Welcome Back to Term 4.
Welcome back to term 4, it is hard to believe that we are already ¾ of the way through the 2014 school year. I hope you all had a restful school holidays and were able to spend time with family and friends.

To all of our new families joining us at Sandy Strait I welcome you to our wonderful school and look forward to working together with you as we all Leap into Learning this term.

Term 4 is a very busy term with many events and celebrations as we recognise and celebrate the achievements of our children across the year levels.

Success School’s Numeracy Project
This term our school continues its involvement in the Success School’s Numeracy Project. Every week teams of teachers work together with the Principal Education Officer for Numeracy, our Success Schools Numeracy Coach and the Leadership Team to focus on an aspect of Numeracy teaching focusing on developing mathematical reasoning and student engagement.

This term our teachers in Year 3, 5, Senior and LEAP will meet every Monday for this project.

During the first phase of our project in term 3 our teachers focussed on using Maths Warm Ups in their lessons to stimulate and foster thinking, problem solving and Mathematical Language. Our Prep, Year 1,2, and 4 teachers thoroughly enjoyed the project and are continuing to implement the various activities and strategies into their classrooms. I am very proud of the commitment and dedication of our teaching team as they embrace this project and I look forward to continuing our focus with our Term 4 team of teachers.

School Wide Literacy and Numeracy Testing
Throughout week 1 and week 2 of this term classes across the school will be involved in various school wide testing tasks focussing on Reading Comprehension, Numeracy, Vocabulary and Spelling. Students initially complete these tests in February and then in October the tests are conducted again. The results of the testing allow us to measure the “value added” and identify trends and patterns in student learning. This allows us to plan and implement targeted intervention, support and extension programs. In week 5 of the term teachers meet with their Leadership team rep and we examine
class data and the achievement of all students.
Individual results from the school wide testing program are included in our Student Assessment Folios which will accompany the Student Report Cards at the end of the Semester.

A Reminder about Vehicle Access and Parking in the School Grounds
To ensure the safety of our children within our school grounds our school has had to implement procedures that minimise vehicle access to our school grounds.
Of an afternoon our school vehicle top gates are closed between 2.30 - 3.00 to ensure our students can exit the school safely without cars coming in and out of the grounds.
We now have an increasing issue in the mornings before school with a large number of parents using the cul-de-sac as a drop off zone. At times there are 3-4 vehicles trying to access this area at the same time.
Parents are reminded that this area is not a drop off zone as we have many children moving about the school grounds in this area before school and bringing cars into this area endangers children.
This area is to only be accessed by special permit vehicles and for students with mobility issues before school.
I thank parents for their support with this issue as we strive to keep our precious children safe within the school grounds.

Pupil Free Day Monday October 20th
Over the last couple of years Education Qld has reallocated the majority of pupil free days out of the school terms and into school holiday periods.
All state schools across Queensland have one pupil free that is allocated on the third Monday of term 4.
On Monday 20th October all staff will be involved in Professional Development tasks and students do not attend school on this day. Please add this date to your calendars.

Leap Into our Pre-Prep Program- Early Reading Concepts
Wednesday 22nd October.
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 continuing with our Pre-Prep Program to assist our children and parents to best prepare for the curriculum and learning expectations of the upcoming Prep Year.
The third in our series of Pre Prep Sessions on Early Reading Concepts is planned for Wednesday 22nd October at 9.30am in our Prep Rooms. Please register your attendance (for yourself and your child) for our session on the 22nd October to ensure we have a Take Home Resource Pack ready for you.
Please be sure to register your attendance for the sessions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Focus of Class</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 3: For parents and children</td>
<td>Wednesday 22nd October 9.30-10.30am</td>
<td>Developing Reading Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4: For parents and children</td>
<td>Wednesday 12th November 9.30-10.30am</td>
<td>Oral Language Activities</td>
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</tbody>
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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: Early Number Concepts
- Session 2: Sounds to Letters
- Session 3: Developing Reading
- Session 4: Oral Language

Planning Ahead for the 2015 School Year
In order to ensure that we are well prepared and staffed appropriately for the 2015 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 a new school for the start of the 2015 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 2015 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.

Statement of Fees
A reminder to all parents that all outstanding school fees must be paid by 17 October. Thank you to those parents who have finalised outstanding fees.
News from the Junior School—Mrs Helen Forbes

Visual Arts program
Our year 1, 2 and Prep students were very successful in their artistic ventures last term and their exhibition was wonderful. Mrs Sinclair and Mr Pitts who teach art in the Senior school, selected some works from each of the four elements as worthy of recognition and students who created these works will be awarded with a special certificate this week.

Early Years assessment
Over the next five weeks our Prep students will undergo one on one testing with their teacher as part of a state wide program called ‘Early Start’. Students underwent testing at the beginning of the year and testing at this time of the year will show student achievement since starting Prep. Teachers will be assessing students at various times over the next five weeks.

Leap into 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, year one and year two students. This support is being continued this term by both classroom teachers and support teachers.

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 and 2013 has provided us with further evidence that the hard work of teachers and students is making a difference.

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 what they think the book will be about. Encourage them to use: the title, cover illustrations, any prior knowledge they may have on the topic

Before and during the reading:
Encourage your child to predict what may happen in the story.
Celebrate their efforts when they self-correct and use strategies to help them decode challenging words.

After the reading:
Discuss one or two words that your child didn’t know the meaning of – (they may be able to pronounce but not know the meaning of the word).
Briefly discuss the main events or messages of the book.

