Key to Success this Week: Organisation

COMING EVENTS

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<td>26 Oct</td>
<td>World Teachers’ Day</td>
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<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Beginner Strings Workshop</td>
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<td>9 Nov</td>
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<td>30 Nov</td>
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<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>Year 7 Farewell</td>
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<td>Last day of school year. Report Cards issued.</td>
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From the Principal - Mrs. Shereen Mc Dowley

A Belated Welcome Back to Term 4

Last Tuesday I returned back to school after taking some Long Service for an overseas holiday with my family. It has been lovely to return to so many positive achievements and warm welcomes.

To all of our new families who have commenced this term at Sandy Strait I would like to welcome you to the Sandy Strait Community and hope that you have settled in well.

To all of our existing families I hope you enjoyed the recent holidays and are ready to set sail for a very busy and rewarding term of the 2012 school year.

NAPLAN Celebrations

It has been very pleasing to receive our NAPLAN results which arrived in my absence just before the holidays.

As part of our Student Free Program yesterday we analysed the NAPLAN data in more detail with all staff.

Over the last 2 years we have implemented a very focused and intensive whole school improvement program entitled “Leap Into Learning” and it has been wonderful to see the outcomes of this process in our recent NAPLAN results.

YEAR 3

Our Year 3 results in all 5 strands - Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar/Punctuation, Numeracy are above all National Like Schools and Qld State Schools.

In the area of Reading our mean score is the same as the Nation.

We have a large percentage of our children who are placed in the upper 2 bandings of Naplan:

- 44% of Year 3 students in the upper 2 bands for Reading
- 45% of Year 3 students in the upper 2 bandings for Writing
- 37% of Year 3 students in the upper 2 bandings in Spelling
- 47% of our Year 3 students in the upper 2 bandings in Grammar/Punctuation

YEAR 5

Our Year 5 results in 4 of the 5 strands are similar or on par with National Like Schools and Qld State Schools.

In the area of Writing our Year 5 students continue to be above National Like Schools and Qld State Schools.

We have also seen continued growth and movements of our students into the upper 2 bandings of Naplan:

37% of Year 5 students in the upper 2 bandings in Spelling
44% of Year 5 students in the upper 2 bandings for Writing
45% of Year 5 students in the upper 2 bandings in Grammar/Punctuation

Our Sponsors

Contact our school

Robert Street
Urraween, QLD 4655
Ph: (07) 4197 0333
Fax: (07) 4197 0300
Email: admin@sandstrass.eq.edu.au

Web: www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au

If you would like to receive our newsletter...please send us an email to admin@sandstrass.eq.edu.au.
bandings in all 5 strands.
- In the areas of Reading and Writing our mean scores are the same as the Nation.

YEAR 7
- Our Year 7 results in 4 of the 5 strands are above National Like schools and Qld State Schools.
- Year 7 Reading results are similar or on par with National Like Schools and Qld State Schools.
- In the areas of Writing, Spelling, Grammar/Punctuation our mean scores are the same as the Nation.
- We also see continued growth and movement of our students into the upper bandings across the strands.

This is a tremendous effort and achievement by our teaching staff and is also great evidence that our differentiation, targeted support and extension programs are effective. The whole school commitment to our “Leap into Learning” Agenda and the ongoing review of data and setting of targets has made a significant difference. The work of our teams – teachers, support staff, teacher aides and parents DOES make a difference.

To our fabulous students, congratulations on your achievements and your commitment and persistence to making leaps forward in your learning.

Sandy Strait State School Presented with University Award
Yesterday as part of our Student Free Program University of Southern Queensland staff and students presented the staff of our school with a Partner School’s plaque which proudly recognises the vital role Sandy Strait State School plays in supporting trainee teachers and our future educators.

Our school has also been recognised for its contribution and support of the pre service teacher program via a University of Southern Queensland Faculty of Education, Dean’s Award for Excellence as part of our upcoming Academic Awards Ceremony.

We have been given $250 by the university to use for awards to recognise academic excellence at our academic awards ceremonies in December.

We are very proud of our teachers and the mentoring they provide in supporting the future generation of teachers in our state. We are also most grateful to USQ for this kind donation to our school.

Additions to our School Uniforms for the 2013 School Year.
Over the past term we have been working with the P&PC and local suppliers to make some additions to our uniform and to phase out some of the less popular items.

An additional polo shirt will be added to our uniform selection which can be used as a sports shirt or on days in which children have HPE lessons.

This sport shirt is made of a light weight fabric which is much cooler and quicker to wash and dry. The shirt is modelled on our school polo shirt and includes decorative panels in the colour of your child’s sports house featuring both the school emblem and sports house name in the top left hand corner.

