Sandy Strait State School One of the 7 State Winners at the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools.
The Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools gives Queensland State schools the chance to shine in the spotlight and the opportunity to share in more than $370,000 in development grants.

In August Sandy Strait State School was selected as one of the 3 State Finalists in the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools. We were awarded $5000 in development grants on top of the $1000 we won as a Regional winner.

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.

On Friday 18th October the State Award Winners in each of the 7 categories were announced at the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools Gala Dinner at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Sandy Strait State School was awarded The Queensland University of Technology Showcase Award for Excellence in Leadership and received a further $20,000 in developmental grants.

Congratulations to all members of our Sandy Strait Family.

Key to Success this Week: Confidence

From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

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“Little Stars” a Big Success.
After 6 months of rehearsing the cast of “Little Stars” dazzled audiences on Saturday 26th October with 2 performances.

It was wonderful to see the children up on stage and performing with such confidence.

Being involved in a school musical production is such an amazing experience for our children as they work with other students from a range of year levels, make lasting friendships, conquer their fears of public performing and speaking, learn songs and dances and watch all of their hard work come together into a dazzling production.

Such opportunities would not be possible without the support of our families as you transport your children to and from rehearsals, practice lines, songs and dances at home and search for costume bits and pieces.

A huge round of applause must go to Mrs Ryan and Ms Pritchard, the directors of the school musical, who have worked tirelessly with the children week in and week out on all aspects of the musical production. Their commitment and dedication to this event on top of their full time, class teaching load is outstanding.

We also have a team of teachers and teacher aides who have supported the cast and crew of the school musical in so many ways over the last 6 months. A big thank you each and everyone one of you. We are very fortunate at Sandy Strait to be a part of a fantastic team of staff who dedicate so much of their time and efforts ensuring that our children have such wonderful opportunities that they will treasure for a lifetime.

To all of the cast and crew of “Little Stars”, congratulations on a FABULOUS production.

Early Bird Bookpacks for 2014 and School Sports Shirts Order Forms
All families should have received a special letter about our Early Bird bookpack options for the 2014 school year and an order form for school sports shirts.

We have engaged a local business to order and pack all of the books and school resources needed for each year level. The prices quoted are very competitive, are heavily discounted and are based on early bird order and payment.

If you would like to take advantage of this early bird book pack option and the discounts on offer you will need to return your order form with payment by Friday 29th November.

School Sports Shirts are only available through a pre order system and are not available in the uniform stores. Samples of the sports shirt are currently on display in the school office in a range of sizes (4 -14 and adult sizes) for all sports houses to assist parents with sizing options.

If you would like to order a School Sports Shirt complete the order form on the itemised letter and return together with full payment by Wednesday 20th November.

Sports shirts will be delivered to the school for the commencement of the school year.

Leap Into our Pre-Prep Program- “Oral Language Activities” - Thursday 14th November.
The third in our series of Pre Prep Sessions on “Early Reading Concepts” was conducted last week. It was lovely to see so many of our parents and future Preppies returning and eagerly participating in this session. We also welcomed a number of first time attenders to the program who very quickly settled in and joined in the fun.

We look forward to sharing our next session on “Oral language Activities” on Thursday 14th November at 9.30am. Please be sure to contact the school office and register your attendance (for yourself and your child) for our session on the 14th November to ensure we have a Take Home Resource Pack ready for you. All Pre Prep Students will also be presented with a personalised certificate of participation at our upcoming session.

At Sandy Strait we believe it is important to provide our students with the best possible start to their first year of schooling.

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 has 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 2014 School Year
In order to ensure that we are well prepared and staffed appropriately for the 2014 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 to a new school for the start of the 2014 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 2014 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.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Kim Dice and Tracey Taylor who participated in our recent Parent Survey to go into the running to win a gift card and stationery from the school. Kim has won a $20 gift card and Tracey has won the Stationery item. We appreciate your time in participating in our Parent survey.
End of unit assessment
Next week our students will be doing their assessment for their English and maths units so it is important that they attend school every day to ensure they get to complete their assessment tasks and achieve the best results they possibly can. Please talk with your child about the work they are doing and encourage them to do their best work.

