Principal's News

Week 4!

Wow it’s hard to believe that there is already 4 weeks of term that has almost passed us by! The students and staff have settled in well to the daily routines at school and I am as usual, very proud to be Principal at Highland Reserve State School. It really is an outstanding school with exceptional children and highly professional staff who seek to engage children in every way possible to achieve the very best results they can. It is a beautiful school to work in!!

Animals on Campus

Animals may only be brought onto the school grounds with the permission of the Principal. I would ask that if you have a dog they are not taken inside the gates of the school. There are a number of reasons for these rulings and they are in the interest of keeping our school safe and well maintained. I even had a snake brought on site last week! Please make sure all animals remain off campus, I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

NAPLAN 2015

I am aware of some enquiry regarding NAPLAN 2015 and our procedures around this test. There are a number of important factors we consider when creating plans to maximize student outcomes and ONE of those is NAPLAN data.

In saying this we have also got another suite of data within the school that helps inform classroom programs and preparations for NAPLAN. Importantly the preparations are based on the Australian Curriculum which is our mandated learning curriculum framework for all schools in Queensland. Whilst we do have an action plan around preparing children for the test, our intention is to maximise performance through careful consideration of data trends across the school and also for individual children and class cohorts. We structure the programs around this to manage learning that is productive, pointed, responsive and has the purpose of ensuring we are “filling” the gaps in learning that we identify. These practices are simply just good data based teaching and are not restricted to year 3 and 5 students.

NAPLAN 2015 will occur on the 12th, 13th and 14th of May, more information can be obtained at: http://www.nap.edu.au

Student Leadership Badge Presentation

This coming Monday at 9am we will be holding the official student leadership badge presentation at Assembly. I’m looking forward to sharing this occasion with the leaders and their respective parents. I’m sure we will have some great photos for our next newsletter!

School Uniform

Our staff have recently given feedback around school uniform compliance. This was also raised at a recent P&C meeting. In particular the requirement for “white shoes” was raised at both forums.

Upon enrolment parents sign a form that is taken to constitute your support of the school’s policies and procedures. One of these is the uniform policy. In the uniform policy we state that the shoes required are “white” shoes. Please ensure that your child has white shoes which are not the canvas shoes but are a white runner/jogger. The canvas shoes do not provide sufficient protection for the children.

We have heard the feedback from parents that white shoes are often difficult to find and we are currently looking at places where white shoes are stocked. We hope to provide a list of suppliers who can meet your needs in complying with the uniform policy. Once again we thank you for your support in continuing to make sure our school remains the outstanding community it is, who wears the uniform with pride!

Creating a Love of Learning

It has been my experience that learning is so many things and takes so many forms! We are all learners every day in so many ways and with a rapid knowledge economy we need to be not only learners but skilled and adaptable in our learning styles, platforms and practices.
Creating a love of learning can often be difficult with our children. I think this is to some extent normal. I shared this week on Assembly a strategy around learning and the fact it is ok to get things wrong! I would encourage you to talk to your children about the value of getting things wrong! Sounds strange I know but if we frame it this way we create children who are risk takers in the learning environment. In fact further more I believe that the real learning begins when we are challenged in a healthy way to move into the unknown and learn from there what we don’t yet know.

This is a similar principle used in business development. If a business operates in a globally challenging environment with the same set of business strategies over an extended period of time they fail to compete in the market and are almost assigned to going broke. They need to be responsive, goal oriented and understand their environment. Successful businesses take calculated risks and set challenging goals for themselves.

We should encourage and support our children in their shared learning journey and validate “mistakes” as an opportunity to learn, NOT as a deficit in our learning. By this I mean it breaks my heart to have children relay to me “I got 3/10 for my spelling this week, I’m dumb.” I’m sure you agree this is devastating for kids and their learning (not to mention hearing that as a parent!) If you ever face this from your child – simply refocus them to the achievement they have made. Our own adult learning achievement rates differ from person to person so what a 3/10 looks like for some children is the equivalent of a 9/10 for others. It’s the personal achievement of children on their own spectrum that should drive them further. So my dear child with 3/10 whose reflection is they are somehow a deficit learner needs to be redirected to their success.

I will often redirect my own children saying things like “You know that was a great result and I’m not too fussed what someone else got. I just want you to concentrate on getting one step better than your last score.” We then set an achievable short-term goal so we can celebrate their success together doing something they enjoy.

By doing this with our children we create the capacity within their minds to change the world of learning from a focus of destruction/despair to a focus of worth, a sense of value as a learner and indeed we give them that “light at the end of the tunnel”.

