Dear Parents and Carers

It seems like yesterday that the term started and yet we are already in week 3. Term 3 is always a busy term and there are a number of events that have been timetabled to occur during it. I encourage parents and carers to take particular note of newsletters, Facebook page and the school sign to keep informed as to these events.

I am still concerned about the overall attendance rates for children at our school. Departmental and school targets for attendance are 95%, yet our overall attendance has fallen to around 92%. Mondays and Fridays continue to be the days when we struggle to achieve even 90%. Last Thursday (the day before the Show Day public holiday) our attendance slipped to below 85%. I can only continue to re-emphasise the expectation that Every Day Counts and it is important that children attend school every day.

ENGLISH CONTINUES TO BE OUR FOCUS

One of our core focuses this year has continued to be on improving reading and writing. Our Great Results Guarantee was developed around improving reading and writing, and considerable financial and human resources have been dedicated to this focus. At our school we continually review and adapt proven strategies that focus on improving teacher knowledge and embedding collegial capacity building between teachers. This term some of our experienced leading teachers, Jenny Taylor, Sallyanne Powell, Marg Green and Sharon Baker will be trained as facilitators in Seven Steps to Writing Success and this will be a guiding reference for the implementation of a consistent whole school approach to the teaching of writing. Our 1st semester English results have shown good improvement and given this continued focus and development I believe the outcomes achieved by our children will further improve.

QUALITY SCHOOLS INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP (QSIL)

As one of the 3 schools in Far North Queensland Region that are involved with QSIL, our school vision aligns with the expectations of inclusivity. As a school we value, support and champion every child, and this is the underpinning philosophy of inclusive school practices. Having previously been involved with QSIL, I can say that the program is not a trial or research project. The expectations of inclusivity are well entrenched in the criteria of quality practices examined in School Reviews (our school has a School Review on 8 – 10 September), and the legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA). As a school we strive to ensure that our practices are inclusive and that every child is given any necessary reasonable adjustments for them to access learning and participation with their peers. This includes children identified through formal identification processes (SEPs) and those who display learning/behavioural challenges.

Tanya Sutton, Tania Loneragan, Marina Waddell and Kristie Blakeney are currently undertaking development and action research into deepening their understanding of inclusivity to lead this agenda in our school.

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISIT

This week we will be hosting a visit from Mr Richard Huelin (Assistant Regional Director) at our school. During our meeting with Mr Huelin we will be discussing and reviewing our school’s improvement agenda and discussing aspects of the School Review in September.

HELPING KIDS WHO CATASTROPHISE

Sometimes children automatically assume the worst case scenario in any risky or new situations. This frame of mind is often referred to as “catastrophising”. Children who catastrophise their fears and worries usually place enormous pressure upon themselves which can develop a sense of self-doubt.

Children who think in this way have their default mechanism always looking to the most negative outcome possible. They believe that the outcomes won’t just be bad; they’ll be the worst possible thing that will ever happen to them. Catastrophising makes children feel miserable and insecure. This can then lead them to not wanting to do anything that they have not tried before, because they expect the worst possible outcome.

Normally very young children don’t overtly catastrophise, however they can at times be negative. One of the best strategies to use to assist children, who think like this, is to make sure you model upbeat behaviour and think positively. School-aged children need to be encouraged to keep things in perspective. This is a valuable life skill that is worth teaching children from an early age.

WRITING SURVEY

What do you know about how writing is currently taught at HSS? What do you value about your child’s learning?

The HSS English team invites all parents and carers to have a say about how writing is taught at our school. We are writing a document called A consistent approach to the teaching of writing at Hambledon State School, which will inform teachers how writing is to be taught and give them a common language to use.

You can give us your answers to the two questions posed in paragraph one by completing an anonymous online survey found at the link below, by Mon 10 August. The results will be shared with you.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SKTJB5J

REMINDER

As this will be the last paper copy of our newsletter please provide your updated email address to the office as soon as possible.
Building Resilience

“The school years present children with countless challenges, setbacks, failures, and general difficulties. Resilient children withstand the pressures that school provides more effectively than children who are not resilient.

Resilience is being able to ‘bounce back’ from difficult times, setbacks, and other significant challenges. It includes being able to deal effectively with pressure, and get through tough times with good outcomes.

Parents play a substantial role in the development of resilience in their children.”


