27/03/14

From the Principal - Sharon McM Morrow

Great Results Guarantee
From 2014 Education Qld is providing additional funding to schools to support Literacy and Numeracy Development.

The funding will allow schools to provide evidence based support programs to assist students to reach National Minimum Standards.

The funding also allows schools to target the early years of schooling, intervening early to address specific learning needs.

Here at Sandy Strait we have a variety of intensive intervention and extension programs in place and this additional funding will allow us to broaden our support model.

Our Great Results Guarantee will focus on:
- Increasing intensive intervention in Reading in Prep to Year 3
- Intensive Oral Language Intervention (which is a precursor to early reading development) in Prep and Year 1
- Intensive intervention and support in Spelling and Phonics in the early years.

The Great Results Guarantee for Sandy Strait State School can be found on our school website at www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au

SMS Messaging to Help Keep Parents Informed and Connected
Over the last 8 weeks we have been working with a text messaging provider to establish a process that meets the needs of our school community.

Information such as student absenteeism, date claimers, reminders etc can now be sent to mobile phones rather than through the regular post.

To help us ensure all of our records are accurate we are asking parents to update their mobile phone contact details with the school office.

We thank you for your attention to this task as we implement further initiatives to ensure we have a connected school community.

Buy a Bale Fundraiser Continues as we Strive to Support our Struggling Farmers
We had an overwhelming response to our Buy a Bale fundraiser with over $1420 being raised through our free dress day to support struggling farmers to feed their stock during this crippling drought.

Our children and community have embraced this initiative and we would like to now stretch out the hand of hope to do something special for 2 very drought effected communities.

The small, rural communities of “Mungallala” and “Neebine” are situated west of Roma in Central Queensland. These communities are predominantly cattle farmers and many have had to destroy their stock and are desperately trying to hand raise their remaining calves.
It is all hands on deck in these communities and there is certainly no room for luxuries or special celebrations.

With Mothers Day just around the corner we would like to put together “Pamper Packs” for the mothers in these 2 communities and deliver them as a surprise.

Our goal is to put together 16 pamper packs with items that can fit inside a shoe box.

If you would like to help we are seeking donations of “unopened” pamper pack items for mothers day such as:

- Soap, nail polish, body products, lipstick, lip balm, moisturiser, body scrub, hand cream, chocolates, face washers, hand towels, loofahs, hair accessories, scarves, earrings, face masks, little mirrors, notebooks and stationary items, emery boards, bookmarks, candles, small photos frames, gift cards, vouchers, perfume etc.

We will have a box set up in the office for donations up until the end of term if you would like to lend a hand.

Many thanks for your support.

**So Many Great Activities and Events School Wide**

Over the past fortnight we have had many events to celebrate and share with our school community including Senior Camp, Smart Steps Program, RIBBET Rewards Day, Gala Sports, World of Maths and much more.

Our teachers have been busy capturing photos of these events and we have shared many of these on our school Facebook page.

If you have not yet visited our Facebook page, it is a great way of staying up to date with all of the events that are occurring school wide. Reminders about things that are due in and notes that have been sent home are updated daily.

By “Liking” the Sandy Strait Facebook Page all posts go straight to your newsfeed so you are kept up to date with all of the great events that are occurring school wide.

Be sure to stay tuned for photos and images from our School Cross Country event scheduled for the Friday 4th April.

**Flashing lights now active at Sandy Strait State School**

On 12 March flashing light school zone signs were installed on Robert Street.

Sandy Strait State School was nominated to receive these new signs as part of a $10 million Queensland Government commitment to improve school road safety.

You will notice that the new signs look similar to standard school zone signs with the important addition of a red flashing ring around the speed limit as well as two flashing yellow lights at the top of the sign. The installation of flashing light school zone signs is proven to improve visibility of school zones, serving as an active reminder for motorists to slow down.

So next time you’re dropping off or picking up your child keep an eye out for the new signs and make sure you stick to the signed speed limit.

**News from the Principal Continued**

Mrs Sharon McMorrow

**RIBBIT Rewards**

Our level 1 & 2 Yr. 4 students were full of praise about their recent trip to the PCYC for RIBBIT reward. Our Year 5 students get their turn this Thursday. Chappy Trina and Mr Chapman will accompany the students.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

Please consider formally meeting your child’s teacher in the upcoming parent teacher interview to discuss his or her progress. Here are some questions to consider asking your child’s teacher during the parent teacher interview.