Assessment in English may require students to provide a spoken presentation, write stories or poetry as well as read and answer comprehension questions; In maths they will be doing tests and problem solving tasks; Science will require them to investigate and record their observations.

PAT testing
Classes have been busy doing our second round of PAT testing. This is an important process as it shows distance students have travelled in reading comprehension and maths. It helps teachers to measure the gain across the year as well as reflect on their teaching and set targets for the remainder of the year. All of the teachers and students I have spoken to are happy with student progress this year and it is exciting to hear students talk about their own progress in terms of what areas they have improved in and the extent of their improvement.

Prep Early Years trial
This week our Prep teachers are working with their students to complete the second round of testing from the Early Start trial. This trial has provided teachers with useful data around students’ knowledge and understanding of reading, comprehension of reading, writing and maths. Students will sit with their teacher one on one as they are supported through the tests. The data is sent to ACER and results are emailed back to teachers before the end of term.

Supporting your child in Numeracy
There are many things that parents can do at home to help their numeracy skills such as: allowing children to count the money in their money box, help plan their tuckshop order, read toy/food catalogues, make grocery lists and help with shopping. Parents can also point out the uses of numbers as they come across them in daily life at the petrol station, shops, road signs, etc. Fun activities and games that require children to count, work out number patterns, solve problems and see maths in every day work and play.

All this talk about numbers and numeracy is really important for developing not only strong numeracy skills, but also a positive attitude to maths.

Head Lice
Unfortunately the warm weather often brings unwelcome pests in the form of head lice to our classrooms. At the moment many students (and parents) are dealing with this problem so it is important that everyone works together to treat any infestations in their own child’s hair immediately. If everyone is vigilant with this we will be able to curb the problem of reinfestation. Thank you for your attention to this annoying problem.

School Musical Review
Huge congratulations to our School Musical team for their outstanding production of Little Stars.

As Ms Pritchard mentioned to the audience, the students evolved from being insecure and apprehensive into confident and talented performers, and of course that doesn’t happened by accident. Ms Pritchard and Mrs Ryan’s support, encouragement and guidance provided the impetus for this marvellous transformation.

I am sure that these students will recall the school musical as one of the highlights of their primary school life.

A big thank you to all the helpers who helped out on the day/night or throughout the whole journey your willingness to get on board to help facilitate such a valuable experience for our students has been greatly appreciated.

On a personal note, I feel so lucky to be part of a school community that pulls together to enable such a fantastic experience to occur for our students. It was a great day/night albeit extremely embarrassing for some of us.

6L Senior Students Leadership Camp fundraiser
The students of 6L will be coordinating a sausage sizzle/popper day to help raise funds to dedicate to the 2014 senior students leadership camp. Flyers for the orders have been distributed to all students. The students will value your support of this important fundraiser. Next year’s camp is a unique experience; it is potentially our last camp of this type (Yr. 7 to high school in 2015 will force us to review our camps and excursions). It is also the first ever camp that we plan to take both Yr. 6 & Yr. 7 students. It has the potential to be our best ever camp. However we need to ensure that the cost of the camp does not become too excessive for our parents. This fundraiser will hopefully alleviate the cost to some extent. The sausage size will be held Monday 11th Nov (P-3) and Wednesday 13th Nov (4-7). Parents of Year 5 & 6 students are also reminded that they may take advantage of an instalment plan for camp payment. Please contact our Business Services Manager for more details.

Some nice feedback received regarding our Yr. 6 students
It was very pleasing to hear that last week’s facilitator of the National Assessment Program-Civics and Citizenship test……, relayed a message that the 20 year 6 students who sat for this test were amongst the most polite and courteous students she has been involved with. Well done to these students.

