Newsletter Term 3

As term 3 comes to a close, it is appropriate to reflect on our achievements over the past 10 weeks. During this term we received results for NAPLAN testing and reports were sent home to the relevant families. In a broadcast to all Queensland State Schools, the Director-General of Education made the following statement with regards to this year’s results.

> These results confirm what we have seen across many other local and state wide indicators — the hard work of Queensland teachers and students is paying off.

Our strongest results were in the Year 3 and Year 5 cohorts, where Queensland achieved some of its highest ever rankings against the national minimum standards (NMS). Highlights of Queensland’s NAPLAN results include:

- ranking first nationally in Year 3 Grammar and Punctuation (the first time that Queensland has ever ranked first in a test area)
- ranking second nationally in Year 3 Reading and Numeracy
- ranking second nationally in Year 5 Grammar and Punctuation
- ranking second nationally in Year 7 Spelling.

There are a wide range of views about the role and purpose of national assessment, but without doubt it provides educational leaders, and society more broadly, with an idea of what effect our efforts are having on each student's performance in skills necessary for everyday life: reading, writing, spelling and numeracy.

What NAPLAN tells us is that the leadership of principals, the dedication and perseverance of teachers and the hard work of Queensland students has been rewarded with performance gains relative to our peers around the country. Since Queensland’s relatively low baseline performance when NAPLAN began in 2008, we have travelled a steady and continuing improvement journey that now sees us as the most rapidly improving jurisdiction in the country.

In August, I was fortunate to attend the Queensland Association of State School Principals (QASSP) Golden Jubilee Conference in Brisbane. This conference provided me not only with an opportunity to engage in professional learning opportunities thanks to the amazing list of presenters, but it also gave me an opportunity to network with my colleagues from across the State.

The highlight of the conference for me, was listening to Rabia Siddique’s very personal story. For those who have never heard of Rabia Siddique, she is a humanitarian, a retired British Army Officer, a former terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, a public speaker, author and mother of triplets. Rabia’s story was eloquently delivered and captured the complete and undivided attention of each and every Principal in the room. Her story was one of courage and determination in the face of the most unbelievable horrors and how she built resilience and fought for equality. I took away her message of how each of us has the opportunity to make a difference through ripples and waves and the power that each of us has to be agents for change. For those interested in Rabia’s story, Google **Courage Under Fire** and listen to her Ted talk. You won’t be disappointed.

Finance Audit

This term our school was to participate in a Finance Audit which was called off at the eleventh hour due to our auditor being admitted to hospital. The Finance Audit will be rescheduled to a later date and is expected to be conducted during either Term 4 this year or Term 1 next year.
Excursions

We were fortunate this term to be invited on an excursion to the Cannonvale Library to participate in Book Week celebrations and to watch a performance by Sean Murphy, comedian. The students all had a fabulous day and everyone had lots of laughs. The day of our excursion also marked the first day of Ann Kerby’s time at Hayman Island State School. What a lucky break for Ann Kerby having the opportunity to attend an excursion on her first day at her new school! The trip home was very quiet as most of the students slept all the way back to Hayman Island. Our Reef Guardian excursion was cancelled due to both students being absent on the day of the excursion.

Staffing

Congratulations to Miss Caulfield for securing a teaching position for 2017 at Redlynch State College in Cairns. I am certain that she will absolutely love her new life and the opportunities that will be availed to her by being on staff in a Prep-12 school. Miss Caulfield will continue to build upon her teacher toolkit and I look forward to hearing about all her successes in the future. Well done Miss!

I am currently liaising with our Human Resources Branch to organise a replacement for next year and all staffing decisions will continue throughout term 4.

P&C

No meeting was held this Term due to the fact none of the committee live on island.

Server Upgrade

We have recently had a visit from our Systems Technician from Townsville who spent the day installing our new server and UPS. All those boxes in the Senior Classroom now contain the old equipment and we have to wait patiently for a communication from Brisbane with arrangements for a pick-up of these boxes.

