FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

HUMPYBONG IMPROVEMENT AGENDA/THREE WAY REPORTING

There are few things as important to the future well-being of our world than the quality of the education our children receive. This is an important motivating factor for the vast majority of educators in our schools. The Humpybong State School Improvement Agenda outlines the strategies this school community is implementing to improve our student outcomes.

Through building teacher capacity, our aim is to set, meet, review and reset the learning goals for each student at our school in a continuous cycle of improvement. The Three Way Reporting opportunity on Wednesday afternoon is a very important aspect of this cycle. Evidence supports this strategy, as students who help to set and share their learning goals with parents meet learning targets more quickly than those who do not. I strongly encourage all parents to ensure they attend the Three Way Reporting to support the learning of their children. If the time and date is not suitable, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Improving learning outcomes in reading, writing, maths and science continue to remain the focus for us at Humpybong State School and the improvement in the past two years in State Wide testing can be attributed to the focus and hard work of staff and students. Our school based data is also showing an improvement trend.

In the coming weeks, school community members will receive a printed version of the school’s Improvement Agenda and parents are encouraged to talk with teachers about the strategies being implemented.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

What happens when a child is sick at school?

When a child complains of feeling sick at school, he/she is first assessed by classroom teachers to determine if there is a need to send the child to the office to be collected by a parent/caregiver. Teachers will often let a child rest in the classroom for ten to fifteen minutes prior to sending them to the office as sometimes children just need some time to settle. If after this time there is no improvement, the child is sent to the office with their school bag and a “sick form” completed by the class teacher. One of our office staff members will then contact parents/caregivers to collect their child from school.

All classrooms have band aides and access to ice for minor first aid. At lunch time staff members on duty carry with them first aide equipment and children have been informed of the process to use if they require minor first aide. We do not have qualified nurses or doctors at school and cannot give a medical assessment. On most occasions staff members determine illness based on what children tell us about how they are feeling. Please ensure that the school’s record of contact details, including work and mobile numbers, is kept current. The school does not have a dedicated staff member responsible for sick children. Sometimes parents have the difficult decision to make about whether a child is well enough to attend school. We acknowledge that keeping a child home can mean that parents themselves must miss work. However, the bottom line is that schools are equipped for learning – not to care for sick children beyond an initial assessment. Parents, it is important to recognise that the school has neither the facilities nor the resources to care for sick children, beyond an initial assessment.

Children simply don’t profit from being away from school – or from being later for school – causes interruption to a student’s education and can impact upon their ability to make friends and be happy at school. We are working hard to improve attendance rates at school. Teachers are monitoring...
attendance every day in every classroom, and we are collating information. You may be surprised to know that in the first two weeks of the new school year, we recorded 274 unexplained absences across the school. (While we can assume that some of the absences may have been as a result of the heavy rains over the first few days, the absences have been recorded as ‘unexplained’ as we have not received explanation from parents of children who have been away during this period).

To assist us in managing our attendance, we are using a school management system called OneSchool that allows teachers to mark rolls electronically. The usual practice of marking the roll still happens at the start of every day and at the beginning of the afternoon session, but it is done on a computer. Teachers are marking students who are not present at that time, and it becomes a permanent record within OneSchool. A child arriving late to class in the morning must report to the office immediately upon arrival to say that they are late and be issued with a receipt that is then presented to the teacher. The record within OneSchool is then amended at that time to show that the child is a late arrival rather than an absence. The same process happens with early departures.

Electronic roll marking has happened with early departures. A late arrival rather than an unauthorised absence is then presented to the Office. A receipt is then issued at the office to say that they are late and be issued with a receipt that is then presented to the teacher. The record within OneSchool is then amended at that time to show that the child is a late arrival rather than an absence. The same process happens with early departures.

All students participating in interschool sports will be addressed regarding behaviour expectations before the first week of competition. Students who are unable to meet this expectation will be withdrawn from the program.

Tim Adsett
Deputy Principal (Year 4 – 7)

What an exciting fortnight it has been for P -3 students. With the support from their classroom teacher, students have developed specific learning goals which they are eager to share with parents and caregivers at the Three Way Reporting session on Wednesday afternoon. The response to this reporting session has been overwhelming and is reflective of your commitment and the value in which you place on your child’s education. If you were unable to make these times you are most welcome to arrange an alternative time to meet with the class teacher.

Our first assembly last week was nothing short of extraordinary. It was the perfect occasion to celebrate the wonderful successes of so many students. Congratulations to the following for your outstanding achievements so early in Term 1.

