Attendance - Target 92.4%
Term 1 2016, 93.3%
1%
So Important, Every day counts!
Greater than 95% means that your child has the best possible chance to reach his/her full potential.
Between 90% to 95% means that your child will improve, but will miss some key lessons, content and skills.
Less than 90% means your child is at risk to fall behind their year level benchmarks and individual goals.
See inside the newsletter for our school attendance awareness posters.

Dear Teacher, Mommy asked me:
Today, Mommy asked me: Why do you come to school? I said I don’t know why.
Jody do you really know why? Going to school. I said I don’t know why.
She said it is cause we are going to be. She said it is cause we are going to be. She says it is cause we are going to be.
Jody do you really know why? I said what is a going to school. I said what is a going to school. I said what is a
going to school. I said what is a going to school. I said what is a
Mommy said I going to school. I said what is a going to school. I said what is a
Mommy said I going to school. I said what is a going to school. I said what is a
Jody do you really know why? Jody do you really know why? Jody do you really know why?
Mommy said every one need to work really Mommy said every one need to work really
hard for us kids to make our future. The hardest for us kids to make our future. The hardest
nicest ones we the world can offer.
nicest ones we the world can offer.
Teacher can we start today to build me a
Teacher can we start today to build me a
Teacher can we start today to build me a
Teacher can we start today to build me a
I love you teacher.
I love you teacher.
I love you teacher.
Love, Jody
Love, Jody
Love, Jody
XX00XX
XX00XX
XX00XX
Welcome to Hamilton Island State School for 2016 as we celebrate our 30th year. I would like to personally welcome all new families to the island, and our fantastic school. I would especially like to welcome our 12 new prep students and parents to our school family. On a personal note I would also like to sincerely thank each and every family that has made my start to Hamilton Island so extremely enjoyable and memorable. From the first moment I arrived at the beginning of January with my youngest daughter, Grace, families have opened their homes and hearts to me and I feel truly blessed to be here. I made a conscious decision last year that a small community was where I wanted to return to after spending the majority of my time in very large Brisbane schools. There is something very special about our school family and I am extremely thankful to be given this opportunity to be a part of it.

The reflection on the front page was how we started our first student free day at the beginning of the year. It speaks loudly to me about the enormous responsibility and privilege we have as educators to help each and every child within our school family to build a future for them. After spending almost twenty years of my career being an administrative leader within schools, I can assure you that Hamilton Island has one of the most dedicated and nurturing staff that I have ever had the honor to be a part of. My role within the school is to support our amazing team and give them the necessary tools to ensure that we help build the best future possible for your child.

At our school we have high expectations of all our students and will endeavour to ensure that it is a rewarding year for them as they fulfil our motto of Learn & Grow Together. At our assembly last week I spoke of my high expectations for students in relation to Attendance, Behaviour and Academic Performance. Students can expect that as members of our school we require them to work hard to achieve in all these areas.

Our Big 3 priorities will focus specifically on reading, writing and problem solving for 2016. Our students are achieving well in these areas currently but there is always room for improvement. Our work will focus on ensuring students can be the best they can be, ensuring our staff are equipped to deliver the highest quality teaching and that parents are enabled to support us in educating their child. We value the crucial role that parents play in helping us to ensure that every student reaches their potential.

In 2016 we are beginning the year with 68 students across our three classes. Our staff has worked hard in the first weeks to ensure that the beginning of the year was as streamlined as possible and business as usual. Teachers and teacher aides have ensured that students have access to high quality, engaging curriculum.
Parent Communication
Just a reminder that we have lots coming up, and although small, we are always busy so please keep a close eye on your emails as Ange will be sending messages out regularly to keep you informed. Also, please become very familiar with our school website www.hamiisslass.eq.edu.au as another way of staying up to date with information. On our school website you will find key dates, documents, news stories, etc. I will be keeping this current with what is happening in the school. We also have our fortnightly Assembly on a Friday from 2:30pm where our awards are handed out and class reports given, and every afternoon our school parade at 2:50pm where brief messages are given. Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to come to these. This school belongs to the families and you are always welcome to come and be involved.

Welcome to the following new staff
This year our school community has been joined by three familiar faces. Mrs Kate Chapman is teaching our PY/1 class, Mrs Michelle Boyd is teaching our Yr 2/3 class, Miss Jacqui Elmsly & Miss Kate Lawler have been working as teacher aides this term. It has been my absolute pleasure in observing these ladies within their classes and we are fortunate to have them as part of our team. We trust you will enjoy your time with our school and find it both fulfilling and rewarding.

Student Leadership
Earlier this term it was my privilege and pleasure to be involved in the selection process for School & Sports Captains. I would like to thank all students who applied for the positions. The quality and standard of the applicants was exceptional and I commend the courage, perseverance and resilience that each of the applicants displayed through our rigorous process. Our final decision was based on four elements; application, speech, interview and vote. I congratulate Livia Murgadas and Ashleigh Hall on their appointment as school captain and vice captain respectively and Adam Singleton and Ella Strobel as sports captains. I look forward to the leadership of the entire year six cohort and anticipate a great year ahead.