We have also been working with our suppliers to have all future school uniform shirts constructed in this light weight, breathe easy fabric as our current polo shirts are very hot to wear and take significant time to dry.

I would like to stress that as we introduce additional items to our uniform selection they are an optional item for parents and students are free to wear their existing shirts.

We have also been working with the uniform suppliers to phase out the green check, button up shirt and the checked A line dress from our uniform options. They are not a popular item with our families and are no longer a practical design for the various activities that make up our school day.

In the coming weeks we will have children model our sports shirts on both Junior and Senior assembly on the 31st Oct and 2nd November and in classrooms so that our school community can see the new options on offer to purchase.

We will also put the sport shirts on display in our school office for our school community to see. Please be sure to keep an eye out in the coming weeks for an order form for our sports shirts as you commence getting ready for the 2013 school year.

A Reminder about BOOKPACK EARLY BIRD options
Last week you should have received a special letter about our Early Bird bookpack options for the 2013 school year.

After surveying our parents early this semester we have decided to offer our parents a book pack service to get ready for learning in the 2013 school year. We have engaged a local business to order and pack all of the books and school resources needed for each year level. The prices quoted are very competitive, are heavily discounted and are based on early bird order and payment.

Once again I stress that this is an optional process for parents. If you would like to take advantage of this early bird option and the discounts on offer you will need to return your order form with payment by the 30th November.
payment by the 30th November.

If you have misplaced your order form please contact the school office for another copy.

Planning Ahead for the 2013 School Year
In order to ensure that we are well prepared and staffed appropriately for the 2013 school year it is essential that our enrolment predictions are as accurate as possible.

I would ask all families who may be moving or relocating to a new school for the start of the 2013 school year to please contact our school office so we can update our records.

If you have family or friends who are planning on relocating to Hervey Bay or enrolling in our school for the 2013 school year I would also ask that you encourage them to contact our school office for an enrolment pack so we can also have up to date information about new families arriving.

Your help and assistance with this would be most appreciated as we try and ensure a smooth start through accurate staffing and class numbers for the upcoming school year.

Leap into Pre-Prep Program Session 4 – Sounds to Letters 13th November
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 have introduced a Pre-Prep Program to assist our children and parents to best prepare for the curriculum and learning expectations of the upcoming Prep Year.

The fourth of our 4 part series is planned for Tuesday 13th November from 9.30am-10.30am. This session will focus on the concepts of Letters and Sounds which is a necessary skill our children require to engage in the National Curriculum when they start school.

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 is 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 throughout the Sandy Strait Pre-Prep Program.

To secure your position in our Pre-Prep Program and your placement at Sandy Strait you must return your completed enrolment package including a copy of your child’s birth certificate (this is a condition of enrolment at all schools in Qld).

If you do not have a copy of your child’s birth certificate you will need to order one before we can accept or confirm your child’s placement (an application form for the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Queensland has been included in your Prep Enrolment Pack Folder.) Please contact our school office to collect an enrolment pack today.

Woolworths Earn and Learn Points Reward Order
Throughout last term families and community members had collected Woolworths Earn and Learn Stickers for our school. These stickers had to be sent into Woolworths to confirm and verify the reward points we were able to redeem.

Thanks to the hard work of our school community we were able to redeem 110,024 reward points.
We have used these points to order hand held computer microscopes, document cameras (similar to the ipevo document cameras our teachers currently share in our classrooms every day), bee bots interactive learning devices and kits, easy speak microphones etc. All of these resources will supplement our “Digi on the Go” device kits used to enhance learning with technology in our classrooms across the year levels.

Many thanks to our wonderful school community for your efforts. These items are due to be sent to our school towards the end of the school year depending on supplier stocks.

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NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL – MRS HELEN FORBES

Reading in the Junior school
As we move into the last very busy term I’d like to share the work that is being undertaken with helping all of our students in the junior school with reading.

Last term our teachers together with our learning support team provided extra support in reading to our Prep and year one students. This support is being continued this term with some of our Prep and year one students and extensively with our year two students.

Student reading behaviours are identified and they are taught accordingly with continued monitoring of their progress. Adopting this focus has required careful timetabling, reorganising resources and time and effort by teachers and learning support staff.

Our school has worked to ensure all students needs in reading are being catered to and the NAPLAN results of 2012 for our year three has provided us with further evidence that the hard work of teachers and students is making a difference.

There will be a letter sent home for students in year two who will be receiving extra support in reading with either a reading intervention aide or with a member of our Learning Support team. Most students in year two will be receiving extra support, depending on their needs. We are also working with students on extension programs to ensure all students are prepared for year three expectations.

