Welcome Back
Welcome back to all of our students and families. It was lovely to see so many happy and excited children ready to leap into another year of learning.

To all of our new families I would like to extend a warm welcome to our school and look forward to sharing in your child’s educational journey.

This year we have had an increase in our enrolment growth and new families are continuing to enrol with more interviews scheduled for the coming days.

Our staffing allocation is not determined until the 8th school day when we must report on our enrolment numbers across the school. Following this data collection we are then advised if our school is eligible for additional classes and staffing.

We will keep our parents notified if there are likely to be changes to classes due to additional staffing.

Newsletter and Assembly Changes for 2012
This year as we implement the National Curriculum across our school we have adjusted many of our school procedures to provide teachers with as much face to face teaching time in all year levels.

Our school assemblies will now occur fortnightly with Senior Assembly scheduled on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.00-2.45. Junior Assembly is scheduled on a Friday afternoon from 2.00-2.45. Our first assembly will occur next week.

This year our newsletter will be issued fortnightly on a Tuesday afternoon. You can also access the fortnightly newsletter on our school website www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au
We will continue to issue paper copies of our newsletters to families and these will be sent home with the children.

Our Intensive Focus on Student Attendance in 2012
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.

We will be making changes to the way in which we follow up unexplained absences and chronic absenteeism. Parents will receive letters advising them of the number of days absent their child has accumulated throughout the term and the impact this absenteeism has had on their learning programs.
Parents must explain the reasons for the absenteeism and may be asked to provide medical confirmation.

Posters outlining our focus on attendance will be displayed in all teaching spaces and the school administration to highlight to our school community the importance of coming to school each and every day.

I have attached a parent information sheet outlining the legal responsibilities of school attendance and some common questions and answers for parents.

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.

**Building and Construction Work in the Prep Playground and Classroom**

Over the school holidays construction work began in our Prep playground on a wheelchair accessible ramp and stairs to the playground. One of the toilets in our Prep classrooms is also being remodelled to allow access for disabled students.

This work has to have been completed prior to the commencement of the school year however weather has delayed the project and extended the timeline.

At the moment due to the amount of construction work occurring, one of the classrooms is not accessible. Information from the construction team today indicates that we should be able to access this 4th room by Friday. Our Prep team are working very hard outside of school hours to try and get this room operational by Friday. Accessing this 4th classroom will ensure that our class numbers are back to a reasonable size and we are not overcrowding our children at this important time of the year.

Parents are encouraged to continue to check the classroom noticeboards for the names of class groupings as this assessment phase of our program is completed.

In the coming days (weather permitting) safety fencing will be erected near our bike racks to allow access to cement trucks as areas of the outside ramp are poured. The bike racks will be temporarily moved to the grassy area out the front of the admin block with a small access path open for bikes.

The rain will largely control the days on which this will occur.

We thank parents and our dedicated prep team for their understanding during this construction process and we look forward to having some new inclusions to our prep playground and classroom in the very near future.

**Our Next Newsletter**

In our next fortnightly newsletter I will introduce you to our class teachers for the 2012 year and share with you some of our initiatives for the 2012 school year including our new whole school spelling program, our focus on reading comprehension and mental maths.

**NEWS FROM THE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

MRS HELEN FORBES

Welcome to our new students and congratulations on choosing Sandy Strait State School as your place of learning. Welcome back everybody else it’s great to see so many happy, smiling faces ready to take on new learning experiences.

2012 will see us implement the Australian curriculum in maths, English and Science for the first time. Queensland is one of the first states to implement the national curriculum and teachers have been working hard at preparing lessons and resources to support their students learning.

Some of you may have read an overview in last Saturday’s Courier Mail which gave some detail around the changes in what students will be learning over a year so I thought I’d share briefly what your children will be learning over the next five weeks.

**Prep**

**English -** Our Prep students will be exploring books and other texts to learn about language and literacy - letters, sounds, visual patterns etc. through speaking, writing, constructing and listening.

Our Preps will have focussed teaching, play, real-life and investigations opportunities to allow them to learn in a variety of ways.

