Key to Success for this week: Organisation

FROM THE PRINCIPAL — MRS SHERRI BROWN

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 2012 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.

Semester 1 Reporting Process and Parent Teacher Interviews
As you know this year we have commenced implementing the National Curriculum in English, Maths and Science. To ensure that our children had as much time as possible to complete their curriculum programs and assessment tasks we extended the reporting period to the end of Semester.

Yesterday all families should have received an invitation to attend a Parent Teacher Interview in week 2. At this interview your child’s teacher will take you through the Semester 1 Report Card and your child’s Assessment Folio. I can’t stress strongly enough how important such an interview is especially with the introduction of the National Curriculum and National Achievement Standards.

Parents who are unable to attend an interview will receive their child’s Semester 1 Report Card which is contained inside the Student Assessment Folio on Friday 20th July.

What is a Student Assessment Folio?
Student assessment is an integral component of the teaching and learning cycle.

Teachers assess students in a range of different ways on a daily basis through formative assessment tasks such as observations, checklists, conferences etc. Students also complete summative assessment tasks demonstrating their understanding of key concepts in units of work across all of the Key Curriculum Areas.

The Student Assessment Folio contains a range of summative assessment tasks completed by your child across each of the Key Learning Areas this Semester. These summative tasks are used to assist teachers in making judgements regarding student achievement and are reported as an A-E in the report card issued each semester. Please note that not all samples of work that contribute to the achievement rating on the report card are contained within the folio.

Your child’s Semester Report Card will be issued in a labelled pocket inside the Student Assessment Folio at the Parent Teacher Interview in week 2 or sent home on 20th July.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations
This week our school community joins in celebrating NAIDOC Week with various cultural activities occurring for all year levels throughout the week. The theme of this year’s celebration is “the Tent Embassy”.

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

Congratulations for the 2012 One Year As New Ones
Enrolments for the 2013 Prep Year Are Now Open

Enrolments are now being taken for the Prep Year in 2013. Parents are invited to come into the school office and collect an enrolment pack containing information about the Prep Program, enrolment information and other brochures and documentation about the 2013 school year. Children who turn 5 by the 30th June 2013 are eligible to attend Prep in the 2013 School year.

It is important that we have an early indication of our anticipated numbers for the 2013 school year so we can begin planning ahead.

The first in a series of Prep open days will be conducted on Wednesday 25th 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.

Parent information sessions will be conducted later in the year for our 2013 Prep parents and families.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the upcoming Prep Year or enrolling your child.

Please Confirm your Attendance at the First of our Pre- Prep Program Session on 25th July

All parents who have enrolled children for Prep in 2013 are reminded to confirm your attendance at the first of our Pre- Prep Program sessions.

There will be a session conducted from 9.30- 10.30am and an evening session for working parents from 6.30- 7.30pm.

Please register your attendance by contacting our school office.

Welcome to New and Returning Staff

This term we welcome 2 new staff members to our team and two returning staff members.

- Ms McGuire will be teaching the class of 3N replacing Mrs Noonan
- Mrs Waters will commence duty as our new Head of Special Education Services.
- Mrs Heiniger will be returning to teach the class of 5/6 W replacing Mrs Wakelin.
- Ms Bloomfield will be teaching the 4/5P SEP class replacing Mrs Puller

Please make our new and returning staff feel welcome.

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 11 week school term that allows for children to be absent for only 3 days. Ideally we would like every student to strive for 100% attendance.

This year we have made changes to the way in which we follow up unexplained absences and chronic absenteeism. Parents receive letters 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 all 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 the last 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. Please note change of time for Junior Assembly

This term our fortnightly Junior Assemblies will be scheduled from 9.00- 9.30 to allow for the Visual Arts Program which ill occur on Friday afternoons.

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.

I would like to thank all families for their wonderful support of the P&C Spellathon.

A Reminder about Parking and Vehicle Movement in the School Grounds

Over the school holidays we have arranged for additional signage to be placed on our school gates and within our school grounds to remind parents and visitors about the safety arrangements in place within the school grounds.

