Newsletter 01: 3rd February 2015

Thought for the Week:
Every success is built on the ability to do better than good enough.

ABC's Of Student Success

P is for PARENT INVOLVEMENT.
Research shows that students with parents who are involved in their education have higher achievement. You can get involved in your child’s education by...
- reading with your child each night. Regular reading improves many skills. It reinforces that reading is a valuable and pleasurable activity.
- volunteering at school. Call your child’s teacher for ideas about how you can help at school or from home.
- attending school activities. Be your child’s number one fan!

I'm continuing this segment on from last year, because one of our students now in high school was worried he wouldn't find out what the rest of the alphabet letters stood for!

WELCOME and WELCOME BACK!
A very warm welcome to both our new and returning families. We are very pleased to have you as part of our learning and local communities and hope you'll maintain a long and happy relationship with our school.
Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me or your child’s class teacher, if you have any concerns.

CLASSES AND STAFF FOR 2015
We have comfortably maintained our numbers with the transition of Grades 6 & 7 to high school this year and will have four classes:
PI/1 with Mrs Katherine Campbell & Mrs Liz Shield-Fri
2/3/4 with Mrs Tanya Eizenberg
3/4 with Mrs Kelly Brown
5/6 with Mrs Teeny Patterson & Mrs Liz Shield-Mon/Tue
The Prep/1 and 2/3/4 class teachers will be working closely together to provide the best possible support for our Early Years Students and the 3/4 and 5/6 teachers will also coordinate for some subjects, to better support students.
Mr McLaren will continue as our Learning Support and Special Education Program Teacher, Mon-Thurs.
We welcome Miss Tanya Eizenberg, an experienced early years’ teacher from North Queensland and our new Chapry, Jess Cavanagh.
Taryn Golshefsky is still standing in as a Teacher Aide for Mrs Taske, who is on Long Service Leave prior to retiring in June. Unfortunately Mrs T has postponed her retirement dinner, which was to have taken place on 7th February, due to the ill health of husband, Bob. We wish them both all the very best.

WELCOME FAMILY BBQ
Each year we hold a Welcome BBQ so our new families and staff can meet our 'long timers'. This year's BBQ (food supplied) will be held on Thursday 19th February beginning at 5.00 p.m. ALL families are most welcome, including other members of your immediate family (older and younger children) who live with you. Drinks will be on sale on the night. Wear insect repellent! The mozzies and sand flies are in full force after all the rain.

Safety, Responsibility, Respect and Learning

Great state. Great opportunity.
NEWSLETTERS AND FACEBOOK

Newsletters will be FORTNIGHTLY this year. We are hoping more parents will read it, if it is less frequent. We do have a closed Facebook page as a convenient way for staff and the P&C to keep in touch with parents between newsletters. Please look for us and ask to join.

CAPTAINS’ SPEECHES

This Friday, our prospective Student Leaders will be presenting their speeches to their peers to sway the votes in their favour. Parents are welcome to attend the presentation which will commence at 2.30pm. We hope to present the new leaders with their badges on Monday 16th February prior to attending the Grip Student Leadership Conference on Tuesday 17th February.

ARE YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE?

If you have changed your address or phone numbers over the holidays, please let us know. We have already had some difficulty contacting parents whose details have changed. Thanks!

‘MUST KNOWS’ FOR PARENTS

Staff attended mandatory professional development on these topics on the Pupil Free Days 21-23 January.

Student Protection Laws Change

It is mandatory that school staff report any suspected cases of child sexual abuse, especially if the child does NOT have a parent willing to act protectively on their behalf, e.g. A mother does not believe her child, who says they have been assaulted by a baby sitter, continues to use the same sitter and refuses to report the abuse.

Up until now, it has also been mandatory to report all cases of physical and emotional abuse and neglect. This part of the law has changed a little. The Department of Child Safety has introduced a layer between professions that deal with children, and prosecution by the law. It is called Family Child Connect.