Win Rudge’s Bike Further Update
You would recall that we had run a competition last term called Win Rudge’s Bike. Thanks to the generosity of our groundsman Mr Friske, who donated a brand new bike, our students had a chance to win it….The criteria to be considered included:

- Be at school every day … every day counts
- Avoid detentions …….make good choices
- Work hard in class… do your best
- Lend a helping hand to a peer…. be a good friend
- Take responsibility

Show self-discipline
Nominations have been considered and the winner (top secret at present) has been identified. He/She will be presented the bike on next week’s assembly.
SCHOOL BANKING-
Commonwealth Bank is offering another fantastic competition for banking students this term. Make 2 or more deposits by November 30th and be in the draw to win one of 60 x Apple iPod touch 16GB or 100 x Kids Adventure DVD packs. Good luck!!

BOOK CLUB-
Book club was due back at the office last week and has now been processed. Orders are due back by next week. Happy reading!!

Chappy Chat with Luke!! :)

There have been lots of FUN things happening in the Chaplaincy program and there are still lots of great things to come!!
MEGA TOY RAFFLE: All tickets are due back by the 12th of November. There are 3 GREAT PRIZES to be won!! The total value is- $560!!! The lucky winners will be announced on parade later this term. So make sure to buy a ticket and support our school chaplaincy program! The flyer is below!!
Adopt a family: Support families that are not able to have a wonderful Christmas!! More details in the next newsletter
Wednesday Chappy Activities: Every Wednesday at Big lunch outside the Cottage is a fun Christmas themed activity!! Join Chappy Trina and the welfare leaders for some fun kiddies!!
Have a great week and be remember to be kind to each other!!
Luke Strochnetter
Welfare Leader

Music Showcase News
Showcase 2013 is just 3 weeks away and the excitement is building for our instrumental and choral students. This is the time of the year where they get to display what all their hard work has been about and shine for family and friends. This year Showcase is on November the 21st starting at 6:30 pm. It will be held in our Sandy Strait State School Hall. Students will be receiving a note next week outlining all the details.

The Senior Choir also have an upcoming excursion to Baycrest Retirement Village coming up in week 8 on the 27th November. They will also be getting a note about it next week.

All our Music students have been working hard this year and it is a wonderful chance to come see what they can do and what they have been working for so mark it in your calendars and I will look forward to seeing you all there.

Kylie Hunter
Music Teacher
News from the P & C

Join our P&C in 2014

Actions always speak louder than words when it comes to valuing your child’s learning.

Joining the P&C is one of the best ways to show your children how much you value their education and how interested you are in what they do. By joining the P & C, you are showing your children how committed you are to helping students and your school community. Participating in P&C activities can also help you to form friendships with other parents/carers and feel a part of your school community.

The P & C is about people just like you – parents, care-givers and community-minded people who want to help their school. P&Cs work very closely with the school, building a stronger school community where all children benefit.

The functions of a P&C are:
• to foster general community interest in educational matters;
• to encourage closer cooperation between the parents of students attending the school, members of the community, the staff and students of the school;
• to provide advice and recommendations to the Principal on issues and concerns in respect to the student body and the general operations and management of the school;
• to provide or assist in the provision of financial or other resources or services for the benefit of students of the school;
• to perform any other functions as the Minister may determine, not inconsistent with the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

Are you interested in contributing your thoughts on school policy? Do you have a spare hour or two when you can help out in the canteen, or assist in Fundraising?

Can you find two hours once a month to attend a P&C meeting? These are all ways you can be part of your school’s P & C.

Just by joining your P&C, you can add your voice to what’s happening in the school.

As a P&C member, you can contribute opinions on:
• positive school-wide behaviors
• student dress code
• school routines
• P&C budget
• school budget
• school surveys

Remember: the things you do make a real difference, so why not join your P&C!

Please contact your school for more information on how to become involved in your P&C and its activities – Source - P&C Queensland Website.

Crazy Hair Day Update

A big thank you to everyone who participated in Crazy Hair Day! It was fantastic to see everyone’s creations. The total amount raised was $548.

