



## Community Newsletter – Issue #1 – Term 1 - 2018

Dear Parents/Community Members,

Welcome back and welcome to a new school year. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break, ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead in 2018. We are faced with a fantastic year with a variety of educational and extracurricular activities available to all of our students. Students have had an excellent start to the school year and our Prep students have transitioned smoothly.

To our new families and new staff who are joining our school community, a special welcome. I would like to let parents know that I advocate for open communication between home and school, welcoming both parents and students to discuss any concerns or ideas that you may have. Opportunities to discuss school issues, concerns and positive student achievements can be done through several communication means, including making face-to-face appointments through the office, via a phone call or emailing the respective staff member. General communication can be sent to [principal@hamiiclass.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@hamiiclass.eq.edu.au). Next week our class information sessions will conclude. I encourage all parents to attend these. It is well recognised that open communication between parents and teachers assists in improving student learning.

Enrolment numbers have once again increased steadily with final numbers at approximately 60 by the official Day 8 target. You might notice a familiar face is missing at school. Karen Gordon is on long service leave and will be coming back in late February. A number of staff will be on leave during late February and March. The impact to classes will be minimalised with staff who are familiar with the school, students and community replacing teachers or teacher aides.

Communication about our behaviour expectations is a fluid and evolving topic here at school. Staff talk to students about the need for every member of our school community to demonstrate the value of RESPECT. Respect for each person who walks through our school gates and the individual difference they bring is crucial in creating a safe and supportive learning environment. It is our aim to continue to grow support, empathy and trust amongst our students.

All staff spoke to students on the first day of 2018 regarding the shared responsibility of learning within the classroom and, as students, their responsibilities. Our Responsible Behaviour Plan has been updated and can be viewed on the school website. The Hamilton Island Way and Respect Guppies are the key to all of our conversations. The Guppies represent:

- Respect Learning
- Respect Self
- Respect Others
- Respect the Environment



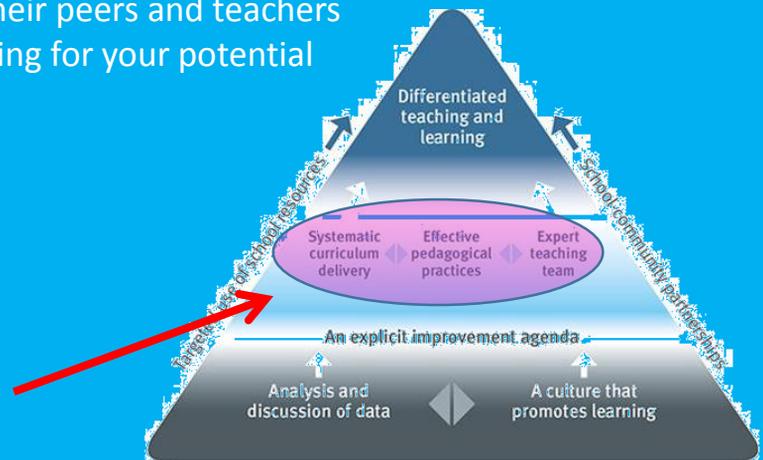
This fortnight we have been focusing specifically on:

- Preparedness for learning by transitioning into class
- Positive attitudes and engagement within the classroom
- Building positive relationships with their peers and teachers
- Being proud of who you are and striving for your potential

Kind regards,

Rob McCullough  
Principal

## 2018 Explicit Improvement Agenda



Our core business here at Hamilton Island State School is to ensure that both teachers and students have a deep understanding of their curriculum, what they are teaching and how best to teach to continue to improve outcomes for all of our students.

Our sharp, narrow focus in 2018 is:

- Teaching with a Literacy Focus, in particular, Writing
- Aiming for an A
- Setting and maintaining high expectations

All teachers are teachers of writing and in order to deliver the Australian Curriculum to our students, will need to focus on writing skills delivered and demonstrated by students.

Our staff undertake professional learning on a regular basis and collaborate regularly to discuss the curriculum intent, what students need to know and be able to do to be successful in a unit of work. This allows our staff to clearly understand what an A-standard looks like and can demonstrate this standard to students. Further consolidation of 'Visible Learning' will continue with our 'Aim for an A Walls' expanding to Mathematics and Science, as well as English. These walls are the vital cog that will enable our students to understand what they know, how they can improve and where they can seek guidance. The utopian goal is for everyone to become self regulated, as the research suggests that self efficiency leads to life long high achievement.

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.

## Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 Class News

The Preps are super excited to be starting their first term of school. They have enjoyed the new program we have at the school called the Buddy Up System with the Year 6s. The Buddy Up Program is a way for the school leaders and the other year 6s to get to know the preps. It is also good for the preps as they get to know the school a bit better, the expectations here at school and have fun at the same time. They have also been looking at the Respect Self Guppy.

In English, the class has been looking at emotions of characters in story books and the Preps have started their Jolly Phonics lessons. In Science, the class has started studying 'Living Things'.

The Preps have started their counting from 1 to 10 in mathematics, while the 1s and 2s have been looking into number lines.

Miss Chapman's classroom has been transformed since moving to the end room of the school, which has given the class a lot more room to learn and play.

