It was great to see old and new faces in the Prep/1 classroom this morning for the ‘season return’ of the popular series, Playgroup! Activities are organised for the children, who work in with our prep students. It is an ideal way for you to meet other mums in the area, as well as a great way for your 4 year olds to become familiar with the school environment before they make their big step into Prep next year. If you couldn’t make it this week, we hope to see you next week. Please tell your friends with young children and spread the word! Playgroup parents with children intending to start school at Elliott Heads next year, are welcome to join our Parents and Staff Facebook page to keep up with school events.

IT’S IN THE WATER!

Three families in our school have welcomed new arrivals to their families in the last few weeks. The Cassidy family had Nate on New Year’s Eve. The Marshall family welcome twin girls Kleah and Kaia born earlier this week, and Mrs Farrell (Japanese teacher) and husband Matt, welcomed Max into their family on Monday. Congratulations to you all on your little bundles of joy. Now the real fun begins. enjoy!

NEW LOOK NEWSLETTER COMING

New Look—New Name!

We are running a competition, with a small prize, for the catchiest title for our new look newsletter! We have about 10 entries so far, with some very inventive ideas. Keep the entries coming!
So far we have two parents interested in advertising their businesses in our school newsletter. I have been contacted by the newsletter company this week, wanting names of possible advertisers, so if you are still wanting to do so, please try and send in your tear off slip as soon as possible.

**SCHOOL CAPTAINS ANNOUNCED**

Yesterday we heard from 4 students, Olivia, Falon, Montana and Aimee, who are seeking election as school captains for 2014. They are all worthy candidates and did a wonderful job with their speeches, despite their nerves.

We would like congratulate School Captains, Aimee and Falon and School Vice Captains Olivia and Montana. Well done to all of you. You will be attending the GRIP Leadership conference next Tuesday.

On February 19, we will hear from our prospective Sports Captains at assembly at 2.20 p.m. Parents are welcome to come along and listen. Year 5 students are also welcome to apply for House Captains.

**SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT**

Otherwise known as SWPBS!

Next Thursday, Miss Thompson and I will be working with our SWPBS mentor, to start looking at the implementation plan for this program in our school.

**If there's a problem at school**

Talking about school wide positive behaviour......

We all occasionally get hot under the collar about something that has been said, either parent to parent, child to parent or parent to child. Sometimes we say things we might regret, because we’re upset. On most occasions, parents do the right thing and bring the issue to the attention of staff, who can speak to the other party and try to sort the issue out. We would appreciate it if parents could refrain from approaching another parent of child while upset, as this can often make the situation worse. If you feel you need to speak to someone about an issue with another parent or a student, please talk to your child’s teacher, or Mrs Patterson. Your help with this will be greatly appreciated.

**YOU CAN DO IT**

It has been wonderful to see our students, in a very short time, being able to talk about the five characteristics of a successful person, or the five keys to success.

- Organisation (Olivia Organisation)
- Getting Along (Gary Get Along)
- Confidence (Charlie Confidence)
- Persistence (Penny Persistence)
- Resilience (Rosie Resilience)

This week will be the third lesson, in the introductory phase called Ready, Set, Go!

**FREE COURSES/SESSIONS FOR PARENTS**

An organisation called ‘Pathways to Resilience’ ([www.pathwaystoresilience.org](http://www.pathwaystoresilience.org)) is offering free teacher and parent sessions on helping children to develop resilience (the ability to cope with, and bounce back from, the hard things life can throw at us).

One session is on Helping Kids Build a Better Brain on the evening of Monday 3rd March, and the other is on Building Children’s Emotional Resilience, on the evening of Thursday 6th March. These sessions are likely to fill up quickly, so if you’d like us to book you in, please fill out the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter. I’m not sure of the time and venue at this stage, but it’s likely to be in town, at around 7.00 p.m.

**INVOICES**

Invoices will come home soon for some of the additional programs we use in our classrooms. The P&C is already paying the student subscription for Mathletics, which saves parents $15/year.