In cases of physical and emotional abuse, and neglect, where a child DOES have at least one protective parent, the school can offer parents an opportunity to work WITH DoCS to improve the situation in the family home, to prevent further instances of abuse.

If a parent/family refuse this level of help, when offered by the school, the school will be left with no option but to report the suspected abuse or neglect to DoCS.

Should a family find themselves in this situation, the message from us, and DoCS, is work WITH us, to help your child.

ICPs-Individual Curriculum Plans

Education Queensland, and our school, believes that all students have the right to the best learning support that it is possible for us to provide.

During last year, Individual Curriculum Plans were introduced, for students who need additional learning support, because they are more than 12 months behind or ahead of their year level curriculum.

Last year we trialled these plans for students with verified learning disabilities only.

In the next few weeks, we will again start with our verified students, but will move on to those requiring additional support in certain subject areas, and then on to those students in our school who require extension beyond their year level.

We will contact you by letter and offer to meet with you, as we intend to begin writing an ICP for your child, to take you through the process, get your input and explain the benefits for your child.

The ICP is nothing more than a process of formalising the adjustments we already make on a daily basis, to meet the needs of students in our classes. It does NOT mean your child will be constantly withdrawn from class to have ‘special’ lessons. It DOES mean that the teachers and aides have plans in place to support your child in the classroom. Any child might be withdrawn, on occasion, to participate in a more individualised program, such as a Speech program or a 1:1 reading session with a teacher aide or Rotary Reader volunteer, but this would be for a maximum of 15 minutes at a time.

If a parent endorses, or agrees to, an ICP for their child, it means their child can be reported on, in their Semester Report, against their own goals for the particular subject they need support in. This means they have a chance of getting As, Bs and Cs at their planned ICP level, rather than the Ds and Es they would possibly get if they continued to struggle through their year level curriculum.

If a parent refuses to endorse an ICP, the teacher will continue to use strategies to support students in class, as we always have, but we will be required by law to report against the year level curriculum, rather than the planned ICP.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR 2015

Our new Assistant Regional Director, Mr Ross Zelow, met with me this morning. We discussed our Regional priorities of:

1. Attendance: Regional target better than 96%
2. Reading: Success Schools Project
4. U2Bs (Movement of students from lower NAPLAN Bands into the Upper Two Bands-U2Bs)
Success Schools Reading Project

Many of you will remember, fondly, Mrs Katrina Kruger who was our Prep/1/2 teacher several years ago. Katrina is now a Principal Education Officer with Regional Office, working on a project called Success Schools. It focuses on Reading as the basis of all learning. All staff, including our teacher aides, attended a session with Katrina on the pupil free day on 22 January, where the project was outlined.

I attended another session on Friday and also met with Katrina yesterday to draw up our action plan for this project. Katrina will be visiting fortnightly to work in classrooms, with teachers, to improve our practices in reading. Expect to hear regularly about the project.

Attendance

Over the last few years, we have worked hard as a school community to improve our student attendance. Sometimes this has been unpopular with parents, when they receive letters outlining the number of days their child has been away and how much this impacts on their learning over time. As you can see, Attendance is a Regional Priority, because EVERY DAY COUNTS in your child’s education. We cannot teach your children if they are not at school. It is every parent’s responsibility under the law to have your child at school on EVERY POSSIBLE DAY. You can help significantly in the following ways:

- Encourage your child to celebrate their birthday at school with a cake or cupcakes. It is NOT a holiday.
- If it is at all possible, make appointments for doctors, dentists and specialists OUT of school hours.
- Keep your child home only if they are genuinely sick. You know your child best and will know if they are just trying to wangle a day at home.
- Contact the school by phone or email to report your child sick, or send a note on the day they return.

Weekly Attendance Gift Card Sponsors

Each week students are at school for the full week, they go into a draw at the following week’s assembly to win a $10 gift voucher from Big W. Last year these were sponsored by the school, some of our families and local businesses. It costs $40 for the year (1 x $10 gift card per term). Ideally, we’d like to have 10 sponsors, one for each week of the term. Please let us know.

WOULD YOUR FAMILY OR BUSINESS LIKE TO SPONSOR AN ATTENDANCE AWARD?

READING, MATHLETICS AND SOUNDWAVES

Our School uses some online learning programs and magazine subscriptions such as Reading Eggs, The School Magazine, Mathletics and Soundwaves (spelling). These programs mean parents don’t have to buy expensive textbooks. The P&C kindly pays each year for our students in Grades 3-6 to use Mathletics. We ask parents to contribute $25 to cover Reading and spelling programs. You will be invoiced for these amounts in the coming weeks.

RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN

As part of our school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students, each child at EHSS has a Behaviour Passport. Each day a child can earn up to 3 dated boxes in their passport.

3 boxes means they’ve had a fantastic day
2 boxes means a good day, with a slight wobble
1 box means they’ve at least had a good session
0 boxes means they were away or received a detention for poor behaviour.

Students have to achieve 130 boxes to get to Bronze Level, which earns them a Bronze Ribbon and an afternoon of play and a Zooper Dooper ice block. 260 boxes gets them to Silver, which earns them a Silver Ribbon and a movie with popcorn and a drink. 390 boxes gets them to Gold, which earns them a Gold Ribbon and a beach sausage sizzle. 530 boxes gets them to Platinum and an end of year excursion and a Platinum Medal on Presentation Day.

In the event that your child is absent for an extended period, for a significant reason (e.g., illness supported by a doctor’s certificate; family funeral, etc.) these will be taken into consideration.

Family holidays during term time, taking an extra day to create a long weekend, being absent on a birthday or regular one day a week absences will not be taken into consideration.

Road Rules around our school

Already we have parents ignoring road rules and endangering the lives of their children. PLEASE make sure you use the crossing in BOTH directions when coming into or out of the school. Attached are the road rules as they apply to the area around our school. Please take time to read and OBEY them.

The school can, and will, ask the Police to patrol our school before and after school hours, if parents continue to ignore advice.

I was very pleased to get a report from another parent of a student who was telling their mum that “this is the wrong place to cross, Mum. We’re supposed to use the crossing”. Thanks kids! You know the right thing to do!

THANK YOU

Election Stall: Thank you to our P&C, parents and past students who helped out at the Election Stall last Saturday. Much appreciated ladies and girls!

Soccer Goals: Thanks also to Paul, Kirsty and Jack who came in on Saturday to construct and glue together our long awaited second set of Soccer Goals. Thanks guys!

Mr Fix-It: Thanks also to Paul Brown who has made a few ‘client calls’ to EHSS over the last few weeks to take care of a few odd jobs! We appreciate it.

PEANUT & TREE NUT ALLERGY

We have a new student at our school who is allergic to all nuts. In most instances he is able to decide what is or isn’t appropriate for him to eat and his lunchbox is packed accordingly. However as the temptation of food in other children’s lunch boxes can be hard to resist, we ask that parents remind their children that it is not appropriate to share their school lunch, and should wash their face and hands after eating nut products.

SAND FLIES

To protect your child from sand fly bites (especially if you are new to the area) please encourage them to apply insect repellent in the mornings before school. The school supplies sunscreen with insect repellent in it. It is kept outside the Prep/1 classroom. You are welcome to help your child apply it each morning. You do build up an immunity to them, so usually the second year is not a problem. ....
ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL
Students should not be at school before 8.30 a.m. Once they arrive, they put their bags away and sit on the blue seats between the 2/3/4 and P/1 classrooms. If your child has to be at school ON THE ODD OCCASION before 8.30 a.m. please do the right thing and contact the school the day before to make arrangements.
We CANNOT guarantee someone is always at school to supervise your child before 8.30 a.m.
Students are not allowed in classrooms before school unless a teacher is in the classroom and has invited students inside. Play is supervised by a duty teacher from 8.30 a.m.

