Term 3 Week 5  8/8 /2013

Principal’s Message

Eisteddfod Countdown

This week, our students have been fine tuning their skills, instruments and voices in readiness for this year’s Gold Coast Eisteddfod. Our instrumental music teachers have also finalised our school’s performing groups in preparation for this year’s Eisteddfod. All parents, from Prep to Year 7 are welcome to attend the performances at the Gold Coast Arts Centre. There is a small admission cost, and I guarantee that you will witness high quality performances from private, independent and State schools on the Gold Coast. I wish all our performers every success.

High expectations the key to success

The Australian Newspaper carried an article called “High expectations the key to success”. The article highlighted the success of a small school, 86 students, in southern New South Wales where the students are achieving well above the expected level in national tests. The school is one of the most underprivileged schools in the nation, being placed in the bottom 10 per cent according to its Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) status. The Principal, Ms Gill, attributes this success to a school wide commitment to having high expectations of every child and her teachers knowing every student.

"We have the same expectations of all our children," Ms Gill said. "Every child has the ability to learn and my job, and the school’s, is to provide them with the best education they can achieve, the best results they’re capable of. When we analyse our data, we don’t analyse only indigenous -- we don’t look..."
at that; we look at the students as a whole. We have high expectations and every year our expectations are higher.”

After reading this article I reflected on how this school’s success will impact on the lives of these children who attend a school which has 33% of students who are indigenous and an ICSEA of 810 compared to the Australian average of 1000 and Helensvale’s 1019. Clearly this school is “punching well above its weight”, and what can our school and staff learn from the success of this small school.

Evidence from educational research supports the theory that having high expectations is paramount for student success when combined with other strategies. A culture of high expectations at school and at home is needed to achieve this level of success. Children do respond to the high expectations of their teachers, parents and their peers. The academic advances made by our Prep children over the last two years highlights the enormous capacity of children to learn when challenged in a culture of high expectations, explicit teaching and a school culture that believes all children can learn.

All our teachers have high expectations of our students. These expectations are supported by most parents in tangible ways. Supporting your child to complete weekly homework, projects and other school/home assessment tasks provides a consistent message to your child that learning is important and all tasks should be completed to the best of one’s ability.

On occasions, the level of support modeled by some families challenges our school’s high expectations, delivering a mixed message to children about learning success being a supportive partnership between home and school. Children need to learn early on their lifelong learning path that all children can learn to their potential and this is demonstrated by being actively engaged in their learning, e.g. homework in on time, projects completed, attending school every day, arriving on time for school and not using their time-poor parents as pawns to excuse their underperformance with their teachers.

Our teachers are committed to every child’s learning and with the active support of each parent, greater success can be achieved for their child. Open, timely, constructive communication which respects individuals’ perspectives provides a greater opportunity for a successful partnership between the teacher and parents than one which is antagonistic, disrespectful and unsupportive. I acknowledge the high level of support for our teachers by the majority of families and congratulate you on your understanding of a positive home school relationship to model to your children how to succeed in life.

“Involving parents in the care and schooling of their children helps parents, teachers and the children themselves. Most importantly, children have better academic and social outcomes when their parents and teachers work well together.”

http://raisingchildren.net.au
Principal Gill is leading her school to achieve great results in an environment which could easily be forgiven for underperformance but her commitment to high expectations and a belief that every child can learn has made an enormous impact on her student’s success. Given our school’s ICSEA rating advantage over Ms Gill’s school, 1019 vs. 810, the leverage we have to achieve higher results can only be achieved in a positive partnership characterised by members of the school community setting high expectations of our children at all times.

“Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not; it is the first lesson that ought to be learned; and however early a man’s training begins, it is probably the last lesson that he learns thoroughly. (Thomas H. Huxley)

P&C Meeting Reminder

The next P&C meeting will be held next Wednesday evening at 7pm in the staff room.

Thought of the Week:

“Don’t lower your expectations to meet your performance. Raise your level of performance to meet your expectations. Expect the best of yourself, and then do what is necessary to make it a reality.”

Anonymous

Michael Shambrook
Principal

New Families to our School

Do you know someone who is thinking about sending their child to Helensvale State School in 2014?

We will be conducting school tours every Friday morning from 9.30am.

Parents do not have to book, just be at our Administration Office at 9.30 promptly and we will take them around our school.