Indiera Hughes & Bailey Martlew – Prep
Charlie Dawson, Emilia Burns & Logan Watene – 1 Purple
Jaden Tagg – 2/3 Crimson

Special congratulations was extended to our STAR CLASSES. 1 Orange was acknowledged for their commitment to ensuring our school is a clean and tidy place. What a wonderful example of Caring for Property. 3 Orange demonstrated courage and their love for music and movement when dazzling us with their performance at assembly last week. You had to be there to witness such a fine example of Caring for Learning. Finally 2/3 Crimson was recognised for Caring for Others as they demonstrated positive peer relationships. Thank you to the parents who joined us for this fortnight phenomenon. Our next assembly will be held on Thursday 23rd February. We look forward to seeing you there!

EVEN DAY COUNTS
Humpenybong State School’s attendance initiative ‘Every Day Counts’ is in full flight. This edition of the newsletter focuses on why it is crucial that Prep students attend all day, every day.

Every day counts in Prep because…

- Going to Prep every day makes sure all Queensland children get the most out of their important first year of school.
- Prep gives children a head start for Year 1.
- Going to Prep every day improves children’s reading, writing and maths.
- Going to school every day builds a positive approach to learning.
- Going to school every day strengthens your child’s independence and confidence.

Please help us to achieve the very best for your child ensuring they attend school each day.

More information can be accessed from the following site: http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/brochures.html

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2012
The 14th of February marks the official launch of the National Year of Reading and 2012 will see many amazing, fun reading activities taking place around Australia and online. These activities and events will focus on celebrating the joy reading brings to readers of all ages. One of the main goals of these events is ‘to help children discover the joy of reading and discover or rediscover the joy of reading yourself.’

As part of the launch of the National Year of Reading a selection of eight books will be announced. This collection of books will paint a picture of what it is like to live in, visit or be from Australia’s different states and territories. As a founding partner behind the National Year of Reading, the State Library of Queensland has further information about the events and competitions that will

INTERSCHOOL SPORT AND OPTIONS – YEAR 6 AND 7
Year 6 and 7 students have nominated for various interschool sporting teams and school-based options. Letters have been sent home to advise parents of the sport that has been selected and any fees that are now payable, as well as a medical consent form and a code of conduct. All members of interschool sporting teams have a bus levy, and some

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be occurring across the year. If you wish to find out further information about these events you can visit these sites: www.slq.qld.gov.au/whats-on/events/nyr?SQ_DESIGN http://www.love2read.org.au/nyr-programs.cfm

Hayley Bloxham
A/Deputy Principal (Prep – Year 3)

**MUSIC MATTERS**

At Humpybong State School we are committed to providing excellence in our music program; delivering learning opportunities that capture the imaginations and interest of our students and develop their skills in a supportive and stimulating way. As educators, we now understand that music plays a pivotal part in a child’s development and we recognise the work of others in researching the positive impact that learning music has on many aspects of the learner. Literacy and numeracy skills are two areas that are significantly improved in students who learn a musical instrument. With a clear priority of improving students’ literacy and numeracy across our school, we embrace music as a tool to meet this goal and support children in their learning journeys.

As a teacher of music at Humpybong I feel enormously privileged to work with such a beautiful, caring group of children. Together with our talented, committed teachers and supportive, engaged parents I feel that we have what it takes to provide our students with amazing opportunities. I would like to harness some of the support of our community by inviting you to volunteer to contribute your time, energy and skills to a variety of tasks necessary to make the music program successful. Some of these tasks include:

- A parent representative of the String Students to help set up for ensemble practices every Tuesday morning at 7:45 am.
- A parent representative of the Band to help set up for ensemble practices every Wednesday morning at 7:45 am.
- A parent to travel with children on the bus for performances outside of the school and help children set up and dress in their appropriate uniforms.

Now that I am a working mother I appreciate more than ever the demands of family life and understand that you may not be in a position to make this kind of commitment. Your support from home; encouraging your child to do their homework and reading practice, to be on time for school, packing healthy lunches, dressing them appropriately and all the hard work that we do as parents is absolutely priceless and has such an impact on their learning. As teachers we don’t often say thank you for this support but I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for wonderful job you are doing to encourage your children and the great gift you are giving them by opening the door to learning in their lives.

Form are available at the school office.

**A reminder that ensemble practices begin this week for continuing instrumental students on Tuesday at 7:45am for Strings and Wednesday at 7:45 for Band.**

I look forward to sharing our musical journey with you throughout the year and watching as our children grow in their love of music.

Warmest regards,
Juanita

**ON-LINE LEARNING**

Humpybong has just purchased Mathletics and Reading Eggs for all students in the school. If you had to buy these on-line resources as a parent, they would cost you $160 for each child for a year. Many thanks to our P&C for paying for half the cost of these valuable resources. Both programs cater for children from Prep to Year 7.

