



THE NEWS



Principal: Damien Gainsford

Deputy Principal: Mark Fowler

HOSES: Leisa Staunton

BSM: Gloria Kenzig

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CONGRATULATIONS FOR SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Alana Woods—State Swimming Carnival

Alix Woods—State Swimming Carnival

Emily Fisher—State Oz Tag

Issue 1

9th February 2017

- Principal's message
- New from Prep
- HOC Update
- Chat with Chappy Brydie
- Student Council Report
- Master Teacher
- Library

INFORMATION IN THE OFFICE

- Hervey Bay District School Sport Selection trials U/12 Girls and Boys Softball on the 23/2/17 from 4.00-5.30pm at the Softball Fields, Geoff Godfrey Fields, Raward Road, Torquay.
- Hervey Bay Ozbots classes for adults. Hervey Bay Library Monday 30th January—20th February 4.30-5.30pm. Ages 14+ bookings required 4197 4220. Maryborough Library 27th January—20th March 3.42-4.45pm. 4190 5788.
- Poetry Competition! Hervey Bay Relay for Life—12 line short verse poem that could be used to open their Family fun Day on February 25th. Cost \$2.00 to enter, submit by 18th Feb.
- Hervey Bay Aquatic Centre introduced a new exercise program starting 30th January. Age is no barrier

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February

- 10th - Parade Year 4-6
- - Swimming Year 3-6
- 13th - Playgroup
- 17th - Indigenous Playgroup 9—11am
- 17th - Swimming Y3-6
- 17th - Whole School Parade
- 20th - Play group
- 24th - Indigenous Playgroup 9-11am



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Welcome to the first edition of the 2017 newsletter. I hope everyone has had a great Christmas and New Year holiday period. To all new parents and students who have enrolled at Urangan Point for the 2017 school year, we extend a very warm welcome and invite you to become involved in all aspects of our school community. As of today, we have enrolled over 100 new students - including 75 in Prep - into the school for the start of 2017.

This enrolment growth has the school currently at 500 students (increase of 37 students from last year across 7 years levels); which places the school in a very positive position. We are currently planning to make some changes to our classes so we can effectively run a 21 classroom scenario. However, as these changes must be made to meet the Union requirements for class sizes, disruptions to a number of classes will have to be communicated and enacted so we can start Week 5 (Monday 20th February) with the 21 classes. Please note that the school will be contacting all families involved in these changes to inform them of the upcoming rearrangements and there will be a special letter going out to all families next week with staff names and classes attached.

A number of these classes have part-time teaching arrangements in place. I would like to point out to all our community that all children are taught in this way. In any mainstream class at Urangan Point, your children will have at least 5 teachers giving instruction in a given week: PE, Music, 2 separate Non contact teachers, Teacher/Librarian, their own class teacher and possibly a Mytherine Teacher as well. This process is an important part of their learning journey as they are being readied for further educational settings and developing their interpersonal skills. Additionally, at some stage this year, their classroom teacher will be involved in what is called Professional Development (training). This is vital for staff to hone and learn new skills that will lead them to deliver stronger learning opportunities for your child. Please be patient when this occurs and we will endeavour to ensure that all families are given prior knowledge as to when these days are being undertaken.

This year we have four Explicit Improvement Agenda target areas:

- Whole school improvement in Reading and Numeracy;
- Increased number of students in the Upper Two Band in Naplan testing;
- Improved Attendance; and
- Increased performance for students with disabilities.

Additionally, this year we will be providing this Service Guarantee (ie. promise) to all parents and caregivers of our school – "Every student will have a teacher read to them, every day."

A reminder to all members of our community of relevant school routines;

* All classrooms have fridges in them. This year, with the heat, we have already replaced a number of fridges and I strongly encourage all parents to access this valuable resource. Please remember; if your child's lunchbox is insulated, they will need to open their zipper when placing it in the fridge if they wish for the cool air to get into their child's lunchbox. Therefore, a hard plastic container is preferable for fridge use.

* All students who ride their bikes/scooters (wearing a helmet) are to enter and exit using the Miller Street double gate bike entrance and are not to be on their bikes in the school grounds.

* All students who are sick or injured must report to the office with a First Aid Form (pink in colour). These can be collected from duty and classroom staff.

* Student Resource Scheme is available for all families from Prep-Grade 6 in 2017. The cost of the scheme is \$130 per student which includes all sporting activities (including swimming). This is considerably cheaper than purchasing the materials via a booklist but this option is available to parents if they wish to proceed this way.

* Prep students are now eating in front of Mrs Hanson's classroom (old Preschool Block), the Year 1 students eat under A Block and the Year 2– 3

students eat in the Large Covered Play area both breaks (with supervision support from the Student Leadership Group). The Year 4-6 students eat in the Parade area both breaks.

* Parades are now split across a three week cycle with the Junior Parade (Prep-Grade 3) being held on Weeks 2,5 & 8. Senior Parades on Weeks 3, 6 & 9 and Whole School Parades held in Weeks 4, 7 & 10. All parades will be in the Covered Play Area (the one with a stage) on Fridays from 2:15pm-3:00pm.

