Welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for 2013. I want to thank the entire Hamilton Island community for welcoming Ashleigh and I to your beautiful part of the world. We, together with the rest of the team are really excited to be working with you and your child to ensure they achieve to their full potential.

We have had an extremely busy but productive start to the year, with all students engaged in learning from day 1. We are really excited to have reached 54 students and to be allocated an extra teacher to our school. This makes a significant difference to the dynamics of the school and the individual teacher contact time for each child. Welcome Jess Wright, our new Year 2/3 teacher for term 1.

Thankyou to all parents who have been helping out with our reading program in the mornings. We have really enjoyed having you at the school and it really makes a significant difference having your help, we really appreciate it!

In the near future we will have a parent information session to inform you all of the school direction and procedures for 2013.

If I could remind parents to make sure that students are not at school before 8:30a.m. We don’t have any staff on duty at this time and it’s vital that teachers have the morning to plan and prepare for the days learning. Thanks for your cooperation.

Teaching and Learning

Introduction of Personalised Learning Plans—This year is the year of reading at Hamilton Island State School. To ensure all students are learning to their potential and reaching year level benchmarks, we are going to introduce personalised learning plans to drive improvement for every child at our school. With these plans in place parents/carers, teachers and students can track progress using PM reading and Sight word data. I will discuss these further at our upcoming parent open nights.

We have also introduced the Jolly Phonics program in the early years to ensure students maximised performance in learning their sounds and letters. If you have any questions about this program please come and see me or the teachers at the school.

Behaviour

This year we are due to review our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. Our new school rules are: At Hamilton Island State School we are Proud Learners who are: Respectful, Responsible and Safe. All parents will get a copy of our rules and expectations at the parent open afternoons.

New Captains News Column

Congratulations to Cara Hunter on being elected as our School Captain for 2013, Chloe Reid as School Vice-Captain and Ben Strobel as Sports Captain. These three students will form the student leadership team for 2013. As part of their role description, they will be writing a small column each month in our school newsletter titled ‘Captains News’. The election speech presentations prepared by each of these students, was nothing short of outstanding. Congratulations to all three students on their efforts and I look forward to working with you in 2013.

Thanks again for all your support and I look forward to working with you all in 2013.

Michael Allan
Principal
Our Vision: At Hamilton Island State School we are focused on providing a positive, safe, supportive and academically rigorous environment. We efficiently use resources and establish positive relationships with the community to enable the best opportunities for our students. All skills are explicitly taught and we use data to drive our practice.

P/1 News

Prep/1 has had a fantastic start to the year. We have been learning Jolly Phonics and our Magic 100 sight words. Reading rotations have been happening from 9:00am in the morning and our class loves having our mums and dads coming in to read with us. In maths preps are learning numbers to 10 and year ones are learning numbers to 100. We are learning about living and non-living things and what living things need to survive. Remember that we have fruit break everyday so please make sure your child has some yummy fruit for them to munch on.

Thanks,
Ashleigh Prickett
Our Caring Values—At Hamilton Island State School we are Proud Learners who are:
Respectful – We treat ourselves and each other with respect, show care and regard for property.
Responsible – We take responsibility for our performance and own up to mistakes, so that we can learn from them.
Safe – We always take care and act in a safe and appropriate manner.

2/3 News

This week, the year 2 and 3 class have been working very hard. Each student has created a goal that they want to achieve this week, to improve their learning experience. I have seen some excellent concentration and commitment to achieving our best, with fantastic improvements in handwriting and neat bookwork. Will, Charlie, Harry, Hagen, Ella J, Tom and Preis have shown that they are proud learners, with each of their books making it to the Wonderful Work display.

The Year 3’s have been learning about TEEL paragraphs for English; they have also developed persuasive arguments about whether we should wear school uniforms to school. In maths, we have been learning how to represent numbers in different ways, for addition and subtraction. We have also done some problem solving.

The Year 2’s have been learning about poetry, and each student has created a wonderful acrostic, colour and cinquain poem. These poems were so good that they are now displayed on our classroom wall! For maths, we have gained confidence using number lines to 100. We are also learning different ways to solve problems.

In Science, we have been learning about how we group living and non-living things according to their properties. We are also learning how to write up a scientific experiment like a real scientist! Tom brought in his microscope which allowed us to see some different cells close up. Miss Wright has seen some great skills in our PD/H/PE soccer unit, keep practising your dribbling, passing and trapping skills!

Thanks,
Jess Wright
Key Strategic Directions:
1. Provide quality schooling through curriculum programs that cater for individuals, educational initiatives and societal expectations.
2. Develop and share high expectations for individual student learning.

4-7 News

Week four of term one has been new territory for the class with eleven students making up the new 4-7 team! I have been impressed by how little time it has taken all the students to make the adjustment to new seating arrangements, a modified timetable, and students coming and going from and into the other classes for targeted lessons. This term in Art and Technology we are creating flip books to demonstrate animation techniques, before re-creating the same humorous storyline in a computer aided animation. We look forward to showing off our productions to you all when they are finished at the end of the term. If any parents have any knowledge or experience in animation or cartooning, we would love to hear from you!