Sheryle Croft
Deputy Principal

Be Safe–Cross at the pedestrian crossings
From Prep, Years 1 and 2

ABSENT FROM SCHOOL:

Whether absences are excused or not, the resulting loss of instructional time is substantial and, for many students, the academic consequences are decidedly negative. Children who are chronically absent in Prep and Year One are much less likely to read proficiently by the end of Year Three and are more likely to have poor attendance in later years. By middle and high school, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign that a student will drop out. This is especially true for those students who need school the most and are sometimes getting the least.

EVERY DAY AT SCHOOL COUNTS PLEASE GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST POSSIBLE START TO SCHOOL BY PROMOTING THEIR ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY.

Teach our children to be safe on the road – cross at the crossings

From Years 3 and 4

Can Recycling News

So far Helensvale SS has collected a whopping 3757 cans! This has saved a total of 751.4kg of greenhouse gases from being released into the atmosphere, proving that Helensvale SS students really care about their environment.

Last terms data has been collated and the winning class is 4A with Mrs Lynn, closely followed by 4D and 3C being only 1 can apart!

A huge THANK YOU to all the students (and families!) for their support. We are continuing to collect them throughout the year so keep up the great work I look forward to seeing which class will win this term!
A big thank you to 3B and their families for donating blankets, towels and food to the Animal Welfare League as part of our Random Acts of Kindness project. The Animal Welfare League posted a thank you on their Facebook page (as pictured). Over the past few weeks 3B have been working undercover as the ‘Kindness Crew’ on a mission to be the kindest kids at Helensvale School. This ongoing mission aims to ignite the joy of giving in the students. If you would like to jump on board in support of this project we are planning a second donation to the Animal Welfare League. If you have any old towels, blankets or good quality pet food please bring them to 3B and Mrs McAlpine will deliver them on behalf of the school to the Coombabah shelter in the last week of August. We thank you for your support.

From Years 5, 6 and 7
The Lolli-pop workers help us to cross the road safely
Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the increase in our community accessing online banking to pay school activities our Finance Window will open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8am to 9.30am. If Parents/Carers would like any information on how to access online banking please email Tracey Smith on tsmit517@eq.edu.au or phone on 55561333.

Student Absence Line

- 55561370

Don't forget we have a convenient absence line for parents/carers to access 24/7. Parents can leave a message in relation to student absence for the class teacher on this line. Please phone and leave the following information:

- Child/Childrens Name
- Child/childrens class
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence

2013 school calendar now available

The 2013 school calendar can be downloaded at www.education.qld.gov.au/public_media/calendar/holidays.html

In 2013 the Labour Day public holiday will move to Monday 7 October and the Queen's Birthday holiday will be returned to Monday 10 June.

School News Calendar
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9th, 19th, 20th, 27th</td>
<td>Gold Coast Eisteddfod-GC Arts Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 18th Aug</td>
<td>MLTAQ Japanese Speech Competition at Griffith University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 12th Sept</td>
<td>Showcase-PAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 16th Sept-Fri 20th Sept</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp-Tallebudgera Beach School</td>
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**Be Safe – Cross at the pedestrian crossings**

**Sayonara, Japanese Study Tour Members!**

There were many tears on Tuesday morning as our visiting students from Japan bid farewell to their friends and host families for the last time. The students enjoyed a fantastic week of study and fun at our school and I am sure they will return home with many stories about their adventures here at Helensvale. During the week, the students danced the afternoon away with the Preps, participated in a combined Indigenous art/music session, demonstrated the finer points of origami and calligraphy to Year 7C, attended our wonderful school assembly (including the entertaining Japan Zone Quiz!), visited a surf club, as well as attending English language and regular classes with our students.

I would like to thank all the host families, staff and students of Helensvale State School for making our guests feel so welcome during their time here at our school. An extra special thank you to the students who acted as “buddies”, by introducing the visiting students to their friends and generally looking after them in every day.

At the Sayonara Party, one of the visiting boys said his best memory was playing touch football for the first time and scoring a try! Well done to all members of the Helensvale school community for helping to give the visiting Japanese students a study tour to remember. Arigatou! (Thank you).
Mr Powell (Japanese Teacher)

**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

Welcome to Woneita our Monday lady for coming in on Monday’s. It is lovely to see you. It is also with regret that we have to say goodbye to Monia, our wonderful Thursday lady. Monia is spending time with her little one before she starts Prep next year. We will miss you! Thank you ladies for your time you donated to help us in the tuckshop, it is greatly appreciated!