**Maths –** students will be learning maths concepts to enable automaticity in the areas of counting, understanding numbers to 10 and comparing and ordering numbers.

**Science -** Prep students will be exploring a unit titled ‘Our living world’ which will develop their understanding that the survival of all living things is reliant on basic needs being met.

**Year One**

**English -** Year One students will be exploring emotion in picture books. The students will be taught to identify emotive content and justify interpretations of the stories from their own and other cultures.

**Maths –** students will build on prior mathematical knowledge as well as explore numbers to 100, skip counting by twos, fives, and tens, solve simple addition and subtraction problems, recognise
part-whole relationships, tell time to the half-hour, describe duration, using months, weeks, days and hours, connect days of the week to familiar events and actions and describe position and movement.

Science – Year One Science unit – Living adventure will examine a range of living things to explore links between external features of living things and the environment where their needs are met. They will use this information to predict consequences of environmental change.

Year Two

English – Year Two students will be reading, writing and performing poetry to enable them to create their own reconstruction of a poem to present to their class.

Maths- Students will be building on prior learning as well as exploring number sequencing, counting, grouping, partitioning and ordering collections to at least 1000, investigating the connection between addition and subtraction through mental and written strategies and representations of problems, recognising and representing multiplication as arrays, groups, and patterns, reading time to the quarter hour and exploring monthly and seasonal data and using in the creation of data displays.

Science – Year two will be looking at a chemistry unit titled ‘Mix, make and use’ where they will investigate combinations of different materials and give reasons for the selection of particular materials. Students will make something they can use in their daily lives.

Year Three

English – Year three students will begin to prepare for their Naplan testing in May by analyzing and creating a persuasive text. Students will read, view and analyse digital, written and spoken reviews of literary texts to plan and prepare a spoken persuasive review of a digital literary text

Maths- students in year three will also build upon prior learning as they investigate number patterns with addition and subtraction, investigate odd and even numbers, apply place value to 10 000, recognise and explain the connection between addition and subtraction, recall and use simple digit addition facts, represent money and count change, measure, order and compare length, mass and capacity and tell time to the minute.

Science- Year three’s first Science unit is a biology unit titled ‘Is it living?’ Students will describe patterns and relationships as they classify living and non-living things. They will gather data on the diversity of living and non-living things in their local environment. Year three students will record their observations throughout the unit and undergo an interview to share their findings as part of their assessment.

I hope the above overview provides you with enough information to know what your child will be learning in English, maths and Science. Please contact your child’s teacher if you need further advice or information.

Finally on behalf of teachers and administration I would like to thank all parents for ensuring their child/ren were dressed and equipped appropriately for school on the first day.

Top

Welcome Back

Hi to all. A warm welcome back to all our students, staff and parents. A special welcome to staff, students and parents who join our school community for the first time.

Now that holidays are over it is time for school once again. Many of us start the year pledging that we are going to have a “better year”. Here are 20 ways that will ensure that our students and YOU the parents can have a good school year.

20 Tips for a good school Year for....... both Parents and Students

1. eat a good breakfast every morning, don't let children skip breakfast.
2. wake your child up early enough to get up on time so they are not tardy! Even if that means waking them up 15 or 30 minutes earlier than they used to wake up.
3. be sure your child gets a good night's sleep. Turn in early.
4. have them prepare all of their things the night before, including uniforms, socks, shoes, bag, homework assignments in the bag, etc.
5. children should keep their bag, desks and rooms organized so they can find what they need easily and nothing gets lost.
6. praise your children, encourage them, use positive reinforcement, work closely with them, let them know that you are available to help if needed.
7. create a study routine for your child. a good rule of thumb is to have them do their homework right when they get home.
8. go over homework together.
9. check their bag for notes, missed assignments, book orders, etc.
10. promote healthy habits like healthy snacks, low in sugar, fresh fruits and vegetables.
11. children should ask questions. don't be afraid to ask questions. that is how we learn.
12. a stress free child is a happy child, a happy child will do better in school.
13. children should start reviewing notes at least three days before a test, don't wait until the night before or worse, the day of the test to study for it.
14. children should write down their assignments carefully.
15. parents, be a role model to your children. your children learn from you. be positive and supportive of the school system and teachers.
16. have your child read to you often and regularly.
17. have your child put all of their things in their room right when they get home. this will alleviate the chances of losing or misplacing something. more time is wasted looking for a lost shoe or where they put their bag.
18. children should take notes when the teacher repeats something, tells them to write it down or that is very important or will be on a test, or if he/she writes it on the board.
19. don't cheat, don't be lazy, do your projects and assignments like reports, ahead of time. study and learn. you will be proud of yourself.
20. during tests, read all of the directions, follow directions, read the questions carefully, and double check your answers if you have time after you are done.

