Leap into Learning target setting meetings this week

Every 5 weeks teachers meet with a member of the Leadership team (Principal, Deputy Principals, HOS-ES) to share data that has been collected and to discuss student progress towards their 5 weekly goals or targets. This process sits within the framework which we have entitled “Leaping into Learning”. This week teachers will come off class for approximately an hour to work in partnership with their Leadership team member.

Why 5 weekly targets?

Students make progress in their learning each and every day. It is important to carefully monitor these little steps forward to ensure that our programs are tailored to the needs of our students. Often a concept has proven more difficult to grasp than expected and a teacher needs to reassess how he/ she is going to plan future teaching experiences to ensure that children have truly understood the task. Hence the need for a cycle of ongoing data and “check in” points or targets. It is vital that the timeframe is short, hence the 5 weekly targets.

I am very proud of the work our teachers have produced as part of this focus. To have the opportunity to sit and work with our teachers and share the improvements and gains made by our students in the past 5 weeks has been very rewarding.

We are very lucky at Sandy Strait to have such a hard working and dedicated teaching team who are focused on ensuring that all of our students are making leaps in their learning each and every day.

Literacy, Numeracy Team and Targeted Intervention

Did you know that we have a team of teachers, teacher aides and volunteers who support our children daily across the school in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy? This team comprises of staff who both support students experiencing difficulties in these areas as well as students requiring extension through Academic Talent programs.

Every fortnight I meet with the Literacy Numeracy Support Team to review their progress to date, the achievement of various children they support in order to establish support plans and areas of targeted support for the coming weeks.

In order to raise parental awareness to the types of support programs your children are currently involved in across the school letters will be distributed next term advising parents of additional staff
who are working in their child’s classrooms and how this support may benefit their children.

Please keep an eye out for these information letters that will sent home next term. I will also put alerts on our school Facebook page reminding parents to keep an eye out for the information that is coming home.

If you do have questions about the additional support that is occurring throughout the school please feel free to talk to your child’s teacher as they will be more than happy to explain our extensive intervention and support plans involving our team of teacher aides and Literacy Numeracy Support Team teachers.

Congratulations to all of our Band Students

Over the past 2 weeks beginner and advanced band students have participated in 3 days of workshops combining with other state and private school primary aged students. On Tuesday night they performed at a combined concert for parents and guests at the Hervey Bay Baptist Church.

I had the great pleasure of attending this concert and was so very proud of how well our students performed. Congratulations boys and girls you sounded wonderful!!

Semester 1 Academic Awards.

As part of our recognition of outstanding Academic Achievement, I will be presenting all students from Prep to Year 7 who have achieved outstanding results in English, Maths or Science with a Principal’s Academic Award. Students who have made wonderful progress through hard work and dedication in English and/or Maths will also be awarded with a Principal’s Encouragement Award.

A Principal’s Academic Award will also be issued for students who achieve an A in Chinese with an Encouragement Award being issued for outstanding progress in this subject area.

Principal Awards in Visual Arts will be issued as part of the Semester 2 Academic Award Ceremonies following the implementation of our school wide Visual Arts Program throughout Semester 2.

Letters were sent home on the 11th June with all students who will be receiving awards inviting parents to attend our Special Award Ceremonies.

Our Senior Awards Ceremony (Years 4-7) will be conducted on Tuesday 18th June from 1.45 pm

Our Junior Awards Ceremony (Prep – Year 3) will be conducted on Wednesday 19th June from 1.45 pm.

I look forward to celebrating the outstanding achievement and efforts of our students with our school community during both special awards ceremonies.

Semester 1 Report Cards

With the end of term fast approaching I would like to remind all parents of the reporting cycle for the 2013 school year.

At the end of term 1 parents were invited to attend a 1-1 parent teacher interview to discuss student progress to date and to gather information on how to support your child as they worked towards their end of Semester Report Card.

On Thursday 20th June all students Prep to Year 7 will receive their Semester 1 report card.

This year across Qld is the first year that Prep families will receive report cards. Students in Prep will receive achievement ratings in the National Curriculum Areas of English, Maths, Science and History. The other learning areas in Prep will be addressed using the Qld Early Years Curriculum Guidelines.

Your child’s Semester Report Card will be issued in a labelled pocket inside the Student Assessment Folio. All students Prep to Year 7 have an Assessment Folio.

