Newsletter Term 4

With term 4 coming to a close, it is time to reflect on the year that was and the successes of our students along the way. Every student has this year has made pleasing progress in all areas of the curriculum. It has been really exciting celebrating all the successes as they occur and our classroom has certainly been one of happiness and excitement each time students have achieved a set goal. As a teacher, it is always a proud moment when we look at the ‘start’ and ‘end’ point of the distance travelled throughout the year in academic achievement. One of the reasons why we become teachers is because we know that our efforts hugely impact on our students’ futures. This fills our hearts with pride.

Looking forward to 2017, today I can announce that the incoming Principal is Karena Loomes who is currently a Guidance Officer from Cairns. I congratulate Karena on her appointment to Hayman Island and over the coming weeks I will be completing hand-over information to ensure her transition is as smooth as possible. Karena is very excited about her appointment and I am certain she will enjoy her time here in paradise.

I am taking some long service leave next year so I am really looking forward to a break after spending the past 5 years teaching in very remote locations throughout Queensland. I thank you for the opportunity to teach your children this year and for providing me with memories I will cherish for a lifetime.

Excursions

This term we have been fortunate to have had some very special guests come to our school for impromptu excursions whereby they could share their special knowledge with our students.

On Monday we had a visit from Gail Harvey, an ex-school teacher and avid traveller, who lives and works on Hamilton Island. Gail has written a series of children’s books that reflect her passion for travelling and experiencing all the exotic locations she travels to around the world. Gail generously donated a set of her books to our school library which she personalised with a message to our students. Gail’s books are currently on display in the library and if any of the parents are looking for Christmas presents for their children, please consider purchasing a set of these books. To place an order, you can contact info@GlobalPublishingGroup.com.au or by making contact with Gail at aharvey@hiwatersports.com.au and she will send the books over to Hayman Island via the staff boat.
Our second visitor was Marvel - Fish Master Marvellous – who spoke with the children about the ecosystems here on Hayman Island. The students all loved his presentation and actively participated whilst eagerly answering questions and demonstrating what they already knew about our wonderful environment. It is indeed pleasing to see children so actively engaged in presentations from someone so passionate about the environment. Thank you Marvel.

Alan from the Wallaby Program also popped in to do a presentation to educate our students on the wallaby rehabilitation program on Hayman Island. All year the students have been intrigued by the traps we see outside our school. Alan’s presentation provided an opportunity for the students to learn the benefits of this program for not only the Hayman Island environment, but the Proserpine rock wallabies population on the mainland.

New Laptops

We have recently purchased 5 more laptops to replace assets that needed upgrading with the remainder of the laptops being due for replacement in the 2017 school year.

Resources

A full stocktake of school equipment has been conducted this term and Miss Caulfield and I have disposed of unnecessary clutter around the school and in cupboards.
Reflections from our students

As term 4 comes to a close, I had so much fun at Hayman Island State School. This year I enjoyed learning with Miss Hawthorne as she taught me so many things and pushed me to my limits whilst always supporting me. Our motto here at school is Learning in Paradise and this year we’ve done a lot of learning!

At the start of the year I set goals in reading, writing, spelling and numeracy and as I achieved my goals, we all celebrated each milestone. In Semester 2, Science was heaps of fun for me. I demonstrated my knowledge of how electricity works whilst creating circuit boards.

Hayman Island State School has bought me to a whole new level of knowledge and I have really stepped up with my studies and learnt skills that will support my learning into the future. This year I had so much fun on our school excursions especially the Proserpine State School under 8's Day.

Miss Caulfield has been a great sports and health teacher and taught me how to do the monkey bars and how to skip using a skipping rope. I have improved my strength, balance and speed.

My most favourite subjects are English and Chinese. I learnt so many things in English and this subject improved my knowledge and gave me more confidence in my writing. On the other hand, Chinese has been really fun for me - it is fun to learn different languages from around the world.

The most fun thing about being a student here at Hayman Island State School is that we learn with our friends. I am very lucky to be here on a tropical island and enjoying my life.

This year I am in year 6 so it means next year I am starting high school. I am looking forward to starting at my brand new school but I will always remember the fun and learning years on Hayman Island with my friends.

By Chris

This year one of my favourite parts is when we went to Under 8s day because I got to make lots of things and got to play sport too. I also think that book week was fun because Spiderman was there and I got to read lots of good books. It was fun when Marvel came to Hayman Island because I learned about Mother Nature and ponds. My favourite part of the whole year is when we went to the mainland and we got to have a swim in the big lagoon at Airlie Beach. On the way home that day, we even got to sail past a P&O cruise ship, “Pacific Dawn” which looked massive.

By Matilda

My favourite thing at school this year was art. I made a butterfly and fish. We also made a reindeer. I love it because I can have lots of fun.

By Chloe

This year I have made new friends like Sydney, Matilda, Blake, Lachlan, Ann-Kerby, Brent, Chloe and Harrison. My favourite subjects are science and geography. We did some fun experiments too. This term I was studying ‘heat’ in science and in geography we were doing mapping. The most fun part of 2016 was when Marvel came to school. He works for Fish Master Marvellous. He even brought everyone at school to the barramundi pond. We saw a massive barramundi and he also taught us about marine wildlife.

Next year I am looking forward to going to a new school at the mainland with my brother Chris. I haven’t seen the school yet but I hope it looks nice. I also hope I make new friends at the new school. Wish me good luck.