Tips for building resilience in children

• Listen to your child. Be empathic and see things through your child’s perspective.
• Identify and celebrate your child’s strengths. Help them develop those strengths and experience success that will inspire confidence.
• Discuss with your child that mistakes are ok and that mistakes are a chance to learn. Continued effort, practice and learning supports the development of resilience.
• Encourage your child to make their own decisions. Let your child know you will support and help them.

Tanya Sutton Year 1 & 2 Support Administrator

Year 6 Information

On Wednesday July 29th, a Junior Secondary Information Night is being held at Bentley Park College. The evening will start at 5.30pm in the College Theatre for students interested in enrolling at BPC for 2016. Application forms will be available. This is a great opportunity to ask questions around your child’s transition to secondary school.

PB4L

The PB4L team met this week to discuss the focus for the new semester ahead of us. As you will already be aware, there will be a new theme or ‘focus’ each week or fortnight for our students to explore. The theme for week 3 will be ‘Peer Conflict’. These themes are taught explicitly by our class teachers and follow a lesson format that our students are familiar with from their other Key Learning Areas. We have been pleased to see our students adopting the themes as they are brought out each week and hope that they will help continue to make Hambledon State School an even better place to learn.

Bin It

We all like to walk around in a clean and tidy environment. Please help us to embed the ‘Bin It’ message at our school by encouraging our students to be responsible with litter, pick it up, keep our school a safe and neat place and BIN IT!!

Peter Begemann Year 4-6 Support Administrator

Exploring numeracy with your child

Over the next couple of weeks I want to share some ideas that could help your child become more numerate. Quite often literacy takes priority in the early years so I’d like to draw your attention to Numeracy.

While board games and puzzles may appear to be just fun activities, they can also help to improve your child’s numeracy skills and encourage them to think logically.

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Many opportunities to be numerate happen at home. Here are a few ways you can explore numeracy with your child:

• show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks
• talk about the numbers and patterns your child comes across each day while playing games or sports
• encourage your child to count and sort objects into groups. You could use books, clothing or shoes and discuss how they sorted them into those groups
• explore ways to use and count money through budgets and shopping. Let your child calculate the cost of items and help them add up how much change you will receive
• ask questions such as “does that make sense?” or “can this be done another way?” to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems
• talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.

Michelle Bussell Prep Support Administrator

Upcoming School Performance –

Heave Ho, Off We Go!

Date: Tuesday 11th August, 2015
Cost: $4.50 per student

Payment envelopes sent home: Monday 27th July, 2015
Payment due to office: no later than Tuesday 4th August, 2015

Far from being just a magic show, Heave Ho, Off We Go! is a theatrical experience!

Allan Slogett challenges his audience, right before their eyes, with illusions that get their brain cells working, trying to work out what actually happened in the seemingly impossible illusions they witness.

Add to this, the humour of a wise cracking Toucan.

Heave Ho, Off We Go! is illusions, juggling, ventriloquism and loads and loads of laughs.

School Opinion Survey

If you have already completed and returned your Parent/Caregiver Survey, thank you and please disregard this notice. If not already completed, the paper surveys are due back to this school by Friday, 31 July 2015. This is a great opportunity to have your say about what this school does well and how this school can improve.

If you haven’t received a paper survey form yet, please contact Cheryl on telephone 07 40408666 or email admin@hambledoss.eq.edu.au
Kid’s Corner

Presentations

Student of the Week
Prep
Aaliyah-Jae, Sibella
Maya, Khan
Year 1
Harrison, Ben
Year 2
Kyan, Willis
Year 3
Wade
Year 4
Jorja, Tehel

HAPPY GRAMs
Prep
Rachael, Anneliese
Liam, Khan
Mirra, Tahlia
Cooper, Kimberley
Jack, Kobin, Jai
Amelia
Year 1
Baiden, Kiara
Year 2
Matilda, Zac
Zoannce, Kelsie
Malea, Jarrah
Year 3
Luke
Year 4
Sienna, Mason
Chloe, Jack, Liam
Year 5
Harry, Kahalia
Azaleah, Katelyn

GOOD PLAYGROUND
GOTCHA AWARDS
(Presented last week on parade)
Dante', Maddison, Lachlan, Ella
Kai, Phoebe
Joshua, Zachary
Jana, Amber
Trinity, Summer
Indiana, Nararia

HONESTY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Brodie, Skyla, Taylor, Logan,
Baiden, Yves, Ethan,
Kelsie, Marlee,
Amberlee, Stephanie

Prep C Happenings

‘For History this term Prep C have made a memory quilt with their favourite memories from the June/July holidays’.

