Principal’s Address

Welcome to this edition of Hamilton Island State School’s eNewsletter. Please enjoy reading about the many learning achievements and highlights from across our classrooms in the newsletter items that follow. Our students are working diligently through their English, Mathematics and Science assessments and we are very proud of the effort and care they are taking to demonstrate their learning across a range of assessment tasks.

As teachers we have the greatest influence on student learning. To build our staff capacity around quality teaching and learning practices all teachers participated in professional development activities, led by the Principal, that focused on: (a) the moderation of our students’ Writing on Demand (narrative) task, and; (b) making our students’ transitions and movement between lessons and around the school more efficient to maximise learning time. Key professional learnings from our moderation discussions have directly informed our teachers’ planning and explicit instruction of writing lessons this term. In addition, our teachers and students have developed great transition routines that are being practised and embedded to assist our students to make efficient transitions in and around our classrooms.

In Week 4 all school staff participated in an Inclusive Schools and Key Sign Workshop facilitated by Bronwyn Reguson, our region’s Inclusion Coach. This workshop provided a vital opportunity for staff to stop and reflect on our practices as inclusive educators, and look for ways to refine and develop our approaches to teaching and supporting all students at Hamilton Island State School. As a staff we will be exploring ways to enact our professional learning with the vision of providing a truly inclusive educational environment and learning experience for every student at our school.

An exciting program of pre-Prep transition activities is well underway in partnership with Hamilton Island Kindy. Activities to date have included weekly group visits to our school facilitated by our Prep teachers, fortnightly visits to the Kindy facilitated by the Acting Principal, and a Prep Information Evening for parents on Thursday 3rd November.

We are planning our End of Year Concert for after school on Wednesday, 7th December. Each class will present an item of up to 10 minutes, along with a small variety of additional performances. The event will be held at a smaller venue to provide a more intimate and relaxed setting for our families to enjoy. Given this is a reporting term teachers will be working with our students on assessment tasks and topic revision through to the end of the term.

Just two weeks away is our school’s 30th Anniversary Ball on Friday, 18th November at the Outrigger Function Centre, commencing at 6:00pm. We have received a fantastic booking response to this event and we look forward to sharing this memorable and momentous evening with staff, students and parents, both past and present.

Thanks again for your continued support of our students and school.

Mr. Paul Thorpe, Acting Principal
Our students in the Prep/1 classroom have been ‘busy little bees’. In English they have been reading two versions of Goldilocks and the Three Bears and writing interesting sentences about the things they like and don’t like about them. They have also been working hard on their editing skills, making sure they start all of their sentences with a capital letter and end them with a full stop.

In Mathematics the Year 1s have been finishing off their data assessments, with students asking their classmates a question about their favourite things. Tiah and Poppy asked their classmates what their favourite movie was. Cooper G and Zanda asked their classmates about their favourite toys. Cooper K asked the class about their favourite number. Matilda wanted to know about the class’s favourite animal. They then had to arrange and interpret their collected data.

The Prep students are working on improving their Number skills by representing two digit numbers in a variety of different ways using concrete materials. Our students are working super hard on reaching their Semester 2 learning goals, with some of our students achieving their set goals.

Pre-Prep Transition visits
Term 4 has seen the commencement of the transition program for our 2017 Prep students. We have enjoyed welcoming our new students into the school and Prep/1 classroom to join in group rotation activities. Mr Thorpe has also visited the Kindy and worked with the students on early reading and gross motor activities.

Gail (Gi Gi) Harvey’s reading visit
Our class enjoyed a lovely visit from Gail Harvey to introduce the latest instalment of Angie’s Adventures stories. The class discussed the writing process with Gi Gi and how to plan and create stories using their imaginative ideas.
2/3 Class News

We have been very busy inside and outside of the Year 2/3 classroom!

In our English lessons we have been creating story events in written narratives. We have produced lots of fantastic stories and events and are creating texts that have a sizzling start, introduction, problem, solution and ending. Our students certainly have vivid imaginations and are wonderful story tellers. They are demonstrating their learning through improvement in their writing samples during our lessons.

In our Mathematics lessons we have been working flexibly with 2 & 3 digit numbers, 3D shapes and fractions. We are also learning to add and subtract with trading and borrowing.

On the last day of school we participated in Merlins Magic Wand event to raise awareness for disadvantaged children. We created and proudly wore our super hero capes and, thanks to Rob and his staff at the Wildlife Park, we were invited to see and pat some of the friendly local wildlife.

After refuelling with a snack and drink we excitedly bussed over to the oval for our Athletics Carnival. It was a fun-filled day with lots of participation in a range of track and field events. We all enjoyed a sausage sizzle and then finished off the day with student vs teacher vs parent races. It was a lot of fun for everybody who attended.

We also had Ditto come and visit us from Brave Hearts and we have been learning about keeping ourselves safe and recognising the signs our body sends us that we don’t feel okay. We know that if something is worrying us or that we are not safe that we can talk to a safe adult about it and that they will help us.

Like the Prep/1 class, we also enjoyed a visit from Gi Gi Harvey who shared her insights with our students about writing short stories.

Mrs. Michelle Boyd
— 2/3 Teacher
How the time flies! Year 4/5/6 students kick started their first day back to school this term with some team building design challenges. With a grand prize of being published in the school newsletter Ash, Olivia and Harry were the dream team designing and constructing a towering 55cm marshmallow and dry spaghetti structure.

In English our Year 5/6 students have been studying informative and literary texts and analysing how well they convey meaning. The primary texts we are studying at the moment relate to the southern Asian Moon Bear’s dire situation in South East Asia. Bears are being pushed to extinction as demand for traditional medicine made from the bear’s gall bladder bile hits new heights.

Our Year 4 students are digging into advertisements. They have been learning about the many persuasive visual and language techniques that product and service providers use to persuade kids to want the newest toy or join the latest craze. There have been some great discussions surrounding this topic and many tricks of the advertising world have been uncovered by our students.

In Mathematics this term our Year 5/6 students have started off with data interpretation and representation and the essential understanding of sample size and how this affects the reliability of the data. We have also looked at the merit behind primary and secondary data collection.

Our Year 4 students began the term with study around fractions and how the probability of an event can be expressed as a fraction. They are currently working on expressing equivalent fractions with some interesting results.

On a final note, our Year 4 sailing students have concluded another successful, safe and stimulating season. Students have been assessed and certificates of achievement will be awarded in accordance with Yachting Australia’s standards for the ‘Tackers One’ sailing program outcomes.

Well done to all our Year 4 students for their commitment and enthusiasm towards learning new and exciting skills in sailing. We hope to see you out on the water again soon!

— 4-6 Teacher
Our Beliefs: Every student matters every lesson, every day. Every student who attends Hamilton Island State School will be a high achiever.
Assembly Awards

Our Beliefs: Every student matters every lesson, every day. Every student who attends Hamilton Island State School will be a high achiever.
On the last day of Term 3 our students had a very special opportunity to join the staff at the Wild Life Park for their charity ‘Merlin’s Magic Wand’ event. The charity supports children with disabilities or illness and their families who are doing it tough. The theme this year was ‘Superheroes’, acknowledging just what superheroes children with a disability or illness are. Our students attended the park free of charge and they dressed up as their favourite superhero and took in the sights and sounds of the park whilst meeting the Wild Life Park’s very own animal super heroes!
Also on the last day of Term 3, following the visit to the Wild Life Park, our students headed to the Oval for an Athletics Carnival, organised and supervised by school staff with assistance from Steve Jackson, the Island’s Activities & Sports Events Manager. What an action-packed and fun way to finish the term and celebrate our students’ hard work and commitment to their learning.
Bravehearts’ Visit
Day for Daniel

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P&C News

2016 Explicit Improvement Agenda—Writing, Numeracy, Teaching Quality

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Thanks to our families and helpers for their fundraising efforts at the Jubilee Hotel, raising to date nearly $1,000 for the Hamilton Island State School P&C.
Explicit Instruction — it's how we do business at Hamilton Island State School.

6 Pillars of School-wide Pedagogy—Unpacked

**Pillar 5. Plan, teach and assess using the school’s pedagogical framework.**

**Opening of the Explicit Lesson**
Introduce the strategy/concept
- State the learning intention of the lesson/part of lesson WALT (we are learning to) and WILF (what I’m looking for)
- Review prerequisite skills and knowledge – checking for understanding
- Introduce the concept or skill to be explicitly taught and explain why (TIB - This is because) students need to master the concept or skill.

**Students demonstrate understanding**

- **I DO**
  - **Body of Lesson**
    - **Modelling think aloud**
    - Present new material in small steps
    - Model procedures – ‘thinking a loud’
    - Provide examples and non-examples
    - Use clear language and avoid digressions
    - 3 C’s – Clear, Consistent, Concise

**Students demonstrate understanding**

- **WE DO**
  - **Body of Explicit Lesson**
    - **Collaborative/Guided Practice**
    - Guide students as they practice – require high frequency of responses
    - Ensure high rates of success
    - Provide timely and explicit feedback, clues and prompts
    - Have students continue to practice until they are fluent
    - Teacher circulates the room and monitors/evaluates student practice by observing, asking questions and engaging students in focused talk.
    - If the students are not mastering the skill return to ‘I DO’ steps and reteach

**Students demonstrate understanding with high rates of accuracy**

- **YOU DO**
  - **Body of Explicit Lesson**
    - **Independent Practice**
    - Individual work, differentiation for student levels
    - Teacher circulates room and monitors individual student practice
    - Engage students in focused questioning and feedback
    - Students continue to practice until skills are automatic
    - Check and correct students’ independent work to validate students’ level of mastery

**Students demonstrate understanding with high rates of accuracy**

- **PLOUGH BACK**
  - **Closing of Explicit Lesson**
    - Review key concepts and consolidate understanding
    - Check WALT and WILF
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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>
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**At Hamilton Island State School**

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Thanks again to all our major sponsors

Hamilton Island State School
PO Box 192
Hamilton Island 4803
Phone (07) 4946 9522
Mobile: 0408 250 089
Email: the.principal@hamiiss.eq.edu.au
Web: www.hamiiss.eq.edu.au