Lastly, the class is always looking for parent helpers, if you would like to volunteer, please come and see the teachers before school.

Olivia Murphy  
School Captain



## Year 3 and 4 Class News

In English the Year 3/4 class has been looking at noun and verb groups so they can make stories more interesting. In Mathematics, the class has been looking number sequences and ordering 4 digit numbers. In Science the focus is on the differences between living and non living things and conducting experiments. In Design and Tech the class is designing a new Commonwealth Games Medal.

Josh Martin  
School Captain



## Year 5 and 6 Class News

The 5/6 Class has been engaging in a wide variety of subjects – English, Mathematics, Science, Visual Arts, Technology, HAAS and SWIMMING! This week the class had the pleasure of going to the Wild Life Centre on the Island to learn about animal adaptations to their environments. This also helped us with our own school field study of insects.

In English the class is doing 2 fantasy book studies this term. Both books are from the Delta Quest series. The aim is for the students to gain a great understanding of novels and to actually create a fantasy character.

In Mathematics the class is jumping into primes, composites, fractions and data. It's been a busy start to the year, but the class wouldn't have it any other way.

Blake Cowley  
Student Council



## Year 5/6 School Camp

The school camp this year is going to Capricorn Caves in Central Queensland. The dates are March 12, 13, 14 and we will be travelling by bus. The camp will involve adventure caving, guided tours and leadership style activities. Costs will be finalised early next week and the school will send out all the relevant information once everything is booked in and confirmed.

## P&C News

The AGM was held on Jan 30 after our first assembly. Congratulations to Kerri Martin and Aggie Murphy, who will continue their roles as President and Treasurer respectively. We would like to Welcome Belinda Kennedy (Secretary) and Lauren Squires (Vice President) to the 2018 Executive. There was a great turn for our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and we encourage all of our school community to attend our meetings. The next meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Tuckshop Menu

Sausage Roll

Spinach & Cheese Sausage Roll

Pie (any type)

Vegemite Scroll

Bacon and Cheese Scroll

Ham and Cheese Sandwich/Roll

Chicken and Cheese Sandwich/Roll

Egg and Lettuce Sandwich/Roll

Salad Sandwich/Roll

## Tuckshop

IT'S BACK! Starting next week, Wednesday morning before school, our P&C will be taking tuckshop orders. We cannot take any late orders. The tuckshop will be delivered 1<sup>st</sup> break on Thursday. If you have any questions please see Mr McCullough.

## Nut Free School Update

Officially we have no students enrolled that have any allergies to nuts, therefore students are allowed to have nut products in their lunch boxes.

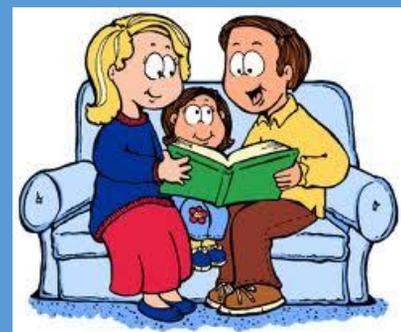
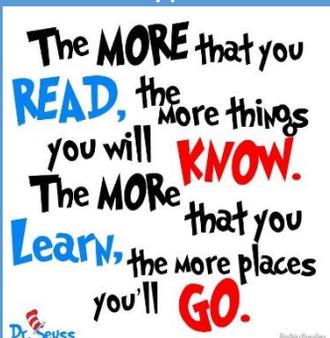
## Reading at Home – Part 1 - Activating Prior Knowledge

“What do you know about the topic?” This is the language you will hear across the school, at the beginning of a lesson when a new book or topic is being introduced. In an effort to the continued improvement of reading comprehension at Hamilton Island State School, we are focussing on the strategies that research has identified as being used by good readers as a whole school. *Proficient learners build on and activate their background knowledge before reading, writing, speaking or listening; poor learners begin without thinking. (Irvin (et al. 1996)*

Prior knowledge is what each student brings to the reading experience – a combination of student’s attitudes, experience and knowledge. By thinking about the topic students are able to connect with what they already know, giving them a base on which to build new knowledge and give them a head start to comprehending the text.

How can you help? Here are some questions you can ask your child when reading with them.

- What do you already know about this topic?
- Have you read something similar?
- What do the illustrations tell us about the text?
- What type of text is this – narrative, letter, poem, information report?



# January / February

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 3	5 Swimming  P-2 Info Session 4pm	6 Yr3/4 Info Session - TBC	7	8	9
WEEK 4	12 Swimming	13	14 Assembly 2.30pm	15	16

# February / March

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 5	19 Swimming	20	21	22	23
WEEK 6	26 Swimming	27	28 Assembly 2.30pm	1	2
WEEK 7	5 Swimming	6	7	8	9
WEEK 8	12 Swimming Yr5/6 Camp	13 Yr5/6 Camp	14 Yr5/6 Camp	15	16
WEEK 9	19 Swimming	20	21 Qld Cricket Session	22 Qld Cricket Session	23 Cricket Carnival
WEEK 10	26 Swimming	27	28 Assembly 2.30pm	29 Swimming Carnival Last Day of Term	30 Good Friday