Dear Helensvale Community,

Welcome from De

Firstly, can I again say how excited I am to be given the opportunity to join your school community. I have been working closely with Mrs Ona, Mrs Austin and Ms Brown and the staff over the past 4 days to gain an understanding of the Helensvale Community and ensure that the teaching and learning remains a priority. I already can see that our staff are a very dynamic and professional group of people that work with your children. Their enthusiasm for teaching and love of children is very evident as I walk through our school.

For the past eight years I have been part of leadership teams in four local Gold Coast schools. During my time at Mudgeeraba I enjoyed the roles of Deputy Principal, Head of Special Education and Curriculum Co-ordinator. At Tallebudgerra, Surfers Paradise and Miami I have thoroughly enjoyed and still continue to enjoy my role as Deputy Principal. I have also enjoyed my Acting Principal roles at both Miami and Surfers Paradise. Over these eight years I have developed a strong passion for working with others to ensure that every child in every class is learning every day. If a child is not learning, I consider it my role to work with the teacher, the child and the parents or carers to find out why this is not occurring. We can then work together to ensure that your child is in class learning happily every day.

Attendance

Over the holidays I was doing some reading regarding student learning. There are some very easy ways for you to promote success with your child. Firstly, I would strongly encourage all parents to ensure that their children are at school every day. This ensures a continuity of learning for them and will help them to reach their potential as learners and as young people.

The second is ensuring that your child comes to school every day. We do have a proportion of our school population that have a number of unexplained absences every school term and also a large number of students that come after the learning bell (8.50am). Coming to school every day also helps to grow a child’s sense of responsibility and demonstrates to them that you value their education. I often tell students that coming to school is their ‘job’ and it is one of the most important things that they will do in their lives.

In 2016 we will continually monitor student attendance and monitoring the students that are often
late. I would ask for your support by ensuring that your child comes to school every day and if for any reason your child is absent please send a note, an email or make a call to your child’s teacher or the office explaining the absence. We will be making contact with parents for continual unexplained absences or where patterns of absence are identified. A child’s attendance can greatly impact on student success. Please remember that learning in classrooms starts at 8.50am. Students need to be at school by this time as teachers will start teaching after this bell. It is important that a child feels that they know what is happening and if they miss the first part of the day they may feel like they play ‘catchup’ all day.

I thank all parents in anticipation of their support with this request for high levels of school attendance throughout this year. Parents please also note that if you wish to see your child’s teacher an appointment is best so that the teacher and parent do not feel rushed.
On Tuesday afternoon we conducted our Meet the Parent sessions. A huge thanks to all of our parents and carers that were able to make these sessions. It is a great opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and hear about all of the great things your child will experience in their classroom in 2016.

P & C

Next Wednesday February 17 is our P & C meeting. Please join us at 7pm in the staffroom.

De Parker
Acting Principal

News from Mrs Austin’s Desk

Response to Intervention

Last year, Helensvale SS embarked on a journey of incorporating Response to Intervention (RTI) across all Prep to Year 6 classrooms. This proved a highly effective approach to allow students to work in smaller, targeted groups to consolidate and extend foundational literacy and numeracy skills age appropriate to year level curriculum expectations. This additional time allowed students:

- more time to practise and apply new concepts taught during whole class instruction
- the opportunity to learn through a variety of teaching approaches to re-teach a learning concept

We are very excited to announce to the community, that Response to Intervention will be commencing from Tuesday 16 February. This will mean your children’s classes will see squads of Teacher Aides, Teachers, Learning Coaches and Deputy Principals working with small groups of students three days a week.

Below is a snapshot of information of RTI for 2016:

Who: All students from Prep to Year 6
When: Each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Time: Morning and Middle Sessions
Duration: 30mins each day
Where: Your child’s classroom
By: Classroom Teachers, Teacher Aides, Learning Coaches & Deputy Principals

If you would like to know more about this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me by email raust35@eq.edu.au. Look out for future information regarding our RTI strategy in future Homelines.

Behaviour Focus of Week

In conjunction with our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Team, each week we will be communicating a behaviour focus of the week at Helensvale SS. The focus will proactively teach the students the expected behaviours at school. This will be reinforced by classroom teachers in the classrooms, year level and whole school assemblies and through our Homelines. This gives families the opportunity to support the school and discuss our behaviour focuses at home.

Week 3’s Focus – Appropriate Play at Break Times

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Rules</th>
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‘Be respectful’ and ‘Be Safe’

You Can Do It

‘Getting Along’ and ‘Resilience’

Keeping our hands and feet to ourselves
Taking turns in games
Including others in games
Staying in allocated play areas
Using kind and friendly words when speaking to others
Sharing of equipment
Being resilient when I don’t get my own way
Asking for adult help when I cannot solve problems on my own

News from Ms Brown’s Desk

**Attendance**

Following on from Mrs Parker’s important message............

Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement. Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care such as haircuts. Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances your child’s teacher may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?

Yes, you must let the office know the reason why your child has been absent from school within two school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.