To ensure the safety of all children the top entry gates are locked of an afternoon between 2.30-3.00pm. These gates will only be opened to allow the entry and exit of Special Taxis and vehicles as outlined above.

No vehicles will be permitted to leave the school grounds until after 3.00pm (unless by special permit) to ensure that our children are not put at risk due to moving vehicles. This new arrangement may cause inconvenience to some staff and parents but it is absolutely necessary to ensure that our school grounds are safe.

We also have a number of parents who persist in double parking down near the pedestrian crossing or in the disabled parking spots, calling out for children to run between cars or to cross the road away from the crossing. Such behaviour is dangerous and illegal. The police will be out in force on roads surrounding schools, enforcing speed limits and parking rules ensuring our children are safe.

I thank you for your support and understanding as we all work together to protect the most precious of things, our children.

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**NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**NAIDOC WEEK**

This week we celebrate NAIDOC week at School with many activities organised to help students understand and enjoy all things Indigenous. We commenced the week with a flag raising ceremony for our Indigenous students and an assembly for year one to year seven students during which Renee Crilly (EATSIPS project officer) delivered a short presentation introducing the 2012 theme– Spirit of the Tent Embassy: 40 years on. Students and teachers were also entertained by the Indigenous dancers from Torquay State School who performed a number of Indigenous dances and songs.

Each year level will be involved in activities organised by Karen Styger our Indigenous Teacher Aide, where students will create and design art work, symbols, songs, poems, games and storytelling activities related to the theme unity and reconciliation.

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**Leap into Learning – The Visual Arts**

On Friday we begin our very exciting six week Visual Arts program for all Prep to Year Three students. Students will be given lessons in each of the four elements – Line, Shape, Colour and Texture and will be creating works of art to display at an art exhibition in week six. Students will be working with a different teacher each Friday afternoon as they rotate through the various lessons. Assembly will be held on Friday morning next week to accommodate the program. Sandy Strait school community is lucky to have some very talented artistic parents (Nicole Hohn and Amy Sheridan) who have volunteered their time and expertise to help out with this project. Thank you ladies for offering to help with this program.

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**Parent / teacher meetings**

Next week teachers will be busy with parent teacher meetings before and after school and I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend as it will provide you with information that will assist you with helping your child achieve at school. These meetings will also allow you to clarify any misconceptions around school procedures, classroom and teacher expectations as well as celebrate your child’s school progress. The meeting also provides an opportunity for you to provide valuable information to your child’s teacher concerning your child’s interests and concerns about school. Please ring and notify the office if you are unable to attend your scheduled meeting.

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**Junior school assembly**

Junior school assembly will be next Friday morning and we are expecting a special visitor from the Commonwealth bank who will be encouraging our students to be involved in school banking.

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**Leap into Reading**

This month we will continue with our focus on vocabulary with a goal of helping our students increase the range of words in their spoken language as well as providing them with strategies that allow them to comprehend unfamiliar words in their reading.

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**NEWS FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL**

**Parent Teacher Interviews Report Cards**

Parent teacher interviews will be offered to parents next week. Please take the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher and collect their Semester 1 Report Card. An interview offers parents an
opportunity to discuss in detail the progress of their child. If you are stuck about what questions to
ask your child’s teacher here are some questions you might want to consider:

1. Is my child working up to his/her ability?
2. Is there anything we can do at home to reinforce the skills that you’re working on in the
classroom?
3. How much time should my child be spending on his/her homework?
4. What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses?
5. What can we do to help develop our child’s weak areas?
6. What are my child’s academic talents?
7. What is my child like in class?
8. What is my child’s learning style?
9. How does my child interact with the other kids?
10. Is there anything that I can share with you about my child and what he’s like at home?

**Athletics Carnival**
Mr Baldwin had to perform some significant juggling to get through our athletics carnival on Friday
of the last week of term. Inclement weather jeopardised the carnival and Mr Baldwin had to make
adjustments to ensure the key events, at least, were completed. It was disappointing but
unfortunately out of our control. No team was announced as the winner as there were too few
events formally completed to identify a winning team.