My greatest privilege as a Principal is the work I get to do with school communities, staff, parents and students. I hope that if nothing else I have given you some tips to create a love of learning in your child/children.

Thank you once again for the joy of working with your child/children!

Regards

Andrew Cummings
Principal

Kiss-n-Go

Kiss-n-Go is a designated drop off and collection zone that is accessed from Reserve Road.

This means parents are welcome to use the Kiss n Go bays to drop off students in the morning and to collect children in the afternoon.

However, to use this facility properly, parents must never leave their car unattended.

Parking is only permitted between 9am-2pm and for the safety of students and the ease of access, cars are not to park in this area outside of these allocated times.

Parents are asked to display their child’s surname on the passenger side visor. If you require a laminated name card, please request one through the administration office.

Children Arriving Early to School

We have had an increasing number of children arriving to school before 8:30am without supervision. In these cases there is a high risk to the safety of your child.

If children arrive prior to the 8:50am first bell, please be aware that there is no formal supervision provided by school staff.

We like to encourage children to arrive to school by 8:40am to allow for them to drop off their bags to their class and be ready to enter when the bell rings.

However if you require your child to arrive before this time, and you are unable to supervise them, please explore Before School Care options which are available in the local community.

Student Resource Scheme

The 2015 Student Resource Scheme is now due. The scheme is supported and approved annually by the School’s Parents and Citizens Association (P&C), is managed by the school and operates in accordance with section 51 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. Participation in the scheme provides quality resources for your child to use in the classroom as well as online subscriptions.

Once the school receives your payment, (minimum of 1 Term) your child is subscribed to educational websites. These websites may include Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Sunshine online. Payment of the scheme will allow your child to access these websites from school and home.

The provision of this scheme ensures that well resourced learning by our students remains our key focus. The scheme is not a fundraiser for the
school. Its purpose is to provide you, the parent, with a cost effective, value for money alternative to purchasing resources, consumables and materials from elsewhere, through reduced prices gained from school’s bulk purchasing processes.

Please note - for 3 or more students in the same family, there is a reduced rate of $105 per student.

Internet banking payment details are below. Other payment methods are available.

EFT Reference: Student’s full name and class

BSB: 064-486
Account Number: 10243582
Account Name: HRSS General Account
Amount: $130.00

Advertisement

Benefits of Ready Steady Go Kids participation

Science-based foundation
Our program was designed by a paediatric physiotherapist and occupational therapist. It aims to enhance children’s gross and fine motor skills, encourage their continued participation in sport and prepare them for the early school years.

Multi-sports program
We teach 10 different sports, which helps children develop a broad range of skills, builds a platform of sporting knowledge and the variety ensures continued interest in the program.

Small class sizes
Classes contain no more than 12 children and have a 1:6 instructor to student ratio. This means more attention for your child and better learning outcomes.

All classes are held indoors
Rain, hail or shine – our classes are never cancelled in bad weather. With an indoor environment, you can be certain that every class will always go ahead as scheduled.

Incorporating “soft-skills”
Our program incorporates basic counting and colour concepts, encourages team work and sportsmanship, builds social skills and develops listening skills and concentration. All of which improve your child’s preparation for school.

The “feel good factor”
Children develop greater self-confidence, enhanced self-esteem and a real sense of achievement, all of which shape their physiological wellbeing.

Health News

A message from Community Child Health Nurses - Children’s vision and eye health

More than 80% of a child’s learning is vision based. Recent research has found that as many as one in ten Australian children have some form of long term vision problem which can impact on their ability to learn. Children are often unable to recognise they have a vision problem because it
develops over time and they’re unable to sense this change. Outward signs of vision problems may include excessive blinking, squinting or rubbing eyes. Children may also demonstrate behaviours such as losing their place when reading; using fingers to follow words in a book (not for a new reader); crooked writing or poor spacing between words; covering or closing one eye to read; holding a book very close; or tilting their head to view things.

The most common vision problems are those affecting children’s ability to see clearly and sharply. Short and long sightedness and astigmatism are perhaps the better known conditions, and are usually correctable. Some other problems not so well known include poor eye co-ordination, turned eye, poor hand/eye coordination, eye movement defects, and difficulties focusing. Early detection and treatment is vital, not only to maximise children’s ability to learn but, in some cases, to prevent permanent vision loss.

The Optometrists Association Australia recommends children have their vision assessed at 6 months of age, 3 years of age, again at 5 years of age, and then every two years thereafter. These consultations are covered under Medicare and more than 95% of optometrists bulk-bill. You don’t need a referral to see an optometrist – just telephone for an appointment.

