Principal's News

NAPLAN testing

On Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday, 15 May, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 took part in the National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy, or NAPLAN, as it is commonly known.

Skills that were tested included reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

It is important for you and your child to know that NAPLAN is not a pass/fail test. It simply looks at what level students are achieving in literacy and numeracy against National Standards and compared with student peers throughout Australia.

Later in the year, we will send you an individual student NAPLAN report that you can use to view and monitor how your child is progressing.

More information is available on the NAP website (http://www.nap.edu.au/).

Independent Public Schools Update

Our school will shortly be establishing our IPS School Council and I will be calling for nominations next month for our inaugural members. Please peruse IPS School Councils Information Sheet (PDF, 220 KB). Please contact me if you would like to view the draft School Council Constitution or if you have any Independent Public School, or School Council questions.

Classroom Helpers

At Highland Reserve SS we enjoy having parent helpers come into the classroom. Whether you are helping with sight words, reading groups, numeracy activities or small group work, it is important to remember that there is a level of confidentiality required. The teacher is the person in charge in the classroom, and while helping you must constantly ensure that you are referring any concerns to them.

Parent helpers should not be approaching other parents to report on their child’s progress in the classroom. This is the job of the teacher.

Student Attendance and Punctuality

Parents and caregivers must send children to school every school day under Queensland law unless there is an acceptable reason such as illness, competing in school sporting events, excursions or camps. If your child is going to be absent from school, you must let us know why the absence has occurred within two school days of their return. If possible, it is best to advise the school beforehand using our Student Absence line.

Please avoid keeping your child away from school for reasons such as:

- Birthdays
- Shopping
- Visiting family and friends
- If they sleep in
- Looking after other children

These reasons are unacceptable.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays. Establishing good routines can assist with regular school attendance.

These include:

- Have a set time to go to bed
Have a set time to get out of bed
Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
Have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
Set a time for daily homework activities
It is important to send your child to school every school day including the last day of term

Smoking on School Premises

Education Queensland has a total ban on smoking on all school premises. The ban affects all schools including classrooms, school grounds, carparks and roadways within the school.
The ban applies to all persons entering departmental premises including all employees of the Queensland Government, school students, family members, visitors, contractors and employees of any other organisation.
The ban upholds the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 and the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 in providing employees, students and all those visiting Education Queensland premises with a healthier physical environment.

Smoking is not permitted in the following places:
- On all school premises
- In Kiss and Go when picking up or dropping off students
- Within 4m of any part of an entrance to an enclosed or substantially enclosed place (including the footpath outside a school, if that falls within 4m of the entrance of a school building)

Kind Regards,
Fiona Graham
Acting Principal

School Photo's

Dear Parents,

We will be photographing your school on Tuesday 20th May & Wednesday 21st May 2014

- Tuesday 20th May – Prep, Year 6 & 7 (All Sibling Photos)
- Wednesday 21st May – Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

You will receive a Flyer/envelope for each of your students explaining the products available.

Please ensure that each student returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes.

Students are to bring envelopes on or preferably before Photo Day.

We have an auto-mated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to www.advancedlife.com.au for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which must be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cash, cheque or money order.

Sibling Photos are also available for students at the school, please collect a “family order envelope” from your school & return it to the office.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.
Phone: (07) 3216 8280

We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Your Team from Advanced Life Photography

National Simultaneous Storytime
Staying safe around bats

Children need to be aware that bats, including flying foxes, are protected species and pose minimal risk to humans provided they are left alone and not touched. However, children should not try to hurt or help sick or injured bats as they are putting themselves and the animal at risk. If you see a bat or flying fox that is hurt call:

- RSPCA—1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)
- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—1300 130 372
- your local wildlife care group/rescuer/carer for assistance.

If a child is bitten or scratched by any bat, they should tell their parents, teacher or responsible adult straight away, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and visit their local doctor immediately.

Absence Notification of 10+ Consecutive School Days

Every parent or carer of a child of compulsory school age has a legal obligation to ensure their child is attending school.

Parents and carers can apply for an exemption from this obligation when their child cannot attend school for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days.

Situations where an application for an exemption may be made include:

- Illness
- Family Reasons
- Cultural or religious reasons

For more information regarding an application for exemption from compulsory schooling for more than 10 consecutive school days please contact Administration on 55883333 or via email at office@highlandreservess.eq.edu.au

Updating Student Enrolment Details

In case of an emergency it is important to notify the school of any parent/carer contact details that may require updating. Keeping our student data as accurate as possible will ensure we meet our duty of care.

