FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK
Welcome back from what I hope was a restful Easter break for you and your children. This is a busy term with some of the major goals for the term being:

- Preparing the Yr3, 5 & 7 students for NAPLAN in week 5. We will continue our improvement plan for each student by using teacher and support staff expertise. Our “Great Results Guarantee” program continues this term where we have employed teacher aides and extra teachers to help support and extend our students’ learning.

- Reporting on student achievement at the end of the Semester 1, with History and Geography included in the learning areas.

- The Just Dance program, District Cross Country and Track & Field preparations.

- Managing the interruptions of 3 public holidays, 3 days of NAPLAN from 13 -15 May, school photos, camps and other extras while delivering high quality learning experiences.

Managing all of this will be a challenge but with much patience, discussion and support from everyone, we will all be successful in achieving our school and personal goals.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
All students are requested to wear their best uniform with black shoes and white socks on Friday, 9 May, ready for their photo to be taken. It is important that all students have their photo taken (even if you do not want to buy any) as it is used for identification purposes on our computer database. There will be a whole of class and individual photos taken so it is important the everyone is present. Thanks.

JUST DANCE
The smiles on faces and sweat on brows is a clear indicator that the dance program is a hit with the kids. From Prep to Yr 7, all students who have paid the Student Resources Scheme have access to this component of the Arts curriculum. Those students who do not participate in the program must still do an assessment item later in the term.

ANZAC DAY
Thanks to the students and families who honoured the memories of our servicemen and women by marching with our school last Friday at 5am. A very early start but well worth the effort to remember those who have helped protect and shape our country. Thanks also to the student leaders who presented at our school ceremony last Thursday. All students were brilliantly behaved at both ceremonies, showing great respect to the message of our ANZACs. It was wonderful to see parents at both ceremonies too. Thanks for your interest.

BEHAVIOUR AWARDS
I acknowledged over 120 students on parade last week, who achieved “Excellent” in every area on their Interim Report. This is a fantastic achievement showing commitment to their learning through excellent behaviour and effort in class. Congratulations to those children. It needs to be every student’s goal to achieve to the highest level so they can experience success at school.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Thanks to those parents who have spoken to their child’s teacher about their progress in Term 1. Please make sure that if you have any concerns with your child’s achievement, make an appointment with the teacher to make sure things are addressed. It is important that an appointment is made so the teacher can be prepared to answer your specific questions. Thank you.

Issue: 01 May 2014

Student Absentee Call Line: 5439 4260
**STUDENT LEADER POLICY**

This year, we moved away from the traditional model of School Captaincy with the combination of the Yr6 & 7s as well as lower numbers of students in the year levels. Instead of having 2 boys and 2 girls in the captain/vice captain positions, we voted for the 4 strongest leaders. The result of this, in both Yr6 and Yr7, was that 1 boy and 1 girl were elected as School Captain with 2 girls elected as Vice Captains this year. It is important to know which model suits our school going into the future. Could you please cut out and return the slip below with your preferred model. We will have a discussion about the responses at a short meeting before the next P&C meeting at 6pm, 19 May in the staffroom.

FROM THE DEPUTY

**SCHOOL RESOURCE SCHEME**

Well done to all the families that have either paid their SRS or have made contact with the school to make alternative arrangements. Unfortunately if neither have been completed then those students will be missing out on dance lessons this term and will also lose access to software like Reading Eggs. It’s not too late to make the payment; just pop in to the office and we can make it happen.

FROM THE OFFICE

**PAYMENT REMINDERS**

**CAMBERRA NEXT INSTALMENT DUE 07 MAY**

If you are having difficulty making this instalment please contact the Administration office.

Statements have gone home this week to all families advising of outstanding balance due.

**FINAL PAYMENT DATES**

- Tuesday 06 May  Yr 4 Shelly Beach $5.00
- Tuesday 20 May  Yr 2 Toy Factory  $5.00
- Tuesday 20 May  Yr 7 Abbey Museum $22.00
- Friday 13 June  Yr 3 Bilai $12.50
- Monday 16 June  Yr 5 St Helena Island $38.00

**NEW LATE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

Any students that arrive after 9.10 am must see the Office to get a late slip and parents must sign the child in as LATE. If you are collecting your children early, please see the office to sign them out. This is a Workplace Health and Safety requirement.