The school’s absentee line is **5556 1370**

**Week 2 Attendance Data**

Prep - 96.9%
Yr 1 - 95.8%
Yr 2 - 95.0%
Yr 3 - 96.1%
Yr 4 - 95.0%
Yr 5 - 94.1%
Yr 6 - 95.2%

A huge congratulations to our Prep students who achieved the best attendance data last week! Our target is to hit at least 95% attendance in each classroom each week and to have zero unexplained absences.

**Numeracy**

Last week, I shared ideas to help you support your children’s home reading. This week the focus
is on Numeracy. To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Numeracy enables you to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in your daily life. We need numeracy to solve problems and make sense of time, numbers, patterns and shapes for activities like cooking, reading a map or bill, reading instructions and even playing sport.

Ways to support your child’s Numeracy development

Research has shown that children’s motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education. There are many everyday things you can do to encourage numeracy learning.

These include:

- encouraging your child to use mathematical language — how much, how big, how small, how many
- discussing the use of numbers, patterns and shapes in your day-to-day life — numbers found on library books, spatial patterns or shapes in playgrounds, in the home and architecture
- talking about occasions when you are using mathematics in daily jobs and real life situations — cooking, gardening, driving, map reading, building and playing sport
- exploring situations using money such as shopping, budgets and credit cards
- estimating, measuring and comparing lengths and heights, how heavy or light things are and how much containers hold
- talking about different ways to solve a problem
- using everyday tools like tape measures or kitchen scales and discussing the units of measure
- asking ‘does that make sense?’, ‘is the answer reasonable?’ or ‘what other ways could we do this?’
- observing and using timetables, calendars and clocks for different purposes like study periods, holiday planning and catching public transport
- helping your child to work out how much things cost and what change they will receive
- playing number games using magazines, books, newspapers and number plates
- organising, categorising and counting collections of things like toys, books, clothing and shoes.

Please don’t hesitate to touch base with your child’s teacher for specific information about what is being taught in Mathematics lessons this term. All students should now have their Mathletics passwords and are encouraged to spend time each day online http://www.mathletics.com.au/ completing assigned questions tailored to the ability of individual students.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Meet the Teachers afternoon on Tuesday and I look forward to seeing you next week on Thursday 18th at our Prep-Year 1 assembly at 2:20pm and our P&C meeting in the staff room at 7pm.

Until next week…
## School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Payment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 16 Feb</td>
<td>Year 2-3 Assembly 2:20pm</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Feb</td>
<td>Travelling Transition Show Year 6</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4-6 Assembly 2:20pm</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7:00pm</td>
<td>Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 18 Feb</td>
<td>Prep-Year 1 Assembly 2:20pm</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Religious Instruction commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 24 Feb</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly 2:20pm</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 1 Mar</td>
<td>Year 2-3 Assembly</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 2 Mar</td>
<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 4-6 Assembly</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 3 Mar</td>
<td>Prep-Year 1 Assembly</td>
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<td>Wed 9 Mar</td>
<td>Whole School Assembly</td>
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<td>Fri 11 Mar</td>
<td>Camp Quality Incursion Whole School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 15 Mar</td>
<td>Year 2-3 Assembly</td>
<td>PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 16 Mar</td>
<td>Year 4-6 Assembly</td>
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<td>Year 3 Star Lab Incursion</td>
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<td>Year 5 Star Lab Incursion</td>
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## PE News

**T20 Cricket**
Running Club every Wednesday and Friday morning

Every Wednesday and Friday morning from 8:15am on our oval students (and parents) are invited to running club. This is a chance to build fitness, stay fit, learn technique and enjoy the outdoors. It will focus on middle-long distance running in the lead up to our school Cross Country (that our middle-upper Primary students will participate in). Students can wear a change of clothes/footwear if they wish, but must change back into full school uniform before school starts. Look forward to seeing all the runners there!
Part of my role this year is to act as the Gifted and Talented Coordinator for our school. I will also be working with students and teachers to ensure that all students who need to be extended or offered extra challenges have their needs met. To this end there will be various programs run throughout the year. Some programs (eg. ICAS tests) are voluntary and are open to self-nomination by students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Other programs are offered on a selection basis and students will be nominated by teachers based on their assessment results.

Last week I handed out letters to selected students advertising a program called “Days of Excellence” which is run by an organisation called BRAINways. These “Days of Excellence” are not part of our school program. We are happy to let you know when they are being run and will gladly support students who wish to attend by recording that they are involved in a school related activity that day, rather than marking them absent. However, it is completely up to you, the parent or care-giver, to sign them up on-line, transport them to and from the venue and pay the registration fee should you wish your child to attend. The program is run and supervised by the employees of BRAINways. There will not be any Helensvale State School staff in attendance.

Should you wish to talk to me about this program, or any other queries you may have about our Gifted and Talented or Extension Programs please don’t hesitate to contact me. My email address is jrhee3@eq.edu.au. I look forward to another stimulating year of learning extension and challenge as we all work together to help our students “Strive to Succeed”.