Dr. Felicia Goh, a thoracic scientist with the Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane will be joining us throughout the term via Elluminate (online lesson) as part of the Scientists in Schools initiative. Dr. Felicia will be helping us with our study of biology, focusing on adaptations and classification of creatures. She has some amazing insights on what certain creatures do to survive the extreme environment of the human body! I can’t wait!

For English, we are studying narratives, with plenty of focus on grammatical terms. It’s always amazing to see how the students get used to speaking in terms such as “noun groups,” “adverbs,” “prepositional phrase” etc. We have broken the class into two groups, 4/5s and 5/6/7s, depending on student capability of the target work. I am very glad to see the year 5 and 6 students are able to name and identify writing devices learned last year (alliteration, onomatopoeia, repetition etc), applying last year’s learning to this year’s work. This demonstrates that their understanding is held in long term memory – a goal of every teacher!

Homework is set each week, learning the times tables and practicing some maths concepts from the previous week as well as time for reading and practicing spelling words. Please practise the times tables at every opportunity, as once they are learned by heart (and at random) maths becomes much easier (for students and teachers alike)! Library books are used as our home readers, and they can be changed as soon as they are finished, not only on Monday afternoons when we have library. Ms Karyn and I are glad to help students change their books part way through the week as they finish them.

As you may be aware, our focus is on book presentation and handwriting, so as added incentive for doing the right thing in regards to work, not just in regards to behaviour, our class now has a “HISS Learner Token” scheme. Students earn tokens with their high standard of work and will be able to exchange them for time on ipads, craft time, dips into the prize box etc. The students are excited about collecting their tokens and so far are trying their best to impress!

Have a wonderful week, and if you have any questions through the term about your child or their class work, feel free to book a time to meet with me. My email is jgard122@eq.edu.au or phone me through the office.

Warmest regards,
Ms Gardner.
Key Strategic Directions:
3. Build the capacity of our teachers and staff across a range of professional competencies.
4. Provide appropriate resourcing and quality learning environments to support and extend student learning and commit to sustainable practice.

After School Sports

The Sports Club conducts a variety of sports for the children, most of which are FREE. We encourage the development of a healthy and active lifestyle through sport. Children will develop skills, fitness and friendships in a fun environment!

- Mondays 3.15pm Kids Mini-Golf Comp ($5pp)
- Tuesdays 3.15pm Kids Soccer
- Wednesday 3.15pm Kids Basketball
- Thursday 4.30pm Kids Court Touch Footy (at the Oval)
- Friday 3.15pm Kids Racquet Sports (Table tennis, totem tennis, badminton, squash, racquetball, etc)
- Saturday 3.15pm Bumperx (on Shady Creek Lawns)
- Sunday 3.00-5.00pm Kids Fun Zone

* Parents please note IF your child is capable they are welcome, but if not please hold them back until they are – for the benefit of your child and those participating!

TENNIS

As always, Tania Shortland runs a terrific tennis program including development squads, private and group lessons and attendance at tournaments. If you are interested you can contact Tania on 0408 750 170 and she will formulate a suitable program for your child.

THE YEAR AHEAD

There is much to look forward too; our junior events include the Kids Run as part of the Stamford Financial Hilly Half Marathon event, the Junior Ocean Swim and Junior Triathlons in November. Plans are underway to establish a Kindergym program and we hope to have news on the Dance program shortly whilst a BMX program is also in the pipeline (no pun intended)!! In the meantime; if parents or children have any other requests or would like to drive any sporting program, please feel free to contact me and we will see what we can do!

Clean up Day

Sunday 3rd March 2013
Is your Child
Getting the Best Chance at School?

1 or 2 days a week doesn’t seem much but.......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1.5 years</strong></td>
<td>Your child learns, other children do too. Equal to finishing in grade 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>2.5 years</strong></td>
<td>Your child learns, other children do too. Equal to finishing in grade 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>5 years</strong></td>
<td>Your child learns, other children do too. Equal to finishing in grade 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>8 years</strong></td>
<td>Your child learns, other children do too. Equal to finishing at grade 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s work together to ensure your child attends school everyday.
What Sort of Start is Your Child Getting?

Just a little bit late doesn’t seem much but.......  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/ She is only missing just....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>Half a year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1 and a Half years</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>2 and a Half years</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day?

That’s when every minute counts the most!!

School Starts at: 9:00a.m.

Let’s work together to ensure your child attends school everyday.
Target Areas for Improvement (As stated in 2013 Annual Implementation Plan)-

- Reading – focus on explicitly teaching the 6 areas of reading.
- Writing – focus on using the seven steps to writing as well as Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation.
- Mathematics – focus on increasing rigour across all year levels.
- Use short and long term data collection cycles to drive teaching and learning.

We would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors who continue to support us.

Thank You from all the students of Hamilton Island State School