Dear Parents and Community Members

Welcome to Week 3 of Term 1 and I can say it has been wonderful seeing how quickly children have settled into the new school year. I had the opportunity to visit the Prep classrooms last week and the children were very settled and engaged in their learning, albeit probably very tired and exhausted by the end of the day.

You may have seen in the media last week that random bomb threats were made to a number of schools across Queensland and other states in Australia. No threats were made to our school during this time. I believe it is important to advise you as parents and carers of the children attending our school that if we did receive a threat we would follow the Departmental procedures of:

- Always take threats seriously
- Immediately evacuate the school and inform the appropriate authorities
- Communicate to the school community essential information when it is received
- Advise parents when the situation is all clear

Rest assured that the safety and well-being of all children and staff at our school is of paramount consideration.

Meet n Greet Afternoon

On Tuesday afternoon between 4 – 6pm we will be holding a school community Meet n Greet opportunity. This afternoon will provide you with the opportunity to meet with school staff in an informal setting as well as meeting other parents and carers at our school. The school will be putting on a free sausage sizzle for the afternoon and the P&C will be selling drinks. Commencing at 4:30pm there will be 15 minute presentations in the hall where teachers of each year level will casually speak about what children will be learning about during the semester. The timetable for these presentations will be as follows:

- Year 1 & 2 – 4:30pm
- Year 5 & 6 – 4:45pm
- Prep – 5:00pm
- Year 3 & 4 – 5:15pm

This event will be held in the Junior Multi-Purpose area and I am looking forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible during the afternoon.

Day 8 Numbers and Staffing

Last Friday I submitted our Day 8 numbers to the Department. These numbers are used to calculate the school’s staffing allocation for the year. Our Day 8 numbers for this year were confirmed at 795, in comparison to last year’s 815. The effect of this will be that our school will receive a reduction in departmental staffing allocation of approximately 1 FTE (1 full time position). This however will not mean that we will be losing any staff member as we intend to utilise our existing staff.

Part of the restructure involves altering one of our straight year 3 classes into a Year 3 and 4 class. Although the changes affected a small number of children, I would like to express my appreciation and acknowledgement of the children, parents and teachers involved in the re-distribution. Our school’s historical data shows that it is not uncommon for our school to increase enrolments during the year (up to 20 children) and the re-distribution provides us with the necessary space to accommodate this growth should it eventuate. It has also ensured that all classes at our school are comfortably within the department’s recommended class size targets (25 for Prep – Year 3 and 28 for Years 4 – 6).

First P&C Meeting of Year

Next Tuesday evening (February 16), the school’s Parents’ and Citizens Association (P&C) will hold its first meeting of the year. I encourage all parents to attend the upcoming P&C meeting. It is imperative for our school that we have a wide cross section of parents attend these meetings. The P&C is a vital body within our school. Its main roles are to:

- Raise funds for the school.
- Provide feedback to the principal;
- Provide advice to the principal;
- Raise funds for the school.

I would like to encourage all parents and carers to attend these meetings. P&C Meeting occur on the 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 6:30pm. They are held in the staffroom in Admin block.

Strategic Plan

Last week I wrote about the schools draft Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2019, and a copy was attached to the newsletter if you receive it by email. If you still receive a paper copy of the newsletter then you can obtain a copy of the Plan from the office. One of the discussions for the first P&C meeting will be around our Strategic Plan and I would like to have it approved as soon as possible to direct the improvement agenda for the school over the next 4 years. If you would like to provide any feedback or have any requests for clarifications, then please email me these requests/feedback to theprincipal@hambledoss.eq.edu.au
School wide Goal Setting

In week 5 of this term all children across the school will be setting individual writing goals. The process of setting goals allows children to collaboratively work with their teacher to identify their strengths, areas for development and what they want to achieve. By having identified what they want to achieve, children then know what they have to concentrate on for success. Having specific, clearly defined, measureable goals allows children to take pride in accomplishing those goals. By setting goals children can:
- Improve academic performance
- Increase motivation to achieve
- Increase pride and satisfaction
- Improve self-confidence

Parent teacher interviews, in week 8, is the perfect opportunity to discuss your child’s writing goals. Helping children see their goals progress motivates them to keep trying.

Tanya Sutton
Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning

Jolly Phonics

Our Prep children at Hambledon State School have been introduced to the Jolly Phonics Program. This program forms the basis for learning sounds in preparation for reading and writing. In Jolly Phonics the 42 main sounds of English are taught, not just the alphabet. The sounds are in seven groups. Some sounds are written with two letters, such as ee and or. These are called digraphs.

Each sound has an action which helps children remember the letter(s) that represent it. As a child progresses you can point to the letters and see how quickly they can do the action and say the sound. At Hambledon State School we teach four sounds per week. As a child becomes more confident, the actions are no longer necessary. Children should learn each letter by its sound, not its name.

The letters have not been introduced in alphabetical order. The first group (s, a, t, i, p, n) has been chosen because they make more simple three-letter words than any other six letters. The letters b and d are introduced in different groups to avoid confusion. Children in Prep A enjoyed creating a visual for the s sound to go with the action. Ask your child for the action.
## Rugby League

Students born in 2004 and 2005 who wish to be part of the School rugby League team will need to attend training sessions on Monday afternoon’s at Hambledon SS between 3.00pm and 4.30pm.

Games will commence on Wednesday February 10th. See Mr Pudovskis if you are interested in participating in this program.

## X-Country

X-Country carnivals will be held on the following dates- Junior (P-3) Wednesday March 16th and Senior (4-6) Friday March 18th. Children in Prep-3 will run a short obstacle course on the back oval whilst the senior students will run around the school grounds. All competitors are likely to receive an icy stick at the end of their race. Children are encouraged to wear house sports shirts which can be purchased from the school tuckshop.

Students who are unsure which house team they are in can contact Mr Pudovskis.

## Sports Leaders (Year 6 students)

Application forms need to be returned to your child’s classroom teacher by Monday February 22nd. A school preselection committee will then evaluate and select successful candidates. Selected students will then deliver a speech to their house team on Friday March 11th.

Contact Mr Pudovskis if you require further information.

## P&C Information

The next P&C Meeting will be February 16th 6:30pm in Staffroom

We look forward to meeting some new parents

Mary had a little lamb,
She also had the flu.
And when she left her school,
The others had it too.
So anytime your children are sick
Please keep them home with you.
Then the children in our school
Will be happier and healthier too

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### Happy Grams

- Year 2: Risabella, Connor, Manaia, Charles, Shamira, Sharpei, Cooper, Zoey, Amber
- Year 4: Harry
- Year 5: Hussien, Nelly

### Honesty

- Chloe, Levi, Liam, Luca, Zaynah, Gabriel, Zoey, Jaylen, Annika, Scarlette, Rebecca, Lilly, Mia, Leshai

### Acknowledgement

- Chloe, Levi, Li, Luca, Zaynah, Gabriel, Zoey, Jaylen, Annika, Scarlette, Rebecca, Lilly, Mia, Leshai
Parents/Community Corner

P&C Information
The next P&C Meeting will be February 16th
6:30pm in Staffroom
Thankyou for your support throughout 2015

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS
We are hoping to offer second hand uniforms for sale.
We are appealing for donations of any good quality uniforms you may no longer require.
Thankyou for your support.

TUCKSHOP TERM SPECIAL
There will be no further sushi orders available for this term.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER
Ring by 8:00am if you can’t make it!
40408666 - school office

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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>08 Dec</td>
<td>Suzette, Ruth</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>09 Dec</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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