Newsletter
Date 10 November, 2015
Issue 13

Halifax State School
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Important dates
11th November – Remembrance Day
Swimming (P-6)
12th November – P&C Meeting
18th November - Swimming (P-6)
To be confirmed – City vs Country Swimming
25th November – Swimming (P-6)
10th December - End of Year Celebration

Our School Rules
- Courtesy
- Cooperation
- Commitment
- Consideration

THIS WEEKS FOCUS
YCDI – Persistence
SCHOOL RULE: Commitment

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.

Attendance
Attendance target 98%  Currently sitting at 97 %

From The Principals Desk
Dear Parents

We have had a number of achievements this term. Our School Plan has been presented and accepted by the Assistant Regional Director and soon will be on our webpage and available from the office in paper form on request. I would like to thank the P and C executive, staff and especially the school captains Trenyce and Olivia. This document guides the schools direction over the next four years.

End of year celebration
Our end of year celebration is happening on the 10th of December at the community centre. If the weather is poor we will hold it at the school tuckshop. The function celebrates the transitioning year of our 6 students to high school. Awards are given to students for citizenship, sports and academic achievement. Our new 2016 school captains are announced and provided with badges. All students receive a gift from the P and C to celebrate the end of the year. Our school captains Trenyce and Olivia will be the masters of ceremony. A free bbq at 6pm will begin the proceedings of the evening, followed at 7pm for official events. All are invited.

School data release
Our school data on the following page shows just how fantastic our results have been. The red lines are all other like school in Australia. The blue line is our school. The graph speaks wonders of the work of the staff, students and parents.

Behaviour report
Donald Pritchard
Country Schools Swimming Trials

Well done to Trenyce, Olivia, Callum, Liam, Janae and Connor for participating in the Country Schools Swimming trials. All students did their best and proudly represented their school. Congratulations to Callum and Trenyce on making the Country team to take on Lourdes and Ingham State in the near future.
Visit by Army

Last Wednesday the students were lucky enough to watch a practice Army Drill in their own schools grounds. The army men and women then came over and spoke to the children and let them try their camouflage paint, pat their dog and try radio equipment.

As you are all aware the RMC-D Military Exercise has been taking place in our area over the past two weeks or so and will soon come to an end. To show their appreciation to the community the RMC-D Exercise Managers are holding a Community Open Day in Ingham this Thursday the 12th November 2015. The event commences at 6.30Pm and concludes at 9.30Pm and will be held at the Ingham Show Grounds. The Open Day will consist of static displays and the 1RAR Military Rock Band who will be playing at the event.
P & C Meeting—The next General Meeting is Thursday, 12th November, 2.00pm at the Halifax Community Centre.

Christmas Raffle—Attached is a note regarding the Christmas Raffle the school is going to hold. Donations are being asked for to contribute to this school fundraiser.

Tuckshop—Roster for Term 4 is as follows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Baker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th November</td>
<td>Louise Jones, Josie Barrett</td>
<td>Davina Hamper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd November</td>
<td>Louise Jones, Jimmy Thompson</td>
<td>Raylene Eveleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th November</td>
<td>Louise Jones, Michelle Thompson</td>
<td>Dallas Mallett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th December</td>
<td>Louise Jones, Amanda Steven</td>
<td>Prachern Morley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is numeracy?

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Why is numeracy important?

Numeracy enables you to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in your daily life. We need numeracy to solve problems and make sense of time, numbers, patterns and shapes for activities like cooking, reading a map or bill, reading instructions and even playing sport.

Ways to support your child's numeracy development

Research has shown that children’s motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education.

There are many everyday things you can do to encourage numeracy learning. These include:

- encouraging your child to use mathematical language — how much, how big, how small, how many
- discussing the use of numbers, patterns and shapes in your day-to-day life — numbers found on library books, spatial patterns or shapes in playgrounds, in the home and architecture
- talking about occasions when you are using mathematics in daily jobs and real-life situations — cooking, map reading, building and playing sport
- exploring situations using money such as shopping, budgets and credit cards
- estimating, measuring and comparing lengths and heights, how heavy or light things are and how much containers hold
- talking about different ways to solve a problem
- using everyday tools like tape measures or kitchen scales and discussing the units of measure
- asking ‘does that make sense?’, ‘is the answer reasonable?’ or ‘what other ways could we do this?’
- observing and using timetables, calendars and clocks for different purposes like study periods, holiday planning and catching public transport
- helping your child to work out how much things cost and what change they will receive
- playing number games using magazines, books, newspapers and number plates
- organising, categorising and counting collections of things like toys, books, clothing and shoes.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map or contact your child’s teacher or school.
What is literacy?