Resources

We have recently begun to clean up in earnest as during Term 4, I will be conducting a Stocktake of school equipment. We have some beautiful tidy cupboards in the back rooms now and you may have noticed that the classrooms are looking very neat and tidy.

Reading Workshop

On the evening of 10 October (Monday), I am running a reading workshop for parents to demonstrate different strategies we teach students when they are working with various texts in class. The purpose of this workshop is to share with parents the strategies we teach the students at school, so that when working on homework tasks or conducting home reading activities, parents are aware of the questions and strategies they could ask to support their child’s learning at school. It should be noted that this is not compulsory to attend.

Debtor Invoices

Just a friendly reminder that there are still some outstanding invoices for school uniforms for the 2016 school year. If anyone is having issues using the payment method on the bottom of the account, please contact me and I will provide the BSB and Account number to enable a bank transfer.

STEM (Science | Technology | Engineering | Mathematics)

During the school holidays, I will be attending the STEM Teacher Symposium at the Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology for 2 days. I am looking forward to participating in a range of workshops over the two days aimed at supporting my knowledge and providing me with ideas to bring back to my students in the classroom situation.

Peer Review

During Term 4 I will be absent in Brisbane for two days as I have been selected by the School Improvement Unit to be a Peer Reviewer of a school in the Brisbane bayside suburbs. All state schools receive a review every four years and generally, it occurs in the year that a school is due to complete its quadrennial school review and update their four-year school plan. At the completion of the review, reviewers present their
findings and recommendations to the principal and other staff. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity of being a peer reviewer as it is an excellent form of professional development which will enable me to continue to grow as an instructional leader.

**Early Years Classroom**

We have had an amazing term 3 here in the Early Years classroom and have noticed the growth and development in all of our students. As we focus on including Age Appropriate Pedagogies in the Early Years classroom, this term we have implemented daily movement breaks in the middle of English block and Maths blocks. These movement breaks are designed to activate the students’ brains and allow them to ‘move their body’ in a positive way between long periods of sitting and classroom learning. During these movement breaks students are engaged in educational songs and games which include, days of the week, months of the year, nursery rhymes and counting activities. Since implementing these breaks we have noticed improved behaviour, concentration and willingness to learn within the classroom.

This term the Prep students enjoyed learning and creating nursery rhymes, as we changed traditional rhymes to suit our school community. Once we wrote a new rhyme, students had lots of fun creating actions which we practiced and performed during movement breaks each day. Some of these rhymes include ‘Here We Go Round the Coconut Tree’, ‘Five Little Preps’ and ‘Two Little Preppie Birds’. Using this knowledge and practice of rhyme, each Prep student then created their own rhyme and actions from scratch to perform to the other students in our school.

Year 1 students have worked really hard this term creating their own characters to be included into known stories and analysing cultural stories of Indigenous Australian’s and other countries that are relevant to the backgrounds of students in our school. The boys have been focussing on how to include a lot of detail of who, what, when, where, why and how, into their writing; whether it is a character description, retell of a cultural story or presentation.

During maths this term, students all focused on sequencing the days of the week, data collection, counting, time, measurement and capacity. A highlight for students within maths was learning about capacity as they were able to get into the outside environment and measure the capacity of different containers in the sand pit using sand and water.

Science and Geography have been implemented in the afternoon sessions this term. Students have all developed a sound understanding of weather and features in the sky and on the land. The Year 1 students extended this knowledge to identify features of the land that are natural, managed or constructed. During geography students have been learning about maps and place. Within both subjects, students greatly enjoyed being able to get creative and make a 3D diorama of their bedroom (place) and their observation of outside our school which included features of the land and sky.

