Newsletter No 9  
30/05/13

COMING EVENTS
27—31 May—Spell-a-thon
3—14 June—Spell-a-thon sponsorship money due
4 June—Bookclub orders due
18 June—Senior Awards Ceremony 1.30 pm
19 June—Junior Awards Ceremony 1.30 pm
20 June—Report Cards Issued
21 June—End of Term 2
8 July—Start of Term 3
23 July—Beginner String Workshop
24 Oct—Beginner String Workshop
26 Oct—School Musical

Key to Success this Week: Organisation

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

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 will be 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 1.30pm

Our Junior Awards Ceremony (Prep – Year 3) will be conducted on Wednesday 19th June from 1.30pm.

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.

2014 School Uniform Survey
Thank you to all families who have participated in the 2014 uniform ballot as we select a design for our new school polo shirt. Surveys and information letters were sent home with all children (eldest in the family) on the 15th May and reminder posts have also been issued on our school Facebook page.

If you have yet to return your survey can you please do so by the end of this week or you can register your preference on the school Facebook page.

We will inform our school community of the outcome of the Parent, Staff and Student ballots in the near future.

Spell-a-thon Testing Week
This term the P&C have conducted a Spell-a-thon as part of its major fundraiser.

Over the past few weeks children have been learning their spelling words and collecting sponsorship.

This week all children across the school will be tested on their Spell-a-thon spelling words and the results of this will be recorded on their Spell-a-thon Card. This card, with the year your child’s result, will be sent home at the end of this week for you to view and begin collecting those sponsorships dollars.

All children who collect $20 or more in sponsorship go into the draw for vouchers (1 per year level) from Target and/or Big W. The child who raises the most money in P-3 and 4-7 will receive a $50 voucher. Encouragement prize packs will also be awarded in each year level across the school.

All prize draws for the Spell-a-thon will occur at our first assembly in term 3 after returning from holidays.

All money raised from our Spell-a-thon will be used to purchase an Ipad for every classroom P-7 across the school to enhance learning.

It is a wonderful cause and I thank you for supporting our P&C with this important fundraiser.

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.

Book club
Issue 4 is due back at school next Tuesday 4th June. Please have all orders and money to the office by then. We are still looking for someone to help with bookclub. If you are available a couple of hours a term please leave your name and number at the office. This doesn’t involve much and your time would be greatly appreciated!!

Banking
Remember this term the Commonwealth bank is holding a competition to win a family holiday worth $5000. All you have to do is make 3 deposits this term and you will automatically be entered. There are also some great runner up prizes. Please remember THURSDAY is our school banking. All folders need to be at the office by Thursday morning. Well done to those consistent bankers, their are some very close to getting the bronze award!! We are now looking for another member to join our team so if you are available for only half an hour a week to help we would appreciate your time. If you are interested please leave your name and number with the ladies at the office and we will get in contact with you. Have a great week!!
LEAP INTO LEARNING

Prep English—Enjoying and retelling stories
Our Prep Students have been listening to and responding to stories that their teachers have selected with a focus on exploring how language is used to entertain. Students have been retelling events and important messages portrayed in the stories through spoken and written activities. Students will continue to sequence events from the stories and for their assessment they will select a favourite story to retell to a small group of classmates. Students will prepare for their spoken retelling by drawing events in sequence and writing simple sentences.

Prep Maths
As our students develop their understanding of Number they will refine their ability to count forwards and backwards from a given number to 10 and or 20 with some students able to count right through to 100. Our Preps will use this knowledge to help them create representations of numbers to show their understanding of number sense as well as adding simple sums. In patterning they will be copying, continuing, creating and describing repeating patterns, using materials, sounds, movements or drawings. This will develop their ability to create repeating patterns. In measurement students will be comparing objects to determine which is heavier or longer and in shape they will be matching and describing familiar three dimensional shapes and two dimensional shapes.

Year 1 Maths
In maths students will work with numbers to 1000 by showing their understanding of repetition, rhyme, alliteration and their use of effective words in poetry. Students will recite a poem to the class as part of their assessment of this unit which will require them to use facial expressions as well as gestures when presenting their recital.

Year 1 English creating poems
Year one students will listen to, read and view a variety of poems to explore sound patterns of poems, what the poem is about, who the characters are as well as where the poem is taking place. Students will have fun and enjoyment through the reciting of recreated poems which they will perform for their classmates and teacher. During the recreation of the poems students will have to show their understanding of repetition, rhyme, alliteration and their use of effective words in poetry. Students will recite a poem to the class as part of their assessment of this unit which will require them to use facial expressions as well as gestures when presenting their recital.