Apart from regular optometrist assessments, here are some tips to support children to maintain their eye health:

- Encourage them to read in a room with good and even lighting and take regular breaks;
- Minimise UV exposure by having them stay out of the sun between 10:00am - 3:00pm and wear sunglasses and a broad brimmed hat when outdoors;
- When watching TV ensure even room lighting and do not allow them to sit in a completely dark room;
- Limit computer sessions to less than two hours, ensure the top of the monitor is at or slightly below eye level, and encourage them to regularly look away from the computer screen;
- For video games, encourage children to sit as far back from the TV as the leads allow.

For further information about children’s vision or to find your nearest optometrist, please refer to the Optometrists Association Australia website: http://www.optometrists.asn.au/your-eyes/your-child%27s-eyes/resources-for-parents.aspx

Year 3C News

3C is off to a great start. We love reading each day and we are building our reading stamina. We are also pretty excited to watch our beans grow over the next few weeks in Science.
Our year has begun well and the children are all settled into their classrooms and their new school! We are happy to inform you that your children have been making friends and learning lots of new things during their four weeks at Highland Reserve State School. We hope that your children are enjoying their homework, practising sight words and reading their readers each night.
If you have any questions regarding homework, please don’t hesitate to ask and we will be more than happy to help. We have had lots of parents eager to get involved in their child’s schooling and volunteer in the classroom. As the children are now settled into the routine of school and familiar with their surroundings, we would like to invite parent helpers along.

Morning sessions are ‘prime learning time’, so this is when most parents choose to help out. If you are not able to volunteer on a regular basis, but would still like to be involved, that is fine! You are more than welcome to pop in whenever you get a chance (even if it is in the afternoon before you pick your child up from school). The children love having their parents involved in their learning and you are their biggest role models!

Regards,

Chanchera Desmond
Prep Teacher

P&C News
If there is one thing on the rise in our society it is finger pointing – the blame game. We often hear the statement ‘he made me do it’ or ‘you make me feel…’. People are blaming others more than themselves for their own actions or feelings. When we make these statements we are actually saying we have no control over our actions or feelings – others have the capacity to manipulate us without our consent. But is this the case? An example of this has occurred lately in the news. TV commercials have been blamed for creating overweight youngsters, because of the time slot they advertise ‘unhealthy products’, but we need to recognize who buys the food that is in the house (not the TV commercial people).

It comes down to accepting responsibility for one’s actions/ one’s feelings. When others are blamed it takes away the need for action and change. In shouldering responsibility ourselves, we are giving ourselves the power to shape our outcomes, and are therefore taking an active role (accepting or making change) and not a passive role (hoping someone else will fix the problem) in how the outcome turns out.

The late Nelson Mandela (South African activist for human rights) was a fine example of taking responsibility and working for change. He was held in prison for 27 years because of his beliefs of equality for all people. Many people have remarked on the apparent lack of bitterness that characterizes Mandela’s conduct after he was released from prison. He once said that perhaps he would have harboured bitter thoughts if he had not had a job to do (which was to create a South Africa for all people to live harmoniously).
Take responsibility for your actions/feelings. If you are in the wrong, admit it immediately and say you are sorry. Too many disagreements or arguments could be solved by merely admitting you were wrong. If you are feeling a certain way, know it is your choice to feel that way; if you don’t like the feeling change what you are doing.

Find a solution – Make change where possible. If you were wrong, find a solution to fix the matter.

Don’t delay - It is very important to not delay taking responsibility for your actions/feelings. The longer time passes, the more people you may hurt, the more you may lose respect, or lose friendships.

Find a solution – Make change where possible. If you were wrong, find a solution to fix the matter.

Don’t delay - It is very important to not delay taking responsibility for your actions/feelings. The longer time passes, the more people you may hurt, the more you may lose respect, or lose friendships.

Food Policy update for 2015

Birthdays

Schools have an important role in promoting healthy eating. It is important that we model healthy food choices and provide the means to put into practice nutrition messages taught in the classroom.

We ask that parents do not send along cakes etc as other children can react to different ingredients and often this sort of food has a negative effect on their behaviour and levels of concentration.

If you would like to provide something, we suggest ice blocks, for example Quelch by Berri as they are 99% fruit juice or something similar. This adheres to the Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy for Queensland Schools that was made mandatory on January 1, 2007.
From 1 January 2015 a number of changes to Queensland’s Tobacco laws commenced. The changes are aimed at reducing the uptake of smoking and making it less socially acceptable to smoke given the long-term adverse health effects. While Queensland Health widely publicised the changes in the media during December and January, you have been sent this communiqué to enable you to assist your staff, parents and visitors to comply with the new laws.