Before the end of the term we will also be conducting a process to elect representatives from year 5 and year 4 to join with our school leaders and form a Student Council. The council will meet with me fortnightly to address the issues that the students have within our school and to lead events to make our school even better. These elected leaders within year 4 and year 5 will replace the Junior Captains and give them a more defined role within our school community.

Goal Setting Meetings
It has been a very positive experience for me personally to be able to participate in some of the goal setting meetings. All three teachers over the past two weekends have been conducting their meetings to try and find the best time possible for all families to be available. This was an amazing gesture from the teachers to work on their weekends and one I have never before seen in any school. I hope that this displays to all parents the value we place on a true partnership between home and school and the necessary role that each family plays in building the best future possible for their child. I thank the families that allowed me to observe their meetings and to see the abundance of information that each teacher presents to the families. I also thank the teachers for their professionalism and dedication to our families by working on your weekends. Over the next 12 weeks it will be wonderful to observe each of the children striving to obtain their goals before the presentation at the end of Term 2.
School Grounds
A lot of work has taken place over the past three weekends maintaining our wonderful school gardens. A team of people have been here weeding, mulching, planting, beautifying etc. our gardens. I have also held talks about building a bin enclosure at the front of the school and replacing the tired looking wire fences. Over these school holidays our classroom painting program will commence in Prep/Year 1. Each classroom will be repainted during the next three holiday blocks to minimize disruptions to the classes. I am extremely proud of our amazing school and want to ensure that we have the best learning environment possible for our children. If you have any other ideas or expertise on how we can improve our school, my door is always open.

P&C Meetings
Thank you to last year’s P&C Executive for remaining in their positions for 2016. Also thanks to Sha Nayagar for nominating for the role of vice-president. The P&C within any school is a tremendous support to the staff. I would encourage people where possible to come to these meetings and to have an input into building your child’s future. This amazing school belongs to the families. The direction we take is a true partnership between school and home, and having a voice at the P&C meetings is one way that we can make it even better.

What’s on during the Easter Holiday Break:
- Laser Tag daily @ C.C. $20 for 20 minute
- Fun Zone 3.30 – 5pm daily @ Bougainvillaea Marquee
- Movies Tuesday night shady creek lawn
- Saturday Dive In Movie @ Bougainvillaea Pool
- Easter Egg Hunt Sunday
Check weekly activity guide for updates on activities and times

Head Lice alert / notification:
Please be aware that we have been informed by a few parents that they have found Head Lice in their child/ren’s hair this week. We ask that you check thoroughly through your child/ren’s hair, treat with a pharmaceutical product and then retreat a week later please. This is the only way this can be managed in our tropical climate. You will also need to wash all linen at the same time, hats and so on.

Chess Club
One of the most wonderful aspects of our school family is the willingness of our parents to go above and beyond. At Assembly last week I publicly thanked the Hall family for opening their Wildlife Park to our students and I would also like to acknowledge Sha Nayagar for offering to run Chess Club for our children every Wednesday during first break. This has been a sell out every week and something the children and the staff look forward to. Thanks Sha! If any other parents would like to offer their talents I would love to hear from you.

Thanks again for your continued support,
Mr. Chris Richards - Principal
The start of the school year is always an exciting time in the Prep One classroom. Our new cohort of Prep students have immersed themselves into school life with ease! The Year Ones have helped the Preps feel settled and get used working in a classroom environment, particularly during group activities in maths.

The students have been exploring stories and developing their opinions about stories and characters. The Year Ones have been working on persuasive writing for different characters in stories. We have extended our learning through role playing and creative writing activities.

Our students have had success in experimenting with the life cycles of plants, with some fantastic looking beans growing.

Thank you to all of our parent helpers in our reading group sessions. The students have loved having you come in and support their learning of magic words, sounds and reading books. We always welcome new helpers. Reading groups from 9-9:30 Tuesday to Friday.

Regards,
Kate Chapman
As Easter approaches we can take a moment to look back at the term that was …

We have had an extremely busy start to the year. I am very proud of the Year 2/3 class as they have been working exceptionally hard and are displaying the qualities of proud learners!!!

We start each day with levelled groups to learn how to be super spellers and awesome readers. Then we come back together as a whole class. Mrs Boyd has read us many, many stories. She has made us laugh, think, predict, question and even cry. We have looked at how the author develops the characters through their actions, thoughts and feelings. We have studied how Margaret Wild used the illustrations to support her stories and the information we can get from the pictures. In creative writing we are thinking about how the characters and events can be created along a timeline to support our own stories.

In Maths we have been investigating number patterns. How to count forwards and backwards, partition numbers, solve word problems, use number lines, and add and subtract. Did you know that counting by 3’s on a hundred chart creates a diagonal pattern and counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s creates vertical patterns?

