Not a Hero

The ANZAC Day march was over - the old Digger had done his best. His body ached from marching - it was time to sit and rest. He made his way to a park bench and sat with lowered head. A young boy passing saw him - approached and politely said, "Please sir do you mind if I ask you what the medals you wear are for? Did you get them for being a hero, when fighting in a war?"

Startled, the old Digger moved over and beckoned the boy to sit. Eagerly the lad accepted - he had not expected this! "First of all I was not a hero," said the old Digger in solemn tone, "But I served with many heroes, the ones that never came home. So when you talk of heroes, it's important to understand; The greatest of all heroes gave their lives defending this land."

"The medals are worn in their honour, as a symbol of respect. All diggers wear them on ANZAC Day - it shows they don't forget." The old digger then climbed to his feet and asked the boy to stand. Carefully he removed the medals and placed them in his hand. He told him he could keep them - to treasure throughout his life, A legacy of a kind - left behind - paid for in sacrifice.

Overwhelmed the young boy was speechless - he couldn’t find words to say. It was there the old Digger left him - going quietly on his way. In the distance the young boy glimpsed him - saw him turn and wave goodbye. Saddened he sat alone on the bench - tears welled in his eyes. He never again saw him ever - but still remembers with pride. When the old Digger told him of Heroes and a young boy sat and cried.

Clyde Hamilton
Each year, on April 25, new generations attend Anzac Day ceremonies to remember the sacrifices made by those who came before them. While the original ANZACs who landed at Gallipoli in 1915 are no longer with us, the values they were seen to embody - courage, loyalty and good humour - are as admired today as ever.

Last Monday, Australians across the country rose in darkness to attend dawn services to pay tribute to the men and women who have served the country through wartime and peace. Many of us witnessed first hand an inspirational Anzac Day ceremony where the community spirit on display was a fine example, I’m sure, of what the Anzac spirit is. Being my first Anzac Day at Hamilton Island, I was particularly struck by the magnitude of the event and how the sense of occasion connected the whole community. The poem on the front cover was read by Mr. Glenn Bourke, Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Island, as a wonderful reflection on our Anzac heroes. I also had the privilege of speaking with Mr. Graham Wyatt ED, Airlie Beach Whitsunday RSL, who for over a decade has told insightful stories of the significance of Anzac Day. Mr Wyatt was apologetic about not being able to get to the school this year and speak with our students, however it is my hope that there will be a time throughout this year where we can have the honor of hosting Mr. Wyatt and have the opportunity to listen to his words of wisdom.

After speaking with numerous students it appeared, too, that they also understood the significance of the ceremony and humbly acted accordingly. Our school leaders did a superb job in trying conditions reading The Ode and the laying of a wreath. A big thank you must be given to our entire staff in preparing the students for the occasion and to the families who were able to bring their children to the ceremony.

Welcome Back

Term two is well underway with students focusing in classrooms on improving their reading. Teachers ensure that students have a sharp focus on lessons by being very specific about the learning intent through student centred language. Research tells us that students perform better in classrooms that make the success criteria clear to them. Student engagement improves when student understand the purpose for learning. We use three strategies to make this focus clear in all classrooms across the school. All classrooms display posters which outline What Students are Learning Today (WALT), What I’m Looking For (WILF) and This is Because (TIB). Often when parents ask their children “What did you learn today?”, they will respond with “Nothing”. Use WALT, WILF and TIB to frame your questions and you may get much more information from your child about what they are learning.

Attendance

We place a high priority on student attendance at Hamilton Island State School. We believe that every student needs to be in the classroom on time every day. Students who are late are not demonstrating our school philosophy. Teaching begins at 9:00 every school day with our whole school reading groups. Even a few minutes makes a difference to your child’s learning. Chronic lateness and absenteeism impact a child’s educational outcomes over time. Help us to help your child reach their potential by ensuring that they are on time for school. This week I will be sending home letters with students inquiring as to the reasons for unexplained absences. The class roll is marked twice each day, at the commencement of the end and at the conclusion, and if your child arrives after the class roll has been completed they are marked absent for half of the day.

For your child’s safety and your own peace of mind, please notify the school of absences and/or early departures:

- Email Student Absentee: absentee@hamiislass.eq.edu.au
- Ring the school: (07) 4946 9522

Students arriving late MUST sign in at the Administration office BEFORE going to their classroom. Students leaving before the end of the school day MUST report to the Administration office when they want to leave to have this recorded.
The Little Things
A reminder to all families and students about getting the little things right.

