From the Principal - Sharon McMorrow

**NAPLAN Testing Last Week**

Last week was been a very big for our Year 3, 5 and 7 students with the National Assessment Program (NAPLAN) conducted on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Our students were well prepared for the various Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy Tests.

I would like to congratulate all of our students for their dedication to these tasks and for displaying both persistence and resilience as they strived to complete all tasks within the set timeframe.

**Leap into Learning Target Meeting Week This Week**

This week is Leap into Learning Target Meeting Week. Every 5 weeks teachers from across the year levels meet with their Leadership Team Rep to discuss the progress of their children in the areas of Reading, Writing and Numeracy. During these meetings teachers review the past 5 weeks and set targets for their children for the coming 5 week period.

Myself, the 2 Deputy Principals and Head of Special Education each have a team a of teachers that we work with throughout the year, observing class-

room practice and working collaboratively around target setting to ensure that our children continue to make leaps forward in their learning.

It is a real privilege to spend this time with our team of teachers and sharing in the progress made by our students.

If you would like to know more about your child’s Reading, Writing and Numeracy Targets be sure to touch case with your child’s teacher and they will be happy to share this information with you.

**Please Support the P & C Spell-a-thon**

This year Sandy Strait State School has continued its school wide initiative of “Leaping into Learning” with an intensive focus on Reading, Vocabulary and Spelling. Our students and teachers have embraced this initiative and to highlight its importance we have linked the Spell-a-thon to our school wide focus.

Last Monday 12th May your child should have received an individual Spell-a-thon card which includes the list of words that your child will be practicing.
News from the Principal Continued  Mrs Sharon McMorrow

All of the key dates for sponsorship collection and testing were outlined on the front of the card. On the rear of the card were a list of incentive prizes across the year levels for students who achieve various sponsorship targets.

I would ask that you assist the P & C in this fundraising venture and support and encourage your child in their continued spelling development over the coming weeks.

All money raised through the Spell-a-thon will contribute towards purchasing:
- shade sails and permanent shade structures in our various school playgrounds so our children can enjoy the outdoors while being sun safe.
- A set of Sandy Strait State School team jerseys and bibs for children to wear as they participate in Rugby, AFL and Netball.

If your child did not receive their Spell-a-thon Card, have misplaced it or would like an additional card please contact the school office and we will be happy to organise one for you.

A Reminder to all Families that this Friday 23rd May is the Show Holiday
All families are reminded that Friday 23rd May is the Fraser Coast Show Holiday and all schools will be closed for the day. Please be sure to add this date to your diaries.

P & C News

Cross Country—P & C Canteen Day
Our Lolly and drink stall was extremely popular, we made over $300 profit. This was our first attempt, and we have learnt many things. Lots of ideas and suggestions have been discussed for future bigger, better canteen days. Thank you to the students, Parents and staff for supporting the P & C. Thanks also to our lovely Volunteers, Nyree, and Amanda, and to our tuckshop convener Kerry, and one of our tuckshop Volunteers Heidi, for all of your help on the day.

Mother’s Day Stall
Our Mothers Day stall was held on the 8th and 9th of this month. Thank you to everyone who supported us and an extra big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a great success. We have a total profit of $455 and over $800 worth of stock left for next year. Both days ran very smoothly and all children were well behaved with great manners - Danielle.

Spell-a-thon
Step 1: Spell-a-thon: By now all children should have brought home their Spell-a-thon cards. At this point children are just collecting pledges for sponsorship or donations—they are not actually collecting the money yet as they have not yet had the Spell-a-thon test. However if people would like to make a donation only that is fine.

Step 2: On the 26th of May, Children are to return all completed sponsorship cards to school, these still will not include money unless someone is making a donation only.

Step 3: These cards then stay at school until after the children have sat their Spell-a-thon test, the teachers will record the number of correct answers on the cards. The Spell-a-thon tests will be conducted between the 26th-30th of May.

Step 4: 2nd - 20th June: Children are given back the completed cards to take around and collect all sponsorship and donations to be returned to school.

Check out the back of your Spell-a-thon card for the list of incentive prizes and rewards.

An interesting statistic: Last years spell-a-thon raised $6936.15. Only 239 students brought back completed cards, and money, out of 758 students throughout the entire school. IMAGINE how much more we could raise if EVERY CHILD returns their card, and money!

All money raised will go towards shade sails and permanent shade structures in our various school playgrounds/grounds, and a set of Sandy Strait State School team jerseys and bibs for children to wear as they participate in Rugby, AFL and Netball.

