



Community Newsletter – Issue #1 – Term 2 - 2017

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to term 2 2017 at Hamilton Island State School. It is with excitement and it is an honour that I have been appointed as the permanent Principal at our school. I can't wait to make a home here with my wife Heather. I have a background in tourism and I have visited the Whitsunday area on a number of occasions and it's great to be back.

The excitement of our students today was noticeable and contagious. It is always a great way to start a term with so many smiling faces.

I would like to acknowledge our staff, parents and volunteers who assisted with the clean up of the school and making sure everything was ready for today. The school is looking fantastic and it is a testament to the community as a whole.

I would like to assert that Heather and I are here for the long term and we are a community focused couple.

I have high expectations for success and I truly believe that every student can be a successful learning. I look forward to working with you to ensure positive outcomes.

Regards,

Rob McCullough
Principal



Key Dates

April 20 – Whole School Assembly – Leadership Badge Ceremony

April 24 – Swimming Carnival – 9.00am – 11.00am

April 24 – P&C Meeting – 3.15pm

April 25 – ANZAC Day Ceremony – 5.30am

May 1 – Public Holiday

May 9-11 – NAPLAN

Reading At Home

Activating Prior Knowledge – or - what do you know about the topic?

This is the language you will hear across the school, at the beginning of a lesson when a new book or topic is being introduced. In an effort to improve reading comprehension at Hamilton Island State School, we are focussing on the strategies that research has identified as being used by good readers as a whole school. *Proficient learners build on and activate their background knowledge before reading, writing, speaking or listening; poor learners begin without thinking. (Irvin (et al. 1996)*

Prior knowledge is what each student brings to the reading experience – a combination of student's attitudes, experience and knowledge. By thinking about the topic students are able to connect with what they already know, giving them a base on which to build new knowledge and give them a head start to comprehending the text.

How can you help? Here are some questions you can ask your child when reading with them.

What do you already know about this topic?

Have you read something similar?

What do the illustrations tell us about the text?

What type of text is this – narrative, letter, poem, information report?

Activating Prior Knowledge is one of 9 strategies we are focussing on.