A. Grooming - hair neat and tidy.
B. Uniform worn correctly at all times. A number of students are arriving at school without their school hats. If your child has lost their hat I would ask that a new one be purchased. A reminder that the P&C endorsed Uniform Policy states that school shoes are to be black not multi-coloured.
C. Manners - respect for everyone. Please and thank you go along way.
D. Punctuality - be on time all of the time.
E. Treat others how you would like to be treated.

P&C Meeting
Our next P & C Meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th May at 3:15pm. Everybody is welcome to attend.

Easter Eggs
Our children were very fortunate to be visited by the Easter Bunny on the last day of school and he was extremely generous in leaving numerous eggs. A huge thank you to the Oatley and Murphy Families for their thoughtful donations. The Oatley family donated a show bag overflowing with chocolates or Natural lollies for every child within the school and Greg & Agnie delivered Easter eggs for everyone, including the staff. Our entire community is enriched by your generosity.

Swimming Carnival
On the last day of Term 1 our school’s annual swimming carnival was held and it didn’t disappoint! In a close contest all day between the three houses, Cockatoos, Turtles, and Wallabies, it came down to the final races to decide upon a winning house. In the end Wallabies came through to win by only a handful of points from Turtles in second place and Cockatoos in third. One of the highlights of the day was the final race Staff v Parents/Community, with the Staff winning in another tight tussle. An enormous thank you to the staff who took the lead in arranging the day, especially Karen Gordon, Jacqui Elmsly, and Michelle Boyd.

Classroom Painting
A lot of work took place over the Easter holidays within the Prep/Year 1 classroom. The classroom was freshly painted and new fixtures put in place. This work is part of our school’s refurbishment plan which was decided upon at the commencement of 2016. During the June/July holidays the Yrs 2/3 classroom will be painted with the Yrs 4/5/6 to be painted during the September holidays. A large thank you to Mr David Boyd and HIE for their willingness to help refurbish our wonderful school and ensuring we have the best learning conditions for our students.

NAPLAN
The Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN testing begins Tuesday 10 May
- Language Conventions (40mins)
- Writing (40mins)

Wednesday 11 May
- Reading Yr 3 (45mins)
- Reading Yr 5 (50mins)

Thursday 12 May
- Numeracy Yr 3 (45mins)
- Numeracy Yr 5 (50mins)

so please ensure all students in those year levels are at school each day of this week. Good sleep patterns and the right foods will help your children perform well.
**A Sailing Start**

Term 2 has brought with it the start of the senior sailing program. With a world-class setting, a complete and well-maintained set of student sailboats and a rescue tender, we are obliged to give our students the opportunity to experience the sport of sailing in the beautiful Whitsundays. Learning skills such as water safety, basic knots, sail boat parts, weather and forecasting, capsizing, tacking and gybing and using the points of sail. The program is not only aimed at igniting a curiosity in sailing that could last a lifetime, but providing water safety knowledge and confidence that could save lives.

**Seniors raising money for their school camp**

You may have noticed students from the senior class selling Rotary raffle tickets. Not only are they helping a local community group but they are saving hard to help pay for their class camp in term 3. With expenses such as accommodation, catering and transport mounting, the students are doing their bit to help out. For more information about the class camp, keep an eye out for emails explaining predicted costs and dates over the next few weeks.

**Under 8’s Day Excursion**

On Thursday 26th May all of our Prep/Year 1 and Year 2/3 students will be heading to the mainland to participate in the annual Under 8’s Day with neighbouring schools within our Whitsunday Cluster. We ask that all of these students meet their class teacher at the ferry at 7.00am ready for a 7.15am departure for the mainland, and Proserpine State School where the event will held. All students are asked to wear their full school uniform including hat and to pack their full lunch and water bottle, and if you’d like them to have a sausage sizzle place $2 in their pocket. The total cost of the day is $12 p/p. The ferry will arrive back at Hamilton Island at 3.50pm and parents are asked to collect their child from the ferry terminal.

**Miss Karen Unwell**

Our entire community’s thoughts and prayers are with Miss Karen as she recovers from her illness in New Zealand. We have been receiving regular updates and I am happy to inform everyone that she is well and truly on the road to recovery and is looking forward to coming back to our school within the next few weeks. During her absence we have been fortunate to call on Miss Nuria, Miss Nicole, and Miss Sally to assist within the Years 4/5/6 classroom.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mr. Chris Richards - Principal*
Since returning from holidays, the Prep One class have been enjoying their new look freshly painted classroom. A big thank you to HIE for arranging to do this during the Easter break. It looks great! We have also enjoyed the arrival of more dress ups and there have been some crazy outfits happening during play!