The funds raised will go towards technology – Danielle Shepherd, Fundraising Co-Ordinator

Kim Parnell, Tash Cornack, Sharon Mitchell
P&C Executive Committee

Bus Travel

Wide Bay Transit abides by Queensland Transport’s Code of Conduct. This is a set of behaviour guidelines for students to follow when travelling on a bus. It also provides a clear process for breaches of the code to be dealt with fairly and quickly by Wide Bay Transit.

Students should make the driver aware of any issues before exiting the bus. The driver can then deal with the issue with all parties present. If it is a serious breach then the driver will complete an incident report and management of Wide Bay Transit will become involved. If a student is reluctant to tell the driver directly then the Parent/Guardian needs to contact Wide Bay Transit on 4128 6411 about the incident and we will inform the school, if needed.

Only when Wide Bay Transit is made aware of an issue can it then be investigated and resolved. The process Wide Bay Transit follows when a complaint is made or an incident happens is to make contact with the student’s Parent/Guardian and ask that they speak with their child about the behaviour.

In most cases a phone call is all that is required to stop further breaches but if it is a serious breach or the behaviour continues a warning letter is sent to the Parent/Guardian stating the student could be removed from the bus. A copy of this letter is sent to the student’s school and they then speak with the student.

If all else fails then the student is removed for a period of time from the bus service.

All breaches are treated professionally and with compassion as we at Wide Bay Transit understand that we transport young people not adults on our school buses.
Tuesday Hall Activities Term 4!!

Week 6: Dancing with Jaimie, Shannon and Abbey
Week 7: Wild Wild West (NOT TO BE MISSED!!)
Week 8: Buzz Off is BACK!!
Week 9: Back to the Past!
Week 10: The ultimate BOYS VS GIRLS competition!! (Details to follow)
Week 11: Christmas Dance Competition (details to follow)
Week 12: Christmas Party!!

Parent Information Night

Where: Performing Arts (PA) Complex – Urangan State High School
Day: Monday, 2 December 2013
Time: 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Presenters: Ross Selby – Principal
Craig Wotton – Deputy Principal
Student Co-ordinator
House Managers

Topics:
- Linking home and school
- Getting organised
- Knowing your way around, and much more

Parents and guardians of Year 7 students enrolled for 2014 at Urangan State High School are invited to attend an information evening and tour of the school.

Please join us for a brief presentation and tour of the school. There will be teachers and students with information and visits to blocks - feel welcome to ask questions. Students are more than welcome to attend.

P & C Uniform Shop

Our P & C uniform shop will be open for extended trading hours, to assist families with their school uniform requirements.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Trading Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 December 2013</td>
<td>8am - 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3 December 2013</td>
<td>8am - 12pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4 December 2013</td>
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<td>Thursday 5 December 2013</td>
<td>8am - 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6 December 2013</td>
<td>8am - 12pm</td>
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Urangan Point State School
Permanent Teacher Aide 14.25 hours per week
Commencement date January 2014

Hours will be Monday to Thursday, commencing at 9:00am, to optimize student learning

The successful applicant will be required to work ADO [Accumulated Days Off] to cover holiday periods

Application package available from the school office, Miller Street, Urangan or email gkenz2@eq.edu.au, to request a copy

Your application must address “How you will be assessed” in the Role Description.

Send your application and current resume to:
gkenz2@eq.edu.au
or mail to: Urangan Point State School, P.O. Box 7088, Urangan 4655
(mark private and confidential)

Closing Date: 3:30pm Monday 4 November 2013

The Commission For Children and Young People Act 2000 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to a working with children [Blue Card] check

Education Qld actively supports and encourages work force diversity and equity

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Community News

Play YOUR MUSIC Academy
Learn shortcuts to start playing
YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC
FREE FIRST LESSON
* Instrument not necessary, * Private or Group Tuition
* Our Studio or Your Home * Beginners welcomed
* Ages 5-95 * Patient Teachers
Phone: 4194 5265 <> or 0407 586 761

ASD Support Group Meeting
Our next ASD support group meeting is on Thursday, 5th November at 9.30am in the library at Urangan Point State School (please check in at the office first). This is a great opportunity to meet other parents of children with an autism spectrum condition. All interested parties are welcome.