Key to Success for this week: Getting Along

From the Principal
From the Junior School
From the Senior School
Tuckshop News
P & C News
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LOTE Notes

Sandy Strait State School

COMING EVENTS
25 July—Prep Open Day
Session 1—9.30am—10.30am
Session 2—6.30pm—7.30pm
15 Aug—Brian Falkner visit
20—24 Aug—Book Fair and Book Week
23 Aug—Grandparents Day
7 Sept—Premier’s Reading Challenge finishes

Newsletter No 12 24/07/12

The National Curriculum, Standards and Expectations

Each fortnight in our school newsletter we endeavour to provide information to our parents about curriculum, teaching and learning that occurs in a range of settings from Prep to Year 7.

Last week teachers from across the year levels invited parents to attend a Parent Teacher Interview to discuss student progress and development. These meetings were particularly important as this is the first reporting period since the implementation of the National Curriculum. It was very pleasing to see many parents in attendance at these meetings.

Here at Sandy Strait we also utilise a Student Assessment Folio which provides supporting evidence and details ensuring a transparent reporting process for students and parents.

The new Australian Curriculum in English, Maths and Science has been interpreted in Queensland through C2C (Curriculum into the Classroom units of work).

Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland Curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments, for example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers evaluated student work based on our new C2C units and Assessment tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths and Science. Due to the fact that this is the first assessment period following implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may be lower than your child has experienced in the past. This also reflects students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level.

If this is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks. Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers across Queensland.

I am very proud of the commitment from our teachers, support staff and students as they work with this new curriculum. The focus on teaching and learning and dedication to consistency of judgment and high expectations is to be admired.
Preparing for Book Week and Grandparents Day.
Preparations are well underway in this National Year of Reading to celebrate Book Week. Book Week occurs between the 20th and 24th August with events such as the Children’s Council Book of the Year Awards, Rug Reading, a Book Fair and many other events highlighting the importance of Reading.

As part of our Book Week Celebrations we will also be having a Grandparents Day inviting all Grandparents to come and share in the festivities. Grandparents Day has been set aside for Thursday 23rd August. Please add this date to your diary and let all Grandparents out there know to keep this day free. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Prep Come and Try Open Day Sessions this Wednesday.
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. If you have not already done so can you please register your attendance by contacting our school office.

“A Prep Come and Try Open Day Session” 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.

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 introducing a 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: Oral Language
Session 2: Early Number Concepts
Session 3: Developing Reading
Session 4: Sounds to Letters

At the conclusion of the Pre- Prep Program your child will be presented with a certificate for completing the Sandy Strait Pre- Prep Program.

Parents will need to submit their completed Enrolment Form prior to commencing the Pre- Prep Program to ensure that we have all of your child’s details.

Starting school is such an exciting time for both children and parents and we are looking forward to working together with you and your child through the Sandy Strait Pre- Prep Program.

Choir Performing on Junior and Senior Assembly on 1st and 3rd August ( week 4)
Next week at both the senior and junior assemblies our choir will entertain us.

Just a reminder to parents that for this term only our Junior Assembly has been moved to the new time of 9.00 - 9.30 to make room for our Visual Arts Program which is implemented...
the new time of 9.00-9.30 to make room for our Visual Arts Program which is implemented in Prep to Year 3 on Friday Afternoons.

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NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL: MRS HELEN FORBES

Leap into Learning in the Junior school

This newsletter has an overview of some of the teaching and learning which is happening in our Junior classrooms for the first five weeks in English and Maths and for the term in Science. Please discuss this learning with your child and encourage them to share their knowledge and successes.

Prep

Mathematics - Our Preps will be covering a number of maths concepts over this term including: Data- students will be selecting and recording data from around the room to record on charts (hair colour, eye colour, number of girls/boys etc.); Volume and Capacity- Preppies will be measuring sand, rice, water etc. using a number of informal and formal units (jugs, cups, shapes); Addition- students will be making equal amounts, comparing and combining small amounts as well as identifying addition and recording their understanding; Time- They will explore concepts of duration and sequence and represent weekly and daily events.