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/VHA-SR 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.

Parents are most welcome to make appointments with their child’s teacher for further clarification around the Semester Report Card or Assessment Folio.

I would strongly encourage all parents to talk through the Assessment Folio and Student Report Card with your children.

Enrolments for Prep 2014 will Open on July 8th 2013

We will commence taking enrolments for the 2014 school year from the 8th July (day 1 of next term). Parents are invited from the 8th July to come into the school office to collect an enrolment pack containing information about Prep and our “Pre-Prep Program”, enrolment information and other brochures and documentation about the 2014 school year. Education Qld recently updated the majority of its enrolment collection forms and we are currently in the process of printing the new information packs.

Children who turn 5 by the 30th June 2014 are eligible to attend Prep in the 2014 School year.
Last Newsletter for this term

With only just over a week remaining of this term this will be our last newsletter for term 2. Thank you for all of your support throughout this term. It has been a very busy term with many events, learning activities and things to celebrate.

I would like to wish all of our families a safe and relaxing winter holiday and look forward to welcoming all of our students back to Term 3 on Monday 8th July.

Have you Visited Sandy Strait on Facebook

Did you know that Sandy Strait State School is now on Facebook. Our school Facebook page provides us with another form of communication with our parents and wider community.

I regularly post information on the school Facebook page about school happenings, reminders and updates and general information about things that have been happening in classrooms.

Please be sure to visit us at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/354729921302918 or follow the quick link from the school website homepage www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au (listed on the right hand side)

By “liking” our school Facebook page you will then receive updates and posting regularly through your Facebook newsfeed.

Thank you to all of the parents, staff and community members who have visited our Facebook page as we aim to bring the classroom to our parents who are unable to be here during the school day.

News from the Junior School

Semester one reports

At the end of this term you will receive your child’s semester one report and for our Prep students this is the first time that they have received a report on their progress. Students in the Junior school have an innate belief of always being very good at their work and it is important that we continue to recognise their efforts and progress as well as encouraging them in areas of need.

The following points will help you when discussing the report with your child. In each subject area you will initially read a description (learning statement) of the work taught in the units of work for that subject. This description is similar to the fortnightly overview given in the newsletter. Following that description you will be given information relating to your child’s achievement in that subject. It is important to also read through your child’s portfolio as it will support the information in their report card.

As you are aware Queensland schools have been implementing the Australian national Curriculum over the last two years and this governs the work that students have been assessed in. The following Australian Curriculum achievement standards are an expectation of the depth of understanding, the extent of knowledge and the sophistication of skills that children should typically demonstrate at the end of a teaching and learning year. As we are mid-year to achieving these standards it is useful to reflect on the expectations for the next six months. These are the Australian Curriculum achievement standards for English.

Prep English

By the end of the Foundation year, students use predicting and questioning strategies to make meaning from texts. They recall one or two events from texts with familiar topics. They understand that there are different types of texts and that these can have similar characteristics. They identify connections between texts and their personal experience.

They read short, predictable texts with familiar vocabulary and supportive images, drawing on their developing knowledge of concepts about print and sound and letters. They identify the letters of the English alphabet and use the sounds represented by most letters. They listen to and use appropriate language features to respond to others in a familiar environment. They listen for rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words.

Productive modes (speaking, writing and creating)

Students understand that their texts can reflect their own experiences. They identify and describe likes and dislikes about familiar texts, objects, characters and events.

In informal group and whole class settings, students communicate clearly. They retell events and experiences with peers and known adults. They identify and use rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words. When writing, students use familiar words and phrases and images to convey ideas. Their writing shows evidence of sound and letter knowledge, beginning writing behaviours and experimentation with capital letters and full stops. They correctly form known upper and lower-case letters.

Year One English

Receptive modes (listening, reading and viewing)

By the end of Year 1, students understand the different purposes of texts. They make connections to personal experience when explaining characters and main events in short texts. They identify the language features, images and vocabulary used to describe characters and events.

