School News
We have had an extremely busy term 2 with our years 3, 5 and 7 students sitting the NAPLAN tests, U8’s excursion to Proserpine State School, students participating in fortnightly electives and lots of learning happening every lesson, everyday.

I want to sincerely thank the P&C and the entire Hamilton Island community for contributing 10 Ipads and a 40 bay charging trolley to our school. We have such a supportive community that really cares about our school and our kids’ learning. We are so lucky, and we thank you.

The students are now using Ipads in their daily learning routines, which is making a significant difference to the learning capability for each child.

We have a further addition to our communication systems with parents. We now have an app that can be downloaded from itunes called ‘QSchools’. When you download the app, search for Hamilton Island State School. Add our school to your favourites and now you have access to our newsletters, news items and upcoming events via an app on your Iphone. If you have any questions please come and see me, but this is a must have for any smart phone owner!

Teaching and Learning
In all of our classrooms we are focused on every child being able to set and articulate goals in reading, spelling and mathematics. We are working on ways to display these and make them interactive for each student. It’s vital that all students have the personal drive to succeed and achieve their goals. We are promoting this value through a reward system called, ‘Proud Learner Tokens.’ Students are awarded a token if they meet the school bookwork expectations or achieve a personal learning goal. I’m extremely proud of the students’ effort to meet the high expectations we’ve set for academic improvement and neat bookwork.

Community
Thankyou to all the parents who:
★ Assisted at the U8’s day
★ Help out with the Electives program every fortnight
★ Take a group during our morning reading sessions every day.
★ Assist your kids with their homework every night.
You all make such a difference to all our kids’ learning and we really appreciate your help. Report Cards will be handed out on Monday of the last week of school. If you have any questions about your child’s report card, we will be more than happy to answer them.
The grades students get on their report is comparable with any child in the state and nation for the subjects that have a National Curriculum. All grades given to students are evidenced based on the work they produce and moderated internally and externally with other schools.
I look forward to continuing to work with you all to provide the best possible education for the students at Hamilton Island
Thanks for your support,

Michael Allan

Every child matters every day and can be a high achiever.

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

First of all let me start by thanking all the wonderful helpers at Under Eights Day. It was a beautiful day and ran very smoothly, thanks to all of you supporters. I know the students and teachers had a fantastic day.

In Prep/1 we are continuing our everyday programs such as Handwriting, Spelling Mastery, Corrective Maths Concepts and Jolly Phonics. We have just finished our work on 2D and 3D shapes and location. We are starting our work on place value and recognising numbers to 120. Our English focus has been story retells, comprehension and reading fluency. In science we are learning about objects and the materials they are made of. We are investigating the different properties of certain materials. For art this term we are learning warm and cool colours and are creating pieces of work that reflect mood and texture.

I have had some questions about what to do with the star records I send home at the end of each week. I record them here, so please feel free to keep the star charts at home for you to reflect on with your child.

I will need some cardboard boxes for a science assessment this term. Please remember we have a student in this class with severe nut allergies so please only donate boxes that have not contained food in them, such as tissue boxes. We are not allowed to use toilet rolls for hygienic reasons.

Kind Regards,

Ashleigh Prickett
Hello Everyone :) 
What a jam packed couple of weeks we have had recently! We are now over the half-way point of the term and fast approaching that all important time of the year ... report cards. We are going to be busy little bees right up to the end of term.
Firstly, a big congratulations and pat on the back to the year three students for their sustained efforts during the NAPLAN assessments. These tests can be quite daunting for some students and our year threes took it all in their stride. Well done! I look forward to seeing how you all went.
Most of our units of work are still going strong. Here is what we have learned so far:
English: We finally finished our persuasive writing task (NAPLAN kindly interrupted this). The students were asked to write persuasively about a school issue. Some of the topics included “We need more space” and “More playtime”.
Maths: We recently switched our Junior Elementary Maths Mastery groups to a new programme, Connecting Maths Concepts. This program is far more comprehensive with a strong focus on number. Students have made the transition smoothly and are appropriately grouped to maximise learning and potential.
Science: Earth and Space units are so interesting. What a fascinating world we live in! I learn something new each time I delve into this topic. Recently we have learned about the moon’s affect on our tides, seasons and why the moon and sun appear to be the same size.
SOSE/History: Our recent visit from Boori Pryor fit perfectly into our Aboriginal Culture unit. We are now learning about our local indigenous people, the Ngaro people.
Art: So far we have learned about primary colours; secondary colours; complimentary colours; tint and shade; lines showing movement. I look forward to seeing what the students create after learning about these.
Kind regards,
Jessie Reid
Hello everyone!