We also have a reading subscription that covers good quality school reading magazines used in reading lessons in the upper school and Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress online in the lower and middle schools.

In addition this year there is a subscription for Soundwaves online, which is much cheaper than parents buying the student workbooks, and much more flexible for teachers to use in class.

**ROAD CROSSING**

Thanks parents! There has been a big improvement in the number of parents using the crossing to both cross the road INTO the school to collect your children, and in those using the crossing WITH THEIR CHILDREN when exiting.

Many thanks to Antoinette Patroz for offering to help with road crossing duty outside the school. This is not a paid position. We were the first school in Queensland to be granted a Volunteer Road Crossing Supervisor. The Transport Department does the training and supplies clothing and equipment, while the Education Department carries the insurance and supervision responsibilities. If we could get 1 or 2 more parents or grandparents to help that would be great. Crossing duty commences at about 2.50 p.m. and goes until about 3.10 p.m.

**BUS SAFETY**

The bus driver has expressed concern at the number of students shooting across the road, behind the bus, as soon as they get off. Students are not waiting for the bus to leave the bus stop, before crossing the road. This means they do not have a clear look at the traffic approaching from the other end of the bus.

We have spoken about this at assembly. Could you also please speak to your children about this important
aspect of road safety? We have also asked senior students to assist younger students to cross the road safely once the bus has gone. If you wait for your child as they get off the bus, and your children have to cross the road to meet you, you might consider waiting on the same side as the bus stop.

**ASSEMBLY AWARDS:**

Next week we will start at 2.20 p.m. because of House Captain speeches. Parents are welcome to attend.

**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

**PREP/1:** Jaden
For: Giving his best in all class tasks and following routines and transitions well.

**YEAR 2/3:** Matilda
For: Being a ‘Penny Persistence’

**YEAR 3/4:** Bella K
For: Always being organised to begin her work.

**YEAR 5/6/7:** Cleo
For: Getting Along: Being a cheerful and helpful class member.

**CLASSES OF THE WEEK**

**PE:** 5/6/7

**MUSIC:** Prep/1

**LOTE AWARD:** None last week

**PLAYGROUND AWARDS:**
Jessy H, Taleah, Mitchell C, Timothy

**NEWSLETTER READER:** Spencer

**ATTENDANCE AWARD:** Luca, sponsored by the MARSHALL FAMILY. They know that Every Day Counts!

**Sponsored Attendance Awards**
All students who attend school for every day of the previous week, go into a draw at assembly for a $10 gift voucher to encourage good attendance.

This week we awarded the first of our sponsored attendance awards. We now have 4 families who have offered sponsorship. The Marshall, Curry, Lions and Chesney families. The sponsorship is $40. This is for one weekly prize of $10, for each of the 4 terms in the school year. Families who have sponsored can pay the $40 to Tracy in the office. The money will be used to directly pay for the gift vouchers.

**CLASS NEWS**

**PREP/YEAR 1**
In English this term we are studying recounts. The class has been busy retelling stories by sequencing pictures, acting out story events and orally retelling.

We are using language like beginning, middle, end, first, next, then, after, lastly. You may like to spend some time with your child retelling books read at home to practice this skill.

In History we are learning about Personal and Family History. There will be a note coming home this week asking for parent assistance. For your child to get the most out of the unit, please send back with completed items promptly. Children love sharing their families with us and it is a great way to get to know you better.

The Newsmail will be coming to take student photos on the 25th of February for a special starting school lift out. If you have not completed the tear off slip on the back of last week’s newsletter please do so and return or see the classroom teacher to give your consent.

Please note- this week was week 3 in the Homework tasks (Week 1 was a revision week and only to be complete if you wished to) Could everyone please start Week 4 next week regardless of what is completed already so that you are revising class learning and so that Year 1 students are practicing the correct spelling words. Many thanks, and sorry for the confusion!