English- ‘Interacting with others’ 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 to their classmates. They will also provide gestures to go with their presentation and write and draw a personal response to a rhyming story.

Science- In Prep students are observing and recording weather types. They will use this knowledge to analyse how weather affects our daily lives as well as how animals and plants are affected. They will be required to represent and record the weather.

YEAR 1

Mathematics – Year one students have been learning about giving and following directions as well as describing and creating alternate pathways to a given location. They have been learning to recognise and describe halves as well as understanding the teen numbers. In time students will be developing their understanding of an hour and half hour and the features of a clock face. Their major assessment for this unit is titled ‘How long is that?’ Students will draw and use objects as they record the comparison of length between two objects.

English – 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 write questions for a character interview as their main assessment of this unit. They will need to be able to ask questions and listen to answers as they interview their classmates.

SoSE- Year One are exploring a multicultural unit and have spent some time learning about Australia’s indigenous history and culture and are now moving onto learning about Australia’s first settlers.

Science -Year One will be studying and observing our skies and landscapes this term. They will be reflecting and analysing the changes of the sky and landscapes and recording their observations. We’re hoping to have a night sky viewing sometime in the future with a real astronomer.

YEAR 2

Mathematics – In maths year two students will be covering a number of concepts:

Time- Identifying and ordering days of the week, months and seasons of the year. They need to be able to read and construct a calendar.

Number sense- Representing, reading and writing three-digit numbers.

Addition and subtraction- Developing fluency with basic fact strategies as well as addition and subtraction of larger numbers and representing number stories as number sentences.

Multiplication and division- developing further fluency with multiplication as repeated equal quantities and describing and representing division as equal shares;

Location- Representing and identifying locations on a map and using positional language to give and receive directions.

English- Year two students are using Roald Dahl’s novel ‘George’s Marvellous Medicine’ to analyse characters. They will need to sequence a jumbled procedural text as part of

their assessment for this unit as well as writing and presenting a multimodal procedure to their teacher and classmates.

Science - The term’s unit for year two science is titled ‘Familiar living things.’ Our students will study the life stages of animals and plants and to use this knowledge of life stages in everyday life. Chickens have hatched

SoSe - the year twos are becoming ‘Community Champions’ in their SoSE unit as they study the natural and manmade features of Hervey Bay. They will present their knowledge on a poster as part of their assessment.

Year 3
Mathematics – students in year three are studying a number of maths concepts over the first five weeks of this term: Place value - Representing and ordering numbers to 5 000 as well as exploring numbers to 10 000; Units of measure - Using metric units of length, mass, capacity and area.; Multiplication and division- students will explore multiplication and division and develop recall of the twos and threes multiplication facts; Time - Telling time to five-minute and one minute intervals.

Students will be assessed on their ability to measure using length, mass and capacity and to tell the time to the minute (this is a very difficult concept for many of our students).

English - 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.

SoSE – Year threes are studying Hervey Bay and its special features. They will be involved in mapping lessons where they will be locating our position in the world as well as Hervey Bay’s suburbs and streets. They will also research Hervey Bay’s special features. For their assessment students will produce a tourist brochure.

Science - Year three’s unit this term allows students to investigate how heat can be produced and transferred. Students will use conductors and insulators and read and use and the safety practices thermometers. They explore factors affecting heat transference required. Students will be able to use this knowledge to analyse real life applications of heat production and transference. Year threes will visit the Fire Expo in August and see this in practice. Notes will come home closer to the event.

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NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL SCHOOL

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. Parents of Year 7 students are encouraged to see their child’s teacher for more details.

Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser
Students in Year 6 are keen to raise some funds to help alleviate the cost of the Year 7 camp next year. The first fund raiser being organised by students in 6A is a sausage sizzle to be held Monday and Tuesday of next week. We thank the students in 6A, their teacher Mrs Aslett and Susan Blyth from the P&C for their help in assisting the students organise the fundraiser. A big thank you to Mr Parry from Point Vernon Butchery who donated many of the sausages for our sausage sizzle. His donation was very much appreciated.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN FOR STUDENTS
Our school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students will be reviewed throughout the semester. Any adjustments recommended from the review will be put in place for 2013. At present we are in the data gathering phase of the review. This requires us to receive feedback from stakeholders (teachers, parents and students) about the level of effectiveness of our current Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students and on our ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment. Shortly, all of our parents will be invited to give their opinions via a brief online survey.

Reading
Reading is a strong focus for all our students. It is a critical lifelong skill that is a requirement for success. In older children our focus should include:

- increasing reading stamina,
- developing a joy of reading and
- increasing the range of reading material they read.
Here are 20 ideas we ALL can try to help support our students develop their reading. All of these methods may not work with every student, but some may be the key for some students. These are geared toward parents, but apply well to teachers.

Research on reading generally agrees that the most critical aspect of reading is how a child feels about reading. Positive reinforcement from parents and teachers helps. Children need to know that adults in their lives care about reading.

Research also agrees that in most cases, forcing a child to read will yield no positive results. Most children should not be REQUIRED to read each day, especially if it's forced reading for pleasure. Some families find that having a reading time when the whole family reads works. Even if the child is reluctant, he knows that the time is reserved for reading. Let him choose to read light material, if nothing else.

A book allowance is a good idea. In addition to whatever other allowance a child may receive, provide an allowance for books. Even if the allowance allows for the purchase of one paperback book or magazine a week, you've helped encourage reading.

Regular visits to a good magazine rack, coupled with purchases, provide reading material. Parents will probably want to exercise some judgment on reading purchases, but magazines your child shows some interest in and which you approve are a good way to provide material and encourage reading.

Subscriptions to a magazine or magazines for your child or student are a good idea. There's a certain amount of excitement in “ownership” and for many students it's very exciting to receive mail.

Model reading. Children who see their parents reading, often become readers and come to accept that reading is a matter-of-fact activity.

If your child is willing, whatever his or her age, don't be afraid to read aloud. Reading to children is one of the best ways to encourage interest in reading. Older brothers and sisters can read to younger children. If your child is too old to be read to (some would suggest that no one is too old to be read to), just read articles aloud from the newspaper from time to time.

Establish a place in the child's room for his or her books. A feeling of ownership, again, is important.

Schedule regular family visits to the library—even if your child doesn't seem interested in taking out books. Introduce your child to the librarian. Librarians are anxious to help children look for interesting reading material. Make sure your child knows our school librarian too. By all means recommend books to your child. Tell the child how difficult the books are (or are not) and let the child decide if he or she wants to read them.

If your child starts a book and doesn't want to finish it -- ok. Hasn't that happened to you? Some advice I've heard recommends that you abandon books that don't "grab" you in the first 60 pages...because life is too short. My threshold is lower than 60 pages. Buy books for yourself and let your children know you do it.

If your child decides to read something to YOU...be patient and let him or her read to you.


It's important that children have hobbies or interests. Help your children develop such interests and make sure they have or seek reading material about their interests.

Praise your child for his or her reading when appropriate, for example, praise the child when a long or difficult book is completed.

When a topic of interest develops which involves the whole family--an upcoming trip or vacation, for example--bring home some books on the topic to share with the family.

Attend used book sales at libraries and other places where good books can be had inexpensively.

Discuss with your child any book he or she is reading for a class at school. Read the book yourself.