If you have recently changed your address, phone, email or emergency contact (other than the parent/carer) please complete a Student Enrolment Details Update form (PDF, 130 KB) and return to the Office.

Phone messages to students in class

As Highland Reserve SS continues to grow, so does the number of parents/caregivers contacting the school administration requesting messages to be passed on to their child/children in class. Please be aware that each time a phone call is made to a classroom, it interrupts the valuable learning time in that classroom.

We understand that there are occasions where pick-up arrangements are required to be re-organised due to unforeseen circumstances, and we always endeavour to pass on these messages to students via the class teacher. However, please keep in mind that message requests to students after 2:00pm each day cannot be guaranteed due to the possibility that students are not always in their classrooms, as they are attending either a specialist lesson or are at sport.

Volunteer Blue Card
Highland Reserve State School is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for the children at our school. Applying for a volunteer blue card (working with children check) before commencing volunteer work at our school is an essential requirement for non-custodial volunteers e.g. Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles.

If you are considering volunteering at our school and you do not have a valid blue card please contact the school office for an application form or click on the link below.


*Please note that a volunteer must not commence until they hold a valid blue card and positive notice.

**Personal Technology Device Etiquette**

Bringing personal technology devices to school is not encouraged by the school because of the potential for theft and general distraction and/or disruption associated with them. However, if they are brought to school, they must be turned off and handed into the office before school commences and then picked up at the office at the end of the school day. Failure to do so will result in the device being confiscated by school staff and may be collected at the end of the day from the school office. Breaches of this prohibition may result in discipline.

**School Chaplain News**

Hi Parents and Carers of HRSS!

My name is Sharleen Firth, and I am the new Chaplain at Highland Reserve State School. I am here every Monday and Tuesday and my office is based at F block also known as ‘Wendy’s House’ or ‘The Unit’. My role in the school is to provide support for staff, students, parents and the school community. Chaplains are in the prevention and support business: helping students find a better way to deal with issues ranging from changing families to loneliness and everything in between. They provide a listening ear and a caring presence for kids in crisis and those who just need a friend.

With Chappy Week just around the corner, 18th-25th May, we are hoping to provide some fun lunch time activities and I’ll be hitting the pavement for Ks4Kids Chappy Walk on the weekend, walking 10km to raise awareness for Chaplaincy in our schools. Please introduce yourself as you see me around school, and feel free to contact me if you any concerns you would like to discuss. I can be reached through phoning the office or by email on sfirt14@eq.edu.au. I already love this amazing school and the wonderful community support that exists here!

**Prep News**

Mother’s Day Pampering

Prep students were very busy pampering Mums and Grandmothers last Friday afternoon as we celebrated all the special things our Mums do for us. Many Mums walked out with sparkling bright manicures and pedicures, rocking the trendiest hair do’s from the Prep salons and enjoyed listening to the preps read to them whilst nibbling on class-baked biscuits and muffins. Thank you to all the visitors we had come share the afternoon with us in Prep.
Save the Date - 11th October 2014

At Tuesday's P&C meeting we set the date for the annual Highland Fling! So put this date in your calendar and start talking to your friends and family about coming along as tickets will be up for sale in Term 3. Every year we have had rave reviews of what is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we only have 30 tables of 10 available!

More information on this night will be released in the coming months however if you would like to be a part of this GREAT event by volunteering or by way of sponsorship we would love to hear from you. Our email is pandc@highlandreservess.eq.edu.au

Walking, Wheeling Wednesday

Prizes for collecting 5 stamps for actively travelling to school are starting to be handed out so don't forget to walk, scoot or ride to school every Wednesday!

We would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who participated in Walking and Wheeling Wednesday and Park and Stride this week.

It was great to see children, parents and volunteers participating in our schools Active School Travel Program. Passports were handed out and everyone who participated received their first stamp. For those of you who didn't get the chance to join in this week, we hope to see you next week!

Passports can be collected at the administration entry at the stairs, the prep entry where the stairs and bike racks are, from the western entrance on Highland Way or from your Park n Stride volunteers. We hope to see you all again next week and look forward to giving out prizes once you have reached five stamps!