**Year 7 Come & Try Days at USHS**
Our Year 7 students have been invited to participate in some great activities at USHS on Tuesday
31st July and Wednesday 1st August. More details regarding the ‘Come & Try Days’, have been
sent out to Year 7 students.

**Student Leaders’ News for this issue** is presented by Jessie Staples and Shaiyl Hohn.

**Welcome Back**
Welcome back to all students, teachers and members of our school community. A special
welcome to any new students who have enrolled with us. Our school is a great school and we
are sure you will enjoy being a student with us.

**Academic Awards**
We would like to congratulate all the students who were awarded academic achievement and
improvement awards in the areas of Maths, English, Science and L.O.T.E during our special
Awards Assembly last term. We hope everyone makes improvements this term and continue to
leap into their learning.

**Sporting Congratulations**
A big shout out to Ethan Howat for making the QLD club soccer team and Jessie Staples for
making the U12 QLD girls primary school hockey team

**Parent Teacher Interviews start in Week 2**
We would like to encourage all of our parents to come to parent teacher interviews if possible so
you can hear how well your children are going in school. All you have to do is fill out your sheet
that will be sent out and select your time and day you prefer and your child’s teacher will confirm
your time, so make sure you get your sheets back in ASAP to your teacher.

**Great Poem**
This week we have been celebrating NAIDOC week. Check out this great poem one of Year 7
peers, Jack Bennion, has written. It’s great.

**Reconciliation Poem**
For the history of this land,
*Turn sweet which once was bland.*
A relationship that needs to renew,
Between the old people and the new,
*Tradition and modern, black and white.*
Must work together with all their might,
To heal a land that needs a bang,
*We’ll unite, like ying and yang.*
The Islanders, the Indigenous and the British,
*Must ‘mend the bridge’ in order to finish.*
The mind of our young,
Their journey has just begun,
For all over Australia we worry,
The Indigenous won’t believe we’re sorry.
Now, through the rest of creation,
We work together as ONE nation.

By Jack Bennion (7S)
TUCKSHOP NEWS – MS LEE SMITH

Tuckshop is open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday each week.

We are using the same menu as last term.

- Hot Dogs available Fridays ONLY.
- Burgers only available Wed & Thursdays.
- (Cheese Burger $4 / Hamburger $5 / Chicken Cheese Burger $4 / Chicken Burger $5)

Special: Due to this cold weather, “Hot Milo” will be available this fortnight over the counter in the morning from 8.00am – 8.20am. costing $1.40

Volunteers

The school needs volunteers from 1.00 – 1.45pm in the tuckshop. Have you considered giving a little of your time? We have a great group of ladies that volunteer, we do have lots of fun together and occasionally meet up outside of tuckshop.

If you’re interested in meeting new people or would just like to help out in the school community, then please see Lee at tuckshop.

This fortnight’s volunteer Roster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday - 11th July</th>
<th>Thursday - 12th July</th>
<th>Friday - 13th July</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda Hynes 1.00 – 1.45pm</td>
<td>Kerri McDonald 1.00 – 1.45pm</td>
<td>Jacqui Maskell 1.00 - 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday - 18th July</td>
<td>Thursday - 19th July</td>
<td>Friday - 20th July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy Sloan 1.00 – 1.45pm</td>
<td>NicHohn 1.00 – 1.45pm</td>
<td>Nicole Hill 1.00 – 1.45pm</td>
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SCHOOL BANKING

Welcome to Term 3. We had such a great 2nd term with 13 new students opening accounts with the Commonwealth Bank School Banking Program. In total for term 2 you have earned Sandy Strait $162.84 in commission, what an amazing effort!

Last term there were many children consistently banking every week. As a special reward for their great efforts they received a prize pack on the last day of school. Congratulations for your good efforts!

Next week on Jnr assembly “Cred” and a Commonwealth Bank Representative will be coming to talk to everyone about the importance of banking. A great competition will be announced and there will be prizes handed out on assembly as well.

Next month Suzanne from the Commonwealth Bank will be coming to the cottage while the school banking is being processed. This is a great opportunity for everyone to come and talk to her and ask any questions regarding school banking. She is also able to open new accounts for anyone who is interested. We will keep you informed as to the date.

