Welcome to the July edition of the Hamilton Island State School e-newsletter. We have had a busy and productive start to the term with lots happening, especially in the infrastructure development of the school.

**Teaching and Learning (United in our pursuit of excellence)**

In term 3, we continue to focus on and drive our 2014 improvement agenda in the areas of reading and numeracy. We are working hard to introduce our new ‘Mystic Maths’ program that will provide teachers, students and parents with a levelled program, similar to ‘Magic Words’, to improve student performance in all foundation learning concepts within mathematics. Keep an ear and eye out for the reading and Mystic Maths workshops for parents later this term.

**Parent and Community Engagement**

We have now filled our 36 Ipad spots and are ready to begin our journey into an educational shift in the tools students use in classrooms to showcase and document their learning. A massive thank you to Darren Stephens for driving the Ipad project for our school. We can’t thank him enough for his significant contribution.

We have also enhanced our parent communication channels to inform you about what your child is learning and how they will be assessed in the key learning area of English. Notes have now been distributed detailing this information. Please let us know if this has been a valuable process.

Student, parent and teacher conferences will occur this term. This process has been developed to ensure we can form a valuable partnership with parents to set the improvement agenda for their child. At the conclusion of the meeting you will take away a document detailing your child’s learning goals for the semester.

Thanks again for your continued support,

*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

What a fabulous start to term 3. We were sooooo excited to see our brand new playground and we have been making good use of it.

This term we will be learning about writing sentences with rhyming words and learning to comprehend poetry. We will have a great time doing this because we love to sing rhyming songs and will have a laugh making up silly poems.

In Maths, we are starting the term off with a measuring unit. We are going to be measuring things by using different objects like paperclips and string.

Homework is now due back on Thursday so that I can hand it back out on Friday.

Thankyou to all my lovely reading helpers too. We wouldn’t be reading so well without you.

Thanks for your support

Miss Ashleigh Prickett
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
Hello Everyone!

I hope you all had a great winter break.

We have started the term with ferocity and gusto. Getting straight back into it! Here are our main focus topics for the semester.

English – Poetry
Mathematics – Time, Money & Length
History – The similarities and differences between families
HPE – You Can Do It! and throwing and catching skills in modified games
Art & Technology – Dance, Drama, Investigating, Designing & Producing

During the first week of the term we had Jasmin, a lovely work experience student, join us to see if teaching would be a suitable career for her. Jasmin thoroughly enjoyed the experience, especially reading groups and poetry, and misses the kids very much. She is now looking at making this her career choice.

Goal Setting
Our student goal setting for the semester was finished today and we are all looking forward to achieving our goals. Look out for these in your child’s bag this week. Please sign and return. I will send you a copy for your own records.

Technology & Homework
Try and use a digital program at least once a week to support your child’s learning for homework. For example, reading eggs, mathletics, spellosaur. I would love some feedback on how these programs work for you. Look out for a feedback form on this in a few weeks.

From Ms Jessie Reid

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the third 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, 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)
Welcome Back Livia!

This term we say “Welcome back!” to Livia who spent some time at the school as a year 2 student in the 2-7 class in 2012. It is great to have her as part of the year 4 cohort and we look forward to having her as part of the class from now on!

Gardening

Wow our vegetable gardens are looking great! Check out our tomatoes and the lettuce! It will begin to look different again once we get the sunflowers and marigolds blooming too!

If you have any unused garden stakes lying around your balconies and yards we would love to use them for our beans and tomatoes as they grow larger and higher each week!

IN CLASS THIS TERM...

English

This term we cover two units—one is a writing unit where everyone will write a story (yah!) which will also teach younger readers a moral or lesson. It’s a great time for families to have a chat about what morals (such as honesty, hard work, gratefulness etc) you value as a family.

The other (my favourite topic of the year) is poetry! We will be reading (and laughing at) lots of humorous poetry before we write our own. Ella wrote a cracking one about her big brother Ben when she was in year 2, so I look forward to seeing if she and the other year 4s can top their efforts this year!