Kath, Denise and Margaret

**What’s the Scoop from YEAR 2/3**
It’s fantastic to see that mostly everyone completed and returned their homework on time. A huge thank you to both parents and students for that effort.

In English we are exploring the fantastic poem “Puff the Magic Dragon.” Students have been able to deconstruct the poem into noun and verb groups.

In Maths we have revisited place value and strategies to use when doing addition and subtraction.

Science has proven interesting because we are experimenting to see how strong materials are and their suitability for everyday life.

In History, we have been investigating the change in household items over time. The students have enjoyed looking at these items in the past and present and have posed questions to find out more information.

Pip

**The Buzz, from YEAR 4/5**
This week we have definitely settled into our regular routines.

In Maths this week, we have been investigating place value and different strategies for addition and subtraction problems.

In English we have finished reading ‘The Twits’ and have been dissecting the text, searching for language features that help to make the story so interesting.
In Science we have been sent yet another challenge from Professor Penny. We needed to make a 1m tall freestanding tower that could support the weight of a dictionary. The only real problem was that we could only use 4 pieces of cardboard, 25 sheets of newspaper, 25 paddlepop sticks and some sticky tape. Tricky stuff!

We have had a great start to Homework, with nearly everybody returning theirs for marking. Well done.

Kelly

YEAR 5/6/7 Snapshot

Just a reminder that homework is due on THURSDAY.

Last week was a pretty good week, with only three students forgetting their homework. We are still getting in to classroom routines and hopefully everyone will have their homework in today.

Many thanks to Mrs Shield who took the class last week in my absence. It is good to know that they can be left in such capable hands.

In Maths this week we are looking at the importance of estimation, being able to round numbers to give a reliable estimate, and being able to add or subtract a number more easily by using the 'compensation method', e.g. 49 + 57 become much easier when you add 1 to 49, and take 1 from 57. The sum then becomes 50 + 56 = 106.

In English, we are just finishing off our study of the short story, 'Gladys' and will be moving on to our next short story, next week, prior to writing our own.

Teeny and Liz

COMMUNITY NEWS

JUNIOR CLINICS @ CORAL COVE GOLF CLUB

Ages 7 – 12 Tuesday’s 4pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday 18th February-Tuesday 1st April 2014

Ages 13 – 17 Wednesday’s 4pm – 5:30pm
Wednesday 19th February-Wednesday 2nd April 2014

These lessons will specifically cater for children to learn the game of golf whilst also getting outdoors, meeting new friends, and having a great time.

Students will learn the basic fundamentals of the golf swing including chipping, pitching, putting, and full swing as well as being able to play on the beautiful Coral Cove Golf Course.

COST: $70 per child ($10 per week)

TEAR OFF SLIPS: There is a box for Tear Off Slips on the counter in the office.

Tear Off Slip: Help Kids Build a Better Brain

I am interested in attending on Monday 3rd March.

NAME: ____________________________
CONTACT NUMBER: __________________

Tear Off Slip: Newsletter Advertising

We’re interested in advertising in the newsletter.

NAME: ____________________________
BUSINESS NAME: __________________
CONTACT NUMBER: __________________

Tear Off Slip: Name Our Newsletter Comp

My suggestion for a new title for our school newsletter is:

TITLE: ____________________________
NAME: ____________________________
CONTACT NUMBER: __________________

Tear Off Slip: Volunteer Crossing Helpers

I am willing to undertake training to help out as a crossing supervisor:

NAME: ____________________________
CONTACT NUMBER: __________________

Tear Off Slip: Weekly Attendance Awards

Our family or business is interested in sponsoring one of the weekly attendance awards for $40/year.

NAME: ____________________________
CONTACT NUMBER: __________________

Want to receive your newsletter by email?

Tear Off Slip: Newsletter by Email

Please email me the newsletter.

NAME: ____________________________
EMAIL: ____________________________

Students returning their “I read my Newsletter” slip go into a draw for a prize at assembly.

I TOOK MY NEWSLETTER HOME

Name - ____________________________
Signed- ____________________________