Every time your child makes a deposit at school, whether it’s 20cents or $20, they receive a cool Dollarmites token. These tokens can then be redeemed for exclusive Dollarmites reward Available at the moment are:-

- Money Box (Cred, Pru, Pat, Addy or Spen)
- Drink Bottle
- Lunch Box
- Watch
- Handball
- Book Light or a
- Pen Pod is now available.

Please get involved with school banking and start receiving some amazing rewards.

If your child is not involved with school banking and you would like them to start, here are two easy ways:-

- If you’re an existing Commonwealth Bank customer, log into your NetBank, go to the ‘Offers and Apply’ tab, the click ‘Accounts’ and ‘Youthsaver and School Banking’. From there you’ll just need to select your child’s school, and have their birth certificate on hand for ID purposes.
- Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for you (drivers licence) and your child (birth certificate). It takes 5 minutes and your child can start banking the following day.

Don’t forget deposit books need to be handed into the office by Thursday.

If you have any questions about school banking please send us an email at ssssbanking@yahoo.com.au
Thank you from your School Banking Co-Ordinators Sarah, Rebecca and Tara.

**WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN**

Woolworths will be conducting this great endeavour again this year. It's simple to participate: from the 9th May, when you shop at Woolworths you can collect stickers from the checkout operator and place them on sticker cards. There'll be one sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco, and gift cards). Once completed, they can place their sticker cards in the collection box, either at your school or at your local Woolworths. Sticker cards have been sent home with students. If you require another card please pick one up from the school office. We have a box in the office foyer for the completed cards to be placed into and one has also been placed at Urangan Shopping Centre.

**COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS**

Coles will be conducting this great endeavour again this year. It's simple to participate, for every $10 you spend at Coles you receive one voucher. Collect the vouchers and pop into the red box in the office. Vouchers are available in all Coles stores from 11 August to 19 October and we ask that you get involved to help collect vouchers for our school.

**UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS**

- **August 15** - guest author Brian Falkner – sessions for all year 5, 6 and 7 classes; special session for our talented writers.
- **August 20-24** - Book Week and Book Fair one session TBA during this week devoted to *Rug Reading* and *dress as your favourite book character* - on the oval (more information to follow closer to the date)
- **September 7** - Premier’s Reading Challenge concludes

**POSITION VACANT—TEACHER AIDE**

Sandy Strait State School SEP

A vacancy exists for a Teacher Aide (Permanent Other Hours) 24 hours per week in the Special Education Program at Sandy Strait School.

Application package will be made available from Wednesday 11 July from the school office or request to smittc216@eq.edu.au

The successful applicant will be required to hold or successfully apply to obtain a Working with children Blue Card.

Information relevant to this position will be contained within the application package.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Business Services Manager – Mrs. Wood on 41970333.

**BOOKCLUB NEWS**

All students have received their bookclub pamphlets. All orders must be returned by **Friday 20 July**. Please make sure that you have included your child’s name and class on the order form and place together with your money into the blue box in the office. Thank you for your continued support.
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 not I send my child to school?
Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child at 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 reasons 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, missing other activities, missing 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 my 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 sick?
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, boos, school bag...
- slow to eat breakfast
- haven't done their homework
- 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's not going to school?
You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

Play YOUR MUSIC Academy
Learn shortcuts to start playing YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC
FREE FIRST LESSON
* Instrument not necessary. * Private or Group Tuition
* Our Studio or Your Home * Beginners welcomed
*Ages 5-95.* Patient Teachers
Phone: 4194 5265 <= or 0407 586 761

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Phone: 4194 5265 <= or 0407 586 761
Due to unprecedented demand for entry into our Academic and Cultural Excellence (ACE) program by the most outstanding Year 7 students, Urangan State High School is extending the timeline for applications. All future applications will be dated on receipt and this will be considered when assessing eligibility for inclusion in the program.

We thank the many students and parents who have already applied and wish, once again, to congratulate you on your outstanding achievements in academic, musical and Chinese areas of study.

For more information please contact the school on 4197 0111 or visit the School Website: www.uranganshs.eq.edu.au