By Sebastian

I like the subjects Science and Geography because they are interesting. My trustworthy friends Chris, Basti, Ann-Kerby, Lachlan, Blake, Riley, Matilda, Sydney, Chloe, and Jesse are great. I enjoyed the time that we went to the field trip with Fish Master Marvellous and the time Gi Gi came and gave some of her books to us. In Science, I enjoyed helping the Preps and Grade Ones with their cars. Have a great New Year and happy Christmas.

By Brent
My favourite thing at school this year was art. I made a butterfly and I made a reindeer. I love it because it is fun!  

By Sydney

I learned how to do the monkey bars, math, science, how to do this on a laptop, geography and spelling. The subject I like the most is science because it helps me learn more about stuff I don’t know and I get to go outside and do some experiments with my classmate Basti. My most fun time was when we went to see some fish and learn how to take care of the fish which was explained to us by Fish Master Marvel.

I’m looking forward to 2017, to nice students, a peaceful school, a happy teacher, more field trips, students doing what the teacher says, generous people, a happy island and more people coming to the island. I hope the teachers will remember us when they leave the island. I hope Marvel still remembers me and he knows how to spell and the fishes are safe. I hope the wallabies are safe and Australia will be safe, no more war and just peace and love. I think Hayman will have more houses and more workers, more kids and more security and I hope people will care about Mother Nature and Merry Christmas.

By Ann-Kerby

My favourite thing at school this year was art. I loved making my toy car. We made the car in science to see how it moves.  

By Lachlan

My favourite thing at school this year was maths. In maths I did the days of the week and maths equations like 246 plus 802 equals 1048, or 947 take 758 equals 189. These where the hardest maths equations I have ever done!  

By Jesse

This year my favourite thing was typing on a computer. I typed a Power Point presentation about how to make a disgusting sandwich. I love playing on the IPad, using the app called ‘Scratch Junior’. We create stuff in Scratch Junior and make it move.  

By Riley

My favourite thing at school this year was art and P.E. In art I made Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. In P.E. we played Red Rover and it is my favourite game. I also liked when we went reef walking to see crabs, fish, sea cucumbers and stingrays. Some time I get scared of stingrays.  

By Blake

What an incredible year it has been! As the school year comes to a close there are mixed emotions as I am sad to say good bye, but at the same time look forward to new adventures and continuing to develop myself as an educator. I would like to say a big thank you to all the students and families of Hayman Island State School for making my first year of teaching so memorable. The experiences I have encountered here are a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I will forever feel blessed for being able to live out my dream of teaching on an island so early in my career. School highlights from this year include whale watching, Under 8’s Day excursion, Book Week, going reef walking, fish feeding, exploring our amazing habitats here on the island, and skipping around coconut trees as we sing class nursery rhymes. The best thing of all however, has been getting to know all the students so well, and watching them come leaps and bounds in their growth and development throughout the year.

I wish you all a joyous and safe Christmas with friends and family, and look forward to hearing what the future holds for my wonderful students of Hayman Island State School.  

Miss Caulfield
Thank you’s

This term we have a lot to be thankful for at Hayman Island State School and I will start by thanking the efforts of Greg Meares and his team in Engineering. Greg and the boys spent an entire day cutting trees, pulling up dangerous protruding roots, laying top soil and beautiful new turf at the front of the school. They also put in steps and refilled the sandpit with more sand. The finished product looks absolutely amazing and I thank everyone who contributed to this amazing outcome.

Thank you to Karen Meares for keeping the water up to the new turf! Team work.

Brent and Ben have been repairing the railings on the front of the school over the past few days. Thanks boys for putting in such a stellar effort to ensure our school is safe for the students.

LIBRARY –

Over the past few weeks we have purchased the services of Bruce Robertson who is a trained librarian and retired teacher. Bruce helped us get all of our new resources onto the computer system and now they are all barcoded and tagged ready for use. My team of workers with long fingernails, helped peel all the corners
of the contact to cover the barcode stickers on the books. Special thanks to Sydney, Matilda, Chloe and Chris who put in a huge effort there. The senior class have helped cover some of the new books however there are still two piles of books yet to be covered. This job will be completed over the next few weeks and they will all be ready for the new school year. Awesome effort team! There were around 600 books entered and tagged so I am so very proud of everyone’s efforts in getting this enormous job completed.

**Last but not least** – A very special ‘thank you’ to my fabulous staff at Hayman Island State School. Todd Gardner (Cleaner/Grounds) you have been worth your weight in gold this year and your efforts in keeping the school looking so clean and tidy have been truly valued. You have gone above and beyond and have been the invisible miracle worker that some ‘forget’ because you are not visible during school hours. The teachers are surely going to miss walking into a school that smells like freshly baked banana cake thanks to Todd’s early morning bake offs.

Miss Caulfield – Thank you for a great year in your very first year as a teacher. Your efforts have also been truly valued and I look forward to hearing about all your successes in coming years. Being an Early Childhood Teacher is a demanding role and you must be feeling proud of how far your students have come since those first weeks of Term 1 when you questioned whether you could get them there in the end. **You have and you will!** Well done.

**End of Year Break Up**

Just a quick reminder that Wednesday the 30th November is our end of year break up and awards night. Christie has been making the arrangements and Miss Caulfield and I very much appreciate her efforts in planning this special evening for the children as it frees us up to concentrate on the curriculum and writing report cards. **Wednesday – 5pm – Lower Entertainment Centre.**

**TERM 1 2017 DATE CLAIMERS:**

19 - 20 January 2017 – Pupil Free Days
23 January 2017 – School starts
26 January 2017 – Public Holiday
13 April 2017 – Last day of Term 1