up.

3. **Be on time.** This is important for children to help settle into class and not disrupt others or themselves. Psychologically the way we start something tends to set the scene for what is to become. So start the semester the right way.

Sticking to the rules and routines of school after the freedom of holidays can be hard work for some children, particularly of the male variety. It's not unusual for them to blow off a little steam in the relative security of home. So be prepared for your patience and understanding to be stretched a little.

Hervey Bay High Visit

This Friday a representative from Hervey Bay will visit the school to meet with Yr 6 students who plan on attending Hervey Bay High next year. At this meeting students will receive information what they need to do to enrol and the Excellence programs on offer at Hervey Bay High.

Invitation from Hervey Bay Library

Bedtime Storytime with author Chris Collin – Fraser Coast Libraries would like to invite you to join us for an evening of bedtime fun to celebrate the Reading Hour. Australian author, Chris Collin, will be sharing his new picture book Funky chicken: chooks in space. Come along in your PJs and join in the fun. The evening will finish with milk and cookies. The event is free but bookings are essential for catering purposes. Where and when - Maryborough Library on Tuesday 4th August from 6.00-7.00 pm (phone 4190 5788) and Hervey Bay

Community News

Hervey Bay Little Athletics 2015-2016 Season

**Sign On Times and 1st Club Night**

- **Friday 17th, 24th & 31st July:** 2.30pm to 4.30pm at the club grounds,
- **Crn Lower Mountain and Dundowran Roads,**
  **Dundowran 4655**

Please bring a birth certificate or passport for proof of age.
Please bring CASH as there is no eftpos available.

**Our 1st club night starts at 4.30pm on Friday 17th of July**

Our club caters for
- Little Athletics 3 year olds up to Under 17s
- This includes Tiny Tots - Ages 3 years to 5 years
- Under 6s
- Under 7s to Under 17s
- And athletics from 17 years to masters
Want to get your kids active and eating well?

The PEACH™ program can help by offering practical advice about eating healthily and being more active as a family.

It is available FREE for Queensland families who have a child 5-11 years old who is above a healthy weight for their age and gender. It is a self referral program and it will be running in Hervey Bay in Term 3, 2015 commencing July 20. If you would like to be a part of this program, it is essential that you register NOW by calling 1800263519 or registering online.

Regular school attendance
Information for parents and carers

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.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?
You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?
Yes, you must let the school know the reason why your child has been absent from school within two school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.

Are you having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?
- won't get out of bed in the morning
- won't go to bed at night
- can't find their uniform, books, school bag ...
- slow to eat breakfast
- haven't done their homework
- watching TV
- have a test or presentation to do, have an assignment to hand in
- it's their birthday.

If so, a set routine can help
- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

What should I do if my child won't go to school?
You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

Every day counts – Is your child at school today?
www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts