School News

What a fantastic term 1 and how quickly has it gone by! We have had an extremely successful term with students making significant learning gains across the board in our school priority areas of reading, writing and mathematics. I’ve been really impressed with the positive improvements in students handwriting and bookwork. As well as their attention and ability to articulate their learning goals and achievements. Hearing students talk about their improvement in reading levels and sight words has been refreshing and we are encouraging students to be informed and aware of their own learning and targets. Congratulations to all the students and community for winning 1 of 20 state ‘Ripples of Change’ awards presented by the Reef Guardian organisation. The school received $500 to put towards further projects for environmental sustainability.

Huge thanks to the P&C for agreeing to purchase the school an extra 10 ipads and Ipad charging trolley. The kids are going to really benefit from this contribution and I can’t wait to see them in action in classrooms.

Teaching and Learning

Thankyou to all parents for your participation in the recent parent information sessions and Personalised Learning Plan meetings with your teachers. We have received extremely positive feedback about these sessions and we would love to hear your thoughts whether they are positive or developmental areas. First up next term we have our teaching and learning audit. This involves our school undergoing a review of our teaching and learning programs and practices to ensure we improve to provide the best possible educational experiences for our kids. I welcome the process and look forward to the feedback.

Community

We are starting our fortnight Friday electives next term from 2:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. So far we have had a number of parents and community members offer an activity to run for the students. Please let me know if you want to be involved. You need to think of something you can run for a set period of time and how many students can be involved. I need to get this organised the first week back after the holidays so we can get started. This is going to be a fantastic opportunity for the kids to experience a range of skill sets that are not provided through the curriculum.

At our last P&C meeting we discussed the issue with students arriving at 8:30a.m. and no supervision available before 9:00a.m. The P&C with the school decided that we could not provide supervision at 8:30a.m. and therefore parents will now need to drop their kids off after 8:45a.m. If parents have any issues with this because of work commitments please come and see me at the school and we will try and organise an alternative for you. Thanks for a great term and I look forward to seeing you all again for an exciting term 2.

Michael Allan

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.

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**P/1 News**

Prep/1 have been making different types of graphs to represent our favourite things. We have also been learning to sort objects into different groups. Our Jolly Phonics is coming along nicely and we still love to sing and dance to the songs. Some of our class is starting Spelling Mastery next term. We have finished reading tests for the term and our class results are fantastic. I would also like to add a big thankyou to the parents who have helped with our reading groups this term and to the parents for practising reading and magic 100 words. It has helped the reading a lot! Well done. We wish everyone a Happy Easter and a safe holiday

Thanks,
Ashleigh Prickett
Hello all from the 4-7 class!

This term, to sum up everything we have been learning about persuasive language and techniques, the class has prepared persuasive essays on current topics in the media.
The children have worked really hard on their essays, so I trust you will read them and enjoy seeing how well the children can express their opinions!
Have a wonderful Easter holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all in term 2!
Kind regards,
Johanna Gardner

**BUG BFF**

I believe that killing bugs is awful. They have not done anything wrong, the smell of the spray is foul, bugs are creatures and they have feelings too.
What’s the point of killing bugs? They are a part of nature and play an important role in the food chain. They have not done anything wrong and, although they may sometimes bite, that is just how nature works.
The smelly spray is awful. It is gross, toxic and harmful to the bugs and if you have allergies it may also be harmful to you too. You do not want to have poison around your house harming your family do you? I certainly wouldn’t and neither should you!
Bugs have feelings too so why should we kill them? If you see a hurt ant you will see that the other ants from the colony will come and claim it and take it back to the nest so why shouldn’t we help them too.
So let’s stop killing the bugs, let’s get rid of that awful spray, keep the food chain running and be a bug buddy and stop the killing NOW!

*By Taniesha Derry*
Awful Amphibians

Why are we letting these awful amphibians take over? Cane Toads are gobbling native animals, killing native animals that try to eat them and they are just plain ugly. We NEED to get rid of them!

Cane toads are in the top 100 of the world’s worst pests. Hamilton Island is in the top 100 best holiday places. We have beautiful scenery, but toads are ugly. Cane toads do not fit our image. Let’s clean up Hamilton Island by getting rid of the terrible toads.

7 out of 10 people agree in my class that we should kill these exceptionally ugly amphibians humanely by putting them in the freezer. Mums, you might not be happy about this, but you will be when they’re gone and we grow up on a Hamilton Island which is free from cane toads.

Cane Toads haven’t done anything nice for us. They make a big stinky mess on the roads after the rain. They make the worst croaking sound when I would rather hear the owls gently hooting. They even sit in the holes on the golf course and stop you from getting a score. No one wants to see an ugly toad hopping away with their golf ball when they are on holiday.

Pesky cane toads are ruining the environment and our beautiful island home. They are just too nasty, noisy and numerous for this island. Together we need to get rid of them, by collecting them and sending them on a frozen winter holiday. Join me in making our island less ugly and more beautiful once again!!

By Isabel Davis
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.

Ocean Pollution

Can you imagine a tummy full of rubbish killing you slowly, mounds of rubbish floating on top of your home, and a bed of sticky smelly substances to sleep in every night? Littering is trashing our beautiful oceans and the turtles are suffering.

Our local icon the turtle is being wiped out by ocean pollution. Our plastic is killing tens of thousands of turtles every year. One single turtle eats six kilograms of plastic throughout its whole life. That’s like you trying to chomp your way through a plastic wheelie bin!

Have you ever heard of the rubbish islands? Well there are several different islands located near Hawaii, East California and even off Queensland shores. Most islands are made from old tyres, plastic bottles, general rubbish and Styrofoam. The islands are trapping large numbers of different types of sea animals like fish, sea birds, jellyfish, dolphins, small whales, fish eggs and our beloved turtles. Our precious animals should not die because of our rubbish tossing habits.

Many of our beaches look nice on the surface but lots more don’t. They are covered in wrappers, plastic and glass. Soon parents won’t be able to take their children down to the beach because they will trip over on plastic or cut them selves on glass. On holidays people won’t want to come home with glass in their feet and with memories of filthy beaches. When I go to the beach I’m always picking up other people’s rubbish! I can’t stand to let our beaches get any worse.

It’s not fair that I have to pick up after adults and other kids who litter or let their rubbish get into our waters. I love turtles and wild life, and I don’t like to see them suffering. When I grow up I want my children to live in a clean environment, full of animals and sea creatures of all kinds, and even better than what I see today. So put your rubbish in the bin and let our turtles have a chance to a future!

By Cara Hunter
I don’t like it, my friends don’t, no one does! No one likes homework! Homework is supposed to help children learn, not make them even worse at school. There are no links between homework and grades, I already do work for 6 hours all day, and I can just cheat on the answers – so what’s the point?

You might think that homework is a great way to learn more about the subjects we are studying at school. But a Duke University study between 1987-2003 found no strong evidence between homework and grades or understanding subjects. Doing homework is pointless! It doesn’t help children do better at school.

I work my bum off at school, sitting in the classroom, following school rules, doing my work, trying to be a super student. I start at 8:30 in the morning, and I don’t finish until 3:00 in the afternoon. I don’t mind sitting in class and doing my work. I don’t mind following the school rules. I don’t even mind trying to win the super student award every day. When I get home, I just want to sit down, relax and watch TV. But I am faced with the horror of homework. Four nights a week, for half an hour. That’s an extra 2 hours! That makes 32 hours of work a whole week! Our parents get paid for that amount of work, how about me?

I am a truthful boy. But I will say that most of the time I do cheat on my homework. I either use a calculator, find a dictionary or get my mum. Again, there is no point in doing homework at home, I am not going to get the questions right when it comes to university.

I like school, but I don’t like homework! It is the worst thing about school. It doesn’t help me get better grades and I already work hard enough all week. School is great, but you can have too much of a good thing. Homework is a mistake. Go check with your calculator.
I believe that energy drinks are extremely unhealthy for you. They’re not good for your brain cells, causing them to die and you could die along with it. It’s not energy it’s giving you it’s a day closer to death. Adults who allow children to have energy drinks are poisoning the child.

Caffeine can slowly kill you. Even when you think a drink has no caffeine it has more caffeine than you would believe. Monster, Mother, V and Red Bull all contain huge amounts of caffeine. They have as much caffeine as up to 2 espresso coffees. Even though caffeine is a legal drug there should be less in each drink or better yet no caffeine at all, especially when children are consuming them.

You might ask what is wrong with caffeine? How are these drinks toxic? Caffeine dumbs down brain cells, affecting you in minutes. It blocks the chemical signals in your brain, making you less able to think clearly. It takes your body 3-5 hours to break down caffeine, so a child having an energy drink before school will be affected the whole school day. Plus caffeine is addictive. Children can get hooked on these drinks, which will affect grades and social development.

Adults handing over energy drinks to children are doing the wrong thing. Most shops give children under the age of 15 energy drinks or parents give the child energy drinks, but you wouldn’t give a child a strong cup of coffee or a shot of alcohol. If a child has an energy drink repeatedly their body will experience headaches, jitters, nervousness, sleep problems, difficulty concentrating, increased heart rate and high blood pressure. This sounds like a recipe for early death. You wouldn’t want to be doing this to your child, would you?

I believe children should not have energy drinks. Caffeine is everywhere in many foods and drinks, but Mother, Monster, V, and Red Bull etc are all quietly killing us children. Caffeine kills our brain cells and is a drug. Any adult can choose to have energy drinks but choose no to giving them to children.
Sometimes I dream of being a knight in shining armour, having great fun and slaying a huge dragon. I always win of course and beat the bad guy. This is the joy that fighting games give to me.

Most people wouldn't pick up a weapon and hurt someone in real life. Most research says violent games make you violent but I know that's not all 100% true. Take me for example, I'm not the kind of person to hurt someone and yet I love violent games. So to me and most other people like me, violent games are nothing but pure entertainment and fun.

If fighting games were creating that much trouble by making violent children then wouldn't it be illegal for children to play them? The government isn't arresting parents for giving their children these types of games. If it wasn't okay it would be given more attention, but right now even though I'm not allowed to buy a game for myself, my father can go in and buy it for me. And no one cares that he does that.

With movie and game ratings they get a group of people called a Classification Board to choose the classification. Everyone has a different view of violent movies and games, so one person may think it's a violent movie but the other may find it great entertainment. I think classifications should be gone and let the customer choose the movie or game they like based on their own opinions.

I'm actually a really nice kid but I have to admit I spend maybe a little too much time in front of the TV or computer screen. But honestly playing all those fighting games that my dad lets me play, has had no effect on me. We decide our own classification because no-one is going to arrest me! So I say give fun fighting games a go and I hope you have a good time!
I learn stuff from games like Skyrim like what a scroll is and what an actual dragon looks like. Games are fun, you learn things, and it is not against the law.

Can I tell you about Skyrim? It is educational because it is from the past. I have learned new words from the past, that aren’t used now, for example bandits. I also know how to craft something for example making swords, or shields or armour. I can also tell you ingredients that you need for cooking, like pumpkin stew needs two bits of deer meet, one garlic, one pumpkin, one potato and two tomatoes! I can’t wait to try it myself in my real kitchen! Maybe you can try too!

I adore the fun Ninja farm game because on your farm there is a temple, you put two Ninjas together and they will make an epic Ninja. You can make up to 13 Ninjas and go fight the terrifying headless knight. This is such fun because I can not do this in real life!

You might think it is wrong for me to play these games. But the government says it is ok. Mum cannot hand over alcohol to a minor, but she can buy a game and hand it over to me and she is not breaking the law. So it must be ok.

These games entertain and teach me. I feel like I am almost there, and I am in charge when I play these games. I know they are not real life, they are fantasies! And that is why MA games are okay!
You don’t want me to live in a dump, do you? I think that you should clean up after yourself. My mum tells me this all the time, so now it’s my turn to tell you! If you don’t the world will be a mess, the rubbish will float into the water and the turtles will eat it all up and get sick. I don’t like seeing littering, so you should help me clean up the world.

If we don’t recycle there will be rubbish everywhere. In 1996-7 we made 1200kg per person. In 2006-7 we made 2100kg per person. We need to recycle more and reduce the amount of rubbish we each make. Did you know that Australia made 21.3million kilos of rubbish in 2007? That number is so big it hurts my head to even think about it!

What about the turtles? A bit of rubbish falls out of a lunch box, it gets picked up by the wind and floats into the water where the turtles will eat it and get sick. You can stop this from happening by recycling that bit of rubbish. It will make you feel glad that you did.

If everyone recycled our rubbish would be reduced by tonnes. Our seas will be cleaner, therefore making them a safer place for marine life, and it will be cleaner on land too. Less rubbish makes me feel good and you’ll feel alright too.
From the Principal

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

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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<td>Mondays</td>
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<td>Kids Mini-Golf Comp ($5pp)</td>
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<td>Tuesdays</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Kids Basketball</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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<tr>
<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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