In this issue
Principal’s Address P.2
Prep-1 News P.4
2/3 News P.5
4-6 News P.6
Semester 1 Awards P.7
Curriculum Corner P.9
Attendance Posters P.10
Supporters Page P.11

The Power Of Teamwork

In a team, you’re never alone to confront a challenge.
In a team, you have partners ready to help.
In a team, you have encouraging words to lift you up.
In a team, the small steps are even accomplishments.
In a team, you must earn trust and respect.
In a team, you quickly learn that you’re never alone.
In a team, there is individual opportunity to grow.
In a team, there can be magic with one another.
In a team, you celebrate each other’s milestones.
In a team, you have a cheering squad.

Attendance - Target 92.4%
Term 3 2016, 93.71%

1.31%
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.
At every opportunity this year I have tried to highlight what an amazing TEAM of teachers, and in this I include our amazing aides, we have at Hamilton Island School. Vince Lombardi, the legendary American football coach, defined teamwork as "Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." There are many definitions of teamwork offered by sports figures, generals and company leaders. All of them agreeing on one thing; teamwork is extremely important for the success of any group.

Having spent a portion of my life being a professional rugby union coach the ideal of TEAMWORK has been extremely important to me. Recently I coached for two years in Paris and the French language has an excellent expression to describe it: esprit de corps. This means a sense of unity, of enthusiasm for common interests and responsibilities, as developed among a group of persons closely associated in a task, cause, enterprise, etc. Teamwork can be likened to two compounds, almost essential to modern life. It’s the glue which keeps a team together, a bond which promotes strength, unity, reliability and support. Teamwork is also the oil that makes the team work. It can enable smoother movement towards targets, can prolong forward momentum, and can help teams to overcome obstacles. Teamwork has the potential to underpin so much of what is valuable in work.

The TEAMWORK we forge between home and school is imperative for the wellbeing of our students. I would encourage all of you to join our TEAM and help make our amazing school even better.

**Matt Dray visits the Prep/1/2/3 students**

Whilst the senior class were enjoying the rainforest at Paluma on their school camp, the rest of the school were very pleased to welcome a special guest to Hamilton Island State School. Matt Dray, author of the well known Dougal books dropped by to meet the students. Everyone was excited to meet Matt and hear him read the Dougal stories. The biggest surprise was left till last when Matt introduced students to the heroes of the stories themselves – Dougal Bear, Bumble Bee and Trevor the Pig. What a rockstar welcome they had by everyone! It was fantastic to meet them all and we hope to see Matt and Co back here for another visit in September.
End of Term Spelling Bee

In another instalment of end of term House Competitions, Hamilton Island State School decided to mix it up and give some Brainiacs a chance for fame and glory in the school! The end of term Spelling Bee was a resounding success with students competing against each other for the title of Super Speller. Competitors were split into groups of levelled ability with several rounds to determine the finalist. The final round was watched by all students in a sudden death knockout. Congratulations to all students for a fantastic effort and to our winning Super Spellers. Congratulations to the Turtles for taking out the House title for the Event. Also, a big thank you to Miss Karen for organising yet another terrific end of term event.

P&C Secretary

On behalf of the school I would like to offer a huge thank you to Kellie LaMonica who has been the P&C secretary for the past 2 ½ years. We sincerely appreciate all your involvement and effort that you have provided in the role. Please contact Josie Murgadas if you would like to put your hand up and help our P&C – they need your support.

Thanks Amanda

A very large thank you to Amanda Taylor who generously donated her time into regenerating the gardens over the holiday break. She has also purchased lots of mushroom compost, organic potting mix and mulch for us. Amanda spoke to me about her concept of from garden to kitchen table which she would like to run with the classes. I think this would be a wonderful opportunity for our students.

Farewell

It is with great sadness that I wish to inform our school community that as of the end of this week I will be taking leave to deal with my health issues. Over the past few months my diabetes has escalated to such a point whereby I have been visiting the medical center three times a day to get me through one day and ready for the next. It is not fair on the children if I can not give them the 100% attention that they need. From my very first day in the school I told our amazing staff that for me it’s all about our children. I would like to thank my amazing staff for their dedication, support and friendship. I would also like to thank those families who have made my time on this island enjoyable. It is extremely difficult being away from my own family but a few of you have opened up your hearts and homes to me, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Thanks again for your continued support,

Mr. Chris Richards - Principal
The Prep/One class have been getting into the swing of things since returning from their mid year break. Everyone seems to have had a fantastic holiday and we have enjoyed plenty of opportunities for sharing students’ photos and mementos from their trips away. With our new Science unit looking at the Earth around us, this has provided the class with a fantastic chance to explore different landscapes, climates and weather. What a pity some of the students couldn’t bring the snow back with them!

We are excited to be learning all about poetry this term for English. Students are understanding what makes a poem and are learning all about rhyming words and other interesting features of poetry. We plan to become creative poets and performers of our own poetry by the end of this unit.