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TUCKSHOP NEWS – NOT TO BE CROSSED

Fortnight special: Wed 25th July to Fri 3rd August only

- Hash Brown - $1.00
- Party Pie - $1.10 each
- Spaghetti Bolognese - $3.00 each

Volunteer Roster:
Wed 25th July – Fiona 1.00 – 1.45pm
Thurs 26th July – Melissa 1.00 – 1.45pm

Thurs 26 July – Melissa 1.00 – 1.45pm
Fri 27th July – Kerri 12.45 – 1.45pm
Wed 1st August – Rhonda Hynes 1.00 – 1.45pm
Thurs 2nd August – Nic Hohn 1.00 – 1.45pm
Fri 3rd August – Jacqui 12.30 – 2.00pm

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P & C NEWS

Due to work commitments, I am finding it extremely difficult to help out the rest of the P&C Executive and am hoping that there may be a parent out there who has some time they can offer. If there is someone who is available during school hours who would like to take over the P&C Secretary position, please contact Kim Farnell on 4125 1630 or come to the next P&C meeting to chat about what is involved. It is a great way to get involved with what is happening at Sandy Strait, and I'm happy to help out as much as I can.

Regards
Tracey Bennion

TOP SCHOOL BANKING

Wow, what a great assembly we had on Friday, Cred sure made an impression when he entered the room. Thank you to all the children who had lots of questions and chore ideas for Kara our Commonwealth Bank Representative. I’m sure everyone had a great time… I know Cred did!

The Commonwealth Bank is holding a competition for all new and current school bankers at Sandy Strait.
For all new students who open a Youth Savers Account with the Commonwealth Bank this term their names will go into the draw for a great prize pack, which will be drawn on the last Assembly of this term.
For all current school bankers, every time you make a deposit through school banking you will go into the draw for another prize pack. The more times you bank the more chances you have of winning.
On Friday 3rd August, 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.

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 items. The “Pen Pod” is now available.
Please get involved with school banking and start receiving some amazing rewards.

Saving Tips:
Support your child to complete the deposit slip themselves – don’t do it for them! Remember, your child is developing money management skills.
If your child receives pocket money get them to allocate some money towards their school banking deposit for saving.
Encourage your child to earn their school banking money each week by doing some basic chores to help you out! Great chores include emptying the dishwasher, cleaning their room or feeding the dog.

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 link ‘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.

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LOTE NOTES – MRS CHARLOTTE SANDERS

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday. Just want to keep you up-to-date with the latest regarding LOTE:
• Year 6 and 7 students should have organised a small exercise book for their Weekly Reflection task. A letter about this was sent home prior to the holidays. The Weekly Reflection is an assessment task and counts towards the Semester 2 report card. More information about this is available in students’ Term 3 LOTE booklets. Thanks to all families who made sure their children
Homework completion. It is vital that students stay on top of their homework, particularly in regards to the Weekly Reflection task. If students don’t complete it one week, it means they will have extra to do the following week. The reason it is a weekly task is so students only have to remember one week’s worth of learning at a time, instead of a whole term’s worth. Please allow your child/children time to complete their homework each week.

Last week I had the privilege of meeting with several parents as part of Parent-Teacher interviews. It was great sharing the learning progress students had made over Semester 1. This is the first year that the “New Land New Language” program has been used at Sandy Strait and the results speak for themselves. The majority of students are passing or exceeding the standards set. It was wonderful being able to award students with Bs and As in their report cards. I hope this trend continues.

Have a great week.

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PE NEWS – MR DARREN BALDWIN

Year 4 and 5 Interschool Sport  Unfortunately the weather has not been kind to us again with Interschool Sport being washed out again in week 1. Interschool Sport for Yr 4 – 5 is scheduled to run on the Fridays of Week 2 and 3. With a busy term ahead there is no chance any missed weeks of Interschool School Sport being rescheduled.

PE Lesson’s Week 2 – 5  During this time staff from the Australian Rugby League will be working with our students during PE lessons on a Backyard League Unit. Backyard League is a modified version of Rugby League with no tackling and is used as a lead up game introducing the skills and strategies to children in a non-contact environment.

Sporting Achievements  Good luck to Mr Hanrahan (Wide Bay Girls Football Coach) and Mrs Mason (Wide Bay Boys Football Manager) as they head off to Mackay for the State Primary Schools Championships with their teams.