1. What subjects and skills will my child be expected to master next term?
2. Is my child working to the best of his/her ability? How is progress measured?
3. How much time do you expect students to spend on homework assignments?
4. What type of learner is my child (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile)?
5. What does he/she need to work on and how can I help? Get specific feedback, such as “has difficulty combining sentences” or “has difficulty summarizing stories,” as well as specific information about how you can tackle any issues.
6. How do you evaluate students? Do tests, attendance and homework all count towards grades?
7. How can I support your teaching program at home? How can I monitor my child’s completion of assignments on a daily basis?
8. How do you accommodate differences in learning? How do you differentiate lessons to meet the needs of all learners?
9. What is your preferred method of communication with parents (email, telephone, notes home, Web site, etc.)?
10. Does my child seem happy and engaged in school? Who are his/her friends? Is he/she showing good behaviour with classmates and adults? (Get specific feedback.)
**News from the Senior School—Mr Bruce Jackson**

**Welcome Back Campers**
A belated welcome back to our senior students from camp. By all accounts it was an enjoyable time and even a down pour on the 2nd day could not dampen the students enthusiasm. We trust that they were returned to their parents without too many bumps and bruises and with most belongings intact.

**Welcome to the Senior team**
We welcome Mr Pitts to the senior teaching team.

Mr Pitts will be the home teacher and English teacher of Senior B (now will be referred to as Senior P) and the English teacher of Senior C.

Mr Pitts will also be teaching Art and Health throughout the week to our Year 6 students.

Mr Pitts welcomes communication with parents and invites parents to contact him (email address: Russell Pitts (mpitt15@eq.edu.au)).

We also welcome Mrs Hooper who will be working with senior students on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7 and 8 at Hervey Bay State High School in 2015</th>
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| Work has commenced on the multi-million dollar, ‘state of the art’ Year 7 and 8 buildings for 2015. Stage 1 is the development of the Year 7 and 8 Precinct, new oval and running track. Construction is due for completion in November 2014. Students, staff and families are all looking forward to these new additions to the school. When complete, Hervey Bay State High School will have an extra 16 classrooms and flexible learning spaces ready for use in 2015. As the school continues to grow with student enrolments, we shall have the space to expand if and when needed. Stage 2 of construction will also start this year.

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**Senior Students Ed Studio**
A reminder that parents of senior students are able to access the Senior Students Ed Studio to receive up to date information about what is happening in the senior school. Recent updates have included: Camp photos and new timetables.

**Positive peers make a huge difference**
There is little doubt that positive peer relations impact on a child’s academic success, emotional well-being and state of mind. A big claim but the truth is that we tend to reflect the views and attitudes our peer groups. It is hugely beneficial if a child’s predominant peer group cares for him, has positive expectations about the future and places high value on helping others as well as personal improvement. Children’s peer groupings can be quite complex and dynamic. Most children will have a prime peer group consisting of between two and up to five others. These children are generally referred to as best friends, buddies or best mates. These social relationships are often formed early in children’s lives and are strengthened by shared school, extracurricular or informal outside school activities. Children also have one or two secondary peer groups, which can be larger and generally reflect shared interests or shared best friends. When these groups contain children from different grades and even different schools they have an insulating effect if adverse events happen and also offer exposure to wider peer groups. Being a member of a positive a peer group lessens the likelihood of a child being bullied or harassed. Children in positive peer groups look out for each other and don’t engage in such behaviours, whether verbal or physical, themselves. Positive peer groups tend to be tolerant of differences and have loyalty and caring as key values. Having friends who care also lessens the impact of bullying and helps prevent it from impacting on other areas of a child’s life. There are a number of broad strategies parents can use to encourage positive peer groups to form and emerge. These include:

- providing opportunities for children to mix and share experiences,
- drawing children’s attention to friendship behaviours and focusing on socialisation rather than achievement when they play sport or are involved in creative or group activities.

In this achievement-oriented society we need to value positive peer relationships and ensure that they are not ignored or undervalued in our efforts to provide the best possible start for our children.

To help your child become a member of positive peers groups try the following four ideas:

- **Discuss** with your child how a good friend behaves. Ask him to identify some good friends and talk about what makes them a ‘good friend’.
- Encourage them to **join** at least one outside school group and be a member of at least one school artistic, sporting or interest group.
- **Limit** your child’s time in passive, solitary activities such as television-viewing, computer activities and Internet classrooms.
- Make an effort to get to **know** some of your children’s friends and their parents.

