On Wednesday 11th December we open up the assembly agenda to any class who would like to perform. This year we have many classes and year level groups who are performing and sharing some Christmas cheer with the whole school.

It is also a tradition here at Sandy Strait that some of our year 7 classes perform the 12 Days of Christmas Sandy Strait Style. We never quite know what events or activities are going to form the lyrics of year in reflection.

I would like to remind parents that if you are planning on attending this assembly there will be very limited seating as the space in the hall is largely occupied by our students as we must seat approx. 800 students in the floor space.

Keeping this in mind if you don’t mind standing or a bit of a crowd you are most welcome to attend and join in the festive cheer as we farewell the 2013 school year, say a whole school goodbye to our year 7’s and enjoy some good music and fun.

The Whole School Christmas Assembly will commence at 9.00am in the hall.

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From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

Final Newsletter for 2013.
With only a few days of school remaining this is our final newsletter for the 2013 school year.

Every year seems to fly by faster than the last and this year has been no exception. It has been a year full of wonderful accomplishments, hard work and very pleasing outcomes across the school in so many areas.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our parents and families for your support over the last 12 months. When schools and communities work in together in partnership we can achieve wonderful things.

For our families who are leaving us I wish you every happiness in the future and hope that you take some fond memories away of the friends you have made and the time you have spent at Sandy Strait.

Christmas Farewell Whole School Assembly
Wednesday 11th December
It is not very often that we combine our whole school together for one assembly.

Our Farewell Christmas Assembly is one such occasion.
Preparation for 2014
On Thursday the 12th December all students in Prep to Year 6 will be issued with their Semester 2 Report Cards. Year 7 students will receive their report cards and folios on Wednesday.

The report cards will be accompanied by the Student Assessment Folio which contains a variety of key assessment tasks that have contributed to the achievement ratings within the report cards.

Along with the Semester Report Cards and Assessment Folios will be a letter advising parents of their child’s interim class placement for the 2014 school year. This letter will also have the 2014 Student Requirements Booklist and the 2014 School Resource and Fee Structure Scheme attached.

Please be aware that the organisation of classes for the commencement of any school year is complex and challenging one. Staffing for all schools across the State is not finalised until the 8th day of the school year. Up until that point all arrangements are only interim until staffing is finalised in all schools. This is to ensure that all schools are equitably resourced and a period of time has lapsed to allow any last minute enrolments to be included in school staffing models.

A great deal of time and analysis of school data is utilised in formulating classes for the upcoming school year. We appreciate your support and understanding with this matter.

Class Party Day Thursday, Clean Up Day Friday
Classes and year levels across the school will be involved in class parties and break up celebrations on Thursday of this week. Please be sure to check your child’s school bag for information about these celebrations from your child’s teacher. Thursday is a free dress and children are reminded to wear sun safe clothing that is appropriate for the various activities planned.

Friday the 13th (the last day of the school year) is designated as a clean up day school wide from Prep to Year 7. All children who attend school on this day will be involved in various cleaning and tidying activities across the school to ensure that the school is clean and ready for 2014. Children who wish to participate in clean up day activities will need to wear old clothes suitable for various cleaning activities.

Early Bird Book Packs and Sport Shirts Collection
Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming support of the Early Bird Book Packs and Sport Shirts. All orders for both of these activities have now closed.

The shirts are due to arrive at school the week prior to school starting. As soon as we have definite delivery day from the supplier I will place a post on Facebook and or school website.

Bookpacks can be collected from 6th January from the Lucky Charm Newsagency at Pialba Place by giving them 2 days notice and phoning 4128 3523 to organise. If you do not collect from the newsagency, pre-paid orders will be available for collection from the school hall on Monday 20 January. These arrangements apply to all year levels.

Farewell to our Year 7’s the class of 2013
Best Wishes to our Year 7 students who will close the Primary School Chapter of their lives at the end of next week. We will formally farewell our students in a special twilight ceremony on Wednesday 11th December from 5.30pm in our school hall.

I am sure you will all hear special words of farewell from a number of guest speakers on 11th December.