Reading Eggs starts with teaching children the letters of the alphabet and the sounds of these letters, so is very suitable for Prep. Reading Express has over 800 online books for children to read as well as lessons on grammar, punctuation and vocabulary.

Mathletics covers all areas of the Maths syllabus and is like having an online tutor. Children have the opportunity to challenge children across the world in a number of facts quiz and build their own avatar as they earn rewards for completing maths lessons. Your child will have their own username which they can use at school and at home and these programs at home when we are up and running. Exciting times ahead!

**BOOKS PACKS AND RECORDERS**

There are some complete book packs (Year 2, 5 & 6) available for purchase in the office. You can also purchase a recorder for Music for $7.

**CONTRIBUTION FOR ART SUPPLIES AND PHOTOCOPYING**

The Contribution of $40 can be paid at the office if you did not do this when ordering your book pack. Teachers use this money to purchase art & craft supplies which we did not include in the student packs and to photocopy work sheets as we did not ask you to purchase text books. Thanks for supporting our teachers in giving your child the resources they need.

**CHAPPY CHATTER - A BIG KISS**

Parenting isn’t easy, but it doesn’t have to be complicated either. A good parenting guideline to live by is the KISS principle – Keep It Simple Sweetheart!

Every parent knows what it feels like to have to have your child “ignore” your instructions. I have this frequently with my son. Requests of “Theo, please can you pick your clothes up off the floor – it’s not a wardrobe, for goodness sake!” – and put them in the laundry? I need to wash them” used to be met with glazed eyes and I knew he had heard only one word in three. By contrast, my friend Jenny, a veteran of five teenagers, uses the KISS principle. She will point to the offending article of clothing and say, “Matt. Laundry. Now!” and he will get up, and do as he is asked.
All kids have short attention spans, and they seem to consider ignoring parents to be a national sport. So, KISS! Get their attention. Give the instruction (in as few words as possible). Give them a time-limit. It beats being ignored every time.

Keep smiling and God bless,
Nicola

“My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words.” Proverbs 4:20

P&C NEWS

UNIFORM SHOP
Thank you to everyone for your patience at this busy time of the year. We are currently waiting on stock for the following size shirts 6, 8, 10 and 12. If you are waiting on shirts, could you please be patient, we will get them to you as soon as they arrive. For ease of reference, could you please email your details to our P&C Secretary Kelly Kohler at (Kelly@kohlerzone.com) so that we have the list ready to go as soon as the stock arrives and the shirts can be delivered to the students’ classes? Please make sure that you include your details and your child’s details, class details, receipt number and the uniform stock you are waiting on. If you are waiting on one of the school bags, they should arrive later this week or early next week. The new hats have arrived.

We are currently working on a new system where parents will have the option to fill in an order form and pay via bpay online, as we are all very busy people and do not always have time to attend the uniform shop during it’s opening hours. The uniform shop is currently open every Wednesday morning from 9.00am to 10.30am. More information regarding this new system will be sent to you shortly.

WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2012 – 3 WAY CONFERENCING
This Wednesday the school is conducting three way conference meetings for teachers, students and parents to acknowledge student progress and achievement. We wish to advise that the School’s Tuckshop will be open on Wednesday afternoon from 3.30pm to 6.00pm. We will be selling the following items: Tea or Coffee $1.00 each, Slushies, Drinks, Chips and Ice Sticks. There will be no hot food served during this time.

FRIDAY SAUSAGE SIZZLE
We look forward to seeing you all on Friday (under the Year 1 buildings), sausage sizzle starts at 2.30pm. Only $1.50 for a sausage in bread. Look for the P&C Flags.

Colin Orr
P&C President

ROAD CLOSURE
Queensland School Sport is hosting the State Triathlon Championships from Friday February 24 – Saturday February 25. For the safe conduct of this event, Margate & Margate Parade from Albert Street to Anzac Avenue inclusive will be closed to all vehicular traffic between 7.00am – 10.30am Friday and 7.00am – 9.30 am Saturday. Police and council permits have been granted for the activity.

DENTAL CLINIC
The dental clinic is open on Tuesday/Wednesday. Years 2, 3, 4 & 5 have been sent their dental forms. Please complete these forms and return to the office or dental clinic. All other grades will be offered treatment after the Easter holidays.

For enquiries please contact the clinic on 3284 4260

Thank You
Dental Staff

FOR TENDER
Lelit Coffee machine. Near new, hardly used, comes with all accessories. Please write down your tender & send it to the office inside an envelope clearly marked with your name and contact details.