Difficult words to decode - Discuss strategies they use at school that help them decode. – Chunky monkey, Slippery snake

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.

Chunky Monkey

Chunk the Word!
Look for a “chunk” that you know.

- ing  end  ort  old
As the end of the school year approaches, students struggle to stay focused in the classroom. Let's face it, warmer weather, longer days, and the promise of a lazy summer all make it difficult to think about things like algorithms. So how can parents encourage our children to focus on their studies through that last day of class?

1. Support the Teacher
Summer is tough for teachers too. Our teachers know that keeping content fresh and engaging is one of the best ways to hold student interest, so many plan special end-of-the-year projects and activities. Be enthusiastic about these (and insist that they be completed), and your attitude will rub off on your offspring.

2. Allow for Plenty of Active Time Outdoors
It isn’t easy to sit still in a classroom all day, especially in beautiful spring weather. Parents can help by ensuring that children are getting the necessary time to play outside. If you let your children play in the backyard or at the local park for an hour or so after school, they’ll be able to better concentrate when it’s time to sit down and study. And if you spend time outdoors over the weekends, they’ll be able to better focus in the classroom during the week.

3. Stick to Your Rhythm
Keep the general rhythm of your household intact through the end of the year. If we give the signal that study time no longer matters since school is almost over, our children will be only too happy to follow our lead.

4. Create a Visual
Purchase a large wall or desk calendar, and then get your children to help fill it with important end-of-the-year dates. Include the last day of school, of course, but also be sure to mark project deadlines, and fun activities. Why does this work? Because students are usually more motivated to complete the tough stuff when they can see that there really is a lot of fun stuff mixed in too.

5. Look Ahead to Summer
When you can see your children starting to lose focus, take a break from anything school-related and start making plans for the summer. Talk about summer camps or family vacations or the lazy days you’ll spend at the pool. Then, get back to work. Your children will slowly learn that, while it’s normal to be excited for summer vacation, it’s essential to prioritize education as well.

Preparing for high school… 8 simple tips
Entering high school is an exciting time for students. They are moving into a larger school environment. This can lead to anxiety or periods of unease. Here are some steps parents can take to help students start high school on a positive note.

1. Be interested and enthusiastic about their move to high school.
Your encouragement will help your child to make a successful transition to High School. Listen to their experiences and expectations. Don’t dwell on your own experiences of school.

2. Attend the High School Orientation Day
If your child will be entering high school then keep a look out for the orientation days which high schools hold. These days are designed to help parents and their children prepare for starting high school. Some children, because of pressure from their peers, will try to discourage their parents from attending orientation days. Being there will help you understand your child’s experiences better.

3. Discuss the changes every student will experience.
Emphasize that many people feel apprehensive about changing from a primary school to a larger high school, and that there will be people to help them adjust.

4. Organise your child’s uniform well before the first day of school.
Having the new uniform will help your child start to feel a sense of belonging to the school.

5. Learn about school routines and timetables.
Talking to student already enrolled at the school can be useful in finding out information about things. The school will provide information before it’s needed.

6. Help your child to develop good study habits.
Try to provide them with somewhere private and quiet to study. Help your child to set aside a particular time to study. Work out a daily timetable that incorporates all your child’s needs and interests. Regularly viewed TV programs, club activities and sport should all be part of the timetable. Ultimately they will need to manage their own study and they can guide you in what is helpful for them.

7. Practise organisational skills.
In the first few weeks of high school you might want to check with your child that they have the right books for the following day. You will quickly encourage a good habit.

8. Let your child know that you trust them and that they can trust you.
Keep communication open about all your child’s experiences, and make sure they know you’re available if things go wrong.

Lost Property
If your child/children have lost any items of clothing, hats, water bottles or lunch boxes could you please endeavour to check the lost property cupboard as it is overflowing? We will be clearing these items out at the end of next week and all items will be given to charity.

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News from the Senior School—Mr Bruce Jackson

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**JUNIOR HALLOWEEN DISCO!**
**WHERE:** Hervey Bay PCYC – O’Beurke St, Pialba
**WHEN:** 5:30PM to 8:30PM - Friday 31st OCT 2014
**DUE:** $8 per person ~includes hot dog & drink
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**JUNIOR BLUE LIGHT DISCO**
**GRADE 4 – 7 only**
**LUCKY DOOR PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS ALL NIGHT**
**FULLY SUPERVISED BY UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS**
**COME DRESSED IN HALLOWEEN THEMED COSTUDES!**

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**GRADE 4 to 7 only**
2014 Illumination
Lantern Parade
and annual Whale Aid Concert

Saturday 18 October 2014
5:00 pm till 10:30 pm

City Park – adjacent to the Discovery Centre,
Main Street and Old Maryborough Road, Hervey Bay

Come and watch the parade arriving at Nala’s statue.
Stay for the party that follows

Featuring
Concert BIG name and local bands
Amusement rides for the young-at-heart
Market Food stalls
Licensed Bar area

Christmas Celebration

Do you love to Sing?
Do you love Christmas Songs?
Come and join All Sorts Youth Choir for their Christmas Performances.

Help us create a great Youth Choir for the Fraser Coast Area this Christmas. ALL students from Grade 3 – 12 are welcome.
Rehearsals: Tuesday 4pm-6pm
Held at the Kawungan State School Hall

Conductor: Miss Cherie Trelor
Music Specialist from Maryborough West and Albert Schools

For more Information Please Contact
Mrs Karen Painter
Mobile: 0468 812 965