EATSIPS News

Congratulations to Brent Barnes, a past student of Helensvale State School, who visited us last week to tell us that he has been awarded a 3 year scholarship to Nudgee College.

Brent was in Yr 7 at our school in 2013. He successfully applied to be in the Rugby League Excellence program at Coomababah State High. At Coomababah, Brent excelled at rugby league and athletics. He has also been chosen for the Broncos’ development squad and will be playing for the Indigenous All Stars U17 team at Suncorp Stadium this Saturday.

We wish Brent well as he starts Yr 10 at Nudgee College this week. We know he will do himself, his family and his community proud.

Bookclub News

The first issue of Bookclub for 2016 has been sent home this week.

This is a great way to purchase books at good value prices, while helping the school. Every order we place earns Rewards which we use to purchase books and resources. Just to give you an idea, last year we earnt nearly $3000 in Rewards.

You’ll find award-winning books, as well as old and new favourites. The books span a wide range of children’s reading levels and interests and are inexpensive (some books cost as little as $1 and $2).

It is very easy to order. Payment can only be made with a credit or debit card online.

You can place your order via www.scholastic.com.au/loop or via the iPhone or Android App.
There’s NO need to return paper order forms or payment receipt details to school. For a quick how-to-order video, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP, select State and School and then click on HELP at the top. Remember NO Cash Orders please – we are now running a cashless Book Club! All orders need to be placed by MONDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY. Any questions, please email to hsbookclub@gmail.com

Happy Reading!
Carole

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**Student Absence Line**
**Email:** absence@helensvaless.eq.edu.au
**Phone:** 55561370

Don’t forget we have a convenient absence line– email & phone, for parents/carers to access 24/7. Parents can leave a message in relation to student absence for the class teacher by this email or phone line. Please phone or email with the following information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child/Childrens Name</th>
<th>Child/childrens class</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date of absence</th>
<th>Reason for absence</th>
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**Student Resource Scheme**

Thank you to all the families that have returned the student resource scheme participation forms. Please be aware that even though you may have paid or are paying for this, we still require the completed form confirming participation in the scheme.

For your convenience the cash window is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8.15am to 9.30am.

Leonie Foster

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**Community News**

Published by The Administration Department

**Advertising in our Newsletter**

Advertising Space is now available within our newsletter

Please phone Michelle on 0409992479 or send an email to michelle.m@austnews.com.au if you are interested in advertising your business.
Cr Donna Gates  
Division 1

Looking for something to do?  
Check out our FREE MOVIE NIGHTS in Division 1 over the coming months. Tell your family and friends to come along.

FREE 'OPEN AIR' MOVIE NIGHTS DIVISION 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOVIE NIGHT</th>
<th>THEATRE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREE MOVIE NIGHT - Ormeau Norfolk Village Oval</td>
<td>Big Hero 6</td>
<td>10 October 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREE MOVIE NIGHT - Upper Coomera Centre</td>
<td>Minions</td>
<td>25 January 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREE MOVIE NIGHT - Pimpama Brian Houston Village Green</td>
<td>Little Rascals</td>
<td>13 February 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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You can contact me on 5541 6391 or 0424 776 995 or by email division1@goldcoast.qld.gov.au OR Facebook:  
http://www.facebook.com/CrDonnaGatesDivision1

To find our more information phone 07 5541 6391 or division1@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Shelter dogs don’t come with baggage...  
They come with life skills.

Animal Welfare League QLD  
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE QLD

CHOOSE TO ADOPT!  
awlqld.com.au

GET YOUR KIDS INTO THE T20 ACTION

Registrations are now open for the 2016 Season
Training has commenced but it isn’t too late to join!

3-5yo Squirts Program
U6-U11 Miniroo’s
U12 – U16 Competition Age

For more information see our website www.nerangsoccercub.com
or contact Mel on 0418 770 915
Are you interested in trying Calisthenics?

We have classes for ages 2 ½ up to adult, commencing 1 February 2016. Monday classes held at the Helensvale Community Centre and Tuesday/Wednesday classes at the Helensvale State School hall. For more information head to our website www.helensvalecalisthenics.com or email calisthenics@bigpond.com.
GROUP TRAINING

Look and feel good!
Get in shape and lose those unwanted kilos!
Stay motivated, have fun, train with your mates!

First week FREE!!

Times:
Every Monday: 6.00-6.30am
Tues & Thurs: 5.30pm-6.00pm
Saturday: 6.30-7.00am

Where: Helensvale Primary School, Lindfield Rd, H/vale.

$15 per Week (4 sessions)*

You Get: "ICE" training (scientific training for fat loss).
Plus nutritional advice & special report.

CONTACT: MICK WARD
Fully Qualified Personal Trainer
Group Fitness & Boxing Instructor
3rd Dan Black Belt Taekwondo Do
Transformation Specialist with Metabolic Precision
PHONE: 0402 835 627

"Like us on Facebook"...KUVX Health & Fitness

*Must pay 12 weeks in advance or $15 direct debit per week