Students read aloud, with developing fluency and intonation, short texts with some unfamiliar vocabulary, simple and compound sentences and supportive images. When reading, they use knowledge of sounds and letters, high frequency words, sentence boundary punctuation and directionality to make meaning. They recall key ideas and recognise literal and implied meaning in texts. They listen to others when taking part in conversations, using appropriate language features. They listen for and reproduce letter patterns and letter clusters.
News from the Junior School Continued  Mrs Helen Forbes

Productive modes (speaking, writing and creating)

Students understand how characters in texts are developed and give reasons for personal preferences. They create texts that show understanding of the connection between writing, speech and images. They create short texts for a small range of purposes. They interact in pair, group and class discussions, taking turns when responding. They make short presentations of a few connected sentences on familiar and learned topics. When writing, students provide details about ideas or events. They accurately spell words with regular spelling patterns and use capital letters and full stops. They correctly form all upper- and lower-case letters.

Year Two English

Receptive modes (listening, reading and viewing)

By the end of Year 2, students understand how similar texts share characteristics by identifying text structures and language features used to describe characters, settings and events. They read texts that contain varied sentence structures, some unfamiliar vocabulary, a significant number of high frequency sight words and images that provide additional information. They monitor meaning and self-correct using context, prior knowledge, punctuation, language and phonic knowledge. They identify literal and implied meaning, main ideas and supporting detail. Students make connections between texts by comparing content. They listen for particular purposes. They listen for and manipulate sound combinations and rhythmic sound patterns.

Productive modes (speaking, writing and creating)

When discussing their ideas and experiences, students use everyday language features and topic-specific vocabulary. They explain their preferences for aspects of texts using other texts as comparisons. They create texts that show how image support the meaning of the text.

Year Three English

Receptive modes (listening, reading and viewing)

By the end of Year 3, students understand how content can be organised using different text structures depending on the purpose of the text. They understand how language features, images and vocabulary choices are used for different effects. They read texts that contain varied sentence structures, a range of punctuation conventions, and images that provide additional information. They identify literal and implied meaning connecting ideas in different parts of a text. They select information, ideas and events in texts that relate to their own lives and to other texts. They listen to others’ views and respond appropriately.

Productive modes (speaking, writing and creating)

Students understand how language features are used to link and sequence ideas. They understand how language can be used to express feelings and opinions on topics. Their texts include writing and images to express and develop in some detail experiences, events, information, ideas and characters. Students create a range of texts for familiar and unfamiliar audiences. They contribute actively to class and group discussions, asking questions, providing useful feedback and making presentations. They demonstrate understanding of grammar and choose vocabulary and punctuation appropriate to the purpose and context of their writing. They use knowledge of sounds and high frequency words to spell words accurately, checking their work for meaning. They write using joined letters that are accurately formed and consistent in size.

String Music News

Mr Robinson will be away at String Workshops from June 17th to 20th. There will NOT be any rehearsal or lessons in this week.

ALSO  Mr Robinson will be away the FIRST day of term 3 (Monday 8th July) at the Maryborough Music Teachers’ Conference. Lessons and rehearsals will resume Monday 15th July.

Woolworths Earn & Learn

Woolworths Earn & Learn

As you know, our school has been participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program has now finished for this year, so a big thanks to everyone who supported our school.

We’re now at the important stage of the program where Points Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn & Learn claim. We will then be able to get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week please send in your Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheets and any loose Earn & Learn Points Stickers you may have. Remember to check your handbag, the car glove box or they maybe stuck on the fridge. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for all your support!
Student Motivation Tips

In our last newsletter we presented some tips, from “You can Do it” to help improve student motivation. Here are 5 more ideas for students to try to stay focused and motivated.

The “Five Minute” Motivational Technique

Take something you’ve been putting off doing and work on it for five minutes a day. Once you’ve worked for five minutes, you can allow yourself another five minutes and then another.

The “Switching” Motivational Technique

Use the momentum you gain from working on one activity that you enjoy by switching over to an activity you’ve been putting off.

The “Referenting” Motivational Technique

Make a list of all the good things that happen when you do your work and another of all the bad things that happen when you do not. Review the list frequently.

The “Premack” Motivational Technique

Select some activity you really enjoy doing. Do not allow yourself to participate in the activity until you’ve finished your work.

The “Peak Performance”Motivational Technique

Figure out when you are at your mental best and do your most difficult work then.

Chappy Survey

Dear Sandy Strait School parents,

Many schools throughout Australia utilise the services of school chaplains. At our school we have Chappy Trina. Each year our school is requested to survey our school community and receive feedback about how our school chaplain is used. This information needs to collated and forwarded to DEEWR to enable us to receive feedback about how our school chaplain is used. It is based on research that shows a positive start to school can lead to better learning outcomes.

