From The Principals Desk

Dear Parents

This year will be an exciting year for Halifax, we will be having our Quadrennial School Review (QSR). This document will be our guide and direction over the next three years. Some directions will be added and others changed to suite the new vision in education. I invite all parents to have their say through the P and C. We need your representation in the formulation of the document.

Recently the Assistant Regional Director visited the school, he was amazed with the attitude of the students, their knowledge, engagement and self-determination in education. He praised the staff, students and community for being so active in the education of students in our school.

I recently attended the 2015 Principals conference in Brisbane and listened to our new Minister Hon. Kate Jones. I can say that her enthusiasm, involvement and vision will be a guiding light in the education of students in our Great State. I take back from the conference some new ideas and directions, which I will over the coming months, share with you. My sincere thoughts go out to many of my friends whom were unfortunate to become ill. I wish you all a speedy recovery!

Our Annual Improvement Plan has been agreed to and will be signed off by the P and C President and Minister over the coming weeks. Our focus is still on reading, writing and attendance. We continue to purchase modern teaching aids to replace out of date or non-functioning devices.

Our Great Results Guarantee (GRG) has been approved and we are awaiting the Director General to sign off on the document. Our key focus will be to provide reading improvement for students.

Homework
A reminder that students have their Reading Improvement Booklets as a minimum practice for homework and that the school has paid for parents to use studyladder, and Mathletics at home. Parents that wish homework in a printed form (due to not having internet access) can come to the school and we will be happy to print off what homework you think is best for your circumstances. The school computers are available for use daily from 3pm to 3:30pm, daily.

We have just purchased an electronic reading assessment program to continue to support our key directive and success in reading. This program will be available for home use as well.

Meetings with the principal; please be aware that I have a number of other engagements other than with the school. If you need to see me you must make a booking, so I can fit you in. I am aware some people get a bit impatient but I do have responsibilities to parents who book first, or to planned meetings with other agencies in the community.

Donald Pritchard
Part 1

1. Oral language

About 98% of human teaching and learning is mediated by – or passes through – language. (Manzo, Manzo & Thomas, 2006, p. 616)

Oral language provides the foundation for learning to read, and is related to overall reading achievement throughout primary and secondary schooling (Snow et al., 1995; Wise et al, 2007). From the moment of birth, a child is immersed in an environment that will have an immense impact on his or her long-term facility with oral and written language. Children who are surrounded by, and included in, rich and increasingly complex conversations, have an overwhelming advantage in vocabulary development, in understanding the structures of language, and in tuning into the sounds of the English language. Oral language is important for both reading and writing. To understand language at the printed level oral language competency is a necessity. Children need strong vocabularies to understand the broad range of words in texts; they require strong grammatical skills to understand the complex sentences present in many texts; and they require the ability to reason and infer so that the necessary links between information in texts can be made. Experiences with books and other forms of print, and seeing people reading and writing as part of their everyday lives also prepare children for reading. Children are not born with the understanding that marks on a page can represent language; that we read English from left to right, and from the top of the page down, or even the way to open a book. This awareness develops gradually from a very young age if young children observe people around them reading for pleasure and for a variety of other purposes, opening and closing books, turning pages, and responding to what they read. And if young children are fortunate enough to have stories read to them, and if individual words are pointed out as the stories are read, the process by which spoken language is transformed into written language becomes apparent. Some children also learn much more – they begin to recognise what print looks like, how letters differ from punctuation, and to identify some letters and commonly-occurring letter patterns.

This week’s Behavioural Article

Behaviour Tip: 10 ways to build confidence in your child

1 Give your child lots of opportunities to practise and master new skills so when they are faced with challenges, they recall their successes in other areas.

2 Let kids make mistakes and encourage them so they try again next time.

3 Be enthusiastic if your child is showing you a new skill.

4 Help your child identify their unique qualities and strengths.

5 Convey a message that you believe they can achieve success if they persist. Kids tend to live up to the expectations we set for them.

6 Spend time with them every day so they feel appreciated and loved.

7 Give them your undivided attention, even for 10 minutes a day.

8 Be a positive role model. If you have confidence, it will rub off on your child.

9 Praise your child’s efforts, not just the result. They need to know they are loved and accepted, whether they succeed or fail.

