**Keys to Success: 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 2014 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 also welcome some new staff members to our team.

- Miss Samantha Burden will be teaching 5W for the remainder of the year
- Miss Jessica Cunningham will be teaching 4MH for the remainder of the year.
- Mrs Marita Rapley will be fulfilling the role of Learning Support / Enrichment Teacher while Mrs Harrington is on Long Service Leave term 3.
- Mrs Shannon Standen will be teaching the Senior L classes while Mrs Landon is on Long Service Leave in term 3

**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 this year’s celebration is “Serving Country: Centenary & Beyond.”

Please refer to attached timetable of events and activities. We look forward to having you join us.

**Enrolments for the 2015 Prep Year Are Now Open**
Enrolments are now being taken for the Prep Year in 2015. 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 2015 school year.

Children who turn 5 by the 30th June 2015 are eligible to attend Prep in the 2015 School year.

It is important that we have an early indication of our anticipated numbers for the 2015 school year so we can begin planning ahead.
Prep Come and Try Open Day Sessions Wednesday 30th July

“A Prep Come and Try Open Day Session” will be conducted on Wednesday 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.

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

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 introduced 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.

Spell-a-thon Prizes on Next Week’s Assemblies

During our week 2 Junior and Senior Assemblies we will announce the winners of the Spell-a-thon Prizes and present them with their prizes.

If you have not yet returned your Spell-a-thon sponsorship donations and want to be sure that your child is included in the prize draws, please ensure that your cards and money are returned by Friday 18th July.

I would like to thank all families for their wonderful support of the P & C Spell-a-thon.
Welcome back to a busy term three as we head straight into NAIDOC week. The theme for 2014 NAIDOC is Serving Country: Centenary and beyond. Students will be involved in a number of activities that have been organised by Karen Steyger, our indigenous teacher aide.

Karen organised a working bee for the Bush Tucker garden last term and we had a small number of workers who turned up to take on the task of pruning, weeding, trimming and clearing away the vegetation. Many thanks to John, Dee, Natalie, Joanne and Maddison for giving up their time to work on our Bush Tucker garden. It was most appreciated by staff, students and parents.

Over the next five weeks our students in the junior school will be learning about the following concepts in English:

**Prep – Rhyme**
This term our Preps are listening to, viewing and providing responses to a number of rhyming texts. This will help them develop their letters and sounds and many common words and visual patterns. Their assessment will require them to create and recite a rhyming story for their classmates. They will also provide gestures to go with their presentation and write and draw a personal response to a rhyming story.

**Reading**
Teachers will continue to focus on reading in small group reading, Independent reading and Shared reading. Further support will be provided to the small group reading sessions to ensure we provide opportunities for our Preppies to learn and practice their reading strategies to allow them to decode texts and discuss the main messages in the texts. Please find time whenever possible to read to your child as the enjoyment this provides creates a desire in your child to read.

**Year 1**
Students are learning about how authors create characters and how they create animal characters who reflect human qualities. Students need to be able to connect to these characters by sharing their own similar experiences and by showing understanding of characters actions and behaviours.

Our year one students will be required to a written and spoken character interview as their main assessment of this unit. To do this they will need to know the difference between a question and a command and statement and be able to ask questions and listen to answers as they interview their classmates.

**Reading**—This term students will continue to work on their reading strategies and start to focus on comprehension strategies. Being able to answer literal –’right there’ type questions and to be able to ‘read between the lines’ to understand what the author has inferred are an important part of this learning. Students will develop this understanding during small group reading and during teacher focussed lessons in Shared reading.

**Year 2**
Year two students are using Roald Dahl’s novel ‘George’s Marvelous Medicine’ to analyse characters. They will learn how to write a procedure, the use of comma’s in a list and the appropriate words to a number of rhyming texts. This will help them develop their answers as they interview their classmates.

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**Reading**—In reading students will continue working in small groups for Guided Reading where they will be developing their ability to use their reading strategies and comprehension to help them read unfamiliar texts. Please ask your child to share the reading strategies they know with you during home reading so you can further support their use of these strategies.