Schools

The Tobacco law changes affect smoking in and around schools and hospitals/healthcare facilities. From 1 January 2015 it is illegal to smoke on hospital or school grounds (public or private/independent) and within 5m beyond their campus boundaries.

A summary of amended Queensland tobacco laws can be viewed at –

Schools:

E-cigarettes

As part of the Tobacco law changes, e-cigarettes are now subject to the same laws as regular cigarettes. The change means that e-cigarettes, which the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 (TOSPA) defines as ‘personal vapourisers’, cannot be used anywhere it is illegal to use regular cigarettes including on hospital or school grounds and within 5m beyond their campus boundaries.

Enforcement of the new laws

Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) appointed under TOSPA are authorised to issue on-the-spot fines for persons found to be smoking on hospital or school grounds and within 5m beyond their campus boundaries (fine amount $226). As part of the introduction of the new laws, EHOs will, in the first instance, provide education and issue warnings to persons found in breach of the legislation. Repeat offenders and persons refusing to comply with a lawful direction can expect to receive an on-the-spot fine.

Request for Assistance

During the introductory phase of the new laws, EHOs will be conducting surveillance around hospitals and schools at peak times (for schools this will be at the commencement and completion of the school day). To assist with this task an EHO will be in contact with the school to seek information about what information has been provided to staff and parents and also to request advice about the actual boundary of the school grounds (ie a map of the school property boundary). Your assistance with this request is appreciated.

Further Information

Should you require further information or advice, please contact the Gold Coast Public Health Unit on 07 5668 3700 or email EH_GoldCoast@health.qld.gov.au

School Banking News

Welcome 2015 School Bankers and Parents of HRSS

We have an exciting year ahead with our School Banking Program and many wonderful prizes and competitions to look forward to. Our theme this year is “OUTER SPACE!” So just a reminder, Banking has already started in the first week of school and will continue weekly on Thursday mornings. Please send your child to school with their special Dollarmite or Youth Savers account books and deposits so they can join in the FUN! Feel free to visit our lovely Banking Volunteers on any Thursday morning between 8:45am - 10:00am at the Banking Room located next to the Cafe/Tuckshop. We’ll be more than happy to assist you. Alternately, you may wish to visit the Commonwealth Branch closest to you. Here is just a peak of what's happening throughout the Banking Year!
Happy Banking everyone!

Cheers
Sharlene Dippel
HRSS Banking Co-ordinator

Advertisement
New features of the Department's QSchools mobile app have been released, including an exciting push notification feature which offers a direct communication channel from your school.

To be able to receive important messages instantly to your mobile device (push notifications):

2. If you already have the app, please ensure it is up-to-date, as out-dated versions will not receive notifications.
3. Make sure you select your favourite school.

You are now ready to receive important school messages direct to your mobile device.

Attendance Matters
Attendance Matters

1 or 2 days a week may not seem much however......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses...</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 3.5 years</td>
<td>Grade 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
<td>Grade 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>50 days per year</td>
<td>10 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 3 years</td>
<td>Grade 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 4 years</td>
<td>Grade 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

'Every Day Counts!' at

Highland Reserve State School

What Sort of Start is Your Child Getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much...... however

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When your child is missing...</th>
<th>That equals...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>60 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per year</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day?

That’s when every minute counts the most!!

School Starts at 8:50am

'Every Day Counts' at

Highland Reserve State School

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:
- Volunteers must not commence until they hold a valid blue card and positive notice.
- All volunteers are also required to present to the Office to sign in before commencing work in a classroom.

Young Discoverer's News

Due to popular demand Young Discoverers is giving you a choice of locations for all your School Age Care needs!

We are excited to announce:
Term one 2015 we will see the arrival of school care at our lakeside centre.
(25 Rose Valley Drive)

For more information chat with:
Lynda (5588 3356) or Charmaine (5519 3476)

C&K News

***NEWSFLASH*** 5 days per week now available, limited spaces.
Community News

The Queensland Academies - Health Sciences Campus (Southport) will be holding a Community Open Day on Saturday 28th February from 10am until 1pm. There will be fun and interactive activities, a parent seminar, student led campus tours and 2016 enrolment information from the Campus Principal. All are welcome to attend.

You can RSVP online at http://www.qa.eq.edu.au/rsvp