Wow what a busy and extremely productive term 1. The students have all worked really hard to finish off their assessments, achieve their individual learning goals and set new goals for next term. Congratulations to all the teachers and parents for the fantastic results and improvement from all the students this term. We look forward to continuing to work together on our improvement agenda for each student in term 2.

Teaching and Learning

In term 2 we are focusing on building the capacity of all our staff and ensuring students are getting the best learning experiences, every lesson, every day. At Hamilton Island State School EVERY DAY COUNTS! I will be asking the students 5 key questions about their learning as I walk into classrooms to ensure that all students are focused and understand what they are learning and how they can be successful. The 5 questions are:

1. What are you learning?
2. How are you doing?
3. How do you know?
4. How can you improve?
5. Where can you go for help?

We are also using a monitoring system to ensure No Child Is Left Behind and every student can monitor not only what they are learning, but how they are going. This image shows our school process for the students to monitor their own learning of concepts and skills and strive to be an expert and teach others.

Community

Our playground has now been officially purchased and we can expect building will take place mid term 2. Once again thank you all for a fantastic start to the year and we look forward to working with you to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Mr. Michael Allan, Principal
Our Vision
At Hamilton Island State School we are focused on providing an inclusive, safe, supportive and connected learning environment. We use our 6 Pillars of school wide pedagogy, 5 Givens for every learning environment and 4 Imperatives of student engagement to drive how we do business.

Prep-1 News
Student Work

From Miss Ashleigh Prickett

Prep/one has had a spectacular term. We have had so much fun learning together and have just completed our assessment for term 1 with excellent results.

In English we discussed our favourite persuasive story and answered a lot of detailed questions.

In Mathematics we practised grouping and sorting objects in different ways. We have also been learning teen numbers and how to represent them differently.

We are very sad to say goodbye to two very special members of our class: Jake McCready and Campbell Lee. These two boys have been such special members of our group and we are very sad to see themselves and their families go.

I wish all of the families a safe and wonderful holiday and I look forward to seeing you all next term.
Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the second edition of the Year One / Two section of the newsletter.

In Year One
Mitchell Agresta, Jamie Bolton, Maya Brodie, Chaz Calder, Mitchell Davis, Alex Glenn, Charlie Harvey, Foxx LaMonica, Ella McCreedy, Maylen Reid, Gabriel Taverner and Chris Townsend.

In Year Two
Isaac Coleman, Alex Clarke, Brayth Ledger, Joshua Martin, Jack Riddell, Isabella Rogers, Harrison Smith, Flynn Squires, Jack Sydes, Tom Stielow, Charlie Townsend, Seisia White

Our Staff

Supporting the class this year:
Mrs Sara Taverner (Teacher)
Ms Karen Gordon (Aide)
Mrs Nuria Murgadas-Davis (Aide)
Mrs Sarah Coleman (Aide)
Ms Erin Blanchford (Parent Helper)

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.

1-2
News
Wow! It is the end of term one already. That was quick! We must have been having fun ;) It certainly was a very

Student Work

Looking back at the term I realise just how much progress each and every student has made. I am especially impressed with the progress of every student’s writing skills this term. Our second English unit focussed on persuasive writing and the student’s all demonstrated a clear understanding of this genre. Well done everyone!

1. 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.

Goals

I thoroughly enjoyed our goal setting process over the past few weeks. I cannot express how important the goal setting process is for each student’s progress. These will be reviewed throughout and at the end of term two.

From Ms Jessie Reid

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Who Are You?

Ella McCready

Sadly, Ella and her family will be leaving the island over the holidays :(.

She has been an asset to the classroom showing effort and strength in many areas of the curriculum.

Mostly, she will be missed by her peers, especially the year one girls.

Good luck Ella! We hope to see you back at Hamilton Island again soon.

Here are our Art/Technology pieces. Demonstrating use of Key, texture and creativity. Which letter is missing? Can you solve the mystery? Who? How? Why?
From Mrs. Johanna Winstanley

**CLASS SPEECHES**
Wow! What a great bunch of public speakers we have in our class! Thank you to parents for taking the time to help students find a topic for their speech and practise what they want to say. We will continue this exercise next term—check out the schedule on the door for more information!

Remember the topics are: News Report, Something You Should Know, and Free Choice.

**Geography** Students have loved learning about Australia, its states, capital cities, neighbouring countries, continents and directions. Try to apply this knowledge to everyday conversations—For example: “Johnny went to Ireland. That’s in Europe isn’t it.” “There have been some storms in Papua New Guinea. It’s a neighbouring country just north of Australia.” Ask questions and don’t forget that Google maps is a brilliant tool!!!