Please note:
The P & C would prefer payments to be CASH ONLY, as we do not have an EFTPOS machine. Please keep this in mind. Ensure that your child’s details including Name, Grade, amount raised, are written clearly on the envelope or bag, and that the Sponsorship card is in the envelope. Quite often we get a bag of money, with no card, and we have no idea who it belongs to. This is then treated as a donation to the P & C, as we have no way to follow it up.

Next P & C Meeting: Our next P & C Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, at 3.00pm, in the Admin Building, all welcome.

Kim, Tash and Sharon
Mini Minds Alive
Coming up in early June, as part of our Education Week celebrations, our Yr. 4 to 7 students will participate in Mini Minds Alive activities. Mini Minds Alive give our students an opportunity to participate in some really worthwhile activities that are sometimes overlooked because of time constraints. Activities will range from Mathematical thinking to Handball. I am sure our students will love it.

Teacher’s time is more precious than ever and their willingness to accommodate Mini Minds Alive is very much appreciated.

Year 4 Excursions to the Wildlife Park last Tuesday and Thursday
Our Year 4 classes had a ball last week participating in the excursion to the Maryborough Wildlife Park. The excursion supplemented the work students are presently doing in Science this term.

World Champion
Congratulations to Year 7 student Max Merrett who has return from the Junior World Muay Thai Championships in Malaysia as world champion. Max has reaped the rewards of early morning starts to practice each morning before heading off to school. When asked what makes a champion Max offers 5 tips:
1. Be committed: early morning starts
2. Practice, practice, practice: almost every day
3. Never give up: You don’t become great over night
4. Have a great mentor/coach: Max has a great coach in Craig Glover
5. Be a humble champion: No one likes a big head

What great advice. Congratulations again Max.

Spin Challenge
On Friday night the annual competition of the Spin Cycle Challenge was held at PCYC. Thanks to Chappy Trina for co-ordinating this event. Sandy Strait entered teams led by some very keen teachers and parent helpers. This event raised funds to go towards raising awareness of Chaplains in State Schools. Sandy Strait was fortunate to have a photographer on the night and below are some of the candid shots taken. A great fun night was had by all. Congratulations to our teams of students who entered. The Paper Races led by Mr Hansen won the shield for doing the longest distance.

Girls AFL Gala Day
The Girls AFL Gala Day was postponed last Friday due to the wet weather. Girls will now compete from all Hervey Bay Schools on 30 May. This is a great day for girls to come together and compete in this fun day of AFL.

Online Safety—Creep Quiz: Are U Safe Online?
Being online has become a big part of everybody’s life; particularly for children who are growing up surrounded by the internet, computers, smart devices and gaming consoles that offer unlimited networking possibilities.

With the power of these connections, it is important that we educate our children about safe and positive ways to be online.

Telstra and the Queensland Government have partnered to develop Creep Quiz: Are U Safe Online?

This quiz has been designed to provide insight into the online world and highlight some of the pitfalls for the unwary.

Lots of social media sites and apps require users to be 13 years and older; so as your child approaches that age, the pressure from friends to use social media intensifies.

The Creep Quiz provides parents with an interactive tool that they can use with their child to talk about their digital lives. Aimed at children from 11 years of age, this quiz addresses a variety of activities across a number of social media platforms.

Use the quiz to test your own knowledge and as an opportunity to discuss online safety with your child.

Take the quiz now and give online creeps the flick.

http://www.creepquiz.eq.edu.au/

Thanks to Coles
A big thank you to Coles who will donate 80 loaves of bread to the school to help out with Breakfast Club. In addition teachers will have access to this bread as well and parents are most welcome to request a loaf of bread for their family through their child’s class teacher.

Messages from the Student Leaders
On May 28 the first State of Origin game will be held. We will be having a day where you can come dressed in your team colours for a gold coin donation. All funds will go to Relay for Life.

Lilyjayn & Connor

Over the last couple of weeks we have been very proud of our school. Students have been co-operating in a variety of activities such as the ANZAC March (a couple of months ago), the spin cycle challenge and also the upcoming girls AFL gala day. Also all the students hope you enjoy the deliciously cooked pancakes on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kristy & Mikeeley
This fortnight’s newsletter will share some of the wonderful work our students have written as they grow in their knowledge and understanding of English.

**Prep**

Our prep students have been writing about themselves and their families.

Alyssa wrote and drew a wonderful recount about her visit to the beach.

Danielle has drawn a sequence of events for History showing events in order of occurrence on Christmas day.

**Year 1**

Students in 1L have been revisiting writing narratives and have planned and written their very own stories. This story was Lilliana’s first ever attempt at writing a story by herself.