History Show and Tell project

Parents of preps and ones be warned – start digging around in your photo books/files for old baby photos! Over the next few weeks, students will be asked to bring photos in of themselves at key milestones/events in their life. For example, new born photos, birthdays and Christmas photos and other special occasions. In addition to replacing our usual Show and Tell segment in the class, these photos will form a part of our focus in History of remembering the past. I am very happy for any photos to be emailed to me – kchap142@eq.edu.au

Welcome!

Our class would like to extend a warm Hamilton Island welcome to new Prep student Kai Hobson. Kai has moved here from Sydney with his family and it is fantastic to have him join our class. We also welcome back Tiah Harvey. It is so lovely having her smiling face back amongst us!
Welcome to Term Three! We have a busy and exciting term planned.

In the 2/3 classroom we are very excited to welcome Oliver and the return of Charlie. We have also farewelled Kuli. We would like to wish Kuli the very best of luck at his new school in Cannonvale.

Congratulations to all the students that met and exceeded all of their goals during Semester 1! It is a huge achievement!! We will be conducting new goal setting meetings over the next couple of weeks, notes will be sent out shortly and I look forward to seeing you all there. It is important that we continue to work together with the focus of improving your child’s reading, spelling and numeracy skills.

This term in English, students in Year 2 will create and present a poster, displaying their procedure based on the story ‘Georges Marvellous Medicine’. The Year 3’s will be presenting a speech on another character’s perspective in ‘The Lorax’.

Our Maths lessons this term will focus on reading the time, grid positions, direction, multiplication, angles and money. Lots to learn and do here!!!

In Science we are planning a trip to the water treatment plant as we research how we use the Earth’s resources and see what we can do to help conserve them.
Week one, Tuesday morning and students, parents and teachers woke early to the chiming of alarms and in the dark they checked their bags one last time. At the ferry terminal, both parents and students contained their excitement and anxieties as they waved a last goodbye. Looking at photos of the departure a rainbow formed above the Marina as we motored off.

Our first attraction was the Billabong Wildlife Sanctuary just South of Townsville. Our guide took us on a special tour, getting up close and personal with koalas, wombats, kangaroos, snakes, baby crocodiles, hundreds of birds and my personal favorite a big jumping croc called Jupiter.

On the drive up to Paluma we slowly ascended into the clouds and the students rolled their windows down to feel the wet air in the misty cloud forest. Arriving at Paluma the staff Dan, Brett, Luka, Christine, Barry and Diane greeted us at the gates. As you could imagine, the students fled the cars to their new temporary home with wild excitement.

The following days involved, rainforest walks, sustainability talks, leadership challenges, room inspections, dinner preparation and washing up, team building activities, night time walks and animal spotting, collecting and examining bugs from creeks and digging through the undergrowth of the forest floor. It was easy to see that the staff and the facilities were purpose build and trained for school groups. With the exception of 20minutes free play after shower time, we were doing activities from the moment our eyes opened until the moment they closed.

On our travels home, we stopped in at Reef HQ in Townsville. Once again having a school pass we were greeted by two lovely guides Jo and Ren who made our visit very special with detailed presentations and interactive experience for the students to learn about and handle the flora and fauna of our local GBR. We were also treated with a behind the scenes look at the turtle hospital.

That afternoon, we drove home in the rain and many students fell asleep as the week caught up to them. We braved the Shute ferry ride with grey skies and arrived home to a crowd of excited parents. Chris, Josie and myself were very glad to see all students home safe, in one piece. It is safe to say that all slept well that night.
Semester One Goals Awards
Gold Badge Awards
Reading continues to be a key priority in our school this year. Our timetable has been designed to support teachers in the implementation of four guided 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.

Chunking (Chunky Monkey)

Once children have learned how to sound out words using single letters, they move on to “chunking” sounds together. For example, sounding out sheep with each single sound wouldn’t make sense. By chunking the sounds together sh-ee-p, children can decode the word much more easily. This skill is essential for readers of all ages. Children in the upper years still need to chunk difficult words into smaller, easier parts, to help them figure out the word. For example unconscious would be chunked into un-con-scientious.

Synthesising

Synthesising takes the process of summarizing one step further. Instead of just restating the important points from text, synthesising involves combining ideas and allowing an evolving understanding of text. When reading, efficient readers use synthesising to bring together information that may come from a variety of sources. In child language, synthesising involves readers piecing information together, like putting together a jigsaw.

How can you help at home?

✓ Read, read, read! Read to and with your child. Have them read to you too! Read lots of different types of texts with your child. Try newspapers, websites, magazines, instructions for games, recipes.
✓ Encourage your child to move away from sounding out single sounds. The English language is made up of 26 letters in the alphabet, but lots of those letters make more than one sound! This is why chunking together sounds like sh, ch, tion, is so important. Demonstrate this skill.
✓ Synthesising can easily be demonstrated at home by following a recipe to cook something. As you read the steps, discuss how you are combining everything to make something new. Just like when we read, we combine all of the different parts (characters, settings, plot) to make the whole story.
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>

**At Hamilton Island State School**

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