Year 2 English—using stereotypes to persuade
Year two students will students read, view and listen to a variety of literary texts to explore how stereotypes are used to persuade audiences. Students compare how the visual representations of a character are depicted differently in two publications of the same story and write a persuasive response giving reasons for a particular preference. To be able to do this our students will identify similarities and differences in texts through analysing the pictures and language of fairy tales and folktales. They will also compare the characters, setting and events of the texts they read. This information will assist them in writing their persuasive response.

Year 2 Maths
In maths our year 2 students will continue to work on their recall of addition number facts, identify related subtraction number facts and solve addition and subtraction problems. They will build on their skills of adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, representing multiplication, representing division and solve simple grouping and sharing problems.

When working with money students will learn to describe the features of Australian coins, count coin collections, identify equivalent combinations, identify $5 and $10 notes and count small collections of coins and notes. Students will also work with the measurement concepts of time and use a calendar to identify the number of days in each month, relate months to seasons and tell time to the quarter hour and in area they will cover surfaces with informal units to measure the area of shapes and surfaces.

Year 3 English—exploring dialogue
In year three our students will listen to, read and view and analyse informative and literary texts and create a spoken procedure between two characters. They will learn to create dialogue from a story text which they will then present to their teacher and class in a spoken presentation. They will also develop their speaking skills as they learn to construct spoken procedures between characters.

Year 3 Maths
In maths students will work with numbers to 1000 by showing their understanding by representing given numbers and place value activities, counting activities, adding and subtracting activities and solving word problems. During lessons on Location students will represent positions on a simple grid map, show full, half and quarter turns on a grid map, describe positions in relation to key features and represent movement and pathways on a simple grid map. In geometry students will learn to identify angles in real situations, construct angles with materials and compare the size of familiar angles in everyday situations. Finally students will continue to develop their knowledge and ability in operating with money by counting collections of coins and notes, making and matching equivalent combinations of money, calculating change from simple transactions and solving a range of simple problems involving money.
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.

Strengthening Discipline in Queensland State Schools is the first of 15 strategies being introduced under the government’s new Great Teachers = Great Results initiative to lift standards of teaching and give schools more autonomy so they can get on with the job of providing a safe and supportive learning environment.

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.

Schools want parents and carers to be aware of the behavioural expectations and the consequences for inappropriate behaviour and will talk about these at enrolment and throughout the student’s schooling. At times a principal may need to develop a behaviour contract which students and parents are signatory to. These will outline clear expectations for improved behaviour and the consequences when those expectations are not met.

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.

For more information on Great Teachers = Great Results visit the DETE website www.detqld.gov.au/great-teachers

Congratulations Gracie

In the last newsletter we were amiss at missing out on congratulating Gracie’s selection in the Wide Bay girls’ soccer team to compete in the coming State Championships. Gracie joins Shae, Lily, Kye and Damon as students from our school who have this year been selected to represent Wide Bay in various sports.

Student Motivation Tips

Teachers will, from time to time, express some frustration at some students seemingly lack of self-discipline and motivation to do the very best they can in their school work, particularly when confronted with assignment work.

It is important to remember that while some students are able to demonstrate the required motivation to do their best most students need tips and strategies to help them. Here are 5 ideas that “You Can Do It” suggests students try to stay focused and motivated. Encourage your children to try them and see if the tips help.

The “Knock-Out” Motivational Technique

The harder and more boring your work, the better it is to do it immediately.

The “Worst First” Motivational Technique

Identify the most difficult part of an assignment and do that first.

The “Remember Forgetting” Motivational Technique

Whenever you remember forgetting to do something, do at least some of it immediately.

The “Bits and Pieces” Motivational Technique

Do anything that is in connection with the task you want to accomplish. Gradually do more and more until the task doesn’t seem so impossible.

The “Salami” Motivational Technique

List all the things you have to do to complete an assignment or project. Work on one thing at a time until you have completed all of them.

We will add a few more tips in the next newsletter.

Chappy Week

Our school community celebrated Chappy Week last week. The aim of Chappy Week was to celebrate and support the work of Our School Chaplain (Chappy Trina) and to raise funds for resources. We held a Pancake Day on the Tuesday and Wednesday and through your support we were able to raise over a $1000.

A big thank you to all our helpers: Parents, friends of parents, student leaders, teachers, teacher aides and groundsman all chipped into help us make over 800 pancakes.

Thanks for supporting the Chaplaincy Program

Non-Teaching Team — This week we introduce our Schools Officer’s Facilities Grounds.

