Sandy Strait Selected as a State Finalist in the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Education.

Earlier this year in State Education Week Sandy Strait was awarded a Regional Showcase award for Excellence in the area of Educational Leadership for our “Leap into Learning” whole school focus. From that point we then progressed to the State finals.

On Wednesday night we received word that we had been selected as one of the 3 State Finalists in the Category of Educational Leadership. We have been awarded an additional $5000 in prize money on top of the $1000 we won as a Regional winner.

We will now attend the State Gala Awards Ceremony in Brisbane on October 18th where the grand final winner in each of the 7 categories will be announced. We now have a 1 in 3 chance of winning $20,000 in prize money and being awarded the 2013 Showcase Award Winner for Excellence in Education.

We now have a 1 in 3 chance of winning $20,000 in prize money and being awarded the 2013 Showcase Award Winner for Excellence in Education.

The award recognises the fabulous work of our dedicated staff who ensure that each and every day students are making leaps forward in their learning. The award also recognises the impact this program has had on improved student outcomes and the commitment of our teachers and teacher aides to developing a professional learning community.

Congratulations to all members of our Sandy Strait Family. This is a very exciting and proud time for all of us.

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Key to Success this Week: Confidence

Thank you for Supporting the P&C School Disco

I would like to thank all of our parents and staff who supported the P&C Disco that was held on Friday 2nd August. It was a great night and it was lovely to have so many parents and children in attendance at both the Junior and Senior Disco.

I was extremely proud of our students who spent the night dancing and having a good time.

A special thank you must also go out to our small, but very hard working P&C for putting together such a great event.
Leap Into Learning - Data and Target Setting Meetings with Teachers and Leadership Team

Across all reaches of our school you will hear the phrase “Leap into Learning”. Schools are about learning, it is our core business each and every day.

This year we have continued to invest a great deal of time as a staff discussing what our focus for this “learning” will be. We have a very clear and defined goal around improving our results in Reading, Writing and Numeracy and we are very committed to this plan.

Every 5 weeks teachers meet with a member of the Leadership team (Principal, Deputy Principals, HOSES) 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, for this reason we establish 5 weekly targets and goals.

I am very proud of the work our teachers have produced as part of this school wide focus. To have the opportunity to sit and work with our teachers and share the improvements and gains made by our students over a 5 week period is very rewarding.

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

Enrolments for the 2014 Prep Year Are Now Open.

Enrolments are now being taken for the Prep Year in 2014. Parents are invited to come into the school office and collect an enrolment pack containing information about the Prep Program, enrolment information and other brochures and documentation about the 2014 school year.

Children who turn 5 by the 30th June 2014 are eligible to attend Prep in the 2014 School year.

It is important that we have an early indication of our anticipated numbers for the 2014 school year so we can begin planning ahead.

Leap into our Pre- Prep Program

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 first in our series of Pre Prep Sessions focuses on Early Number Concepts. Please register your attendance (for yourself and your child) for our session on the 15th August so 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Thursday 15th August 9.30—10.30am</td>
<td>Early Number Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Thursday 5th September 9.30—10.30am</td>
<td>Sounds to Letters Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Thursday 24th October 9.30—10.30am</td>
<td>Developing Reading Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Thursday 14th November 9.30—10.30am</td>
<td>Oral Language Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

A Reminder about Appropriate Jumpers for School

With the recent cold weather we have had a number of children wearing items to school that are not part of our school uniform. The P&C endorsed uniform options for winter include the green and white school jacket, or a plain green fleecy top. Children also have the option of grey tracksuit pants to keep their legs warm.

We have had an increasing number of children coming to school with non standard jumpers that have inappropriate logos or wording on them. Such jumpers are inappropriate for school and we ask parents to please refrain from sending children to school wearing these.
Zone Athletics: Congratulations to all our students who represented our school at the Zone Athletics carnival last Friday. Mr Baldwin has provided a summary of key performances below.

Damon 800m
Gracie 100m and 200m
Kaitlin Long Jump
Zake 100m, 200m, Long Jump, Discus, 800m, Shot Put AWD
Blaise 100m, 200m, Long Jump
Daniel Discus

These students have also been selected as HBZ Reps to compete at Wide Bay Trials on 28 August.

Year 4 & 5 Sports Gala Day:
This Friday, a Sport Gala day will be held for our Year 4 & 5 students. The Gala day replaces interschool sport and will give our students an opportunity to experience some sports they may have never played before. Sport development officers will attend and assist with skill clinics. The Gala day is all day event. Please see your child’s teacher for more details about the Year 4 &5 Gala day.