We have just finished a great day with the whole school at the disposal of the 4-7 class, but still we managed to stay within the confines of the classroom and the upper grass area! While the under 8s were enjoying Proserpine, the senior class enjoyed quizzes and sports games in between our usual English, Maths and Technology lessons as a fun “over 8s day”. I am so proud to have a group of children who are so enthusiastic, hard-working, and genuinely lovely little people to be around.

Wednesday is our science day, and this term we are concentrating on matter and the forms it takes – solids, liquids and gases. We have looked at solutions (solute and solvent), resulting in some crystal growing, and the water cycle. Please reinforce these concepts by seeing how water is evaporated in a kettle (perhaps some could be caught and condensed on a plate etc.), and dissolving salt or sugar into a glass of water both warm and cold. A challenge was set this week to use various household tools to separate out some interesting mixtures such as pasta and rice, beads and water, sequins and flour. We had various rates of success, with some students hitting on some creative ways to float, blow, sieve, or strain the mixtures to separate out the elements. It is great to see students working productively in small groups. Again, some kitchen or outdoor challenges to try different methods of separation would help reinforce this scientific thinking.

Have a great week, and a great weekend!
Kind regards,
Johanna 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.

Under 8's Day

A big thankyou to Proserpine State School for inviting us and hosting the U8’s day for 2013. We all had a fantastic day full of fun and excitement. Once again a big thankyou to Steve Jackson and Elise for providing Yoga activities for the day, parents and teachers for taking the all the students from Prep to grade 3 for such an enjoyable day. Here are some photos taken through out the day.
An example of Show don’t tell writing – We Do Example 5-7s

Mary sat ram rod straight in the hard high backed chair, the stiff table cloth resting on her knees. She glanced up from the menu and quickly dropped her eyes to the list of confusing items that were there. They all sounded like the names you see listed on the trees at the botanical gardens. Long and unpronounceable.

“May I take your order, Ma’am?” the elegant waiter in his black and white tuxedo asked her while looking down his nose. He looked to Mary like an emperor penguin, cold and stiff. She stammered, “A glass of lemonade, please?”

He scribbled something in his notepad and waddled over to the other side of her table. He poured some sparkling water into the crystal glasses. Moments later, the penguin waiter was beside her, presenting her with a glass and a can of lemonade. “Shall I open it for you?” he asked.

“No thanks, I can do it myself,” Mary said, not sure if that was polite or not. Picking up the can, she noticed her hands were shaking like she had an electric current running through her. Placing it back on the table, the crystal glasses chinked together, and Mary felt a blush rising in her cheeks. She hoped she didn’t look like she had two red tomatoes on her face, and looked determinately at the can of lemonade.

“I can do this,” she whispered to herself. “I can pull off this first date.”

Cracking open the tab top, it made a small pop like a knuckle cracking. Then the swoosh. A tsunami of lemonade burst forth and made a fountain of bubbles and sticky sweet liquid. Her eyelids peeled back like onions and she stared at the scene unfolding in slow motion. The bubbles went up, then came down. They fell like rain saturating the table, the posy of flowers, spraying the elegant lady at the next table, and to her horror, her date’s prize hairstyle, the Justin Beiber crowning glory which made him so cool, was now just a floppy shaggy mess. His hands shot to his hair, assessing the damage. He drew a deep breath, his hands returned to the table, gripping the cloth. Mary wanted to sink into the floor. Then she heard it, a snicker, growing to a giggle, then to a great guffaw. Her eyes met his, and they both roared with laughter. She knew then that this date would be okay.
Key Strategic Directions:
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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!

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>3.15pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Kids Court Touch Footy (at the Oval)</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Kids Racquet Sports (Table tennis, totem tennis, badminton, squash, racquetball, etc)</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3.15pm</td>
<td>Bumperz (on Shady Creek Lawns)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>3.00-5.00pm</td>
<td>Kids Fun Zone</td>
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* 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!

Big thanks Steve and Elise from the sports club for your on-going support to the school. We really appreciate it!!
### 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.

To the many departments and wonderful staff of:

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**Thank You from all the students of Hamilton Island State School**