This term I’d like to encourage you to help us continue to focus on improving student reading strategies and comprehension by checking in with your child’s teacher for appropriate ways you can assist your child at home. Through a combined effort our students will reap the benefits.

Hints for helping your child with reading at home

Provide positive comments and thoughts about what your child is doing well throughout the reading encounter.

Before reading the book (text)
Encourage your child to discuss the book (text).
Guide them to use: the title, cover illustrations, any prior knowledge they may have on the topic.
Encourage your child to predict what may happen in the story.
Continue to encourage your child to predict at appropriate stages throughout the text.
Difficult words - Discuss strategies they use at school that help with difficult words.

Some useful strategies:
- using the pictures
- thinking what would make sense, sound right, look right
- chunking (breaking the word into smaller words or sounds)
- using the beginning sound of the word
- read past and then REREAD the sentence/word.

After reading the book (text)
Encourage your child to retell the story without looking back through the book.
Encourage your child to discuss any words, information that they don’t fully understand.
Celebrate and congratulate their effort.

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NEWS FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL – MR BRUCE JACKSON

World Teachers’ Day
Every day, in classrooms around the state, Queensland teachers are making a difference educating and inspiring young Queenslanders.

World Teachers’ Day, on the last Friday of October, is a chance to acknowledge our teachers and say thanks.
Celebrated in more than 100 countries world-wide, World Teachers' Day was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1994 to celebrate the role of teachers in society.

World Teachers' Day is held internationally on 5 October. As the day usually falls during school holidays, we celebrate it on the last Friday of October each year. In addition we broaden the focus to include all school employees.

The day is a wonderful opportunity to draw public attention to the important role of teachers and other school employees in our local communities.

Girls ARL Gala Day
The 2012 ARL Development Girls Gala Days will be held at Stafford Park this Friday. The Gala Day is a 9-a-side Rugby League and 6-a-side Backyard League Gala Day with modified rules to allow for a fun, safe and entertaining day of Rugby League and Backyard League. The day is aimed at providing schools of all sizes with the opportunity for their students to represent their school and play modified rugby league in a fun and safe environment. The Girls Gala Day is organized through the Australian Rugby League Development and Queensland Rugby League with all games officiated by accredited officials and played under the QRL Safe Play Code.

Two simple questions that can change your life
Do you want to help your children to be self-motivated focused and live a purposeful life????? Check out this short 2 minute video titled "Two questions that can change your life" by "Daniel Pink (an American author and journalist) It is well worth the watch. http://vimeo.com/8480171

USQ acknowledges our great teachers
During the PFD on Monday Patrick Costigan from USQ presented to our teachers an appreciation plaque for their expertise and commitment to mentoring student teachers. During his speech to the teachers Mr Costigan made it known that their ongoing professionalism and dedication to the teaching profession and the high level of guidance they provided to the student teachers is held in high regard throughout their university.

Thank you
A big thank you to Robert Lawson for donating 2 copies of the book Mirkgill Chases the Rainbow written and illustrated by Fiona Clark to our Library. Robert’s and Miss Clark’s generous offer is much appreciated.

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TUCKSHOP NEWS
Tuckshop will be holding a Meal Deal on Monday 5 November at second break. All Meal Deals are to be “pre-ordered” by Monday 29 October. Each student has received an order form with today’s newsletter. If you wish to participate in the Meal Deal please fill out the order form and return to the office with correct money no later than Monday 29 October. NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED after this date due to the limited time and volunteers needed to organise this day.
Cost is $6.00 which includes:
- 1 x McDonalds Cheeseburger OR 1 x McDonalds Junior Burger
- 1 x 150ml Tropical popper
- 1 x Cadbury Chocolate Frog

Tuckshop will be open for over the counter sales on Monday 5 November for ice-creams, drinks, chips but no orders will be filled on this day.

Roster 24 October—Friday 2 November

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<th>Wed 24 Oct</th>
<th>Thurs 25 Oct</th>
<th>Fri 26 Oct</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pat 12.30 pm—1.45 pm</td>
<td>Fiona S 12.30 pm—1.45 pm</td>
<td>Jacqui 12.30 pm—1.45 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 31 Oct</td>
<td>Thurs 1 Nov</td>
<td>Fri 2 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo 12.45 pm—1.45 pm</td>
<td>Nicky 12.30 pm—1.45 pm</td>
<td>Kerri 12.30 pm—1.45 pm</td>
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<td>Mon 5 Nov (Meal Deal)</td>
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<td>Nic Hill 9 am—12 pm NicHohn 12 pm—2 pm Jacqui 12 pm—2 pm</td>
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Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to help the school tuckshop. It is very much appreciated.