**Year 3**
Year three students are examining myths and Aboriginal Dreaming stories. They will learn to analyse verbs, clauses, sentence structure, evaluative language and compare and contrast different myths. For their assessment they will need to answer comprehension questions to show understanding of the texts, analyse a rhyming text and to present a retell from another perspective. Students are using Dr Suess ‘The Lorax’ to tell the story from the Lorax’s perspective.

**Reading**—In year three our students are more fluent with the use of their reading and comprehension strategies and it is exciting to see them use these strategies as they work towards deepening their understanding of the author’s message. Their teachers are working in small groups to ensure all students are given the opportunity to share their understanding and the strategies they are using to assist them with making their connection to the text.

**Upcoming Library Events**
Bookweek will be held in week 6 18 August—22 August. During this week featured events will include Bookfair, Grandparents Day and dress up as your favourite book character day. This year the theme for Bookweek is Connect to Reading.
**Senior Student Ed Studio**
Parents of senior students (yr. 6 & 7) are reminded that they can access up to date information pertaining to the senior students via the Senior Students Ed studio. All the students have been shown how to access the Ed studio so please ask your child to show you.

**USHS Transition Days for our Senior Students**
Parents of senior students are reminded that next Tuesday and Wednesday have been set aside for the senior students to visit USHS as part of the transition into high school process. However for students to attend the transition days USHS MUST have received an enrolment application before the 17th July. Enrolment forms MUST be submitted to USHS not SSSS.

**Positive peers make a huge difference by Michael Grose**
There is little doubt that positive peer relations impact on a child’s academic success, emotional well-being and state of mind. A big claim but the truth is that we tend to reflect the views and attitudes our peer groups. It is hugely beneficial if a child’s predominant peer group cares for him, has positive expectations about the future and places high value on helping others as well as personal improvement. Children’s peer groupings can be quite complex and dynamic. Most children will have a prime peer group consisting of between two and up to five others. These children are generally referred to as best friends, buddies or best mates. These social relationships are often formed early in children’s lives and are strengthened by shared school, extracurricular or informal outside school activities.

Children also have one or two secondary peer groups, which can be larger and generally reflect shared interests or shared best friends. When these groups contain children from different grades and even different schools they have an insulating effect if adverse events happen and also offer exposure to wider peer groups.

Being a member of a positive a peer group lessens the likelihood of a child being bullied or harassed. Children in positive peer groups look out for each other and don’t engage in such behaviours, whether verbal or physical, themselves. Positive peer groups tend to be tolerant of differences and have loyalty and caring as key values. Having friends who care also lessens the impact of bullying and helps prevent it from impacting on other areas of a child’s life.

There are a number of broad strategies parents can use to encourage positive peer groups to form and emerge. These include:
- providing opportunities for children to mix and share experiences,
- drawing children’s attention to friendship behaviours and
- focusing on socialisation rather than achievement when they play sport or are involved in creative or group activities.

In this achievement-oriented society we need to value positive peer relationships and ensure that they are not ignored or undervalued in our efforts to provide the best possible start for our children.

To help your child become a member of positive peers groups try the following four ideas:

1. **Discuss** with your child how a good friend behaves. Ask him to identify some good friends and talk about what makes them a ‘good friend’.
2. Encourage them to **join** at least one outside school group and be a member of at least one school artistic, sporting or interest group.
3. **Limit** your child’s time in passive, solitary activities such as television-viewing, computer activities and Internet chat-rooms.
4. Make an effort to get to **know** some of your children’s friends and their parents.
Welcome to Term 3, we hope that you are all well rested, and have had a great holiday, this promises to be a very busy term for the P&C.

Sports day P&C Canteen
I have it on good authority that the Canteen went well last term. thank you to all of you that helped out, it was much appreciated. I have been told that approx. $900 was made, a great result.

Spell-a-thon
The P&C will be doing a final count for the Spell-a-thon this Friday the July 18. So this is your last chance to return money and forms. All prizes will be drawn, and final lists prepared early next week (week 2). The P&C will be announcing the winners very soon. To date the Spell-a-thon has raised $4314.45. We thank you all for your support.

Disco!!
The P&C School Disco will be held on Friday, August, 8. As usual we will have the Junior Disco (prep to year 3) from: 5.00pm—6.30 pm, and the Senior Disco (Year 4 - 7) from: 7.00—8.30 pm.

