18/04/13

Key to Success this Week: Confidence

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Welcome Back to Term 2
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 spend time with loved ones.

To all of our new families I would like to extend a warm to our school and the Sandy Strait family.

ANZAC Day
The staff and students of Sandy Strait have always had a proud and strong tradition of commemorating ANZAC day.

This year we will be conducting our Whole School ANZAC Day ceremony in our school hall on Wednesday the 24th April from 9.30am. Invited guests from the RSL will address the school assembly as our student leaders share the Anzac Story. Year levels from across the school will be invited to lay a wreath as part of the ceremony.

On the 25th April students are invited to represent the school and participate in the Anzac Day street parade and march to the Cenotaph in Main Street. Children wishing to march with our school are to come dressed in school uniform with a hat and drink bottle and meet in the Woolworths Carpark (Hunter Street) at Pialba at 9.00am on Thursday the 25th April. The street march is scheduled to commence at 9.30am. Students from Prep to Year 7 are invited to attend and keep the ANZAC spirit alive. Students attending should wear school uniform, and take a hat and drink bottle, as it is usually quite hot during the March and service. Students, particularly younger ones, may wish to depart (discreetly) after they march rather than stay for the service. There will be stickers, ribbons and wristbands on sale before school and at lunchtimes later this week. Stickers are 50c each, Ribbons $1.00 each and Wristbands $2.00 each. Student Leaders will be selling these items on Thursday and Friday of this week and Monday—Wednesday of next week.

Term 2 Calendar and Dates
Term 2 is a very busy term with many scheduled events including NAPLAN, Education Week Celebrations, Academic Awards, School Competitions, P&C Spell-athon, Hervey Bay Sports Galas, the commencement of School Musical Rehearsals, Strings and Band workshops/concerts and much, much more.

I have added many of these important dates on to the calendar which can be located on our school website at www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au

I will update this calendar throughout the term as more dates and events come to hand.

COMING EVENTS

17 April—P & C Meeting
25 April—ANZAC Day
8 May—Under 8’s Day
23 July—Beginner String Workshop
24 Oct—Beginner String Workshop
26 Oct—School Musical
I will also share the above dates and events on our School Facebook page. If you have yet to find our school Facebook please be sure to visit us at [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/354729921302918](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](http://www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au) (listed on the right hand side)

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

To date we already have 105 likes for our page. Please be sure to visit this link as we aim to bring the classroom to our parents who are unable to be here during the school day.

2013 Student Resource Levy

Thank you to all of the parents who have completed the documentation and paid the 2013 Student Resource Levy in full or in instalments.

Parents who have yet to return their forms and payments will receive Statements in the coming weeks.

Your prompt attention to these invoices is very much appreciated as we ensure we adequately resource our classrooms to support the range of learning activities that occur each day.

Tuckshop plans to reopen in week 3

In the last week of last term all parents received a letter advising that our tuckshop would be closed in the initial weeks of term 2 due to the resignation of our Tuckshop Convenor.

The P&C are currently working through the vacancy tasks, advertising the position and the selection and recruitment process.

Due to the Anzac Day public holiday in the second week of school the Tuckshop is planned to reopen for its 2 days a week trading in week 3.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause as we work through this process.

School Sport Shirt Deliveries

The School Sports shirt suppliers have advised the school that the anticipated delivery date for shirts is now Friday 19 April. Once they arrive we will check, sort and then distribute shirts as soon as possible.

Australasian School’s Competitions for Years 3-7

This week all families in years 3-7 should have received information about the 2013 school competitions in English, Spelling, Writing, Maths and Science.

Each year we have a number of students who participate in these competitions and achieve very pleasing results.

These competitions are a great opportunity for children to prepare for “test like” situations like NAPLAN and to see how your child compares to children across Australia and the Pacific. Please contact the office if you have lost or misplaced your competition information letter. The closing date for these competitions is Wednesday 3 May.

I look forward to working with our students again this year on the 2013 Australasian School’s Competitions.