Maths

We have been looking at number facts and learning to read numbers into the hundreds of thousands and even the millions! Partitioning numbers into their houses gave us another way to do mental arithmetic. Week two and three we are studying money and financial maths. All the students enjoyed adding up prices and working out the cheapest deals. We are gradually getting used to working out change. Practicing adding money, and giving change, is a simple, fun and worthwhile activity to do at home. Students can definitely benefit from “playing shop” with your spare change and notes—but just make sure you get them back! ;)

A big, BIG THANKS to Miss Michelle for her brilliant work as a learner teacher/prac student this term! We have enjoyed learning maths, English, geography and even PE with her! We wish Miss Michelle all the best with her future study, and it is just a shame she has to do her next prac at a different school as we’d love to have her back anytime!
We have had a fantastic start to the term with students getting straight back into learning. This term, I will be holding student, parent, teacher conferences to set goals for each child around our school improvement areas of reading, mathematics and attendance.

In the 5 to 7 class we are really focusing on ensuring each student can answer 5 key questions about their learning. I’ve attached the poster that sits on each students desk and as part of our classroom display to get students thinking about not only what they are learning but how they are going? How can they improve? And how they can get help?

This term in English the students will be completing two five week units of work. Our first unit’s assessment task is to write a letter to a student at Hamilton Island State School in 2059. The second task is a folio of poetry analysis pieces, detailing the students understanding of the messages implied in a range of different pieces of poetry.

I look forward to seeing you all at the parent, student, teacher conferences.

Thanks for your support.

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**5 Questions for Students**

**Q1. What are you learning?**

When teachers make the learning intentions clear, students can answer the question, “What are you learning?”

**Q2. How are you going?**

When teachers make the success criteria explicit, students can answer the question, “How are you going?”

**Q3. How do you know?**

When teachers provide descriptive feedback, students can answer the question, “How do you know?”

**Q4. How can you improve?**

When teachers set learning goals with students about what they must know and be able to do students can answer the question “How can you improve?”

**Q5. Where do you go for help?**

When teachers provide examples/exemplars of successful learning students can answer the question “Where can you go for help?”

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**From Mr. Michael Allan**

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Thanks for your support.
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.

School Improvement Agenda - Reading

How we teach decoding at Hamilton Island State School - 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.

The Tryin’ Lion strategy is taught in the early years to help students take risks and use prediction strategies to help decode unknown words within sentences. The strategy is: if you come to a word you don’t know, you re-read the sentence and try a word that makes sense.

Instruction Plan

I Do—Model the strategy to your child using the ‘think aloud’ technique. This allows the child to hear what you are thinking when you are reading the sentence, getting stuck on a word, re-reading the sentence and trying a word that might make sense.

We Do—Ask your child to copy what you did and see if they start to decode unknown words within sentences using this strategy. Ensure you are there to provide 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.

The Tryin’ Lion strategy

Try it again!

*Try to reread the sentence.
*Try a word that makes sense!

Instruction Plan

I Do—Model the strategy to your child using the ‘think aloud’ technique. This allows the child to hear what you are thinking when you are reading the sentence, getting stuck on a word, re-reading the sentence and trying a word that might make sense.

We Do—Ask your child to copy what you did and see if they start to decode unknown words within sentences using this strategy. Ensure you are there to provide 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.
### 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.

### Improvement in Hamilton Island State School’s Reading Performance from 2012 to 2014

#### How are we going?

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<th>Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
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We are extremely proud of the reading improvement we have made across every year level over the past 2 years. We are continuing to refine our practices and increase this growth even further throughout the rest of this year and into 2015.
Thanks again to all our major sponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marg Kurzok</th>
<th>Graham Young</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shane Howden</td>
<td>Floral Collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWYCV Virginia &amp; Otto</td>
<td>Linda Derry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy and Kerri Martin</td>
<td>Samantha Sharp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alani</td>
<td>Hamilton Island Medical Centre</td>
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