**Maths** We’ve been doing lots of work with word problems, division and factors, and quick number facts. It’s important that students become automated with the basic number facts, so please ask them! “What’s double 6?” “What’s 21 and 5 more?” “I had $10 but I just spent $4. What should I have now?” Times tables are also coming along, and the kids love to be challenged. So far we have done the 2, 3 and 4 times tables. Any time spent practising these facts outside of school too would be fantastic!

**English** So far we have written a chapter for the Twits, and are tackling persuasive writing. The students love a good topic to discuss. The amount of note taking that went on when the topic was “Brothers are better” was phenomenal! It was wonderful to see the 3-7 students working together and being super productive!
We have had a fantastic term and the students have achieved extremely high results in all subject areas.

This month’s newsletter item is a celebration of the student’s achievement and presentation of their work.

Their English task for this term was to create a persuasive text to go into the school newsletter to address an issue that means a lot to them. The students had to plan, review, edit, conference and then publish their own persuasive text. They showed persistence and confidence to complete the task and did a fantastic job.

Next term the years 5 and 7 students will be sitting the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) test.

Each student has set focus areas for NAPLAN improvement and thanks to all parents who came to our goal setting meetings last week.

Have a relaxing holiday and I look forward to working with you all next term.

From Mr. Michael Allan

We need more art lessons by Isabel Davis

You are in your office and your boss has told you to make a model of a new hotel. If you don’t make this business deal you will be fired. The only problem is you don’t know how to cut a straight line or make a 3D object out of card board. You’ve never experienced being creative! Would you have liked to have learned this skill at primary school? Art lets you be creative and have fun, it is an important part of your childhood development and teaches you higher order thinking skills. That is why I strongly recommend that we need 3 hours of art time in all primary school class timetables!

I’m in grade 6 and I have to study and concentrate for 22 ½ hours each week and there is only 1 hr of art! I have to do maths, English, history, science, geography, PE and language, but all I want to do is be creative and have fun! My parents said that when they went to school they participated in at least 3 hours of art per week but now it is all hard, boring work. So that’s why we need more time in art.

Do you want to have children under performing in their development? How would you feel? Art is really important for your child’s development! It creates fine motor skills that all children must have. We need art so our childhood can be the best it can be and develop the skills to be lifelong learners.

Higher order thinking skills are critical for us to have to be successful in the 21st century. We need to be successful in life and art participation is how it is going to happen! If we do not teach art, which develops higher order thinking skills, we will not be successful in the 21st century and we will be poor and unemployed.

So let us have 3 hours of art! We will develop our higher order thinking skills, we will be a creative thinker and we will have an awesome childhood! Make, create and participate!
"Say No To Homework!" By Ben Strobel

Homework...no one wants it! No one likes it! No one needs it! "Alright class pass up your homework from last night!" Pfft the teacher may have just said, alright class pass up your blank piece of paper that taught you absolutely nothing! Homework is a waste of time, a waste of energy, a waste of ink on your pen and waste of lead from your pencil. I think we should give up homework for good! Homework is a waste of our great math and English skills, we learn completely nothing from homework! We always cheat by using a calculator or a dictionary anyway! Teachers must end this stupid thing they call homework.

"Son, time to do your homework!" Straight away they reach for the calculator and dictionary and by the next morning, in class, it is all complete every little part, even the year 12 question of the week! BUT although it may look complete, IT IS CERTAINLY NOT! I’m a kid and I know how much homework WE really do and how much homework the ELECTRONIC devices do and to be honest we do about one-quarter of our homework which is just usually the common sense questions, the rest we rely on a computer, phone, calculator or a dictionary. I really see no point in doing homework.

Kids today are getting fatter and fatter due to fast food restaurants and the lack of exercise. Homework is a great example which stops children from getting outside and being active. Do you really want your child to get FAT and LAZY?! If not then we must bring homework to a halt! A child spends around 2 and a half hours doing their homework, which stops them from getting outside exercising and socialising.

School is a place that tries to teach you skills that can be used out in the real world and the weekends are those days where we can use those skills and socialise. But instead most kids are still sitting inside finishing or doing their homework. The fact that we are doing work outside of school and not being able to go outside get active and use our great math and English skills is absurd! We are missing out on real life events where we will need to use our amazing skills and it’s all because of homework!

A study by a group of Australian researchers found the average scores of relating to students’ academic performances against the amount of homework given out at the end of the school day, showed clearly that when more time was spent on homework, students were getting lower scores. The research clearly suggested that placing too much homework can cause lower grades and even lead students to begin suffering from depression.