10 Have clear rules about when your child can perform certain activities, such as walking to school by themselves. They’re likely to feel confident because they will be comfortable with what they can do at that age.
What are we up to

P - 2
The Year P-2 class have been working hard on patterning, teen numbers and addition using the split strategies in Maths and understanding how word groups make meaning and how different words represent qualities of characters in English.

What are we up to

3 – 7

**English**: multimodal persuasive presentation

**Maths**: number facts

**PE**: skipping skills

**History**: done next term

**Program Achieve focus**: Persistence

**Science**: Biology – life cycles

**ARTS**: visual arts – perspective

**Geography**: Landforms

**School rule focus**: Commitment
Recent Events

PE
For PE students have been focusing on skipping skills. They have also been using these skills in their play times.
P & C Meeting— The Annual General Meeting is Thursday, 19th March, 3.30pm at the Halifax Community Centre. The committee will be looking for some new members to take up positions at the AGM so come along to this meeting and learn how you can be an active part of your child’s schooling.

Tuckshop Roster— Tuckshop roster for Term 1 is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>Baker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th March</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Kim Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Josie Barrett</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Louise Jones</td>
<td>Raylene Eveleigh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Steven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Herbert River Athletic Club Inc.

George Day Oval

Old and new athletes welcome

TRAINING DAYS - MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 3.30 PM - 4.30 PM

AGES FROM 5 TO 80

SIGN ON – 11th & 16th MARCH, 2015 - GEORGE DAY OVAL FROM 3.30pm

1st Member- $100
2nd Member-$95
3rd Member-$90
Each Member thereafter $85

SEASON COMMENCES MONDAY 20 APRIL 2015

For more info contact Rina - 0418156 622
2.3.15

Dear Parents

Hi everyone, we are having our P&C Committee AGM on 19.3.15 at 3pm, and we welcome everyone to attend who would like to know the happenings at the school, or would like to make suggestions for improvements to our children's school.

All Committee Executive Positions eg. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Market Coordinator and Tuckshop Convenor will be open for nominations. If yourself or someone you know would like to be nominated for these positions please fill in the attached Nomination Form and hand back to the Office.

Please also find attached P&C Membership form for 2015, anyone can become a member and include your ideas via meetings or via our Halifax State School P&C facebook page (currently being setup). You do not need to attend every meeting, but your input would be greatly appreciated. P&C Membership also allows any volunteering at Tuckshop, Markets and any other school fundraising events that you may have the time to help with.

We appreciate all parents feedback and volunteering efforts, and look forward to the year ahead.

Thanking you

Raylene Eveleigh
Secretary
Halifax SS P&C Association
Application for P&C Membership for 2015
Halifax State School P&C Association
Please complete and return to the P&C Secretary

Name:
Address:
Home Phone:
Mobile Phone:
Email address:

I am:
☐ a parent of a student attending the school
☐ a staff member of the school
☐ an adult interested in the school’s welfare, and my date of birth is: ____________

I am:
☐ applying for new membership
☐ renewing my membership

I apply for membership in the Halifax State School Parents and Citizens’ Association and undertake to:
   a) promote the interests of and facilitate the development and further improvement of the School and
      the good order and management of the School; and
   b) comply with the constitution of the P&C Association, including the P&C Association Code of Conduct
      as specified in Schedule 2 of the constitution, and any valid resolutions passed by the Association.

If a person has been convicted of an indictable offence, it is grounds for removal in accordance with the
Education (General Provision) Act 2006.

Signature:....................................................................................................................

Date:...........................................................................................................................

P&C Secretary Use
Date received: ............./............./............. Date accepted: ............./............./.............
Secretary’s signature: ........................................................................................................ Entered in P&C Register. ☐
P&C Executive Officer Nomination Form

Name of school: ____________________________

P&C Association

I wish to nominate ____________________________ as a candidate for the position of: ____________________________

Candidate’s name: ____________________________

☐ President
☐ Treasurer
☐ Secretary
☐ Vice-President
☐ Market Co-ordinator
☐ Tuckshop Convenor

☐ Additional Officer/s as determined by the Association (additional Officers are not considered part of the P&C Executive Committee)

Candidate

I accept the nomination for the position of ____________________________

Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Moved by:

Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Seconded by:

Name: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

Notes:
- The candidate, nominator and seconder must be members of the Association.
- Candidates may nominate themselves.
- “Moved by” and “Seconded by” may be completed before, or at the meeting.

P&C Secretary’s use only

Successfully elected:
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Membership forms received