**STUDENT BANKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Please contact Lisa on 0427 034 471 if you would like to help with the Banking. School Photo Day is Friday 09 MAY

All students have received a photo envelope for school photos. If you need a family envelope, please see the office.

Please remember you bring the envelope and money in on the day and not before hand.

**OVERDUZE LIBRARY BOOKS**

Just a reminder to parents they will be notified by a letter if their student has a well overdue library book. If the book is not returned by the date stipulated on the letter, parents will be invoiced for the replacement cost.

**CURRICULUM CORNER**

**NAPLAN Test Dates - 14, 15 & 16 May**

9 TIPS TO HELP KIDS PREPARE FOR TESTS

Children in early to mid-primary school now need to sit some fairly major exams and tests. How can parents help their children cope with these?

Last generation, probably the first big test or exam a student sat was in the final year of primary school. But now, due to national testing through NAPLAN, students will be formally tested on their literacy and numeracy skills in Year 3 and every two years until year 9 after that.

**Testing times**

Add to that a variety of other big tests – such as those to gain access to "opportunity" or "enrichment" programs or selective schools plus a variety of university-coordinated exams and state-run maths, science and English tests – and children at a fairly young age now need to learn the skills to cope with examination pressure. Sometimes, too these tests can be quite long for small children – in Year 3 each of the four NAPLAN tests runs for 40 minutes or more.

**Test skills**

Most of the test-doing skills, such as time management, reading through questions and knowing what to expect, will be taught by teachers and kids will also be given the chance to do some trial exams, particularly around the time of NAPLAN.

But parents can also help their children face the pressure of tests and exams. The experts at KidsMatter, a national mental health initiative operating in hundreds of schools and early childhood services around Australia helping children, teachers and families, have a whole lot of strategies for parents.

Many children, they say, will cope well with the challenge of tests, exams and assessments but parents and carers should be aware of how their responses can add to, or relieve, the pressure felt by children.

**Common behaviours when children feel nervous or stressed**

Sometimes children tell us how they are feeling through their behaviour, says KidsMatter. These changes in behaviour could indicate stress or nervousness:

- being more irritable
- easily upset
- clingy or fidgety
- displaying less interest in activities they normally enjoy

"Some children can find it difficult to put into words how they are feeling, so it is often up to parents and carers to recognise that their child needs some extra support," says KidsMatter.

**What can parents do to help?**

1. ‘Being there’ emotionally – During
times of stress, children usually need extra nurturing, comfort and understanding from their parents and carers to help them feel secure and confident. Be open and receptive to how children are feeling as well as provide comfort and attention when needed.

2. Discuss feelings – Encourage children to talk about how they feel. Listen with empathy so they feel understood and know that their feelings are normal. Help your children to understand that talking about feelings can help to manage them.

3. Support children’s confidence – Teach children to be brave by showing them you believe they can do it, and encourage them to ‘have a go’ even if they are feeling nervous. Providing positive feedback for effort, celebrating successes and encouraging them to keep trying will help your children to feel confident in approaching assessments.

4. Help with relaxation skills – Breathing slowly to calm down and helping them to imagine themselves coping well during a test are really helpful ways of managing anxiety. Doing it with them is a fun way to start.

5. Teach helpful thinking – Instead of saying to themselves “I can’t do this” encourage them to say “I’ll give it a go”.

6. Lead by example – Show your child how you cope positively with feeling anxious or stressed by thinking out loud e.g., “I feel a bit nervous, but I’m going to try my best”. Remaining calm and positive when your child is feeling anxious can help them to feel more confident.

7. Help your child have clear expectations – Talking through what will happen. You may even wish to talk to the school about where the test will take place and see if you can visit beforehand. Many big tests can be held in the school hall or even off-campus.