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CHAPPIE CHAT
Well the holidays are over and everyone is busy again learning… Coming toward the end of the year we start thinking about Christmas and all the Joy that it brings to each family… and most prominently in our minds is the thought of buying pressies and what each member of the family has on the list and those of us who are not organised wish that we caught the June/July stock take sales.

The chaplaincy activities over the next few weeks will be revolving around the beautiful tree that will be put up in the school hall; children will be making the decorations to go onto the tree and our conversation will be on ‘GIVING’ what does that mean for each of us… Of course when the subject of giving arises, our heart skips a beat and our eyes glisten. The word “GIVING” brings us joy not only because that means we give to those we love and to those around us who are not a part of our immediate family but it also means that we receive.

A great example of giving is on you tube and look up The Skit Guys - ‘Tis Better to Give; A quote from the Marly brothers “While it is better to give than to receive, it is truly better to have a giving heart than to give anything at all”.

On that thought I would like to put forward some date claimers for this term:-

- A ‘Community Christmas Tree’ will be placed in the school hall from the beginning of November for the school community. Each grade will be allocated a family to adopt for Christmas, the students can then think about the family and what a member of that family would like for Christmas. Or they could think about what may be outside of presents that they could contribute too. E.g BonBons for the table or Christmas carols album.
- On December 6th both the junior and senior choirs and welfare leaders will be going by bus to Torbay to spread some Christmas cheer through song and poetry.
- 9th November free dress day. The School is raising money for Chaplaincy Programs. Please ensure that your child brings a gold coin. Thank you for your continuing support for Chaplaincy.

If any one has anything that they would like to contribute toward the Chaplain Program whether that be practical resource or would like to help with lunch activities, please come in and have a chat.

Petrina Rowland
Chaplain
Top

SCHOOL BANKING

We know that many students are still waiting on their reward items; unfortunately they are still on backorder. We spoke with the supplier last week and they assured us they should arrive this week… hopefully! We thank you so much for your patience.

Help needed… we need to put a call out for any parents who would like to help with school banking. Our school banking volunteers are leaving at the end of the year which means that we need two or more volunteers to take over, if no one steps up to replace them school banking will have to stop. If you are interested in helping out with school banking please leave your name and phone number with the office and we will contact you shortly.

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.

Available at the moment are:-

- Money Box (Cred, Pru, Pat, Addy)
- Drink Bottle;
- Pen Pod
- USB

Items currently out of stock, awaiting delivery:-

- Book light (due November), and
- Open Moneybox (due late November).

Items no longer available:-

- Handball,
- Wallet,
- Lunchbox, and
- Watch.

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 clink ‘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 (driver’s licence) and your
Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for you (driver’s 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.

Library News

My goodness the year has flown! It is that time of year when we in the library are making sure we have all our resources back in good condition, ready for stocktake. Most children do an incredible job of borrowing and returning on a regular basis. All loans are due at school by week 8 (week beginning 26 November). There will be no more borrowing for 2012 after this date. Students who have books that have been overdue for a considerable amount of time, will be issued with a bill for the books replacement.

In going through some of our collection, we have discovered multiple copies of quite a few books from the Babysitters Club series. This series of books is aimed at girls from year 4/5. We will be selling these for 50c a copy at lunch times this week until sold out. Unfortunately, this is a first in, first served opportunity.

Thanks for your ongoing support of your children and their reading – encouraging them to borrow and return books from both the school and public libraries; encouraging them to read and sharing books with your children – hopefully they will never get too old to want to share a story with you.

Mrs Mills & Mrs Fallon

Beginner Strings Workshop - Final Day 31 October

Students will attend the final workshop of 2012 at Kawungan State School on Wednesday 31 October. As in previous workshops, the day will commence at 9am with a concert for families at 2:30pm. Please use the pedestrian gate on Honeysuckle Ave for drop-off and collection. During this one day intensive, students will continue to develop music literacy, better their technique and will commence ensemble part-work in preparation for their joining of the school ensemble next year.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Alana Falk and Claudia Zorbas

Workshop Convenors

Newsletter Advertising

Australian Newsletter Services have advised that they have a limited number of opportunities for advertising in the Sandy Strait State School Newsletter. If you are interested in advertising your business in this way, please contact Michelle at Australian Newsletter Services on 3386 0806 Mob 0409 992 479 or email: michelle@austnews.com.au
Play YOUR MUSIC Academy
Learn shortcuts to start playing
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* Ages 5-95. * Patient Teachers
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