* The school newsletter will be fortnightly with grade levels timetabled to contribute throughout the year .

* The Student Leadership Team (4 School Leaders, 4 School Councillors and 4 House Leaders) all have a special uniform that they wear to allow students to easily identify them in the playground.

* Duty teachers have a folder they carry with them (with behaviour referrals forms) and a bag that contains medical supplies.

* Playground equipment especially the one outside the Prep Classrooms, is out of bounds after school for all children due to Workplace, Health and Safety requirements. Admin Staff will be on duty to ensure that this occurs.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Social media, like Facebook, Twitter and other sites, are a great and immediate way of getting or sharing information about our school and its activities. In fact, a large number of this year's enrolments have been recommended to our school by Social Media sources. I would be extremely disappointed if this Social Media was used to damage our school's name in any way and I urge any parent/caregiver to contact the school to seek responses to any area of concern they have prior to using a Social Media source to vent. You will find that we can, and will, listen to your concerns and most of the time can immediately allay your issues with transparent and honest sharing of the information you seek.

UNIFORMS:

Just a quick reminder that the following must be adhered to, as per our Responsible Behaviour Plan and Parental Handbook:

- Hats are to be worn every lunch and play break or outside play. The school has provided all students with an official hat that is reversible (house colours on the other side). Jewellery is as follows: Earrings can be studs or sleepers only, watches are OK, bracelets can be worn but only one, there is to be no anklets of any description, hair is to be a reasonable colour and tied back if long – boys or girls, shoes are to be closed in and socks worn, shirts are red and skirts/shorts/skorts are to be black and of an appropriate length.

BULLYING:

I have included our school's Bullying poster, which is located in every classroom, to help our community identify what is bullying. This issue is raised at the start of every school year at every school across the world and this poster clearly articulates the school's view on this. Please feel free to contact the school for further information if needed.

Finally, we have already had a number of students who have been injured or had near misses by running on concrete over the past two and a half weeks. All staff will be monitoring this situation and the students have been instructed not to run on concrete due to the unsafe nature this activity. Please have a quiet word with your child(ren) about this rule at your earliest convenience.

Enjoy your fortnight,

Damien Gainsford
Principal

Principal: Damien					
Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13/2 - 17/2	9.30-10.00am Enrolment Interview 10.00-10.30am Enrolment Interview 12.15-1.15pm Leadership Meeting	10.00-10.30am Meeting HOC 3.15-4.15pm Cluster meeting	10.00-10.30am Meeting Leisa Staunton 3.00-3.30pm Staff meeting		2.15pm Parade
20/2—24/2	12.15-11.15pm Leadership Meeting	10.00-10.30am Meeting HOC 1.25pm-1.40pm Detention Room Duty	10.00-10.30am Meeting with Leisa Staunton 11.15-11.40am Detention Room Duty		1.25-1.40pm Detention Room Duty 2.15pm Parade
DP —Mark					
13/2-17/2	12.15-1.15pm Leadership Meeting	10.00-11.00am Supervising Solid Pathways 3.15-4.15pm Cluster Meeting	3.15-4.15pm Staff meeting		2.15pm Parade
20/2-24-2	2.55-3.15pm Side Gate Duty 2.55-3.15pm Bus Duty	11.00am—11.45am Detention Room Duty 1.25-1.40pm Detention Room	11.15-11.40am Detention Room duty		9.00am-1.30pm—WHS Network meeting in Maryborough 1.25-1.40pm Detention Room Duty 2.15pm Parade

NEWS FROM PREP

Welcome to all of our new Prep students and their families. It has been a very busy start to the term with all the children settling into classroom and school routines and procedures. We have been learning about the 4 school values of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and Safety.

A big thank you to those families who were able to attend the "Meet the Teacher" information sessions. It was wonderful to share our classroom information with you. Information was also sent home for those who could not attend.

We have now settled into classroom learning. Over the coming weeks, we will have some more exciting visitors down at Prep with some classes exploring Letterland and others meeting the SSP monsters.

There is a lot to learn in Prep and we really look forward to the journey ahead. Don't forget to let us and/or the office know if your child is going to be away.

If anyone has any doll house furniture, we would be grateful for donations for our doll house for Prep P.

Miss Glenn, Mrs Hanson and Ms Greensill

HOC UPDATE:

Happy new year to all of you. Urangan State Point School is poised for a fantastic year and I am thrilled to be part of a brilliant and dedicated team who is working hard to achieve these goals. 2017 sees my role and portfolio in the school changed slightly. As the Head of Curriculum, I will be working closely with teachers in matters that relate directly to curriculum and learning support. In plain terms, this means helping with what needs to be taught, when it is taught and how. I also (along with the rest of the leadership team) will be working closely to further our schools strategic goals for 2017:

- * A whole school improvement in Reading and Numeracy
- * Improving the number of students who are in the Upper 2 Bands In plain terms this means to have more students not only passing - but excelling
- * Improving attendance
- * Increasing performance for students with disabilities.