WORKS AROUND THE SCHOOL
We’ve had a few things happening over the holidays.
The Tennis Court was completed yesterday and looks great. Unfortunately they couldn’t do the work without getting rid of all our trees, as they were the culprits in destroying our previous tennis court surface, so we’ve had to sacrifice some shade.
We might be able to apply for a grant somewhere down the track for some shade sails over parts of the court.
Lattice fence: The broken lattice fence around the Undercover Area has been removed. New turf has been laid and will be out of bounds for a few weeks.
At some time in the near future, we’ll call a working bee to lay turf around the tennis court, beyond what was supplied by the scope of works undertaken. We’ll need to supply it, so if anyone has contacts in the business we’d like to hear from you.
Paving, concreting and turfing: We have also had pavers re-laid, some lifted and replaced, others replaced with concrete, both left and right of the main pathway into the school. New turf goes down in the next few weeks, with a watering system to keep it looking great.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS:
Watch this place for this week’s and next week’s winners. Assemblies are generally at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays. Parents are most welcome to attend.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL SPORT
Funding for this program has ceased and a replacement program won’t be available until Term 3. We have applied to be a pilot school for the new program, but have so far not heard anything.

CLASS NEWS
ECHOES from THE EARLY YEARS
We have had an excellent start to the school year in the Early Years classrooms with children settling very quickly into routines and classroom learning, while always giving their best. With such excellent behaviour we have all made a positive start in our Behaviour passports. Keep up the good work throughout the year and you will be on the path to platinum!
Homework books were sent home with all students yesterday. Homework is designed to be a revision activity from classroom learning. We have included some parent notes about the way we teach writing to help out. Please only complete the one page and spelling for Years 1/2/3/4 students and hand in when complete or by the following Monday for marking.
Home reading and sightwords will start next Monday. We are looking for parent volunteers to change home readers and check sightwords on a Monday morning from 8.50 for approximately 30 minutes, if you could assist please see the teachers.
The News Mail will be at school on Wednesday 25 February at 9am to take photos of the new Prep students. Please complete the Tear Off slip at the end of the Newsletter and return it to the office as soon as possible for your child to be included. The News Mail has advised that the photo will appear in the newspaper and on their website so the permission is for BOTH.
It has been wonderful to chat with parents both old and new this week and see how much your children have grown over the break. Please pop in and say hello of a morning or afternoon. We are available either then or by appointment to discuss your child’s progress or any concerns that you may have.

KATH, TANYA, LIZ & DENISE

THE BUZZ from THE MIDDLE YEARS
We have had an amazing start to 2015! Everyone is eager to learn new things. We have created time capsules with a photo and information about us, to open in our last week of the year. In Art, we have designed some fantastic portraits – come and check them out on our windows. In History, we are investigating ‘Who lived here first’, using written, visual, oral and physical sources to answer the questions. In Maths we have started investigating calendars, odd and even numbers and addition and subtraction strategies. In English we have begun a unit on persuasive texts – look out parents, you might be persuaded into giving extra Ice-cream! We are looking forward to many more amazing weeks!