Homework can cause depression? Yes, if a child is inundated with too much homework their life balance is thrown out of all proportion. All children and adults too, should adopt an 8-8-8 circadian rhythm to life where eight hours work, eight hours play and eight hours rest plays an important factor to how we all roll.

So do YOU want your child to feel isolated, depressed and stressed? And left with anxiety? No parent would want their child to go through this all because of homework and it’s the governments fault! All children are hopeless and have no say in what can be done but if the community and everyone come together we can definitely get rid of this stupid thing called homework.
Imagine, you come to Hamilton island for a nice relaxing holiday, the sun is shining the birds are singing and you decide to go on a tour to the Great Barrier Reef. You expect clear water, and brightly coloured fish swimming below the surface. But you’re shocked to see what it actually looks like. Rubbish everywhere, oil rippling through the water and no fish insight! The Great Barrier Reef has a very bleak future if we keep going the same way we are now. We need to stop the pollution otherwise tourists won’t to come to Hamilton Island. It is one of the seven the natural wonders in the world and I strongly believe that we should stop polluting the Great Barrier Reef now before it’s too late!

Would you like to be a fish and live in a watery dump? I definitely wouldn’t, in fact about 5000 pieces of rubbish were found throughout the Great Barrier Reef. In 2013, most of the rubbish found in the Great Barrier Reef was blown off shore or from fishing boats dropping their rubbish into the ocean. We need to enforce laws and fines for incorrect disposal of rubbish and oil.

On April 3, 2010, a Chinese coal carrier, Shen Neng 1, smashed into the Great Barrier Reef and the coral cut a giant hole in the hull. This resulted in 4 tonnes of heavy fuel oil spill. The oil affected 100% percent of all the marine life which resulted in massive consequences for the Great Barrier Reef’s ecosystem. We need to stop mining industries from cutting holes across the Great Barrier Reef to export resources.

Imagine, being a fish and only having one fin or half tail, radiation has a massive effect on the Great Barrier Reef. It causes fish deformities and injuries to marine life. In March 2011, scientists found 300 tons of radioactive water at the Great Barrier Reef. This resulted in fish deformities which meant sea food companies were serving cancerous sea food to the public. How do you think this affected you?

Do you want the Great Barrier Reef to be destroyed? We need to enforce laws and increase fines for polluters, ensure oil ships don’t pass through the Great Barrier Reef. You can guarantee a future for the Great Barrier Reef by making a positive change. The choice is yours.
Homework, there is no point. Everybody hates it, we need to stop it now! Homework does nothing, it’s gruesome for children, parents and even the teachers hate making it and marking it. It’s hard enough for kids every day just to get six hours of work done plus having time to exercise. Why can’t you just let us be?

Everybody hates the cruel homework. To kids, it’s like hard labour but just 21st century homework labour. A Duke University studied between 1987-2003 that there is no strong relationship between homework and grades. All work no gain.

It’s more than enough to do six hours of work every day, every week. Kids have to do it regardless of whether they want to or not. Homework just gets them annoyed and frustrated at the work and teachers hate doing it too. Kids have enough to do every week, like get their projects done, go to training and do chores. When do we get time to ourselves and relax Never with homework.

Governments say kids need to get fit, but they really stop kids from getting fit and healthy do you know why. Because of HOMEWORK!!! Kids want to get fit and healthy and do their exercise but no! Homework stops them from getting outside. that’s why they are getting fat and obese, that’s why kids are getting cancer. That’s why we should stop homework!

So help us fight against homework. Kids hate it, teachers hate it. It stops kids getting fit and healthy for their future lives. And it’s ABSOLUTELY USELESS!!! So help us kids fight against the war of homework it needs to be removed, go check with any kid. And you’ll get your answer.
When people come to work at Hamilton Island they think of nice, capacious and luxurious houses reflecting the island’s aura, with a nice view of the tranquil and serene paradise that is Hamilton Island. But they are in for a tremendous shock. Decent accommodation should be included in all HIE staff contracts. This needs urgent attention because the young Hamilton Island employees have to live in abysmal and miniscule apartments, and then be expected to work and be enthusiastic the entire day. At the end of the month the employees look forward to their pay, but if it all has to go to accommodation they are left with nothing, then they won’t be able to afford food and necessities. I am sure you would not like to live in these appalling circumstances. So that is why I strongly believe that we should improve the living conditions for the staff of Hamilton Island.