Well done to Vincent Green who has represented Wide Bay at the recent State Primary Schools Cross Country Championships in Cairns. At the time of publishing this Vinnie is making the trek to Cairns – he is a whole hearted competitor who will put every ounce of effort he has into his race.

Congratulations to Aimee Steer, Taylor Bower and Isobelle Kuhner who have been selected for the HBZ Girls Rugby League Team to compete at the Wide Bay Girls Rugby League Trials. Within School Sport there is a push to promote Rugby League and AFL for girls and it is fantastic to have students from SSSS leading the way for girls sport.

Sara Hanson and Taylor Bower represented QLD in the recent Junior Oztag Junior State of Origin team in Caloundra. At training they appeared to be the least likely team capable of winning, but somehow turned it around and jelled magnificently as a team to record Qld’s first ever junior series win!

Jessie Staples has had the huge honour of being selected for the QLD Primary Schools Girls Hockey Team to compete at the National Titles in Adelaide. In a strong hockey state and nation this is a wonderful effort and she will no doubt take keen interest in the progress of the Australian Hockey Teams at the London Olympics. Jessie is a great role model for our students as she is a high achiever in her academic, musical and sporting pursuits – WELL DONE! A victory at the Nationals for QLD against NSW would be great too Jessie!

SSSS Athletics Carnival  Our 2012 Athletics Carnival was progressing nicely with the students enjoying the carnival and participating well – UNTIL it rained – AGAIN! With a tight schedule in Term 3 there is no chance of rescheduling.

After the 100m events finished and the rain intervened – Tulara were the points leader and therefore are the winners of the 2012 Athletics Carnival.

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NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM – MISS KYLIE HUNTER

Do you want to hear the next Beyonce, New Direction or Katy Perry? Well they may just be hiding in our fantastic Junior or Senior Choir and both choirs will be performing at their respective assembly next week!

Senior Choir will be performing on their assembly next Wednesday afternoon. They are performing 2 songs and are looking forward to showing off their X-Factor skills.

Junior Choir will be performing on their assembly next Friday morning. They have put in a lot of effort to prepare 2 songs as well and are excited to show off to their family and friends. So if you would like to hear our next big stars come along to one of the assemblies next week!

Also if you have a child interested in joining the Choir it is never too late. Both choirs are always open to new members. The Junior Choir (1-3) meet Tuesday at big lunch and the Senior Choir (4-7) meets Thursday at big lunch. Our choirs are about the enjoyment of singing. If you love to sing come and be part of our choir!
As parents we only want the best for our children, we nurture and encourage them as they grow to be the best they can be. We rejoice when they reach each milestone, and as they get older and more independent they become they want to show us that they have some grasp on the world, they “know what they are doing” (as my 13yr old tells me!!)

On this road of parenthood, “I make the best decisions for my children”, however there are times when I look back and think, “That wasn’t a good choice, I won’t do that again.” We all have those thoughts, it is a part of learning how to be effective parents for our kids. A part of that gleaning is also to listen to other parents’ stories, building networks of support and to share that load of parenting.

The cottage will be open to parents on Wednesday afternoons from 2.15pm… while waiting for your children to finish school, come in and have a tea or coffee; to find the space to talk to other parents, and share that load…Because in the end Our Kids Matter.

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On Monday Year 6 sent out a note to the school regarding a sausage sizzle that will go toward the Year 7 camp. I do hope that people can buy a snag to help them raise funds for Year 7 camp. Also in the last couple of weeks Mr Dougdale has been at SSSS teaching backyard league to the students. If you see Mr Dougdale around the school please feel free to say hello. Also I’d like to acknowledge the students from Year 7 for going to Interschool sport and refereeing.

Josh Grinter—Student Leader

During the past fortnight, we have had lots of busy schedules. Our Year 4 and 5 students have been going out to Interschool Sports with some of our fellow student leaders, who kindly offered to referee some of the games. Also, we have some visitors. The Backyard League Team have come to teach students to play the game and in their fifth week they will be refereeing games for each year level and everyone who participates will receive a rugby league ball.

Zoe Gallagher—Student Leader

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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.