



Newsletter

Date 18th February, 2014

Issue 2

Halifax State School

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Important dates

25th February – Meet and Greet

4th April - End of Term 1

5th April – School holidays commence

18th April – Good Friday

21st April – Easter Monday

22nd April – Term 2 commences

25th April – ANZAC Day

Absent Letters and phone calls

If your child or children are absent from School, for any reason, could you please make sure you notify us as to the absence (either before or after) by making a phone call, sending a note with the reason or emailing

the.principal@halifaxss.eq.edu.au.

Messages about absences due to illness, personal reasons, etc from School are important, as we need to ensure that our records are up to date.



From The Principals Desk

Dear Parents

New Playground

A big thank you for all the parents that contributed their time and energy towards the new playground. It looks fantastic and the children are really enjoying it. Under the shade sails the playground is quite cool and very inviting.

Meet and Greet night

We will be inaugurating our new school leaders on the 25 of February from 3:30. Students will recite their speeches, oaths and receive their badges of office. We will have an opening ceremony for the playground and the P and C will put on a BBQ.

P and C membership

I urge all parents and community members to become members of the P and C. Much of the grant money we chase is directly aligned with the percentage of parents and community members who are P and C members. As a member you don't have to attend any meetings or vote. All we need is to have your name as a member.

Schools App

Please make sure you have downloaded the schools app to your smart phone it keeps you in touch with the latest news.

NAPLAN

To improve our NAPLAN results we have asked to Ms Corina van den Dolder affectionately known as Ms V join our team. Ms V targets the years 3, 5, and 7 students taking them through online practice test materials.

Parent helpers and reading groups.

Thank you to Glenda Mallett who is helping with our NAPLAN preparation in particular the reading and comprehension. We are looking for parents to help with reading groups. If you are interested please contact the school.

Attendance

I must stress that Education Queensland's every day counts strategy is highly important. As a principal it is my legal responsibility to follow up on students that do not attend school- as everything is electronically reported. The process involves an informal meeting with parents on the first occasion, should a student be truant again then a formal letter and meeting occurs, should a student be truant again then the matter is followed up strongly with possible court action and fines. Students cannot stay home other than being ill, or attending significant events eg funerals. Staying home because "it's your birthday" or "I don't want to go to school" is definitely prohibited. If your child needs to stay home please contact the school by 9am on the day and provide a letter the following day.

Regards

Donald Pritchard

What are we up to

P to 3

Reading is our key focus. It is extremely important that your child also reads at home. . Your children are only at school for a short while each day and we have to cover many subjects.

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out print. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work as well. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

. Some of the things you can do include:

- *Reading aloud to your child, talking about the words and pictures, and sharing ideas about the book*
- *Reading yourself: Children who see adults reading, and enjoying reading, are much more likely to want to read themselves*



What are we up to

4 to 7

How can I help my child to be successful?

Reading

- Each night students in 3 to 7 need to go through the reading improvement plan and return it to school the following day to enable us to update our records. Answers must be in full sentences and key words written down.

Spelling

- Be involved in spelling each night do a spelling test with the weekly spelling list and watch them improve. Each time they spell a word incorrectly have them write out the correct spelling using write cover check.
- Set high expectations
-

This week in English we are learning about types of sentences , plot and writing narratives.

What we are learning this week in maths

Year 3 and 4

Revise multiplication and division fact families.

Year 5

Representing data

Year 6 and 7

Students will compare and ordering data.

In science we are learning about food chains and webs

Recent events

Play Grounds

Due to a fantastic effort by parents and grandparents, the students of Halifax State School now have 2 exciting, adventurous and shade covered playgrounds to play on. Students have already made the most of the playgrounds, filling their lunch times with creative and fun filled action. A SPECIAL THANKYOU to Deb Marsden for applying for the grant and coordinating the project along with assistance from Amanda Steven. Also thankyou to Amanda's brother James, who donated use of his machinery and much of his valuable time.



Visit by North Queensland Cowboys

On Friday students were visited by the North Queensland Cowboys. As part of a District wide visit and promotion of Anti-Bullying, the players spoke to them about steps to be taken to avoid bullying. Children also participated in some skill activities and had a poster signed.



P & C Meeting—The **P & C Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday, 26th March, 2014 at 3.30pm.** We are encouraging all parents to attend and consider nominating for a position. All positions are vacant so please consider working closely with our school towards building a stronger school community where all children benefit.

Tuckshop Roster— Tuckshop roster for Term 1 is below

Date	Workers	Baker
25 th February	Jan Marinoni Josie Barrett	Prachern Morley
4 th March	Michelle Thompson Jasmine Pearce	Davina Hamper
11 th March	Louise Jones Karen Burt	Karen Burt
18 th March	Jan Marinoni Josie Barrett	Angela Wigg
25 th March	Deb Marsden Jasmine Pearce	Kim Lake
1 st April	Michelle Thompson Jan Marinoni	Dallas Mallett



PLAYGROUP begins this Friday

All parents are welcome to attend the weekly playgroup held every Friday from 9.00am – 11.00am. The Playgroup will meet at the Halifax State School Community Centre (former Halifax Pre-School).