The miniscule apartments have numerous disadvantages especially for shift workers. Let’s just say you share your apartment with someone who goes to work at 5:00 am and finishes at 4:00 pm and you start at 11:30 am and end at 11:30 pm. All you want to do is relax after 12 hours of work but at around 4:25 am your roommate wakes up and prepares him or herself for work, turning on all the lights and generally making noise. What about your boisterous party neighbours up half the night drinking and playing music. You also have to share a bathroom with 3 other people; some of whom could be from the opposite gender. You do not have any room to stretch out after a tiring and exasperating day at work. You do not have any place to store food or room to store your miscellaneous goods. Some of the houses, well when I say houses it is more like rooms, and are not maintained at all. Some have defective air conditioner, toilets that are backed up to the rim and letting off a horrendous stench. There are so many space constraints and problems. The poor Hamilton Island employees have to live in these circumstances. Would you like to live in these conditions? No, that is why accommodation needs to be improved NOW.

Let’s just say a housemaid is fed up with work and leaves and then her friend follows and then subsequently her friend follows and exponentially no one is left. The workers some people think are expendable are really the most important, because without the young staff to do the work that may seem menial to many is actually some-ones job, their profession. The entire taxonomy of Hamilton Island depends on those diligent young workers. We have to recognize that the staffs have needs just as much as we need them. We need to encourage them to work hard not subdue them. We need staff to work the restaurants, resorts and other facilities on the island. Unless we change the conditions now the entire island will go in to turmoil because there are no people to do the dirty work and boom! No more placid, serene and clean beaches, no more eating divine food, no more trips to White-Haven, because the island would be deprived of staff. The staffs are imperative to the island’s facilities because without them we are nothing but a dream that cannot be completed.

If we change the conditions there is a huge benefit to be derived from it. We will have studious, jovial and diligent workers. We should have a staff council, consisting of members elected by the majority; this council presents itself in front of the owners and general managers and the staffs voice their complaints. Then they all come to an agreement and the idea is put into effect. That way we will drastically improve conditions for staff. The accommodation is a hindrance to us becoming even greater as a prestigious tourist destination.
Imagine being a piece of coral or a fish. Would you like to be captured in a net? Stepped on by people? Polluted by boats? I bet you wouldn't! There are plenty of marine animals dying because of you! We need to stop polluting the Great Barrier Reef before it's too late. Right now, the Great Barrier Reef is fighting for its life. It is in deep danger of dying.

Millions of people are throwing rubbish on the ground and off their boats. If people see one piece of rubbish on the ground it then starts a chain reaction and people start to do the exact same thing it’s HORRIBLE!! I have been living in the world since 2002. I realise that it is not one person’s fault, it's everyone’s. According to the Australian Government website There are more than 6.4 million tonnes debris added to the world’s oceans each year. This leads to high cost clean-ups, damages to the marine life and damages to boats. If we don’t fix this now we will be living in a pit. So pick up your rubbish put it in the bin and make our world a better place to live in.

You’re the one allowing oil leaking boats to pass through the reef and kill our marine life. It’s ruining our Great Barrier Reef. One day our reef will be black the marine animals will be extinct and the coral will change its colour to black. I don’t want this, what I want is the boats to go a different course so the marine life animals can still live and be our friends.

Stop the boats and stop being careless with rubbish! Enforce fines and protect our beautiful Great Barrier Reef. The fate of our reef is in your hands.
6 Pillars of School-Wide Pedagogy

Pillar 1. Strong relationships (students, parents & community)
Pillar 2. Accept accountability for each student’s learning and commit to improve each student’s performance.
Pillar 3. Use data to drive teaching practices and monitor student performance.
Pillar 4. Use differentiation strategies to cater for every student.
Pillar 5. Plan and teach each lesson using explicit instruction (I Do, We Do, You Do, Plough Back)
Pillar 6. Use consolidation strategies to move student knowledge from short term to long term memory.

Teaching to decode sounds when Reading

10 Decoding Strategies

Below are the 10 decoding strategies we use to teach reading to all of our students. Over the year, I’m going to focus on one strategy for each newsletter and elaborate on how to teach it.

Display and explicitly teach the 10 decoding strategies in daily guided reading lessons

The Eagle Eye strategy is taught in the early years to ensure students use pictures to help decode unknown words and summarise what they are reading. The strategy is: look at the picture, think about what is happening and then read the text.

Instruction Plan

I Do—Model the strategy to your child and use the ‘think aloud’ technique. This allows the child to hear what you are thinking when you are looking at the picture and how you are using to help you read.