Literacy is the ability to read, view, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows us to communicate effectively and to make sense of the world.

Why is literacy important?

Literacy is vital to ensuring your child has the best chance to succeed in their schooling and everyday life. Literacy allows us to make sense of a range of written, visual and spoken texts including books, newspapers, magazines, timetables, DVDs, television and radio programs, signs, maps, conversations and instructions.

Ways to support your child’s literacy development

Research has shown that children’s motivation and achievement improve when their parents or carers are involved in their education.

There are many everyday things you can do to encourage literacy learning. These include:

- valuing and encouraging your child’s efforts with literacy
- sharing your knowledge and explaining how you use literacy in your everyday life
- encouraging your child to read and view a variety of texts such as newspapers, novels, comics, magazines, websites, email, timetables, instructions and recipes
- encouraging your child to write and design for a variety of purposes using print and electronic resources — invitations, thank you notes, shopping lists, messages, journals and electronic slide shows
- encouraging your child to speak and listen for a variety of purposes — sharing a joke, giving instructions or asking for information
- sharing a love of language
- discussing how texts look different depending on the purpose and audience — for example, text messaging uses different spelling from school projects
- talking about things that you have read or viewed that were amusing, interesting or useful
- discussing favourite authors, producers, directors or illustrators and what you like about them
- discussing new and unusual words or phrases and exploring these through print and electronic dictionaries
- playing games that develop knowledge and enjoyment of words
- making use of community resources for information, local and school libraries, clubs, community groups and websites.
Supporting your child in Prep to Year 3

Numeracy is an essential skill that children need to succeed in their everyday lives. As a parent or carer and your child’s first teacher, you have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to supporting your child’s learning — from the time they are an infant through to adulthood.

When your child starts school, it is critical for you to continue to play an active role in helping to develop your child’s numeracy so they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Your vital role as a parent or carer

You might not realise it, but you are already contributing to your child’s understanding of numeracy from an early age. For example, counting objects like buttons on their clothes and talking about time and shapes can familiarise them with mathematics.

Ensuring that your child feels confident talking to you and their teacher about their school work will enhance their opportunity to thrive in the 21st century.

What numeracy skills will your child learn at school?

In the first years of school, children learn through hands-on activities. Your child’s teacher will identify what they already know and can do, and will extend their knowledge and skills through new and challenging situations.

An important aim of the Preparatory Year is to build on your child’s previous experiences with new and different learning opportunities at school. Your child will explore fundamental aspects of mathematics such as ‘how many’, mass, length, size, shape, sequence, order and patterns.

In Years 1 to 3, children use mathematics in increasingly complex and unfamiliar situations. Children will explore larger numbers and learn different ways to identify, describe and record their observations and findings. They may use symbols, words, diagrams or pictures, maps, models and flow charts to describe information.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress please contact your child’s teacher.
In Years 1 to 3, children use language in increasingly complex and unfamiliar situations. They learn to use the language necessary for different purposes such as reading and writing stories, lists, recipes and reports, and understanding charts and diagrams.

Children will speak and write about real-life and imagined events and experiences and learn ways to improve their written work through drafting and editing.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher.

Activities to do with your child

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help them apply the literacy skills they learn at school:

- keep blank paper and pencils handy at home for writing activities
- read with and to your child every day
- have your child collect and sort the mail — who are the letters for and who are they from?
- create a collage using junk mail, old magazines or your child's drawings with a particular focus — this could include pictures of things beginning with an 'S' sound or all pictures showing a particular colour
- make a scrapbook — this could be about a holiday or special event, and have your child write captions for the photos and pictures
- make your kitchen a 'cooking' zone and a 'reading' zone — use fridge magnets to make new words and short sentences, or have your child write the weekly shopping list and read names on packages
- play word games and do crosswords to help develop spelling and vocabulary
- keep a dictionary in an easily accessible place — show your child how it can be used for a variety of purposes and accessed while word processing on a computer
- make the writing of letters, notes, cards or emails a daily family activity — you can write notes to your child and encourage them to write notes back to you.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map or contact your child's teacher or school.