For more information visit the website: www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/stepup/

Education Queensland’s Strengthening Discipline Initiative

While the majority of students come to school ready to learn, a small percentage do the wrong thing and misbehave, which is why the Queensland Government is strengthening discipline in state schools.

Strategies will include:

- giving principals greater powers to discipline students
- cutting red tape and streamlining processes for exclusions, suspensions and cancellations of enrolment
- developing more alternative learning environments for students with complex behaviour needs
- implementing new behaviour contracts with students and families.

Schools know what works best at a local level — cutting red tape, streamlining processes and increasing flexibility means that principals in consultation with school communities can determine the best range of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

To ensure schools are safe and supportive environments for both teachers and students, options for students with complex behaviour needs will be explored and may include alternative learning environments and better access to specialist staff.

Looking ahead, the department will ensure discipline in all Queensland state schools is strong, fair and consistent by completing a discipline audit of all state schools by the end of 2014.

Government steps up to support children starting school

Families with children starting school can now access Step up into education — new online resources to better prepare and support young children make the transition to school.

The program was developed to help make the experience for these children a positive one. It is based on research that shows a positive start to school can lead to better learning outcomes.

For more information visit the website: www.education.qld.gov.au/stepup/

PCYC Yr 6 & 7 Reward days

This week our Level 1 and 2 students in Years 6 and 7 visited the PCYC to participate in a variety of indoor games including: soccer, volleyball, martial arts as part of the RIBBIT Rewards Program.

“Burunga-m-gambay” - Learning Together Day

Our Year 7 students will attend the 2013 NAIDOC cultural celebration festival “Burunga-m-gambay - Learning Together” to be held on Wednesday 19th June at the Fraser Coast campus of the University of Southern Queensland. This day will celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the local area. The name of the festival, “Burunga-m gambay” comes from the local Butchulla people who support this celebration.

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Students will be involved in six rotations during the course of the day. Activities will focus on; Language, Song, Futures, Music & dance, Traditional games and Art.

Athletics Carnival

Prep Yr 1 & 2  Thursday 20 June Morning and Middle Sessions
Yr 3 – 7 Thursday 20 June Afternoon Session 800m
Friday 21 June All Day

A detailed Athletics Carnival Itinerary will be sent home with the youngest sibling early next week.
Spell-a-thon

Thank you to all of our Students and their Parents/Caregivers, you have all helped raise over $4200.00 so far, and should be very proud of yourselves. We are so close to achieving our target of $6000.00. This money will go towards an Ipad for each classroom, lots of the kids are excited about this!

Don’t forget all sponsorship money and donations are to be returned by this Friday, 14th June, so please keep them coming!

For those people who are late with their forms, don’t worry we will keep counting next week as well.

Remember: Children who collect $20 or more in Sponsorship from each year level go into a draw for a $20 gift card from Big W, Prep through to Year 7.

The highest fundraiser in P-3 and 4-7 will win a $50.00 gift card from Target/Coles Myer.

We will also have Encouragement Awards, these will be nominated by the teacher of each class and all will go into a draw to win an Art/Stationary gift pack, per grade.

All prizes will be awarded on the first school assembly in Term 3.

Tuckshop Volunteers

The tuckshop is always after new volunteers. Remember you can volunteer for as little or as much time as you choose. Our days of operation are:

Thursday and Friday between the hours of 8.30 am—2.30 pm.

If you are interested ring the office on: 4197 0333 and speak to Tanya or Debbie, or pop in and see Kerry at the Tuckshop.

Our next P & C meeting will be held on

Wednesday, 24th July at 3 pm
In the Admin Building

ALL WELCOME!

Regards
Kim Parnell
(P&C President)

Community News

AUSTRALIA ZOO—ZOO KEEPER FOR A DAY

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a Zoo Keeper?

Well, wonder no more! During the Queensland School holidays, Australia Zoo’s holiday program, Zoo Keeper For A Day is on again!

If you are aged between seven and 15 you can join the zoo crew to help with a number of awesome activities with plenty of hands-on action with some of our amazing animals. It’s a day you won’t forget!

Places are limited so visit www.australianzoo.com.au/education/zoo-keeper-for-a-day or call 07 5436 2025.