I am also a firm believer that a school community extends far beyond the gates of the school - so I will be using this space in our newsletter to share with you ways that you can help your child when they are reading at home, as well as regular updates about some of the initiatives that are happening in the school.

Andrew Nye
HOC

CHAT WITH CHAPPY BRYDIE:

Hi all and welcome to another school year! For those who don't know me, I am our school Chaplain. It's my job here at UPSS to be a listening ear and to connect people in our community to support if needed. If your child is going through a tough patch and needs some extra support, feel free to contact me or let your teacher know. If you as a parent are seeking some support the offer extends to you also! **THE FEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS:** From the conversations I have around our school yard and wider community, it is clear that whilst the New Year brings fresh opportunity and new hope the unknown can also stir some concerns in us all. In a few weeks, the picture may be becoming a little clearer as to what 2017 has in store. Despite the class lists or teachers allotted, not many children will have a completely smooth journey across the year. So how do we get ready for the rollercoaster journey of supporting a young one through the school year? My number one answer is build a solid connection: a connection where our kids know we are there for them if they have a concern or something they are bothered about. We don't even have to step in and fight the battle in most of these situations, kids are pretty resilient- but if we have an open and welcoming connection with them, their confidence, feelings of connectedness and belonging provide a safe foundation for facing obstacles. Consider this week how you might create more connectedness with your child!

CHAPPY ACTIVITIES- TERM 1

- Bright Breakfasts- Wednesdays 8:15 @ Alcatraz
- Drumbeat program
- JTeam Kids@Wed lunch
- Coffee Chatter- For parents some Monday afternoons near the tuckshop.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

The Student Leaders have had a very productive start to the New Year involving themselves in a range of initiatives and responsibilities around our school.

It was exciting to see our school leaders confidently organise and manage their first parade. Thank you to Mrs Bailey for preparing the school leaders for this important responsibility.

With the assistance of Mr Chapman and Miss Alicia, Breakfast Club resumed last week and has been well received, so if children need breakfast on the go, it's available Monday to Friday from 8.30am at the canteen. Please remember it closes at 8.50am to allow time for our student leaders to prepare for their day. Further fundraising being undertaken by our Student Council is the sale of icy-cups on Friday afternoons from 3pm. Student leaders make these in their own time to generate funding for initiatives to give back to the school. Icy cups are available at the prep area near the playground and also near the administration/ bike rack area exit. It will be a great privilege to attend a leadership conference with our Student council members in the coming weeks. I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience for the students give them skills they can then apply to their leadership responsibilities in our school. Thank you for supporting our Student Council,

Andrew Robb

NEWSLETTER ITEM FOR PLAYGROUP:

Little Joey's playgroup:

Urangan Point's playgroup will be up and running next Monday. This year, the playgroup will be called 'Little Joeyes'. All families are invited to attend with children from infant to pre prep age. Children will be engaged in various activities such as singing, rhyming and musical games, listening to stories and making and creating.

Details:

Where: Playgroup room underneath the Year 1 classroom – same room as the Indigenous playgroup. *Please see office staff if you cannot locate us.*

When: 9am – 10:45am every Monday morning

Who: Angela Hubbert and Angela Green

What to Bring: Drink bottle and morning tea. Tea and coffee will be available for parents

Bringing Urangan Point families together

MASTER TEACHER:

This year, my role as Master Teacher will primarily focus on the early stages of reading. This will see me working with various staff members around the teaching of reading with our younger students. The approach I will be using is called Speech Sound Pics (SSP). You may have heard your child talk about using their duck hands to 'sound out' words. This is a technique from SSP that is teaching young readers how to segment and blend words, an essential skill for reading. Some teachers will be using SSP for intervention purposes, others for a spelling technique and for one of our Prep classes the SSP approach is being used entirely to teach our young readers. Our school is in a learning phase with delivering the Speech Sound Pics approach. This is why you will see some teachers using the approach more than others. It is important that we continue to reflect on the way we teach reading to our students. This will improve our practices so they align with current research of how to teach students the mechanics of reading. If you would like to know more about this program, please feel free to drop in for a chat, I am located within the historical building beside the office block.

BREAD IS DONATED THANKS TO PIALBA PLACE COLES
on offer most Mondays & Wednesdays

LIBRARY:

Welcome to **Book Club 2017**. Issue 1 catalogues were handed out to students last week. All students from Prep to Year 6 receive **ONE** catalogue which caters for all aged readers.

If you wish to place an order, **order forms and payment** should be placed in an envelope with the child's name and class clearly written on the front. Please hand orders to Mrs Fowler or Mrs Becker in the LIBRARY.

If you wish to pay by credit card, our school has opted-in to the LOOP (Linked Online Ordering & Payment) system which allows you order and pay online. LOOP orders will be delivered to the school with all other orders.

Orders usually take a week to be returned to school after the closing date. Students will be notified to collect their orders from the library at 3:00pm once we have unpacked the orders. If you have any questions regarding Book Club, please come and see us in the library.

The closing date for Issue 1 orders is this **FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY**.

Cathy Fowler
Teacher Librarian

Book Club



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