We Do—Ask your child to copy what you did and see if they start to decode the words and have a deeper understanding of the text. Keep going until they understand and can use it effectively.

You Do—The child can use the strategy by themselves.
The 5 Givens for EVERY learning environment

Each teacher will:
1. Set a positive classroom learning tone.
2. Establish an atmosphere of high expectations.
3. Focus on high standards of student presentation and handwriting.
4. Correct all student work and provide constructive feedback to each student.
5. Maintain a very high standard of classroom display that is relevant and educationally stimulating.

Science and Swimming

I would like to thank all the parents who accompanied us on the excursions to the Wildlife Park as part of our science studies this term. We were fortunate to have all the children visit the park to learn more about native animals, their habitats and adaptations. A big thank you to Paul Findlay for his time in organizing meaningful activities for the children.

We spent the last 2 weeks completing assessment tasks where students were asked to demonstrate their knowledge and understandings. Prep, One and Two focussed on habitats, needs of living things and life cycles. Grade Three and Four shared their understanding of life cycles and endangered species through journal entries. Grade Five designed fictional creatures with an explanation of their structural and behavioural features that enable them to survive. In grade six, the students designed and conducted an experiment to demonstrate the best place to store bread while the grade 7 students shared their knowledge of classification using dichotomous keys, trophic level diagrams and food webs. There certainly has been lots of learning happening!

Next term, our science focus is the properties of materials. I am looking forward to some fun experiments.

Warm regards,
Sara
**The 3 Imperatives for Student Engagement**

Each teacher will:
1. Ensure that each child feels safe, valued and respected.
2. Provide learning experiences and work to students at their ability level.
3. Engage each student in their progress towards their short and long term learning goals.

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**Hamilton Island Sports News**

Well things continue to improve for the students on Hamilton Island and I’d like to thank the parents and the children for their support of the respective programs and of course all the coaches, instructors and parents who assist in the delivery of each activity.

My own position has altered slightly and I am now the Island Activities & Events Manager and in association with Ake with the Staff Activities, Jacqui with Guest Activities and HIE Management; we will continue to assess and, where possible, improve the services we can offer. Of course, the emphasis for any successful program relies on you to be the drivers. We are very fortunate that HIE support and assist where possible (including some of my time), but much like any community, the onus is on the residents to create the clubs, manage and coach the sports, do the fundraising, wash the uniforms, etc.

Sadly, with Elise departing in the coming months, the current dance offer will cease. We have however been incredibly fortunate to welcome some more dance and drama instructors to the Island community who will shortly be releasing details of that offer!

Karate has continued to run over the holiday period and I know Jacqui has grand plans to introduce gradings and uniforms over the following year. Details for class times are as follows:

- **Wednesday:** 7:30am – 8:15am – Under 9 years old*
- **Friday:** 7:30 – 8:15am – 9 years and over*

Sunday: 8:00am – 8:45am – This session is all school ages

*Jacqui will move students based upon ability as required.

Please make note as per the previous email from Ange that Karate will conduct Karate this week and then recommence on Sunday March 2nd following Jacqui’s leave from Feb 8-28th.

Our swimming program has been delayed by the inclement weather but all kicks off this week! A big thanks to Louise and Sara for their groundwork and to the parents for the incredible number of enrolments. I have been in discussion with the Swim Club on the mainland so there’s a very real chance, we can look at opportunities for competition in the very near future!

In regards to the free sports program, we will offer the following sports in Term 1:

- **Mondays:** Cricket. 4.30-5.30pm @ the Oval
- **Tuesdays:** Soccer. 3.15-4.00pm @ the Sports Club
- **Thursdays:** Touch. 4.30-5.30pm @ the Oval
- **Fridays:** Fun Run. 5.30pm @ the Sports Club
- **Saturdays:** Junior Zumba. 9.15am. Meet @ Sports Club.

The card system will continue to operate for Swimming and Karate. You can purchase a card from the Sports Club for $50 which can be used for 10 sessions of the activity/sport of your choice! Dance and Tennis will operate independently.

Contact Details:

**General enquiries:** STEPHEN JACKSON 0408 236 483 or sjackson@hamiltonisland.com.au

**Activities & Karate:** Jacqui Elmsly 0431 207 602 or jelmsly@hamiltonisland.com.au

**Swimming:** Louise Keeran 0433 383 058 or Sara Taverner 0412 125 775

**Tennis lessons:** Ben Robbins 4946 8590 (Sports Club Desk)

**Dance & Drama:** Jane Trotter 0414 564 693

**Zumba:** Nuria 0410 495 053
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