KELLY

HOT GOSS from ELLIOTT SENIORS
So far, our Senior Class is living up to the challenge and setting a good example. Keep it up kids!
Mrs Shield’s days will be Monday and Tuesday. She gets all the fun subjects such as History, Geography, Science Technology and Art; quite a lot to pack into 2 days. Our History Unit this term will be on The Gold Rush, and should keep students interested. In Science they will be learning about animal adaptations to their environment, which also ties in well with Geography and Technology.
Mrs Patterson’s days will be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She will be teaching English, including reading and Spelling, Maths and You Can Do It (Social and Emotional Development course) and taking sport. Our English Unit is all about Poetry. Already we have students thinking about their assessment task and bringing in their favourite poems. Great stuff!
Our official week will start on a Wednesday (spelling, reading groups, homework) and end on a Tuesday (spelling test; homework marking). Homework not brought in on a Tuesday will be marked as not being completed and will require students to stay in and complete it.
We spent time on Day 1, outlining our expectations of our students as the senior class in the school. We spoke about behaviour, leadership, learning, homework and bookwork expectations.
Captains’ speeches will be held at this Friday’s assembly at 2.30 p.m. We’re looking forward to a great year!

TEENY & LIZ
FROM THE CHAPPY’S DESK

Hi I’m Chappy Jess, your new School Chaplain. I have lived in Bundaberg for the past 3 years and currently reside in Bargara with my husband Phil who is a paramedic. We have a great passion for young people and together we run the CY youth group at CitiCoast Church. Although I studied a Bachelor of Business, I have a Certificate IV in Youth Work and over the next few years will work towards my Diploma in this field.

I know many will be sad to have lost Chappy Kelli however you may be pleased to know that I have been training under her for the past twelve months at Oakwood SS so I am hoping that I have picked up on some of her special qualities.

I am so excited to be a part of the Elliott Heads School community and have enjoyed my first couple of days in the school. Your children have been a delight to meet and have done a fantastic job of welcoming me. Thanks Kids!

I will be in the school each Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 3.30pm should you wish to make an appointment to chat to me about any concerns you may have regarding your child/ren. This can be done by phoning the school office. Brekkie Club will be starting back up from Tuesday 03 February and will be happening every Tuesday and Thursday during the school term. I will also be running some lunchtime games and activities for the students during break times and am looking forward to getting to know each of them. I pray that you have had a great week and would like

HELPING IN OUR SCHOOL

There are lots of ways for parents to help in our school. Parents at Elliott Heads State School help in the following ways:

- Changing home readers
- Assisting with reading groups
- Volunteering for 1:1 reading or sightword practice
- Reading with their child and others before school
- Tuckshop (completely run by volunteers)
- Working with the P&C (they’re a great bunch of ladies!) and helping at fundraisers.
- Assisting at Level Reward Days
- Gardening, especially taking care of our Early Years Vege Patch (we only get a 5 hour a week allocation for grounds and maintenance.)
- Helping with maintenance or special projects

If you can help, please let us know via the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER EMAIL GROUP

Please let us know via the tear off slip if you would like to receive your email via email. It’s one way of making sure it gets home!

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TEAR OFF SLIP-Helping at School

Yes, I am interested in helping at school:

I would like to help in the following area/s:

NAME: ____________________________

CHILD: ____________________________ Year: __________

Phone: __________

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TEAR OFF SLIP-Attendance Gift Cards

Yes, we would like to sponsor an Attendance Award:

NAME or BUSINESS NAME: ____________________________

CHILD: ____________________________

Phone: __________

$40 enclosed in envelope

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TEAR OFF SLIP - Prep Photo

I give permission for my Prep student:

To have their photo taken for inclusion in the Prep Photo edition of the Bundaberg News Mail. I understand the photo will also be displayed on the News Mail website.

Signed: ____________________________

Date: ____________________________

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TEAR OFF SLIP - Emailed Newsletters

Yes, please email the newsletter:

NAME: ____________________________

CHILD: ____________________________

Email: ____________________________
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At LEAD Childcare we believe in a holistic approach to early childhood education and care. Our educator's goals are to assist each child to make the smooth transition from home into the group care environment. Our educational and stimulating learning environments assist children to become confident and competent learners.
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**Elliot Heads Bowls Club**
Your local club, meals, family friendly, bowls for experienced bowlers, learners and junior bowlers all welcome.
Free coaching is given for those who would like to learn the sport – come along and give it a try!
Social Members welcome.
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