Park and Stride departs 8:10 am outside Café Two, Rose Valley Drive at the community node every Wednesday. A parent or guardian must be in attendance to walk with their child and free breakfast is provided at the hall for the children. Also don't forget each week a FREE breakfast will be held at the school hall from 8:00am - 8:45am.
Last but not least a great way to stay up to date with all the important P&C information is to 'like' our Facebook page.  
http://www.facebook.com/HRSSPC
School Banking News

This term we are giving students, schools and our School Banking Co-ordinators the opportunity to win a share of sunken treasure found in the Lost City of Savings.

Students simply need to make three or more School Banking deposits during Term 2, regardless of the value, and they will automatically be entered into the competition to win some fantastic prizes including:

Major student prize
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sea World Resort & Water Park on the Gold Coast;
- VIP Passes for two adults and three kids to Sea World, Warner Bros. Movie World and Wet'n'Wild Gold Coast;
- Dolphin Family Aqua Adventure; and
- A $3,000 travel gift card to get them there.

Runner up student prizes
130 Toys"R"Us Gift Cards to the value of $250 each to spend on their favourite toys.

School and School Banking Co-ordinator prizes
There will also be a separate draw for schools. As long as you have at least one student who is eligible for the competition, you will be in the running to win:
- $1,000 cash for one school in each state/territory of Australia.
- Plus the School Banking Co-ordinators of each winning school will receive a $250 Commonwealth Bank Debit Card (maximum of three per school).

Rewards Program Update In Term 2
There are two new exciting rewards available for students who save 10 tokens. The rewards available this term are:
- Whale Shark Pencil Case NEW
- Shark or Penguin Key ring NEW
- Handball
- Scented Pencils

HRSS Banking Co-ordinator Sharlene Dippel
Limited Spaces - Enrol Now!
Due to popular demand, we are pleased to announce the opening of our 4th group. We have limited spaces available so if you would like your child to participate in a quality education care program which values your child’s individuality and interests, please contact Tina to discuss enrolment opportunities for your child.
At C&K Highland Reserve your child will experience many opportunities to explore, solve problems, develop friendships, imagine, use their creativity and extend their capabilities in language, literacy and numeracy.
We are one of the very few Kindergarten's that have been ranked exceeding in all 7 National Quality Areas by an independent assessor from the Office of Early Childhood, Education and Care.
You can access the form at http://www.candk.asn.au/highlandres , call (07) 5580 5013 for more information or pop in to see us at 580 Reserve Road (behind the school).
Benevolent Society News

Special Needs Playgroup

for carers and their children, newborn to 6 years

- Facilities and resources provided by Benevolent Society
- Run during school terms
- NO COST

Fortnightly on Tuesdays 9.30am to 11.00am

At Coomera Springs Early Years Centre, 255 Old Coach Road, Upper Coomera 4209
(2nd driveway on the left after Coomera Springs State School)

For further information, please contact Karen Carter on 5644 9411

Funded by Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services Queensland

Brave Program

A team of researchers (the BRAVE Team) at Griffith University are investigating an internet-based program for children suffering from anxiety who also have a diagnosis of Asperger's Syndrome. Anxiety can make it hard to complete school work or be around people, it may even result in worry about a lot of things, or be scared of something specific. The BRAVE Team is seeking children aged between 8 and 12 years to take part in the internet-based treatment study.

The treatment program involves 12 online sessions for children and 8 online sessions for parents, with each session taking approximately an hour to complete. Families will also be asked to complete questionnaires and telephone interviews up to four times during the study at times separate to the treatment program.

This is being offered free for families who are eligible to participate.

For more information contact the BRAVE Team:
Phone: (07) 3735 3325 or Email braveforaspergers@griffith.edu.au

Griffith University Study - Seeking Non Anxious Children and Adolescents

At Griffith University we are conducting an exciting study investigating anxiety disorders in Children and Adolescents. To help us understand how anxiety develop in youth we need to learn from children and adolescents who are not fearful or anxious. We are seeking parents and their non-anxious children and adolescents (7 - 17 years) to participate in our study. To thank you for your time and involvement in the study we will give you gift vouchers to the value of $50. To find out more about this project, please contact Dr Ella Milliner and Dr Lara Farrell on (07) 5678 8317 or email e.milliner@griffith.edu.au