**The Arts**

This term students have been very creative and actively involved in the arts every Friday. Prep to Year 2 have been looking at the visual arts as they create drawings, collages and paintings in response to text or to tell a story. Basti in Year 3 has been researching and creating media art, as he puts his knowledge of persuasive text to use to create a TV advertisement persuading people to clean up Hayman Island for the benefit of the animals and beautiful Great Barrier Reef that surrounds us. Last but not least, Chris in Year 6 has been looking into the elements of drama. He has combined his scientific knowledge and recent personal experiences of earthquakes, to create a natural disaster dramatic performance where he will include students from all year levels as he choreographs his play.
Book Week

This term our school celebrated Book Week from the 22nd to the 26th of August. Each year across Australia, the Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) remind children of the importance and wonders of books, bringing them together to celebrate Children’s Book Week. During this time schools, libraries, authors, illustrators, booksellers and children, celebrate Australian Children's Literature.

Here at Hayman Island State School we had a fantastic time going on a school excursion for a hilarious comedy performance at the Cannonvale Library on the Wednesday and then dressed up as our favourite book characters on Friday.

National Pyjama Day

On Friday the 22nd of July, students had lots of fun coming to school dressed in their favourite PJ’s to celebrate National Pyjama Day. All around Australia, schools and work places were encouraged to go dressed in their favourite pyjamas to help the Pyjama Foundation raise much-needed awareness for children in foster care.
SENIOR CLASSROOM

During Term 3, Matilda was exploring informative texts in English and she was reading and identifying the difference between narratives and information texts. At the completion of this unit, Matilda was able to write her own information text on ducks. Matilda has also been learning about procedural texts and how to write her own procedure. She created a recipe for a cake containing all sorts of evil contents and was able to sequence her instructions in the correct order.

Basti and Ann-Kerby were reading *Kumiko and the dragon* and they have both written their own stories about facing their fears. Chris has been reading stories written by Elizabeth Honey and his task was to participate in a panel discussion comparing various aspects of the author’s style and textual features. It’s hard to be on a “panel of 1” so adjustments were made to this task for Chris and I took on the role of another panel member, and aimed my questions at the skills Chris had to demonstrate from the content descriptors in his guide to making judgements. We got there in the end!

Geography appears to be the favourite subject here on Hayman Island as all the students have been completely engaged in their learning. The lessons have been so much fun, they link up across year levels and the children can see the purpose in learning. Chris has been investigating the inquiry question “How do places, people and cultures differ across the world?” The content of this unit provided opportunities to develop understanding about place, space, the environment, change and scale. Our year 3 students are investigating the questions “How and why are places similar and different?” and “What would it be like to live in a neighbouring country?” The geography units continue throughout Term 4.

In Science the Year 3s have been learning about heat and different forms of heat whilst the year 6 students have been studying natural disasters which is very appropriate with the number of earthquakes that have rattled us this term! We had lots of fun tracking those earthquakes this term and created our own Hayman Island Earthquake Data Wall for the classroom.

Our mathematics lessons have included learning on measurement, volume, number facts, fractions, decimals patterns, time and problem solving.

The highlight of Term 3 has definitely been the influx of whales to the Whitsunday Islands. We thank Karen for her eagle eyes in watching out for whales and advising us when they were in sight of the school. We have had so many thrilling encounters with these unbelievable whales and I will never forget the excitement and joy brought to the children every time we saw that spray, the tail slaps or the breathtaking backflips. These encounters will stay with me forever and have definitely been the highlight of the term/year!

TERM 4 DATE CLAIMERS:

3 October – Queen’s Birthday Holiday
4 October – Day 1 Term 4
10 October – Parent workshop (Reading)
12/13 October – Principal’s meeting in Townsville
14 October – Principal at Learning Fair in Townsville
17 October – STUDENT FREE DAY
19-21 October – Peer Review Brisbane (Principal)
9 December – School holidays – Christmas

Term 3 farewells – Harrison (Prep), Ethan (Prep), Kirk (Yr 6).