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**News from HOSES—Mrs Jenny Waters**

Mrs Ley Anson (Head of Special Education Services – Urangan State High School) will be presenting an Information Session on FRIDAY 28/03/2014 at 8:45am in the 6/7 LEAP (D Block) classroom. This session will be beneficial for parents and students. Mrs Anson will do a short presentation of facilities available at Urangan State High School, what the SEP (Special Education Program) offers and answer general questions that parents and students may have about the school or program. Phone Jenny (41970327) if you need any more information about this session.
Parent/Teacher meetings
This week and next provide the opportunity for parents to come to school and meet with your child’s teacher. I would encourage all parents to attend this important meeting to work with your child’s teacher in providing your child the best chance for success in their schooling. During this meeting you will be provided with some of the following information:

- Curriculum information from term one and expectations for next term
- Areas of achievement and areas for further focus relevant to your child
- Teacher and classroom expectations around behaviour, school work and attendance
- Your child’s social/friendship relationships
- Intervention and extension programs relevant to your child
- Ways your child’s teacher differentiates for student needs

Another important aspect of this meeting is the chance to discuss the activities that parents can also be working on with their child at home to support your child with both curriculum learning and behaviour expectations.

Reading together
Reading to your child each night is a lovely way to provide support to your child’s learning as well as have some quality time together enjoying language, illustrations and discussing thoughts about characters, settings and events in stories read together. When reading to your child Mem Fox has some tips worth considering -

Ten read-aloud commandments

- Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud. From birth!
- Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to learn to read. Or the same story a thousand times!
- Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
- Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
- Read the stories that your child loves, over and over, and over again, and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book: i.e. with the same intonations and volume and speed, on each page, each time.
- Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.
- Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.
- Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.
- Never ever teach reading, or get tense around books. Please read aloud every day because you just adore being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

Cross Country
In the last week of term we have the cross country on Friday 4th April. Your children have been training for this event at school so please encourage them to attend school on this day and do the best they can in completing the cross country course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>Years 1, 2 &amp; 3 gather on the oval in house groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>Grade 1 Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>Grade 1 Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10</td>
<td>Preps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.20</td>
<td>Grade 2 Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>Grade 2 Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.40</td>
<td>Grade 3 Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>Grade 3 Boys</td>
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<td>10.00</td>
<td>9yr Girls</td>
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<td>10.20</td>
<td>10yr Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>10yr Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45</td>
<td>Normal Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>11yr Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30</td>
<td>11yr Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15</td>
<td>12yr Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>12yr Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15</td>
<td>13yr Boys and Girls combined</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Presentation and Clean Up (All students out to the oval)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community News

**Spa-tacular!**
Treat yourself or someone special to some scrummy spa products, handmade by you using common household ingredients!

- **Hervey Bay Library**
  - Tuesday 5 April
  - 10:00 - 11:00am
- **Howard Library**
  - Wednesday 6 April
  - 10:00 - 11:00am
- **Burrum Heads Library**
  - Tuesday 5 April
  - 2:00 - 3:00pm
- **Tiare Library**
  - Wednesday 6 April
  - 10:00 - 11:00am
- **Maryborough Library**
  - Wednesday 9 April
  - 2:00 - 3:00pm

Ages 6+

**Library**

**Geckoes Wildlife**

**Is Coming To Visit!**

Get up close and personal with a range of unique Australian Wildlife, like reptiles, frogs and cute marsupials.

- **Hervey Bay Library**
  - Thursday 10 April
  - 10:30 - 11:30am
- **Maryborough Library**
  - Thursday 10 April
  - 1:30 - 2:30pm

Bookings, made in person, are essential at the appropriate library. All activities require a booking fee of $2.70 (child/activity), which must be paid at time of booking.
ELDERS SWIM CENTRE
Winner of AUSTRALIA’S BEST AUSTSWIM CENTRE 2013

HOLIDAY fast track SWIM LESSONS
LEARN TO SWIM, STROKE CORRECTION, INFANTS classes APRIL 7 - 11th, APRIL 14th - 17th
Cost $66/wk, discounts avail. for multiple wks.

SMALL classes...
Ph. Penny 4128 4888

Community News

Become A Volunteer Host Family

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.

Arriving in July:
Antoine (17) from Belgium is hoping to improve his English language skills by coming on exchange to Australia. He has played social tennis for about ten years, been learning the guitar for the past two years, and been a scout for the past 10 years. Above all, his greatest passion is drawing. He has also been learning how to juggle, always carrying at least three juggling balls with him. He is looking forward to living with an Australian family and sharing his culture with you soon.

Isabella (16) from Italy has a strong passion for photography. In her free time she likes to go sightseeing, visit museums & art galleries, read, listen to music, and travel with her parents. She has said that travelling is her biggest passion and she can’t wait to live in Australia with her new host family. She is also musical and enjoys both singing and playing the guitar. In terms of sports, Isabella enjoys skiing. She also enjoys cooking. All in all, she is super excited to come to Australia, explore our culture, learn about our customs and live as an Aussie.

Find out more!
Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

Sylvia Kelly
Manager - Inbound Exchange Programs