Year 6 Camp

Year 6 Camp: Tinaroo
Environmental Centre

Reminder:
Tinaroo Camp Dates:
Camp 1: Classes 6B & 6C – Tuesday 18th August to Friday 21st August
Camp 2: Classes 6A & 6D – Tuesday 25th August to Friday 28th August
All camp forms have been handed to students. If you require additional forms, contact your child’s teacher. Please ensure that camp enrolment forms and information is signed and returned with payment by 31st July 2015. If you have any concerns regarding camp, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Mulgrave Athletics
Students competing at the Mulgrave District carnival on Friday July 31st will need to meet Mr P in the tuckshop area t 8.15am.
The bus will depart Hambledon SS at 8.20am. Please remember to wear Hambledon uniform, hats and shoes.

Notes and bus money (if travelling by bus) must be returned to the office by Wednesday July 29th.

Trinity Bay Writers Festival
On Thursday 30th and Friday 31st July five students from Year 6 will be attending the Trinity Bay Writers Festival to be held at the Trinity Bay High School. This is an excellent opportunity for students of Far North Queensland to meet and be mentored by some of the world’s most famous authors and illustrators.

Congratulations to Veronica, Erin, Kianu, Asha and Morgan for being nominated by their teachers and being able to attend this annual event.

We can’t wait to hear how it all goes!

Premiers Reading Challenge
The Premiers Reading Challenge is not a competition but a way to encourage students to develop a love of reading for life. Thank you to those students and their families who are supporting this event.
The 2015 reading period ends on Friday 28 August, with completed record forms due to library staff by Wednesday 8 September. Thank you for the completed forms we have received so far. Happy reading!!
**Parents/Community Corner**

**Father’s Day Stall**

5 Weeks to go!
Donations needed!!
Soaps, deodorants, hankies, lollies or chips.
Please drop donations to the Office ASAP so we can wrap and prepare them for sale.

Many thanks!

**NAIDOC Celebration Planning meeting**

Are you an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander parent at Hambledon State School?
Do you want to see a more dynamic and interactive cultural NAIDOC celebration at Hambledon State School? Then you are just the person we are looking for!

We are holding a meet and greet session to find any interested indigenous parents who may like to assist in planning the 2015 NAIDOC celebration.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th August, 2015 in our Library.

Please come along and meet us.

Thank you on behalf of NAIDOC committee

**Cairns BMX Club**

Cairns BMX Club will be holding a “Come N Try” Day on the 1st August 2015 at their track on Scott Street, Cairns from 12pm-4pm.

We are inviting all Boys / Girls / Mums and Dads to come down and ride the track for FREE and experience firsthand the speed and excitement the sport of BMX has to offer.

Don’t forget to bring your BMX Bike, long sleeve shirt and pants, shoes and socks, full faced helmet and gloves.

For more information please contact 4031 2728 or check out our Facebook page.

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**HEAD KNOCK/INJURIES to children**

It is often difficult to ascertain the severity of head knocks and the appropriate action to take. Although some bumps to the head will not result in an obvious injury, all head injuries require medical attention as the brain is the control centre for the body.

**Our School Procedure:**

**ALL** head knocks/injuries of children, no matter how minor, must be accompanied to sickbay immediately
An assessment of the injured child will occur and first aid applied as necessary
Sickbay personnel will contact the parent/carer to notify of the incident
Parent/carer and sickbay personnel will decide the best outcome for the student.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

**Celebrating Canteen Week**

27-31 July

**SPECIALS**

**Monday**— Homemade quiche & salad
$5.50

**Tuesday**— Nachos
$3.50

**Wednesday**— Sushi (you will need to order Tues for Wed lunch)
Teriyaki chicken & avocado/ Tuna, cucumber, mayo
$4.00

**Thursday**— homemade pizza, Meatlovers, Tropical or Supreme
$4.00

**Friday**— Sausage on bread
$2.50

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**School Hoops Times**

Start -Friday 7th August– Friday 18th August 3:15-4:15 pm
Cost- $10 per session (7 week program)
Please see office for registration form
Get Ahead! Stay Ahead! Professional Tutoring.

- Reading, Spelling, Writing and English
- Mathematics all year levels
- Study Skills
- Chemistry, Physics

FREE ASSESSMENT. PROFESSIONAL TUTORS. ESTABLISHED 16 YEARS.