5 Important questions to ask your child’s NEW teacher

In the next few weeks your child’s teacher will be holding a “Meet the teacher session”. This may be in the format of a ‘meet and greet afternoon’ or is some cases teachers may hold a 1 on 1 meeting. These meetings provide a great opportunity for parents and teachers to form a positive working relationship, with a common purpose of doing the best for the students. Here are 5 important questions all parents should ask their child’s new teacher:

1. What skills and knowledge will my child be expected to master this year?
2. Will my child learn this year in key subjects like Math, Science, and English?
3. Are there challenging academic standards in place in the class?
4. How do you inform students about the academic standards they’re expected to meet? What kind of projects and assignments have you planned that will help my child meet higher academic standards?
5. How will my child be evaluated?

What kind of information do you use to evaluate students?

How are grades determined in your classroom?

What can I do at home to complement what is happening in the classroom?

How can I know on a daily basis what homework has been assigned?

How can I support teachers’ efforts in implementing higher academic standards?

How do you accommodate differences in learning?

What if my child is a slow learner and falls behind, or is a fast learner and is bored?

5. How are older students prepared for further learning into high school?

“Carrots, Eggs and Coffee

This great parable from an unknown author encourages us to reflect on how we cope with adversity. A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up; she was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

The Kitchen

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and turned each hot plate to high. Soon the pots came to the boil. In the first pot she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs and in the last pot she poured ground coffee beans. She let the three pots sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, “Tell me what you see”.

“Carrots, Eggs and Coffee

“Carrots, eggs and coffee,” she replied. Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, “What does it mean, mother?” Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they changed the water.

“Which are you?”

“Which are you?” she asked her daughter. When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean? Are you the carrot that seems strong but with pain and adversity do you wilt and become soft and lose strength?

Are you the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did you have a fluid spirit but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship or some other trial, have you become hardened and stiff? Does your shell look the same but on the inside you are bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or are you like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate yourself to another level?

How do you handle adversity?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy. The happiest of people don’t necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.

Top

WORKSHOP NEWS – MS LEE SMITH

The tuckshop trading days will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday again this year.

We only have a small handful of very helpful volunteers, without volunteers this service is at risk of closing. Therefore, the P & C are asking for more parents/grandparents to volunteer from 1.00 pm - 1.45 pm. If you are able to help out once a term, once a fortnight or once a week please drop a note to the office.
pm—1.45 pm. If you are able to help out once a term, once a fortnight or once a week then please see me at the Tuckshop or leave your name and number with the ladies in the office.

If you do not have a menu please stop by the tuckshop and pick one up!

We also promote weekly specials that are not on our everyday menu so please keep an eye out in the newsletter for these as they are only available on the week they are advertised.

This Week’s Specials are:

- **Chicken Burger**—Crumbed chicken breast patty, lettuce, tomato, beetroot, grated carrot and mayonnaise. $5.50
- **Chicken Cheese Burger**—Crumbed chicken breast patty, lettuce, cheese and mayonnaise. $4.00

**New items to add to your menu are:**

- Blueberry muffins $1.80—these are baked daily
- Smiths BBQ crinkle cut chips $1.20
- Smiths thins sour cream and onion chips $1.20
- Small popper Juice (125ml) $1.00—Tropical, orange, apple

**Volunteers for this fortnight**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 25 Jan</th>
<th>Thurs 26 Jan</th>
<th>Fri 27 Jan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhonda 12.45—1.45 pm</td>
<td>CLOSED—Public Holiday</td>
<td>Nicole 12.30—2.00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed 1 Feb</th>
<th>Thurs 2 Feb</th>
<th>Fri 3 Feb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jo Welk 1.00—1.45 pm</td>
<td>Carly Ingwerson—1.00—2.00 pm</td>
<td>Jacqui Maskell—12.30—2.30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEWSLETTER SPECIAL**

It would be appreciated if all payments are enclosed in a named envelope with correct money as it is difficult to issue change. EFTPOS is available at the office for payments (minimum $10 transaction).