Disco ticket prices are:
• $5.00 for disco entry only
• $10.00 for disco entry and pizza

Due to the cost of living the prices for the “disco and pizza” tickets have been increased to $10.00. This is the first time in over 3 years that the price has been increased.

This year we are also having a theme. Our theme is: Fluoro, so please come dressed in anything that can glow in the dark. So dads or mums neon work shirts are a great idea. Lifeline or the discount stores also should be helpful for accessories.

The canteen will be selling glow stick products, snacks and drinks on the night as well. The P&C are still working out the finer details, but it should be a great night. Notes have been sent home with all students this week.

Tuckshop Improvements
The Tuck shop now has a new oven. The Oven cost $1790, it is a beauty. As everybody will remember Kerry fundraised $1000 towards this oven earlier this year. Kerry was also successful in receiving her Smart Choices Grant for $1000. This more than covers the cost of the oven. Approximately $500 was raised from the Mothers Day Stall which is to go towards installation costs, with the P&C paying the rest. We are just waiting on the bill from Hot Chilli, to finalise this expense.

Kerry was able also to go out shopping for some new appliances. On behalf of the P&C I would like to thank Kerry for her hard work, and some Volunteer hours in making this happen.

Next P&C Meeting
Our next P&C Meeting is on Wednesday, July 23, at 3.00pm in the Admin building, ALL welcome.

Thanks for your Support,
Kim, Tash, Sharon (Your P&C Executive team)

Banking News
Welcome back to Term 3! It has been fantastic to see so many enthusiastic bankers saving every week. If you child is interested in starting a dollarmite account please pop into a commonwealth bank or come and see us in the cottage in Thursdays at 2pm. We are looking for a new volunteer to help us with banking so if you have a spare half an hour once week please leave your name and number with the office.

Bookclub News
Term 3 has come so quickly!!! We apologise for the delay on the delivery of Issue 4 but everyone should have their books now. Reading is such an important part of every child learning. For bookclub to continue we are looking for a new volunteer to help process the orders and deliver books to the classrooms. This doesn’t take much time and the school receives such great rewards for taking part in this program. If you are interested please leave your name and number at the office and we will contact you.

Dental Van
The Dental Van will be back at Sandy Strait State School on 28 July. They will be seeing the Year 6 and 7 students first before they head off to High School next year. Permission forms have been sent home with students on Wednesday, please check your students bag. All forms must be returned with consent before they can see your child. Once these students who have been consented to be seen they will move on to other classes and they will be informed accordingly. All students who return a consent form will be seen at some point.
PaCE Presents...

Positive Parenting
With Lyn Newton
For parents with kids aged 0 – 19

Do you want extra strategies to deal with your child’s behaviour?
Do you want the chance to share your knowledge with other parents?
PaCE invites you to join us for this 4 week course facilitated by Lyn Newton.

The course is run 1 day per week for 3 hours over 4 weeks, and will cover all of the topics that you want to know about!!

Dates:
Monday 4th August
Monday 11th August
Monday 18th August
Monday 25th August

Location: Uniting Care Community, 94 Old Maryborough Rd, Pialba

If you would like more information or would like to organise transport for you to attend or to register your interest please get in touch with Lesa and Krissie on 4191 3100

Hervey Bay Catholic Parish - Children’s Sacraments
If you wish your child to receive First Communion and Confirmation NEXT YEAR (2015), they must make their First Reconciliation (Confession) this year. To do this, parents and children are required to attend an information session on Tuesday August 19th, at 6pm, in St Joseph’s Catholic Church.

Please note: Children must be baptised Catholics, and must be at least in Year 2 this year. No need to register before the night. (If possible, please bring along a copy of your child’s baptism certificate; otherwise the original for us to photocopy)

Queries: Julie Lynch 0408382023; pa.herveybay@bne.catholic.net.au

Breathe, Live, Think; Just for the health of it!
Free Entry, Free Health Checks, Cooking Demos, Fitness Classes, Face Painting

July 21st, Monday, 10am to 2pm
Hervey Bay Community Centre, 22 Charles St
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