This story was Lilliana’s first ever go at writing a story by herself. Once upon a time there was a princess called Tegol Tangle and she lived in the forest. There was a cranky bear in a cave. Tegol Tangle was not scared, she stood up and woke the cranky bear up but there was a Prince behind her and at the end of the story they got married and they lived happily ever after.

Lilliana—1L

**Year 2**

Year 2 students are working on changing stereotypical characters from the familiar stories of ‘Cinderella’ and ‘Fox’. Please enjoy the wonderful work from Portia, Bryce and Emma in turning bad into good and vice-versa.

I am a fairy godmother and people think I am beautiful and magical wand but I am not like that. I am ugly dirty and have silly hair. I always have an ugly evil wand and I always wear a witch’s hat. Fairy godmothers are usually kind, lovely and wonderful. Me on the other hand I am evil nasty and bad.

**Portia—2Q**

**Year 3**

Due to the requirements of NAPLAN our year 3’s have been practising writing persuasive texts. Please enjoy the wonderful efforts of Clare, Jasper and Macayla in convincing you that dogs make better pets than cats and that reading is definitely better than playing video games!

I think dogs make better pets because they like to play tug of war with you and lots of other games. Dogs make me laugh all the time by licking my feet. Dogs are so cute and cuddly. When I watch scary movies they cuddle up to me. You can teach them lots and lots of tricks like shake, roll over and lots of other ones. When you are hurt dogs can help you. When you’re blind dogs can help you go in the right direction. That is why I think dogs are better than cats.

**Clare—3R**

I think reading books is better than playing video games. Video games can make your eyes go square, or make your vision blurry. Games can give your computer a virus. I say reading books is good for you. Reading books can improve your reading skill by adding longer words. You can read longer words too. Computers can drive you absolutely mad just by crashing, breaking down and getting a virus. Computers can make you lazy by sitting on a seat all day and doing nothing. You could be reading books.

**Jasper—3L**

Reading books is better than playing computer games. Of course reading books are better than computer games. Books can help you get smarter. You can learn new things so you can impress your teacher of all the things you learn in books. Reading books develops your imagination like if your reading about a princess you can imagine you’re a princess that lives in a castle. If you read books you can learn how to spell the words you don’t know how to spell. Therefore, my opinion is that reading books are better than computer games, now who wouldn’t agree?

**Macayla—3L**

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**Under 8’s Day—Donations required**

Any parents who would like to donate Rice, soft wood off-cuts or nails please send all donation to the office. Under 8’s day will be held 11 June. Rice donations would be appreciated ASAP so that we can dye it. Thanks
**News from the Literacy & Numeracy Support Team**

We have had a very productive start to the year in Term 1, where the Literacy & Numeracy Team provided intervention and extension sessions to a range of students in Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7. Our sessions in Term 1 were developed to have a strong focus on reading and reading comprehension skills.

In Term 2 we will continue to work with Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 to support students in developing these reading and comprehension skills. We will also provide intervention sessions for Year 4 students in developing both their Literacy and Numeracy skills during the second half of Term 2.

Term 2 also sees a change of focus for our extension programs. Students in Years 5, 6 and 7 will participate in our Maths Olympiad program which challenges our students who have shown an aptitude with their Numeracy skills. Past members of this Maths Olympiad Program have gained impressive results in the Australia wide competition that this program is based around.

Our extension students are also encouraged to enter the University developed Literacy and Numeracy competitions run during the school year to provide an opportunity for them to test their skills against other students across Australia. Term 2 sees our Volunteer Readers Group continue to donate their time to our students. This group have all been trained in the Ready Readers program developed by Education Qld. Throughout Term 2 students from Years 1, 2, 6 and the LEC Year 4 to 7 classes will be selected to access this valuable volunteer program to boost their reading and comprehension skills.

Vivien Fooks, Penny Harrington, Melanie Mills & Elizabeth Mahony
Hervey Bay State High School Yr 7 and 8 2015
Construction continues to progress ahead of schedule for the completion of the year 7 and 8 Precinct. In conjunction with the two new double story buildings and new oval, work will commence this week on the new double indoor basketball court and sports precinct. With all these projects due for completion before the end of 2014 we are anticipating an exciting start for 2015.

Date Claimer
Wednesday the 21st May is the year 7 and 8 enrolment evening for Hervey Bay State High School. Parents are encouraged to return their enrolment request forms prior to this evening to receive their pre-populated enrolment form. This evening will provide an overview of year 7 and 8 in 2015 as well as information specific to Hervey Bay State High School. If you would like more information or want to find out about our Academic Programs of Excellence please contact the school on 4194 3777 or bkrue1@eq.edu.au