Ages: 7 – 11 years & 12 – 15 years
Price: $85

Includes: Zoo entry, plus an exclusive Zoo Keeper Pack
Duration: 5 hours
Location: Australia Zoo
Dates: 22 June 2013 - 7 July 2013
Further details are available at www.australianzoo.com.au

Three day clinics with various sports - cricket, tennis, soccer, touch, AFL, basketball, netball, indoor hockey plus other fun games & activities.

Please bring hat, closed in shoes, drink bottles, sunscreen, lunch and morning tea.
All equipment will be provided, however, please feel free to bring your own equipment if you wish.
Prizes awarded!!!
There will be a movie day as well. Bookings are essential and places are limited so please book in ASAP.
Pizza will be provided for lunch on Day 3 of the clinic.

Clinic Dates
Mon 24th, Tue 25th, Wed 26th June 2013
A clinic may be run in the second week of the holidays, depending on numbers.
Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Multi-Sports Holiday Clinics

Multi-Sports Holiday Clinics

Contact Person: Ryan Pritchard
M: 0438 192 543
E: rhinotennis@hotmail.com

The clinics will be held at Xavier Catholic College
Wide Bay Drive Eli Waters

Cost: $50 per person per day or $120 for the three days
For more information or to book please contact Ryan Pritchard.
Uniting Care Community - PACE Program
In Conjunction with
Wide Bay Women’s Health Centre (WBWHC)
PRESENTS A TOTALLY FREE WORKSHOP
WITH BRUNCH PROVIDED

Mr Graham Tanner - Trainer and Facilitator
Indigenous Parenting Empowerment
“It benefits us, because it’s taught by one of us”

You are invited to come & listen to a dynamic and decisive way of examining your role as a parent, Mentor and role model to perhaps your closest followers….your children.

Indigenous parenting empowerment is a revelation that is based on the fuller realization of the gifts, talents and indeed strengths we possess that can even allow us to become more effective in our leadership challenge. Listen together, learn together and lean on each other in an environment that will boost your “Drive to Strive.”

It’s Fine to Define
‘Identity brings Stability’
Some topic discussed will be:
- ‘Finding it within and not doing without’
- ‘Learning Together to Make our Situations Better’
- ‘Modeling the Role Model’
- ‘Indigenous Parenting - The Strengths’

When: Wednesday the 19th June 2013
Time: 9am for a 9:30 start
Finishes: 12:30

Please call Lesa on 41913108 or Krissie on 41913115
To confirm your booking and/or arrange transportation by Friday the 14th June.
REMEMBER THERE IS LIMITED SEATING SO FIRST IN DEADLIEST DRESSED

Funded by Uniting Care Community PACE Program
& Wide Bay Women’s Health Centre Inc
Little Sistas/Little Brothers Family Support Program

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

NAIDOC Family Fun Day!!
Monday July 1st 2013
Scarness Park, Hervey Bay 10am—1pm
Bring the family along for a day filled with fun and culture.
This year’s theme is about valuing the foresight, strength and determination of the Yolngu people who set into motion a long process of legislative and constitutional reforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Service provider Information Stalls
A fun activity in every stall
Live, Local Entertainment
Traditional Indigenous Games
Delicious Food stalls
Free Jumping Castle and Face painting

For more information please phone Lesa or Krissie on:
4191 3106 or 4191 3115

School holiday activities
at the Urangan Community Centre
Wednesday 3rd July 9.00am - midday

Once again Crafty Ladies are offering to share old-fashioned craft skills and patterns with parents and grandparents, aunts or child carers to keep boys and girls of all ages active during the holidays. Entry $4 per person and includes morning tea and a lucky door prize; meeting raffle cost $2; plus cost of take-home kits.

Learn to knit—cast on, garter stitch and cast off; these basic skills will enable you to go on to knit scarves and other basic items. Bring your own needles and wool or buy a kit for $5.

Crochet a flower—must have basic crocheting skills as there is insufficient time to learn from scratch; bring your own hook and wool or buy a kit sufficient to make up to 50 flowers for $6.

Fabric yo-yos—create beautiful flower rounds from fabric scraps using a basic technique with a multitude of ideas on how to use them; free materials for in class use; take home kits $2 each.

Please register your interest by phoning the Urangan Community Centre on 4125 5499.