High school Kaleidoscope Visit
Some of our students will visit USHS (either Thursday or Friday) to view the Kaleidoscope Exhibition created by the USHS Arts students. We thank the High School for the invitation.

Learning Goals
Teaching and Learning is our core business and this year a major strategy that we continue to utilise to help us remain focused on this has been the setting of Learning Goals. This week our teachers will formally review the progress their class has made towards their learning goals.

Timbarra productions for Prep and Year One
Next Monday and Tuesday our prep and year one students will be entertained by Timbarra productions. Students will have brought home a letter with details and a permission slip to be returned. Please ensure you have returned this permission slip with money by Friday of this week to allow your child to be part of this production.

PREP—Pirates Secret Treasure Production
There will be two shows for Preps on Monday the 12th August.
Prep A and Prep D will attend the 9:30am show.
Prep B and Prep T will attend the 11:30am show.

YEAR ONE  The Enchanted Forest
There will be two shows for Year One on Tuesday 13th August.
1L and 1M will attend the 9.30am show.
1F and 1R will attend the 11.30am show

Visual Arts exhibition
Over the last six weeks our junior school classes have been participating in a visual arts program focusing on the elements of line, shape, colour and texture. Next week on Friday 16th August we will be displaying student work in an exhibition in the hall. The exhibition will be open for the day so if you have an opportunity please come along and enjoy the artistic talents of our junior school students.

Leap into Learning
This is the final week for the first five week units in English and maths. Students will be completing assessment tasks, many of which will require them to present their work to their classmates. The following overviews are for the next units in English and maths which will be taught over the next five weeks. Teachers provided overviews of History and Science in their Parent communiques which were sent home last week.

Prep students have a ten week unit so they will continue to work on their ability to rhyme and complete rhyming poems. They are also working on sight word recognition, alphabet, Kid writing and of course, reading.

In maths students will be studying the duration of a week and recalling events that occur over a week. They will be collecting data and recording results in graphs. Students will continue to develop their understanding of numbers through addition and counting.

Year One students will start their next unit in English next week which will teach them how to create and present a retell of a traditional or cultural story. In maths their next unit covers describing locations and following directions, describe, sort, order and read money (coins), recognise, describe and order numbers in number sequences to 100, telling the time to ½ hours, practising subtraction and skip counting.

Year Two students’ next unit in English will have them using information in a narrative text to write an informative text. In maths students will need to continue counting large quantities, using calendars, drawing and describing 2D and 3D shapes, adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers, recalling number facts and counting and representing quantities of money.

Year Three students will continue to develop their reading and comprehension skills and through reading quality texts and studying language features such as nouns, verbs and creating descriptive sentences they will create a multimodal text about overcoming a fear, using images and language features.

In maths students will add and subtract 2 digit numbers, practise addition and subtraction number facts, use metric measures of length, mass and capacity and telling time to the minute as well as problem solving using time.
Hi my name is Pauline Waring. For the last 5 years I have worked part time as a Technical Officer at Sandy Strait State School. I look after the computers, computer network and school computer software. I troubleshoot other issues involving digital and computer interactive devices. I enjoy solving computer issues and getting things working again.

I am constantly inspired by the potential of new technology and the internet. I am old enough to remember when an electric typewriter and a photocopier was an amazing jump in technology. My first PC was an Apple Mac Plus with a 40MB hard drive.

IAssistSafety App helps children learn protective behaviours. Using a hand IAssistSafety allows a child to identify 5 adults who they could ask for help if feeling unsafe. The hand assists children to remember their safe people. These 5 adults will help the child to be safe if they are scared, worried, sad or just need help. This App helps to give your child a voice in keeping themselves safe. Available in Google Play or the Apple Store.
News from Parents and Citizens Association

Disco:

Our Disco was a huge success, what a night! Most of the stock for the canteen was sold.

I would like to thank Danielle Shepherd for assisting me with the Disco, many hours were spent counting money and distributing tickets, buying the goods for the canteen, and setting up. A lot of this was done by Danielle.

Thanks to Karlee Franz for taking on the responsibility of printing off all the tickets and then tirelessly cutting them up for us, that was one less job that we had to do.

Special mention also goes to Susan Blyth, Karen Stillman and Tracey Bennion, you all jumped in and helped out where you thought you were needed, you are all much appreciated.

Thanks to Eagle Boys Pizza in Hervey Bay for providing us with 95 Pizzas, which were then quartered and boxed by their staff for the occasion.

Damien from Images Disco Service provided the music and Video clips, the kids had lots of music requests, and seemed to enjoy themselves, so thank you again.

