From The Principals Desk

Dear Parents

It’s hard to believe that half the year is already over. Its report time again and students will receive their reports on the last day of term.

Understanding Your Child’s Report Card

As you are aware, students and teachers this year have been working with the new Australian Curriculum, as interpreted through Queensland’s C2C curriculum resources. Whilst the Australian Curriculum is similar in many respects to the previous Queensland curriculum, there are some differences which have required adjustments. For example, some concepts are covered earlier than previously expected, there is a stronger focus on specific areas and in some cases a different standard of work is expected of students.

For Semester 1 report cards, teachers are evaluating student work based on our C2C/ESL units and assessments tasks from Term 1 and 2 in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History. Due to the implementation of a new curriculum, report card results may also reflect students’ ‘learning curve’ in terms of the change in expectations for learning in their year level.

This is not cause for concern, as teachers are adapting and adjusting their teaching/learning to ensure that students receive the necessary prior knowledge and are supported through their learning tasks. Also, C2C units are in ongoing review and adjustment, based on feedback from teachers. However, it is worth noting the fact that report card results in English, Maths, Science, Geography and History this semester are based on the new content descriptors and year level Achievement Standards from the Australian Curriculum, and as such may not be reliably compared to previous years’ results. For further information on the Australian Curriculum standards visit the online curriculum at http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Over recent years, parents, students and teachers across Queensland are gradually becoming more familiar with a 5-point scale (e.g. A-E) process for reporting in all schools.

The new system schools are using refers to attainment standards called “benchmarks of achievement” or “criteria.” So what makes an “A”, “B”, “C” etc is predetermined by a scale of achievement. Any student who shows evidence of meeting a particular level, deserves that benchmark grade.

This is what you could consider the new difference for a “C” really means:

A “C” means that the student has met the criteria for a learner to be at the appropriate age level.

A “C” means that the student is doing everything required at their Year Level at school. The best description is to say that a “C” means that the student’s academic development is exactly where it needs to be.

That means attaining a “C” for Achievement means you are ON TARGET for your age level!

With all of this in mind, we must accept that it may be harder to get an “A” or “B”. These grades are not awarded simply to the top students in the class. They are only given to students who show that they are independently capable of working beyond the criteria required for their Year Level.

KdsMatter PD

It was great to see so many parents at the KdsMatter workshop held recently. There was a lot to take in and it was great to see that we are already doing a lot of what the program is about.

You Can Do It Program

This week’s focus is Getting Along and our school rule is Commitment. This week teachers from Macknade will be joining us for professional development in the program.

Donald Pritchard
What are we up to

P – 2

Last week P-2s participated in a Science Art Lesson through the making of shrinkies. We shrunk chip bags by baking them in an oven. This tied in with our science unit which focus on making changes to materials.

What are we up to

3 – 7

This week students are learning:

**English**
- Preparing, planning and drafting a literary recount.
- Analysing texts

**Science**
- Changing states of matter
- Separating

**Maths**
- Location and transformation (3, 4)
- Geometric reasoning (5/6/7)

**NAIDOC**

NAIDOC Activities will be happening in the school next week. A Guest Speaker has been invited, a Cultural Talk will be given, Indigenous Games played and includes Art/Painting Activities.
Find ways to read, write, and tell stories together with your child. Always applaud your young reader and beginning story writer! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

**Make books special**

Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.

**Get them to read another one**

Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a series like *The Boxcar Children* or *Harry Potter* or to a second book by a favorite author, or ask the librarian for additional suggestions.

**Crack open the dictionary**

Let your child see you use a dictionary. Say, "Hmm, I’m not sure what that word means... I think I’ll look it up."

**Talk about what you see and do**

Talk about everyday activities to build your child’s background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running patter, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.

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**This week’s Behavioural Article**

**How to Teach Problem Solving in Social Situations**

One way to teach your child to problem solve is to practice before entering social situations. Playing with siblings helps, but if there are no siblings or they are too young to participate, roll play difficult social situations, such as those involving taking turns and sharing, with your child.

During practice, pretend a typical childhood conflict has arisen. Ask your child if he has any ideas on how he could handle the problem. Request that he tell you as many different solutions as he can. If he is stuck and can’t think of anything or only thinks of unacceptable solutions, such as hitting, help him by giving him some choices of what he can do. Let him try the one he is most comfortable with.

Then, when your child encounters a similar situation with friends, you can prompt him to come up with different possible solutions. It will become second nature to always ask your child for ideas on how to solve his own social problems and he will, eventually, begin coming up with alternative solutions without prompting
Recent events

Relay for Life

10 students recently represented Halifax State School at the local Relay for Life Community event. With students giving up a Saturday afternoon, they walked laps of the showgrounds alongside other primary schools, secondary schools, cancer survivors and their carers and adults groups all present to raise money and awareness for Cancer. Whilst the Adult groups completed an 18 hour relay, the Primary School students completed a 2 hour Mini Relay. The students who participated were – Oliver Putzka, Trenyce Pearce, Erin Begg, Olivia Mallett, Callum Thompson, Uwen Putzka, Tess Hinschen, Liam Mallett, Janae Pearce, Sam Lake, and Connor Thompson. It was also great to see Sam’s little brother, Gabriel walk proudly in a Halifax uniform on the day with his future school mates.
P & C Meeting—The P & C General Meeting is on Tuesday, 22nd July 2014 at 3.30pm at Halifax Community Centre. All are welcome.

Presidents Word –

Hello everyone,

Well my excitement is building for our first annual school markets this Saturday 21st June starting at 8-12pm. As what was only going to be one stall holder has now turned out to be HUGE..with the combined efforts of our fantastic committee, volunteers, teachers, business owners, stall holders and can’t forget the kids. As I know two enthusiastic girls that are holding their own stalls and this is to raise money not only for themselves but all the Students at Halifax. Keep a look out for Trenyce & Erin’s Op Shop & Bric-a-Brac. So with all the various stalls, animal zoo, delicious BBQ breakfast, cake stall & morning tea, we are now well on the way to having a successful and prosperous event. So big thanks to you all.

Next on my hit list is the Halifax Police Staff. Big Congratulations to our favourite, local boys in blue John and Gavin. Through the Blue Light Association they have secured a MERV (Mobile Entertainment Recreational Vehicle) which includes TV’s, DVD’s, Playstations, VCR’s, DJ Equipment, Camping Gear, Generator, Data Projector & Computer and which they are going to donate their time again to set it up for the markets this Saturday. Thanks guys this will definitely be a crowd pleaser with the kids.

We have now filled the P&C’s Treasurer and Vice-President positions and welcome on board the wonderful Jasmine Pearce as Treasurer and Renee Bligh as Vice-President. The new Market Co-ordinator is Amanda Steven, who along with the committee have worked very hard as a Team to ensure our Markets have come together and it has been a fun journey already.. SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Our next meeting will be 22nd July. Hope we continue to get more volunteers and we welcome everyone to join as a non-committee member so your ideas and opinions count. Dates for next Markets are: 19th July & 16th August.

Geri Stanfield
President
Halifax P&C Association
Ph: 0497 653 878

Tuckshop Roster— Tuckshop roster for the remainder Term 2 is below

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Baker</th>
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<tr>
<td>24th June</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Davina Hamper</td>
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<td>Michelle Thompson</td>
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Raffle Tickets – Tickets are being sent home today. Prizes include Tickets to the V8’s in Townsville. If all families could attempt to sell these and return by next Thursday, 26th June at the latest. Please check with your child for these.