Welcome back to an exciting term 2! I hope you all had a fantastic holiday and are energised ready for an extremely busy term two. There’s lots happening this term with the NAPLAN tests being at the forefront of our focus. The tests will be held on the 14th, 15th and 16th of May. We are doing everything we can to provide the best opportunity for the students to reach their potential in these tests. NAPLAN classes have already started with goals set for each student.

Report Cards will be issued in the last week of school, Go Blue for Autism Day is happening in week 2, ANZAC dawn service also in week 2 and electives will be starting in week 4.

Teaching and Learning

In the first week of this term, our school was audited by the department in our teaching and learning practices. I am pleased to advise that we’ve significantly improved in all 8 areas from our audit in 2011. We achieved highs in a number of areas which hasn’t been achieved at this school for at least 5 years. This is exciting news but I don’t want us to rest on these results. I feel our school can be up there with the best schools in Australia and I believe with the current staff team and the students positive attitude, we can achieve great things. I will present the audit reports in depth at our next P&C meeting.

Community

We have now allocated a staff member on duty from 8:30a.m. till 9:00a.m. This will assist parents with dropping their kids off early due to work commitments. This will ensure that all students will be supervised and attended to if any issues arise.

We have formed a partnership with the Hamilton Island Wildlife Park to run a read-a-thon during the month of May. The competition requires students to acquire sponsors and read as many books as they can during this time. All money raised will be collected on the last day of May and put towards the animal welfare at the wildlife park. The prizes for students are:

- $20 to $49 raised = 1 x soft animal toy
- $50 to $99 raised = 1 x photo with the koala at the wildlife park
- $100+ raised = 1 x free family photo with the koala and breakfast
- The student who raises the most money in the school will get to name the new baby Koala and spend a day being a zoo keeper at the wildlife park!!!

Some amazing prizes on offer and a fantastic opportunity for the kids to improve in their reading and help out a great cause.

Welcome to our new students who have arrived this term: Jai Stanes, Kaj White, Seisha White and Sakura Murphy. I hope you enjoy your time on Hamilton Island and it is a pleasure to have you all come to our school.

I look forward to working with you all again this term.

Thanks for your support,

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 had a great start to the term. They have been doing lots of craft activities while Miss Prickett was at a wedding and made beautiful cards for Go Blue for Autism Day. This term we have a continued focus on improving students reading and Magic Words levels. Reading groups are continuing this term at 9:10am and volunteers are always appreciated. Homework will be handed out on Monday with a few changes to last term. Please remember to pack library bags on Monday so that you can enjoy some shared reading time at home with your children.

Kind regards,

Ashleigh Prickett
From the Principal

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

Firstly, I have to say that I am so happy to be back with the wonderful children, family and staff of Hamilton Island State School. I am so impressed with all that has happened while I was on leave. Thank you for welcoming me back with open arms. I look forward to being a part of the magic that is happening in our beautiful little school. Mr Findlay (Paul from the wildlife Park) will be teaching the class on Fridays.

The children have been continuing with the wonderful whole school programs of Spelling Mastery, grammar, reading groups, Maths Mastery and mental maths. I have not used these programmes in the past but I have to say that as an experienced teacher I am excited and motivated! The programmes work and I can see a significant difference in the children’s learning across the whole school.

In addition to the aforementioned, we have been learning about:
* English: Empathy and author’s purpose. This will help with our persuasive writing over the next few weeks.
* Mathematics: 3D shapes (face, edge and vertex), rounding (to the nearest 10 and 100)
* Science: space (sun, moon and Earth, tides, seasons etc.)
* SOSE/history: Aboriginal culture
* Arts: visual arts (shade and tint)
* Technology (Mr Findlay): animation

If you have any questions or you would like to help out in the classroom please come and see me.

Yours in education,
Jessie Reid
Hello everyone from the 4-7 class!

This past week has been rather exciting with new arrivals, new lessons, and of course some big events!

Firstly I wish to say a warm welcome to Sakura Murphy and her mother Misa, who have arrived on island direct from Oita, in the south of Japan. Even though Sakura’s English is limited, I am pleased to see the other students in the class are making her feel welcome. It has been an interesting time in class teaching mathematics in both English and Japanese! You may see Misa in class on Fridays assisting with our Japanese lessons on the odd occasion!

We are also beginning our planning for the video production that we will put together for the Kidz Ball. The students are all very excited about acting out a take-off of a very popular television show! Stay tuned!

Last week we also proudly represented the school by attending the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day. Thank you to the 4-7 class who met my high expectations of conduct and who sang along with not only the Australian National Anthem, but the New Zealand National Anthem also. School captains Cara and Chloe continued our new school practice of reading the Ode, and I wish to say, “Well done!” to the both of them, I received some lovely feedback from those attending the ceremony and their efforts did not go unnoticed.

I hope everyone has a lovely week and stays healthy – we have had more than a few sniffles in the class with the change in weather, so if your child is going to need tissues, could you please bring along a box to replenish our class stock! It will be much appreciated!

Kind 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.

Go Blue For Autism Day

Our inaugural ‘Go Blue For Autism Day’ was a huge success and I would like to thank all the people for making it day to remember. A special thankyou to the bakery for donating the blue cakes and doughnuts, Marianne and John Clark for organising the sausage sizzle and being active throughout the day, Barry Sydes and Karen Gordon for helping with the BBQ, all the parents for donating stall items and assisting with activities and Sally Yeomans for organising and running the day through Autism Australia. We raised over $600 towards research into Autism. Congratulations Hamilton Island State School!!!!
It was a fantastic day and I know all the students, staff and community found it extremely beneficial. I look forward to seeing it bigger and better next year!
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.

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Thank You from all the students of Hamilton Island State School