All of the Teachers that Volunteered their time to ensure that this Disco was a success, we couldn't have done it without you, great job.

And to all the Parent Volunteers, we thank you, our Volunteers are the backbone of our School Community and we hope to see you all at future events.

Our friendly policeman Craig was on hand as usual to ensure that order was kept, and that everyone was behaving themselves, Craig we really appreciate your presence.

Thank you also to Sharon McMorrow, Helen Forbes and Bruce Jackson for supporting this Disco and the students, it was much appreciated. It was a long night for those that attended both Discos but well worth it. We will let you all know how much we have raised in the next newsletter.

On a final note, a wonderful grade 7 student called Luke Strochnetter tirelessly gave up his time all evening to raise money for MS on his own initiative, he also assisted me with the setup and helped me chase out two ducks that came into the hall for a visit, and left quite a mess. Luke was also on hand to help with anything electronic or that involved switches, and for that I am very appreciative.

If I have left anybody out it is purely unintentional. Well done to our whole School Community.

‘Leap Into Learning’ Mural:

As most of you are aware a Photographer from the local paper came to our School last Friday to take a picture of our new Mural. The Sponsors were in attendance as well, they were:

- CLM CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
- VMS MAINTANANCE
- INNOVATION GRAPHIX
- 4X4 FANATIX
- T&A SKILL PAINTERS
- ARROW BIZ SOLUTIONS
- CHILLED HEAT AIRCONDITIONING
- WILD LOTUS RESTAURANT

We thank you all for your Sponsorship/Donations. All the Sponsors received Certificates of Appreciation. This project cost $1954.50 with approximately $1000.00 being donated by the P&C. The rest has come from the wonderful Sponsors listed above.

71.5 hours were spent on the entire project. Thank you to Adrienne and her team once again.

For those that are interested, there are some pictures of the process involved to create a Mural on the noticeboard in the Office.

Coming Events:

20 August – Grandparents Day P&C Morning tea
29th - 30th August - Fathers Day Stall

P&C Meeting:
The next P&C Meeting is on Wednesday the 28th of August at 3.00pm in the Admin building. All are welcome to attend.

Following the success of the involvement with primary school students in our production of Du’Freak Carnival last year, The Creative Futures Team at Urangan State High School would like to invite ANY primary school student interested in performing in our mass dance routine/finales at the Brolga Theatre on October 9th.

If any student is interested they would simply need to attend a rehearsal from 10-2 in the Performing Arts Building on Saturday August 24th. They would also need to bring a parent to the beginning of this rehearsal to complete a permission/medical form before they commence.

It's Book Week in Week 7 (August 19-23). The theme for this year is Read Across the Universe. We will be holding a Book Fair in the library during that week, with books available for purchase priced from approximately $5-$20. On Tuesday August 20, our school community is invited to come dressed as your favourite book or space character. Children will have the opportunity to show off their costumes to visiting grandparents. It will also be the day our whole school gathers on the oval to share stories read to us by our year 6 and 7 students. Get those creative juices flowing – we look forward to a week of fun celebrating books!
**Community News Continued**

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**Hervey Bay Surf Life Saving Club - Sign On**
We would like to invite families to join us at the Surf Club for a **FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE** at our sign on days, detailed below.

**Sign on Days Sat 17 Aug & Sun 18 Aug 10am to 2pm**
For more information contact the Surf Club on 4125 1718 (Office Hours Thurs 10am-2pm, Answerphone at other times)

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**YARRILEE STATE SCHOOL**

**Parent and Citizens Association’s**

**Trivia Night**

$600 First Prize
$300 Second Prize, $120 Third Prize
When: Friday 9th of August, 2013
Time: BBQ from 6:00pm, ready for a 7:00pm start.
Where: Yarrilee State School Hall

* Entertainment provided. Spot prizes and games.
* Monster Grocery and Multi Draw raffle.
* Teams of 6: $15 per team member
* Includes light refreshments for your team.
* Licensed Bar available.

**Steak burgers, desserts, tea and coffee, and extra nibbles available for purchase.**
Nomination forms can be collected from the Yarrilee State School Office (15 Scrub Hill Rd, Dundowran.)

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**Condy Park’s Biggest Annual Fundraiser**

**Teddy Bear Picnic**
Sunday 25th August 2013
9am - 1pm.
Come along for a great family fun day.
Major Raffles, free activities, face painting,
Jumping castles, Rides, Stalls, Food, Drinks
And lots of entertainment Come and listen to
Chris Collins read his book ‘Funky Chicken’.

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or email Janelle at fcpt2013@gmail.com