Parents, volunteers and community members,

We’ve had a busy fortnight with lots of staff trips to the mainland. I drove up to Townsville for the Principal's Business Meeting with Michael Allan, the principal at Hamilton Island State School. I hadn’t met Michael before so it was great to catch up and talk about how we can advocate for our island schools to make them an even better place to learn. We chatted about ways that we can get our students interacting more and decided to meet regularly to discuss sports days and other opportunities.

The North Queensland Region invited the fantastic Dr Lyn Sharratt, University of Toronto, to speak at the conference and she gave us a fantastic framework with which to identify and monitor areas for improvement. I have adapted her research and made a one page improvement model for reading at Hayman. Please forward me an e-mail as we would love to hear what you believe a student who has completed primary education at Hayman Island should know about reading. Your beliefs will form part of the document that identifies how we will improve reading at Hayman Island State School.

For the rest of this term we’re going potty over poetry. Students should be able to describe the language and structure found in a poem. Words such as verse, line, pattern, rhyme, alliteration, simile, metaphor, volume and pace can be expected from your children. If you know any great poems please ask your child to bring it in to share, or should I say recite.

Here’s some fabulous work!

Thanks again for your support and efforts to advocate for our fabulous school. The place looks better every week and the working bee Sunday week (new date) will increase our student and guest appeal even more. We had some guests visit the other day and Kirk gave them a very professional tour. I am sure his name got a mention in the feedback sheets because they were extremely impressed and took lots of photos of the school. Finally, I have our website in my sights and will start uploading work samples shortly. Tell your family when you see examples of your child’s work being uploaded.

Yours in education,

Darren Philp