8. Discuss problem-solving – Brainstorm situations that might arise during the test and then come up with possible solutions with them. For example, ask them what are three things that they might be able to do if they freeze in the exam and feel sick – possible strategies include taking 10 slow breaths to calm down and refocus, taking a sip of water if it is available or letting a teacher know they feel unwell.

9. Teach confidence-building tricks – For example, looking through the paper and completing questions they know they can answer first before trying more difficult ones.

Just Dance Program
Did you know?
“Just Dance” started in week 1! Students were highly engaged and have already started learning their routines. Dance is a mandatory part of The Arts curriculum and forms part of your child’s assessment and reporting.

If you have paid your SRS fees, your child/ren will access 5 weeks of specialist taught dance lessons run by our qualified dance teacher, Miss Kelly Angell, along with 5 weeks of lessons run by classroom teachers.

If you have not paid your SRS, $10 (per child) must be paid to the office ASAP in order for your child to access specialist lessons.

Our 2014 specialist taught program is as follows:

**Prep – “Intro to Dance”**
Introducing basic dance skills through a variety of taught and practised dance exercises.

**Year One – “It’s All About the Timing”**
Learning about tempos and how to keep timing during a variety of taught exercises. Students will be required to learn, practise and perform a short dance with mixed tempo.

**Year Two – “Jazz Hands”**
Students will be required to learn, practise and perform a short jazz dance.

**Year Three – “Story Dance”**
Students will be required to learn, practise and perform a short piece that conveys a message/story.

**Year Four – “Let’s Get Funky!”**
Students will be required to learn, practise and perform a short jazz funk dance.

**Year Five – “Contemporary Dance”**
Students will be required to learn, practise and perform a short contemporary piece.

**Year 6 & 5/6 – “Let’s Mix it Up!”**
Students will be required to learn, practise and perform a short mixed tempo/style dance.

**Year 7 – “Interpretive Dance”**
Students will be required to collaboratively choreograph, practise and present a short interpretive piece.

Dependent on year level, classroom teacher taught lessons will focus on a mix of bush dance, short repetitive routines in a variety of styles, student choreography and the art of practising, polishing and performing routines for an audience.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Supporting a Talker at Home:**

**Speaking and Sound Awareness Skills for School Success.**

A successful workshop was held on Monday morning with parents of students in Prep and Year 1. Parents learnt valuable skills to support their child’s communication and literacy development. Parents learnt strategies for making the most of reading books aloud, how to ask a range of questions, developing vocabulary and how to incorporate language stimulation into their everyday activities with their children. Parents were encouraged to continue reading aloud with their children – even after they begin learning to read. Remember that a beginning reader is NOT a beginning listener. Children need to be exposed to books that contain more complex words, new ideas and

the world beyond their everyday experiences to support their language development. It is usually not until the eighth grade that a student’s reading level catches up to their listening level! (J. Trelease: Read Aloud Handbook).

Parents also learnt about Phonological Awareness which is an important foundation for the development of reading and spelling. Did you know that Phonological Awareness is one of the strongest predictors of a child’s early reading acquisition! Phonological Awareness refers to the student’s ability to recognise and manipulate sounds in words. It includes skills such as:

- counting syllables in words (eg. I can clap the “beats/syllables” in the word ‘caterpillar’ - cat-er-pil-lar 4 syllables)
- identifying and producing rhyming words (eg. Does cat and hat rhyme? Can you tell me a word that rhymes with ‘fish’?)
- identifying the first or last sound in a word (eg. What sound can you hear at the start of ‘biscuit’? Tell me a word that starts with ‘s’)
- breaking words up into their individual sounds (segmenting) (eg. What sounds can hear in the word ‘ship’? sh-i-p)
- manipulating sounds in words (eg. What word do I get if I change the ‘t’ in “told” to a ‘c’?)

Thank you to all of the parents who were able to take time out of their busy days to attend this session. We hope that you learnt a few tips and tricks to support your child’s speaking and sound awareness skills.

This workshop was presented by the school’s Speech-Language Pathologist, Emma Linthwaite.

**P&C NEWS**

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope everyone had a restful Easter break.