**LOTE NEWS—MRS CHARLOTTE SANDERS**

Hi everyone

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday.

Some exciting changes have been taking place in the LOTE program which I am looking forward to sharing with everyone.

1. The LOTE Virtual Classroom is up and running. If you were a Sandy Strait student at the end of last year you have been enrolled in this Classroom. Simply go to the Learning Place website [http://education.qld.gov.au/learningplace](http://education.qld.gov.au/learningplace); log in with your school username and password; click on eLearn; then click on SSSS LOTE.

2. The LOTE Virtual Classroom contains assessment information; criteria sheets; FAQs; Discussion Boards and links to interactive learning games. Make sure you jump on and have a look around.

3. Weekly Reflection Tasks form part of your assessment this year. Each week I will send all Year 6 and 7 LOTE students an e-mail containing a link to a survey through "Survey Monkey". Complete the questions and submit the survey. The questions relate to your LOTE learning during the week – what was easy/difficult and strategies you will try to solve any problems. It should only take 10-15 minutes to complete. Through the Virtual Classroom I am able to monitor who completes their work. If you don’t have Internet access at home, you can complete it at school.

4. The LOTE program itself is moving into the digital age. We will be using a new web-based program called “New Land New Language”. This program follows an Australian cartoon family as they travel to Beijing to live for 3 years. The program contains activities designed to help students learn “real-life” language and cultural situations. More information about this new program can be found on the LOTE Virtual Classroom.

5. Year 5 students (except those in 5/6W) are not studying LOTE this year. Instead I will be teaching at Pialba SS on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. I am looking forward to this new challenge.

6. The LOTE Levy still exists. $5 per year ($1.50 per term) is the amount required to produce the LOTE booklets for each Year 6 and 7 student. Please take care of your booklets by storing them in a display folder. If booklets are lost or irreparably damaged, a replacement fee of $1.50 will apply.

If you have any questions there are several ways you can contact me:

- **In Person**—before school every day and after school Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays
- **Phone**—4197 0333
- **E-mail**—csand109@eq.edu.au
- **Virtual Classroom**—check the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) section; or post a message on the Parent/Caregiver Discussion Board.

I look forward to working with you this year. Have a great week.
FRASER COAST SHOW SOCIETY IS HOSTING THE RHYTHM & REV'S UTE, CAR, TRUCK AND MOTOR BIKE SHOW ON 18 FEBRUARY 2012. JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED WEEKEND AT THE MARYBOROUGH SHOWGROUNDS WITH ENTERTAINMENT, UTE PULL, MARKET STALLS & SWAP MEET, EVENING BBQ & OVERNIGHT CAMPING. BAR AND CANTENE FACILITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE WITH A BUSH POETS BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2012. PLEASE CONTACT THE FRASER COAST SHOW SOCIETY ON 4123 5311 FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

THE FRASER COAST SHOW SOCIETY IS HAVING A MONSTER GARAGE SALE AT THE MARYBOROUGH SHOWGROUNDS ON 26 FEBRUARY 2012. GATES OPEN EARLY. PLEASE CALL 4123 5311 FOR FURTHER DETAILS. ALL DONATIONS GREATFULLY ACCEPTED, SO PLEASE HAVE A CLEAN OUT AND HELP US RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS WHICH WILL GO TOWARDS THE 2012 SHOW.

Zen do Kai Martial Arts
Building fitness, self esteem and confidence in a family friendly
Where: Hervey Bay PCYC
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Kids (school age) 5:00-6:00pm
Youth & Senior (over 15 years) 6:00-7:00pm
Contact: Chris – 0438384955

Sandy Strait State School
27/01/2012