During our Science lessons we have been observing Life Cycles. We have had many interesting creatures pass through our doors … some have made it through a full life cycle and some unfortunately have been cut short. We have watched Mealworms change into pupas and metamorphosis into beetles. We have had guppies which never turned into tadpoles (who would have guessed???) and tadpoles which didn’t make it to be frogs. We have had a caterpillar change into a chrysalis. Oh yeah … then we planted bean seeds, which may have been generously watered and didn’t grow. Luckily for us the Preps have done a good job and we can watch their plants progress. Parents please ensure that you pack your children’s lunch as we are not sure whether Mrs Boyd has much success in the life cycle process and they may not make it to teenagers!

Our class has set goals for next term and we are going to work hard and use the strategies we know to strive to reach them.

On a personal note I would just like to thank all the parents and staff for welcoming me into your community. It is a privilege and an honour to be working with you and your children every day.
Welcome students, parents and wider community, both new and 'old' to another exciting year for teaching and learning here on the beautiful Hamilton Island. I hope the students in years 4-6 are ready for another year of discovery with plenty of challenges, friendships and personal successes to strive for. I am humbled daily to have the opportunity to be an important part of the lives of the families here on the Island and love doing anything in my power to make our school a world-class place to learn for your children.

This year we have some truly capable student leaders that have stepped up to the podium, given their speeches and have successfully been voted by their peers as the 2016 student leadership team.

The senior class has also had another big change, we have started using the skills and knowledge of our very own Spanish speaker Senora Nuria to help alongside a Brisbane School of Distance Education Spanish program. The class has loved the singing, games and new words that make up this exciting lesson each week. We have looked at greetings, counting, basic conversations and some language rules like Spanish Vowels.

During this busy first term we have also been studying the effect that temperature and exposure to bacteria have on the rate of mould growth. Later in that unit of work we studied how animals adapt their behaviour and physical state to survive. This included a visit to the Island’s wildlife part to take notes on the adaptations of many Native Australian animals.

Our class would also like to extend a warm Hamilton Island State School welcome to Ezekiel Frost from Airlie beach. Zeak loves tennis and handball and is good at Math. He follows the Blues in the State of Origin and likes his new school. From all of our class and our great school, welcome Zeak.

From Mr. Farrawell’s desk

4 – 6 News

School Captain 2016: Livia Murgadas

Vice-Captain 2016: Ashleigh Hall

“I’m proud of being voted School Captain of this great school.”

“I’m looking forward to the challenge of being Vice Captain.”

Sports Captain 2016: Adam Singleton

Sports Captain 2016: Ella Strobel

“I will make this school fantastic.”

“I can’t wait for Athletics and Sailing”

Wildlife Park Excursion
Reading will continue to be a key priority in our 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 minutes students read for per day, the more fluent their reading becomes.

Here are some suggestions on how you can make reading a positive experience:

1. Choose a quiet time. Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. 10 – 15 minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable. Sit with your child. Try not to pressure them if he or she is reluctant. Instead, read them the book and talk about it.

3. Maintain the flow. If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive! If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key. We want your child to love reading. This is why the books that are sent home are at an easy level. By rereading familiar books, students practice reading fluently and with expression, as well as building their confidence.

6. Practice regularly. Try to read with your child most days. 'Little and often' is best.

7. Talk about the books. There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. It is just as important to understand what has been read. Talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

8. Variety is important. Ensure your child is reading a variety of texts. Books, magazines, poems, comics, recipes, ebooks, instructions. The list goes on and on.
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>
<tbody>
<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>

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**At Hamilton Island State School**

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!
APT8 Kids on Tour will enable children to experience and explore contemporary art from Australia, Asia and the Pacific through a range of drawing, making and multimedia activities.

**Wednesday**
**March 30**
9.30 - 10.30 am
11 - 12 noon

**Zentangle the Story**
Use zentangle patterns to bring to life characters from a traditional Indian story

*For children 8+ yrs (Limit 20)*

**Friday**
**April 01**
10.30 - 11 am
11.30 - 12 noon
2.30 - 3 pm
3.30 - 4 pm

**Make a Tahitian Poncho**
Decorate your own paper ‘tiputa’ using engraved wooden block stencils

*No age limits (Limit 8)*

**Tuesday**
**April 05**
10.30 - 11.30 am
2 - 3 pm

**Draw Colour Create**
Learn to draw & decorate a peacock using shading and patterns

*For children 8+ yrs (Limit 15)*

**Thursday**
**April 07**
9.30-10.30 am
11 - 12 noon

**Fruit Transformers**
More than meets the eye ...
Take a paper fruit or vegetable template & use your imagination to transform it into something completely different

*For children 5+ yrs (Limit 20)*

(children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult)

Children who visit the library during the holidays are invited to take home a kids on Tour booklet (while stocks last)

*FREE FAMILY FUN!*
Thanks again to all our major sponsors