On the learning front, the students in Prep One have been exploring characters in stories and understanding how they change throughout a story. The students are learning the oral presentation skills involved in being able to retell a story to an audience.

Our numeracy focus has been on understanding different 2D and 3D shapes. The students have really enjoyed the chance to work with their hands to make different objects and to explore the features of each shape.

In science we are exploring materials and their different properties. Did you know that we can change and alter materials to make lots of different things?

The Prep One class are excited to have Miss Nuria back in the room and we have loved our impromptu Zumba dancing and singing sessions!

Finally we want to say a big thank you to our parent helpers who have continued to assist with reading groups in the morning. A special mention goes to Nana Sue and Nan Pam for coming to help during their time on Hamilton Island. We all miss you!

Miss Chapman
Welcome back to what is going to be another very very busy term.

We have said good-bye to Ms Nuria (luckily we can still see her everyday) and welcomed Ms Jacqui.

In the past few weeks we have learnt about ANZAC Day and attended the Dawn Service.

Literacy News

We have been working very really extremely hard to persuade Mrs Boyd not to give us that we should definitely not do homework!

Maths News

In Year 2 we are concentrating on our number facts and learning different strategies for addition and subtraction.

In year 3 we have been learning how to represent different ways of adding and subtracting two-digit numbers.

We have learnt about groups and arrays in multiplication and can display these in multiple ways.

Science News

Year 2's are learning about the different properties of materials and at the end of the unit will create their own lunch box.

Year 3's are learning about heating qualities of materials and will attempt to warm a cup of water to make a cup of tea.

Geography News

In year 2 we are learning how to collect and represent data about features of a place that is familiar to us (ie the playground). We can use this information to make a graph and answer questions relating to it.

In year 3 we are learning about natural and human characteristics of places. We are also learning how to locate and label the states and territories of Australia on a map.
Welcome back to the parents and students in the senior class. We started this term off with a mystery, a 'Maths Murder Mystery' to be precise. It all started one sunny Monday morning. David, the head of Island Security arrived to a class of confused students. ‘David’ explained in a firm and formal voice that the classroom has been sectioned off with caution tape until some students with great Math skills could help find out who was the mystery murderer. Students and Island Security entered a chaotic crime scene with first aid, caution tape and chalk outlines only to find a series of Math clues. It turns out that students, teachers and even island pets were on the suspect list. By lunchtime the search had narrowed down to two suspects, a student and a teacher. Security arrived just in time to take away the mystery student as the final clue unravelled. Rest assured, the island is safe once again.
Reading, Reading, Reading!

Reading will continue to be a key priority in our amazing school this year. Our timetable has been designed to support teachers in the implementation of four reading sessions each week. During reading lessons students are explicitly taught a range of decoding and comprehension skills to help them make meaning from the text. It is vitally important that students practice these skills and strategies at home as well. As parents, you play an integral part in helping your child not only learn to read but love reading. The more time students read for per day, the more fluent their reading becomes.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression. Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Their reading sounds natural, as if they are speaking. Readers who have not yet developed fluency read slowly, word by word. Their oral reading is choppy. Because fluent readers do not have to concentrate on decoding the words, they can focus their attention on what the text means. They can make connections among the ideas in the text and their background knowledge. In other words, fluent readers recognize words and comprehend at the same time. Less fluent readers, however, must focus their attention on figuring out the words, leaving them little attention for understanding the meaning of text.

How can you help?

- Read to your child. The more you model good reading by reading aloud, the more your child will understand what fluent reading sounds like. Use lots of expression, pause to accentuate a point in the story and vary your speed and tone to match the meaning of the words. Incorporating different types of writing, such as stories, fairy tales, poems or narratives, helps students see how you use different tones depending on what is being read.
- Ensure your child is choosing books that are the “right fit”. Books that are too easy won’t allow them to practice, while books that are too hard will discourage them.
- Encourage your child to read favourite stories out loud with you.
- Encourage your child to reread books more than once.

This short 5min YouTube video may be of interest - “Nightly Reading Homework: Best Practices for Parents”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=korfEOQb14
Remember **Every Lesson, Every Day Counts** towards your child achieving their individual learning goals. Research states that 95% attendance gives your child the best chance.

**Does your Child Have a Chance of Being Successful?**

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>
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<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
<td>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 2.5 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing in grade 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years</td>
<td>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 8 years</td>
<td>Equal to finishing at grade 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**At Hamilton Island State School**

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!
Thanks again to all our major sponsors.

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