We are now needing someone to come in on Thursday. You would be helping to process the tuckshop bags, restocking items, loading orders into the bags for break times, serving on windows during breaks and washing up. We do supply your lunch for the day and you get to meet other parents in our school community. If you are new to the school it is a great way to meet others and you are close if your child needs you. It also eases you back into the workforce and can be used as a stepping stone to work. It is rewarding work and you are helping the school community. If you can help, please come and see me!

Thank you to everyone for supporting Wacky Wednesday. It was such a busy day! Thank you to Duke Novak for cooking our hamburgers on the BBQ. Without your help we wouldn’t have coped! We cooked 75 Hamburgers, 20 Cheese & Vegemite Subs and over 200 mini muffins; as well as our regular orders. Thank you Liz, Chris, Wendy and Duke for your help.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER**

**MONDAY**  Woneita, Rebecca

**TUESDAY**  Merle

**WEDNESDAY**  Wendy

**THURSDAY**  Wendy

**FRIDAY**  Merle, Lisa, Rebecca

Tracy Wall

Tuckshop Convenor

**Bookclub**
Thank you to everyone who purchased from the latest issues of Book Club. The orders have all been distributed this week to your child's class.

If your child has not received their order, it is important you let us know as soon as possible. It makes it very hard to track if we are told of a missing order weeks after distribution.

The orders for this issue totalled over $2300 and this earnt our school over $460 in rewards which is used for resources for our school.

The next issue will be out at the beginning of term 4.

Anna and Carole

Teach our children to be safe on the road – cross at the crossings

Community News

Coomera Cubs Baseball Club

2013/14 Summer Sign On

**WHEN:** Saturday 10th and 17th August

**TIME:** 9am – 12pm

**WHERE:** Gambamora Park, Riversdale Road, Oxenford (off Michigan Dr)

**Junior Baseball**

For Boys and Girls from 5yrs – 16 yrs of age

Aussie T-Ball / Rookie Ball / Little League / Baseball
SENIOR BASEBALL

From 17yrs of age

LOOK WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU SIGN ON....

All new U8's and U10's players receive a FREE PLAYER PACK including a Rawlings Ball and Glove and more!!!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

For more information please contact us on:

P: 0400 000 046

E: info@coomeracubs.com

W: www.coomera.baseball.com.au

Hockey Qld Coaching Camp

September School Holidays

The Coaching camp is for boys and girls aged 10, 11 & 12 and will be run by qualified Hockey Qld Staff, based around learning new skills and having fun.

Where: Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre

When: 24, 25 and 26 September 2013 (Tues & Wed Live In)

Clinic includes: 4 x 1hr 30 mins Hockey session. 4 x 1hr 30 mins recreational activities, Mini Olympics

2 camp shirts, posters, hat, water bottle

Cost: $250 (includes all meals and accommodation)

Contact: Daryl Francey 3399 6577 Mob: 0424 012466

Download registration form: www.hockeyqld.com.au
The Lolli-pop workers help us to cross the road safely

8 Lindfield Road
HELENSVALE 4212 QLD
07 5556 1333
07 5556 1300
07 5556 1370
admin@helensvaless.eq.edu.au
http://www.helensvaless.eq.edu.au/

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Did you know that I can now help you with a much wider range of finance options including Home Loans, Car Loans, Personal Loans, Equipment Leasing, Life and Risk Insurance, Home and Contents Insurance.

So if you have any questions regarding finance, please contact me.

Joy Stewart
Ph: 07 5502 3906, Fax: 07 5502 7306, Mob: 0403 281 031
P.O Box 1287, Oxenford QLD 4210

It’s time to enrol for 2013.

Drop in and see your local Centre Director at 111 Mildura Drive in Helensvale, or call 5573 7344.
visit goodstart.org.au

CHILDREN’S BIRTHDAY PACKAGE

$24pp for 4-12 pax
One room rental 11.30am – 2.00pm Sat/Sun.
Birthday cake, snack menus & drinks.
Free use of Heated Pool, Waterfolds, Jumping Pillow, Tennis & Basketball Courts.
PHONE 07 5514 4400 66-68 Siganto Drive, Helensvale

Harbourtown Medical Centre

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Arundel QLD 4214

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• Family Medicine
• Female and Male Doctors
• Health Assessments

PH: 5563 7286

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Start anytime with performance opportunities for all with no experience necessary & classes from $7.50.

For more info please contact Holly 0409 044 831
email holly@cadacademy.com.au
www.cadacademy.com.au

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