

# Hayman Island State School



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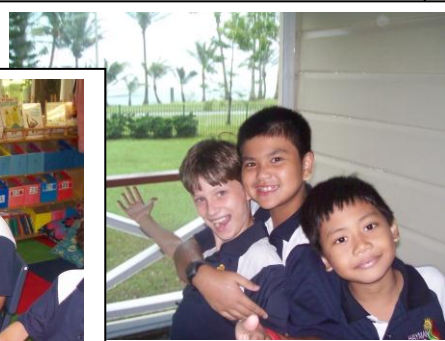
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February 7, 2014

Dear Families and Friends,  
Welcome!!



Welcome to a new and exciting year at Hayman Island State School. It is a year of much change for all of us and excitement in anticipation of the transformation of the resort. Much of what I write about today has been communicated to parents in our many conversations and interactions, but is still important to document and share with our unique community..... "It takes a village to raise a child".

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We welcome many new families to Hayman and particularly welcome Rama (Year 2) and Olivia (Year 6) to our school and expect to welcome Sebastian (Year 1), Christofle (Year 4) and Maya (Year 2) in the next couple of weeks. We welcome back Jack and Roche (Year 5) and Jayda (Year 3) and anticipate the return of Kirk (Year 4) in May. Nine students over 6 year levels makes for an action packed classroom. Heads-Up ... at the moment we have 4 Prep students in line for 2015. Most of these are already participating in EKindy which is an Education Queensland supported on-line and electronic classroom program for children who cannot attend a kindergarten due to distance or otherwise.

Another student, TC Dylan tried to come into the classroom a week ago but his enrolment was not accepted☺. I thank the community for their support as we experienced this weather event and we will continue to work together to ensure the safety of our children.

My wife, Ali, along with our children, Noah and Matilda, feel blessed to be at Hayman and being part of and serve such a great community. We thank everyone for their kind welcome.

## Reading

Reading is our key focus in 2014 with much of our energies and commitment targeting individual improvement in reading, comprehension, fluency, literacy stamina and vocabulary. What flows on from these strong foundations are strong skills in writing, speaking, spelling and greater independence and scope in all learning areas. Reading skills open up the world to our children's minds.

I encourage parents and all community members to model reading to our children, ask them to read to you in the Colleagues Diner, talk to them about reading and ask them questions about their own reading. Please feel very welcome to come to the school at either 11.40am or 1.20pm to read to our students or listen to them read. It would be great to see you at our school...please join us.

We have implemented a Daily 5 program in reading which includes, being read to, reading to someone, writing about reading, reading to self and having reading modelled to them.



## **Homework**

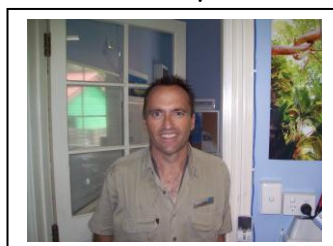
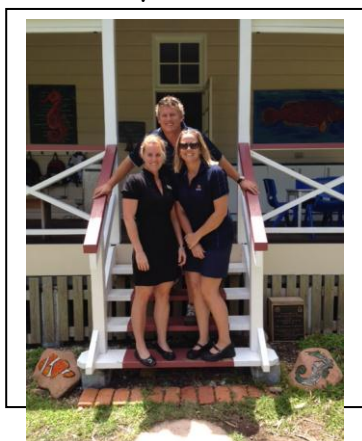
We have established an exciting homework program where students can pace their weekly tasks. What is expected is that our children read to their parents (or another adult) every week-night. Please assist us in this as it ensures that your child has had at least one opportunity per day to read to someone.

## **Staffing**

My role is split between principal duties and teaching with the greater share committed to the classroom. Mrs Robbo (Ali) will be team-teaching with me on Mondays and Fridays and also allowing some time for release for my administrative and leadership tasks, however, with our commitment to high literacy outcomes (and with funds being allocated to assist in meeting our goals) Ali will also teach for two hours (9-11am) on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to enhance this important dedicated literacy learning block. From time to time I have to travel away for meetings and professional development and in these times Ali will ensure teaching and learning continuity.

We warmly welcome back Natalie Silver (Learning Support and Office Administration) in her split role of assisting learning in the classroom and supporting the administration of the school. Nat's time has been dedicated primarily to supporting our teaching and learning with the majority of administration work being carried out prior to the start of formal lessons. Todd Gardner continues in his casual role as cleaner (and odd jobs man)...Thanks Todd!

We are very fortunate that Juliette Bouchers has kindly volunteered to teach music on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Thank you Juliette.



**Left: L-R Miss Nat, Mr and Mrs Robbo  
Above: Mr Todd**

## **A New Beginning...Moving Forward with Change**

With much discussion and consultation we are reverting to the traditional Hayman Island State School emblem which is on this newsletter and all other new correspondence. The change was initiated towards the end of last year by the previous principal and I have consulted with the families remaining as

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members of the community following resort closure and sort input from One and Only management who strongly support the change.