Our Intensive Focus on Student Attendance Continues this term

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%. In a 10 week school term that allows for children to be absent for only 2.5 days.

Ideally we would like every student to strive for 100% attendance.

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.

The perils of gambling……..

This Friday, Rick Whittle from Uniting Care in the Bay will hold a brief but insightful discussion with our Year 6 & 7 students about the perils of gambling. According to the statistics gambling addiction has dramatically increased since on-line gambling has become so accessible. Rick will emphasise that problem gambling doesn’t discriminate and people from all works of life can be affected. Some interesting facts he may recount include:

- The great QLD half back Alfie Langer, played the last 2 seasons with the Broncos just to pay back all his gambling debts
- Over a 10 year period great Melbourne Demon forward David Schwarz lost more than 4 million dollars in gambling
- In a 15 minute period a 13 year old girl from Bundaberg lost $30,000 (using her father’s credit card) on internet gambling

When you go into a casino, discreetly playing in the background is a tape playing coins coming out of a machine.

Sporting Trials Update

Last term interschool sport was severely affected by wet weather with many games being cancelled. This has forced an alternative plan to be implemented to ensure our students have opportunities to participate in selection trials for the upcoming winter carnival.

There will be two half day Gala Days to be held on the 19th and 26th of April for Rugby League, Soccer, Hockey.

ANZAC day is on the 25 April and our school will be marching in the ANZAC parade at 9.00 am in honour of all the servicemen and women who fought for our country. Everyone is welcome to participate in the march. School uniform must be worn.
Welcome back to all of our students in the junior school and their parents. This term will be a ten week term with report cards to be issued at the end of the term. This term also sees our year three students sit the NAPLAN tests in May and teachers will be assisting them with this undertaking so I’m sure you will hear more about it as we get closer to test dates.

All year levels will be starting new units this week in English, maths and Science. The following overviews will provide you with information about the units your child will be studying over the next five weeks.

Prep
English
Our prep students will be exploring language and how it is used to entertain us. They will practise retelling events from their favourite stories by drawing simple story maps showing the events of the story in the correct sequence.

Mathematics
Students will be practising their counting forwards and backwards from any given number up to 50, arranging numbers into patterns, copying patterns and describing patterns. They will use their number knowledge to solve simple addition facts as they develop their understanding of addition. In measurement they will be comparing mass and length to work out which is longer, which is heavier and students will become adept at describing familiar two and three dimensional shapes.

Science
Prep students are looking at materials and their properties. They will gather information about materials, investigate their properties, sort and classify them and finally select the most appropriate materials for construction of an object of their choosing.

Year One
English
Our students will be involved in listening to, reading, viewing and interpreting a variety of texts as they study features of characters described in texts. They will discuss the features of characters, write about them and draw the characters. At the conclusion of this unit our year one students will write a character description. Year One students will also be working on their reading and comprehension strategies as this is a whole school focus so please assist your child by reading each night with them and discussing their understanding of the events or facts in the text.

Mathematics
Students will be investigating and describing number patterns such as counting by twos, fives, and tens. They will also learn how to use number lines as they skip count. They will use their facts and number sense to solve simple addition and subtraction problems. Students will also measure using informal units as they compare length and volume.

Science
Material madness is the title of the year one unit and as the name implies students will be exploring familiar materials. In particular they will be exploring the physical changes that can be applied to materials such as cooling, twisting, heating and bending. They will be challenged to create something useful by making physical changes to familiar materials.

Year Two
English
Students in year two will be reading, viewing and listening to a variety of texts to explore how depictions of characters in texts create stereotypes. Students will then create an imaginative digital written and spoken “Who am I?” of a stereotypical character to share with their teacher and classmates.

Mathematics
This unit will focus on multiplication, fractions, in particular halves, quarters and eights and number and place value up to 1 000. They will also be describing and drawing 2D shapes with and without digital technologies and describing the features of 3D objects.