Due to the area and the enrolments of the school, Sandy Strait has two schools officers and each are responsible for their own section. Redge Friske maintains the Senior area of the school and Steve McNamara maintains the Junior area of the school.

Mr Redge Friske transferred to Sandy Strait from Blackwater State School in 1995. His main responsibilities are security, resourcing local goods and services, general repairs and mowing of the grounds. You may see Mr Friske from time to time as he goes about his general day to day activities around the school grounds.

Mr Steve McNamara transferred to Sandy Strait from Maryborough Special School in 2010 after 18 years. His main responsibilities are mowing the grounds and general repairs. You may see Mr McNamara from time to time as he goes about his general day to day activities around the school grounds.

Both Facilities Officer’s are currently beautifying the gardens around the school grounds.
Parents and Citizens Association News

Tuckshop: The P&C, and our School Community would like to say a big thank you to Kerry McDonald. Kerry has volunteered in our Tuckshop for quite awhile now, after our previous Tuckshop Convenor left Kerry stepped up to the challenge and volunteered to keep the Tuckshop open for us during the interim. Kerry we can’t thank you enough, your time and effort was much appreciated.

As most of you will be aware we went through an open selection and recruitment process during this period, and the P&C were faced with the challenge of selecting a new Tuckshop Convenor. Congratulations to Kerry Searle who was the successful applicant, and has been appointed as our new Tuckshop Convenor, we wish you all the best.

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 8.30am - 2.30pm. If you are interested ring the Office on: 4197 0333 and speak to Tanya or Debbie, or ring Kim on: 4125 1630.

Spell-a-thon: This week is the week where all our children get tested on their Spell-a-thon words, that is very exciting. I love spelling! The Spell-a-thon will be held over the period of 27th - 31st of May.

Don’t forget between the 3rd - 14th of June all Sponsorship money and donations are to be returned to the school.

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 a Art/Stationary gift pack, per grade.

Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th of June at 3pm in the Admin Building - ALL WELCOME!

Kim Parnell
(P&C President)
Girls –Only
“Come and Try” Rugby League Coaching Clinic

HERVEY BAY

The NRL will host a Girls-Only “Come and Try” Rugby League Coaching Clinic (8-13 years old) at Stafford Park, Bideford St (Seagulls RLC grounds) on Friday 7 June 2013 from 4.00-6.00pm.

The 2hr coaching clinic will consist of a variety of basic rugby league drills and modified games involving passing, catching, kicking and tackling skills, introduced and practised under the guidance of qualified coaches, with the main emphasis of the session placed on having FUN. Players will participate in a number of controlled and monitored activities involving tackling and body contact.

The cost for the program is $3.00 with all participants receiving a NRL Boot bag or Water bottle and NRL poster.

Girls will require a drink bottle, hat, sunscreen and suitable training attire and footwear (sandshoes or football boots).

Registration forms are available:

1. Registration forms may be available from some schools – see your PE teacher

Forms will be available on the day of the clinic

For more information please contact:
Richard Dugdale
NRL Game Development Officer -Wide Bay
Mobile: 0409 069 437
Email: rdugdale@nrl.com.au

*** In Term 2 and 3, all school sport Zones will be holding rugby league trials for selection in Zone Primary School Girls teams to participate at a Wide Bay School Girls Rugby League Carnival in Hervey Bay. The “Come and Try” clinic is a great opportunity to learn the game and improve the skills of any girls wishing to gain selection
Woolworths Earn & Learn

Woolworths Earn & Learn is back again this year. From Monday 8 April until 9 June every time you spend $10 or more at Woolworths you can receive a sticker to go towards some great items for our school. Once you have completed your sticker form please place into the box in the office.

For Sale:
The school office have 4 toners for Laserjet printers for sale. These toner cartridges are suitable for a Hewlett Packard Colour Laser Jet Printer 3800/3800N/3800DN/3800TN/CP3505/CP3505N/CP3505DN. Available colours are yellow, 2 cyan (blue) and 1 magenta. If you are interested in these toners please contact the BSM on 4197 0333.

We Want You!

If you are a TOP Academic student in Year 7, you are invited to apply to Urangan State High School’s ACE Program for 2014.

The Academic and Cultural Excellence Program caters for our elite academic and music students. Students may apply for our General Academic, Music or Chinese class.

Please visit the school or download an application from the School Website: www.uranganshs.eq.edu.au

Information Night 28th May, 5.30pm, USHS Performing Arts

Applications Close on 7th June 2013.