**Mothers’ Day Stall**

On Wednesday 07 May the P&C are holding a Mothers’ Day Stall. Items range from $1.00 to $10.00. Classes will go to the Student Centre during the morning and students will get the opportunity to purchase items if they wish. Any remaining items will be available to purchase on Thursday 08 & Friday 09 May before school, outside the Student Centre. The items are now on display in the Resource Centre (library). A separate note will be sent home.

**Giant Bookfest 17 & 18 May**

Book sorting is continuing! Thank you to parents who have been able to help out. On Saturday 03 May we will be sorting more books in the Hall from 9am. Please pop in if you can spare any time to help out. It is an easy process - unpacking boxes and sorting or pricing & boxing up. We still need good quality Novels and children’s books. Book donations can be left on the trolley outside the school hall. Thank you!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05 May  District Cross Country  Year 4-7 Parade 8.50 Year P-3 Parade 2.30pm
07 May  Just Dance Program  Regional Rugby League
08 May  School Photo Day  Naplan  Yr 4 Blija/Shelly Bch
09 May  Naplan  Year 4-7 Parade 8.50 Year P-3 Parade 2.30pm
13 May  Naplan  Just Dance Program
14 May  P & C Meeting 6.30pm
15 May  Whole School Parade 2.30pm
21 May  Just Dance Program
22 May  Just Dance Program

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
PA  Alana  - For being able to spell
difficulty
PB  Charlie  - For efforts with
English, Maths and Obstacle Course
1A  Jayden  - For always being an
active listener, keen participant and great
worker
1B  Lilee  - For being a friendly
and responsible classmate
1C  Dekoda  - For being prepared
and ready to start learning activities (In
all areas.)
2A  Ava  - For always trying to do
her best
2B  Billy  - For settling in so well to
his new school and displaying our 4
values wonderfully
3A  Jarrett  - For completion of
school work & great manners
3B  Ronell  - For being a responsible
and respectful learner-Great effort in
spelling activities
3C  Boedy  - For being a
responsible and courteous student who
always tries to do his best
4A  Tia  - For showing sensible
safety procedures during a Maths
investigation
4B  Regan  - For excellent
improvement in reading & spelling
5B  Ariana  - For her consistent and
positive attitude towards her work
5/6C  Jake  - For your great questions
in class
6A  Theo  - For concentrating and
working hard
7A  Jayden  - Consistently excellent
achievement in class work and
assignments
7B  Blake  - For being a learner who
always tries to the best of his ability.
Fletcher  - Jo  - For being a
great independent learner

Symphony By The Sea – Mother’s Day Concert
SATURDAY MAY 10
2:00PM – COOLUM CIVIC CENTRE

Symphony By The Sea – Mother’s Day Concert is an event which will have
special appeal to all students of music. It is
a unique opportunity to experience an
orchestra of the calibre of the Sunshine
Coast Symphony Orchestra
(www.scso.com.au). The event is staged
in Coolum which is a short drive from the
northern and southern extremes of the
Coast and handy to the hinterland
townships.
The chosen programme of music will
appeal to students of classical music, but
it is also accessible by those not so
familiar with classical music. Symphony
By The Sea is truly a local event,
supported and run by volunteers, but it is
to be enjoyed by all residents of the
Sunshine Coast.
Why not join us this year on Saturday
May 10th at 2:00pm. Advance purchase
tickets ($20 / $18 (Concession / Students) are available at the Bank of
Queensland, Coolum Beach; Annie’s
Books on Peregian and at the Sunshine
Coast Environment Council (Porter’s Lane,
Nambour). You can book online at
www.scec.org.au. If you need assistance
with payments by cheque or credit card,
just call Karen on 5441 5747 or 0414 632
123. For more information –
info@scec.org.au. We look forward to
seeing you at the concert.

KIDS ON KEYBOARDS

Kids on Keyboards will return in term
Two. Starting on Thursday 1 May at 7.45
-8.30am in E3 Room beside the Dental
Clinic. Enrolments and enquiries please
contact Ludeen on 0432 511 909 or 5491
7431. Website www.kidsonkeyboards.com or
e-mail kidsonkeyboards@westnet.com.au