Science
In their unit Toy factory students will learn to explain the movement of objects used for their play and relate these to the pushes and pulls involved. They will then apply this knowledge to explain the movement of a toy they create.

Year three
English
During this unit our year three students will be reading, and listening to written and spoken literary and informative texts to identify the way authors portray experiences of an event. In reading they will focus on using comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning. Students write a persuasive letter to persuade the school principal about an event that should be celebrated at school.

Mathematics
Students will focus on chance and data where they will be conducting experiments, describing possible outcomes and then interpreting and comparing the data.

In number work our year three students will need to represent, compare and order numbers up to 5 000. They will also work with materials to do fraction work and create halves, quarters, eighths and thirds.

Science
Year three will look at our spinning earth and learn about the Earth’s rotation on its axis. They will also explore different cultural understandings of the relationship between the sun and Earth causing day and night.

Please discuss your child’s school work with them when possible and praise their successes and efforts as they work through their school tasks. In particular please find time to read with your child on a regular basis as this will help your child appreciate and enjoy reading. Your support is invaluable in helping your child achieve to the best of their ability.

Reading Tip:
Before reading—discuss the title and cover of the book. Take turns enjoying predicting what the book will be about and make connections with what you already know about the topic.

(By taking this time prior to reading you help ‘set your child up for success’ with reading the text as your child will be prepared for context words and ideas that the text may provide.)

Under 8’s Day Activities—Donations Required
Under 8’s Day will be held in Week 4 for all our Prep—Year 3 students. This annual event is always a great success for our students to participate in fun-filled activities during the morning. For this to be achieved we are asking parents for donations of rice, any unwanted used Birthday/Christmas cards and small off-cuts of soft wood. If you could please send all donations to Mrs Lee’s (3L) classroom by Friday 3 May it would be greatly appreciated.
Attention Musical Students!
Musical rehearsals will begin next Tuesday 23rd April at 3pm until 4.30pm. They will continue every week at this same time. Please meet at the 3/4 undercover area to begin eating your afternoon tea, making sure you bring extra food for this. Remind your parents/caregivers to be on time for collection at 4.30pm SHARP! Or arrange alternative methods home (i.e. riding bike etc.). Anyone who has not returned their permission note and $20 levy, can they please do so ASAP?
Thank you
Ms Pritchard and Mrs Ryan

DVD’S Wanted
The Library are asking for donations of any unwanted G Rated DVDS you may have in your collection that you may be able to donate to the school. Students use the library during lunchtimes when they are wanting a break from normal playground activities or when it is hot/rainy weather. They often say that they would like to watch a movie during this time so any donations of these DVD’s would be greatly appreciated. All DVD’s can be dropped off at the library.

PE News
Year 6 & 7 Interschool Sport Gala Days – Friday 19 and 27 April

Due to the wet weather that washed out much of our scheduled Interschool Sport in Term 1 - Hervey Bay Zone Sport has decided to run 2 Year 6 & 7 Interschool Sport Gala Days.

These will be held on Friday 19 April and Friday 27 April and will run from 11.30 – 2.30.

To streamline the organisation of these Interschool Sport Gala Days here at Sandy Strait SS we have decided to enter a maximum of 2 teams per sport (Rugby League, Hockey, Mixed Touch, Soccer and Netball). Selection trials for these teams were held towards the end of last term. For those students who have been selected they will bring home an additional information sheet to inform parents of their selection.

The Rugby League, Soccer and Hockey Gala Days will also serve as part of the selection pathway for Hervey Bay Zone Representation.

The consent and medical forms that have already been issued or returned will cover students for this revised format of Interschool Sport – if these have not been returned a spare copy can be obtained from Mr Baldwin.

Netball Bus Payments – for those students who have been selected to play Netball the bus payments will be deducted from the payments you have already made. If students have returned bus payments but missed selection in the 2 Netball teams a credit will be issued on your child’s account, please send a note into the office for this to happen. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

For those students who have missed selection in these teams an alternative program will be arranged back at school on these days.