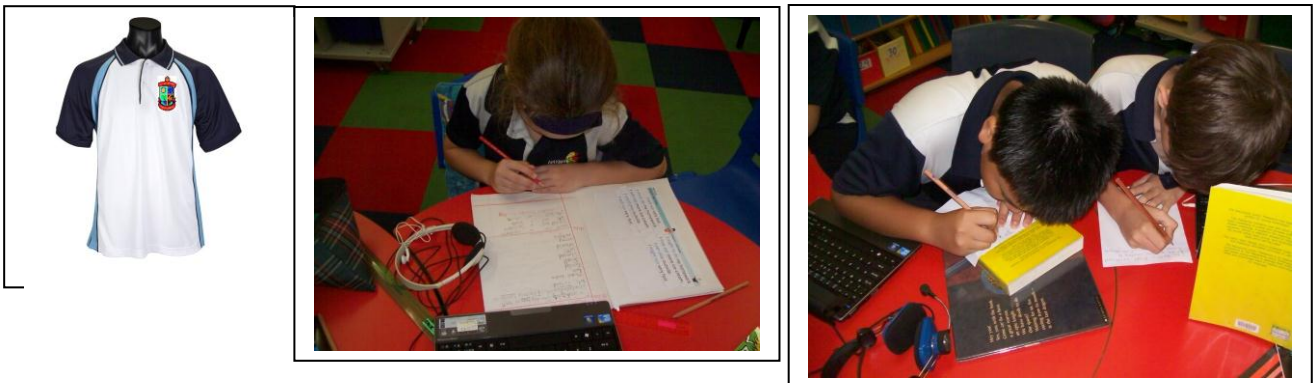
It makes sense to make any changes throughout this period where enrolments are relatively low and new families are being welcomed to the island. Our uniform stocks are also low and require ordering.

### Parents and Community

The P&C organisation is very important to any school. Through this group I am able to discuss some key directions and seek advice, input and mutual commitment on school related matters. It is an avenue for community members to contribute to the running of the school and, most importantly, our island children. Our P&C has taken a bit of a blow as result of families moving away though I am excited by the response of new family members to become involved.

I have spoken with all parents regarding our first meeting for the year. Please join us at the Sand Bar tonight (Monday) at 6.30pm for our meeting where we will elect office bearers and discuss the School Direction and Initiatives 2014, Booklist 2014, School Budget 2014 and School Uniform.

Below is the proposed new uniform shirt as discussed with all parents.



re the importance of **every day** attendance at school for our children.....unless they are sick. Studies and data conclusively show that kids whom have greater attendance at school are more likely to achieve higher results. Education Queensland has published data obtained over 12 years specifically demonstrating this fact.

I encourage parents to please come and discuss with me any unavoidable leave required from school and we can work together to ensure the continuity of learning.

### Book Club

I encourage families to buy books, especially books that are of interest to your children. The Book Club is a great opportunity to do this from our island homes. Simply go through the catalogue, choose the books and pay on line. Return your

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order to school with all paperwork completed and we will process the order. It is a very exciting day when the orders turn up. Orders are to be returned to school ASAP.

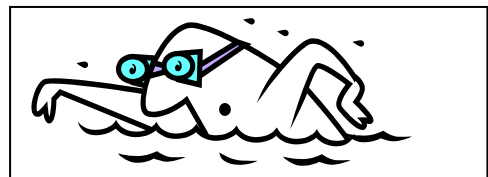
### **School Moto**

With all the changes ... let's visit our motto of "There is No Better Place to Learn". Whilst I agree with the motto, I am not a fan of the word "No". The previous, traditional latin motto, "Consilio et Prudentia" translates to "By Wisdom and Prudence".

Maybe we are happy to just leave it as is or otherwise?? Let's get our thinking caps on and make some suggestions. One I have received is "Learning in Paradise".....Google has some good sites☺

### **Swimming**

Our swimming program will commence this Friday (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>) 1:30-2:30pm. Both Mrs Robbo and I will be taking the students swimming in the staff pool. The students will then be dismissed from the pool at 2:30pm on Fridays this Term. More information will come this week in the form of a General Permission Form which will hopefully reduce the forms needed to be signed throughout the year for this activity and other "on-island" activities.



### **What's On**

#### **In February**

Monday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> - 6.30 pm -P&C Meeting - The Sandbar

Tuesday Feb 11<sup>th</sup> -Health and Safety Audit

Monday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> - Visiting IT specialist at the school

Tuesday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - 3.00 - 3.30 pm - Parent Information

#### **In March**

Monday March 10 - 14 - Mr Robbo off island for meetings at Hamilton Is, Proserpine and Townsville.

### **School Times**

8.30-11.00 Class Time

11.00-11.40 Lunch

11.40-1.00 Class Time

1.00-1.20 Break

1.20-2.30 Class Time



## Communication

Please feel free to contact us at school or around the island.

Internal Line - 1978

Email:

Mr Robbo - [rlob0@eq.edu.au](mailto:rlob0@eq.edu.au)

Mrs Robbo - [arobe342@eq.edu.au](mailto:arobe342@eq.edu.au)

## Working Together for Our Kids

Ro Robertson (AKA:Mr Robbo)  
Principal

P.S.

Please feel free to contribute to and advertise events or things you wish to sell etc in our newsletter that will be published every 2 or 3 weeks. Just send me an email☺

## Feeding Jacko (Nigel now has only 9 fingers)

