Welcome to the 2015 year! I would like to personally welcome all the new families to the island, and our fantastic high achieving school. I would also like to welcome our new prep students and parents to our school community. We strive to make attending Hamilton Island State School a once in a lifetime experience for our students and we hope you enjoy your time with us. 2014 was a highly successful year for our school, winning numerous awards for our very high standards of teaching, learning and parent engagement. 2015 is going to be bigger and better. We have every student in our senior class now accessing ipads as part of everyday learning, a new enhanced goal setting system to be rolled out in week 7, a reading intervention program to focus on students not moving through the levels at the rate expected and the Mystic Maths homework program to make the focus for students sharp and narrow on the areas they need in mathematics. Lots to look forward to and we will continue to work with you as vital partners in your child’s education.

Teaching and Learning (Every student succeeding)

Our improvement agenda this year continues to be reading with the addition of writing and numeracy. We will be providing you with as much information as we can throughout the year by holding parent information sessions so you can assist your child with their learning at home. Thank you to all for attending the parent information sessions over the last couple of weeks. The main purpose of these sessions are for you to see the classroom, meet your child’s teacher and go through the routines of the classroom and school. I hope they were informative for you.

Parent and Community Engagement

Congratulations to all our newly elected 2015 P&C members this year. Josie Murgadas (President), Lauren Squires (Vice-President), Kellie LaMonica (Secretary) and Kerri Martin (Treasurer). We have achieved so much for our kids through the P&C in the last 2 years. If you have the time to be part of it, please come along to our monthly meetings. We would love to see you there.

Thanks again for your continued support,

Mr. Michael Allan, Principal
2015 Explicit Improvement Agenda

Reading, writing, numeracy, promoting quality teaching and learning in all classrooms and student attendance greater than 92.4%

The prep/1 class has had a fantastic start to the year.

In maths the ones are learning place value; working with tens and ones. Counting to 100 starting from any number and, counting backwards. We are learning to position numbers to 100 on a number line and to add ten to any number. The preps have been learning numbers to ten, making and extending patterns and grouping objects.

In English we are investigating main characters that try to persuade others. We are investigating the persuasive strategies that they use and will be documenting the progression of the persuasive story and using this to present orally to the class.

Thankyou to all of the parents who have been coming in for reading groups. You are a wonderful help and we couldn’t do it without your support.

Kind Regards,

Ashleigh Prickett
Our Core Values:

1. All students can achieve high standards, given the right amount of time and support.
2. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning is essential to improve student outcomes.

1/2/3 News

From Miss Tashi Campbell

Wow, Week 5 already? The Year 1/2/3 Classroom has made a flying start to the year. I am so proud of the level of persistence and hard work shown in the classroom so far this term.

In maths we are working hard in number and place value, completing addition number sentences and number houses as well as completing tricky magic square problems, all in preparation for our numeracy assessment at the end of Week 5. Students have now received their Mathletics usernames and passwords and look forward to Mathletics on the computers each Thursday.

Each morning students are working hard in their levelled Reading and Spelling Mastery groups. In literacy we are working on persuasive writing, investigating how body language and facial expression can be used to persuade, as well as how we use different words to make our writing more persuasive. Some students have told me stories of how they are using ‘persuasive techniques’ at home in order to get what they want :). 

Behaviour in the classroom has been fantastic, with many students collecting tokens for displaying Proud, Responsible, Respectful and Safe behaviours. It has been excellent to see homework completed at such a high standard, with students coming to school on Thursday eager and ready to be tested by Miss Karen on their Magic Words.

Please don’t hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions about your child or what we are doing in the classroom. The door is always open.

Miss Campbell :) & Miss Karen :)
From Mr. Farrwell’s desk.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a warm thank you to all the wonderful parents and community that have gone out of their way to welcome myself and my partner Krissi to your thriving school and neighbourhood. I look forward to sharing many milestones with you and your families and would like you to know that it is my sincere wish to provide a world class educational experience for each and every individual in my classroom, every day. Know that you are welcome to approach me with any topic and I hope to see you very soon. Kind regards, Daniel.

In the classroom!

General:

3-5 class has shown some great persistence in the first weeks of school with start of year benchmark assessments plotting student’s strengths and areas for improvement. Establishment of routines, workspaces, behaviour incentives and bookwork standards after the Christmas holidays has set our class up for success. And, just in case you didn’t know by now the iPads are up and running.

Literacy:

Literacy this term includes all the core elements that make up HISS’s highly effective reading, writing and speech programs. Spelling Mastery, Magic Words, levelled and explicit reading groups, handwriting, the C2C English framework and our high results new program “Seven Steps to Writing Success” are all currently active in the class.

Numeracy:

As a primary focus for review this year, Numeracy in 3-5 has began to implement “PRIME” an internationally award winning program from Singapore to support our current C2C Maths framework. It is also exciting to announce Mystics Maths (Magic words style Maths progression scale) is in the development stages to be implemented for homework this year.
School Improvement Agenda - Reading

How we teach decoding and fluency at Hamilton Island State School - 10 Decoding and 4 Fluency Strategies

Below are the strategies we use to teach decoding and fluency 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

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Chunky Monkey strategy

Students who use Chunky Monkey look for small words inside big words. This strategy is predominately used in early reading classes to teach students to chunk the letters together rather than sounding each sound out. For example, if a student is sounding out the word stirring using stretchy snake (s-t-i-r-r-i-n-g), it slows down their fluency and leads to meaning of the text being lost. What Chunky Monkey aims at doing is teaching the students to see stirr-ing as two separate chunks. This greatly improves fluency.

Instruction Plan

I Do—Model the strategy to your child using the ‘show me first’ technique. This allows the child to see how you are doing this when you get to a word that you haven’t seen before.

We Do—Ask your child to copy what you did and see if they can go through the process of looking for small words in big words and chunking them. Ensure you are there to provide immediate feedback on how they are going. Keep going until they can use it effectively.

You Do—The child can use the strategy by themselves. You keep providing feedback on how they are going.
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.

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# 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!!!
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.

**What Sort of Start is Your Child Getting?**

Just a little bit late doesn’t seem much but.......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She is only missing just...</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>Half a year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1 and a Half years</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td><strong>Over 2 and a Half years</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day.**

That’s when every minute counts the most!!

**School Starts at: 9:00 a.m.**

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!
JUNIOR SPORTS

PROGRAM - TERM 1,

The sports for remainder of Term are:

Monday 4:30pm Cricket Palm Valley Oval (ceases at end of this term)
Tuesday Early Swim school Reef View Pool (current participants have been advised of times. We commence tomorrow – Tuesday 3/3!)
Friday 4:30pm Soccer Sports Club
Saturdays 9.15am Junior Zumba Sports Club

Karate & Squad tennis continue as they are.
Hotshots Tennis Come & Try Day Tuesday March 10th – as per poster

Can we perhaps flag the following too:
Hotshots – Thursday afternoons. Commencing April 23rd
Athletics – Wednesday Afternoons. Commencing April 29th
Hilly Half Junior Run – Sunday May 3rd
Mothers Day Classic – Sunday May 10th

[Image of Hotshots Tennis poster]
Thanks again to all our major sponsors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Sponsorship Details</th>
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<td>HAMilton ISland</td>
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