I would like to leave our Year 7 students with this special thought for the future:

In years to come people will not remember you by the way you looked, how much money you have, or how many accomplishments you have displayed on your wall. They will remember you by the way you made them feel.

As you close this chapter of your lives and open a new one please take the time to treat others kindly, make the most of every day and every opportunity and to treasure your parents and family. Your parents love is unconditional and they are there to support you through your journey into adulthood. Be proud of all that you do and never be afraid to ask for help.

I wish you all every success in the future. It has been a pleasure to have watched you all grow throughout your time here at Sandy Strait.

New School Polo Shirt for 2014
This year our school community has been involved in a community consultation process to upgrade and redesign our school polo shirt. The new school polo shirt will be introduced in the 2014 school year.

This new shirt is green with white side and shoulder panels and grey piping. The new shirts are made from the same light weight, easy breath fabric as our sport shirts.

The shirt and uniform options are on display in the school office foyer.

The suppliers have informed us that these shirts will be available in the stores for purchase in early January.

If you are purchasing as new school shirt for your children please be sure to purchase the new design school shirt rather than an old style shirt.

The new shirt will be phased in throughout 2014 with children still able to wear the current school shirt in 2014. The old school polo shirt will then be phased out completely by 2015.

Our Senior School students also have the added option of a special senior commemorative shirt which is available for ordering early in term one.

2014 School Year Commencement Dates and Office Opening Times
The school office will be closed over the Christmas holiday period and will reopen on Monday the 20th January at 8.00am. All teaching staff will be participating in professional development activities and pupil free day tasks on Wed 22nd – Friday 24th January. School resumes for all students Prep – Year 7 on Tuesday the 28th January 2014.

These dates will be displayed on our school website and our Facebook page for the information of all parents over the vacation period.

If you misplace the 2014 school booklist over the vacation period you can access another copy from our school website www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au. These will be available on the website from the end of this week.

Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming support of the Early Bird Book Packs and Sport Shirts Collection.
Stay Up to Date Over the Holidays with Our School Facebook Page

Our School Facebook page is proving a very effective way of providing up to date information to our parents about a range of school events and happenings.

If you find notes and newsletters in the bottom of school bags long after an event has passed then our school Facebook page is a great way of ensuring you stay up to date with all that is happening around the school and that you don’t miss out on important information.

Reminders about upcoming special events, notes and payments due, photos and stories that allow us to bring the classroom to our parents are shared daily through our Facebook page.

By ‘Liking’ us on Facebook you will receive all of the updates through your news feed each day.

You can locate our facebook page from our school website www.sandstrass.eq.edu.au
Or through Facebook on at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sandy-Strait-State-School/354739921302918

Thank You and Have a Safe Holiday

2013 has been a very busy year with so many outstanding accomplishments and reasons to celebrate. I would like to thank our staff, students and families for all of your hard work throughout the year. Your support and dedication is very much appreciated.

I hope that you have a very happy and safe Christmas and that you have the opportunity to spend the holidays with your family and loved ones.

If you are travelling I hope that your journeys are safe.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Merry Christmas
Brisbane Roar Active Program

**When:** Wednesday January 15

**Where:** Fraser Coast Anglican College, Doolong South Road, Hervey Bay

**Time:** 3:00pm – 6:00pm

**Age:** 5 – 12 years Boys & Girls

**Cost:** $60 per child

**To Register, visit:**
www.roaractive.com.au

For enquiries, please contact Rozanne Buxley from Brisbane Roar on 0449 156 686 or rau@frasercoastfc.com.au

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**Hervey Bay Touch Assn 2014 Dates:**

- **Juniors Resume:** Tuesday 28/01/14 from 4pm
- **Mixed Resume:** Wednesday 29/01/14 from 6pm
- **Open - Mens & Ladies 2014 Sign on:**
  - **Wednesday 29/01/14** & **Monday 03/02/14** (6pm to 7pm) at Tavistock Street, Grounds.

Contact: Lesleigh - 0488 946 666

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