



Newsletter

Date 20 October, 2015

Issue 12

Halifax State School

17 Victoria Terrace, Halifax QLD 4850

P: (07) 47777132

F: (07) 47777389

E: admin@halifaxss.eq.edu.au

Important dates

21st October – Swimming (P-6)

28th October – Swimming (P-6)

29th October – QSR Meeting with parents

4th November – Country Swimming Carnival

- Swimming (P-6)

- Quadrennial School Review

11th November – Swimming (P-6)

12th November – P&C Meeting

18th November - Swimming (P-6)

19th November – City vs Country Swimming

Our School Rules

- **Courtesy**
- **Cooperation**
- **Commitment**
- **Consideration**

THIS WEEKS FOCUS

YCDI – Organisation

SCHOOL RULE: Cooperation

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

Recently I was lucky enough to go on our school camp to Cairns, where we visited the Tjapukai Cultural Centre, Reptile Zoo, and Bird Sanctuary. The students enjoyed the activities and learnt a lot. A big thankyou to parent helpers Jasmine and Michelle for their time and assistance.

School swimming lessons started last week and students have been sorted into swimming ability groups. Groups 1 and 2 will have the coaches from the pool and lessons will go for 8 weeks. A reminder to bring correct swimming clothing and the \$5 weekly levy.

I would like to welcome Amanda Steven to the school as a Teacher Aide. She will fill a temporary position until the end of the year.

This is a very busy term with the finalisation of our School four-year plan, selection of student leaders for 2016, end of school celebrations and swimming carnivals.

Donald Pritchard

READING

Here are a few tried-and-true guidelines from Reading Is Fundamental on how to motivate kids to read, with comments and suggestions from kids themselves.

Let kids pick out their own books

Book choice is a strong motivation for readers young and old. Let kids pick out books at the library or bookstore. It's almost a sure thing they'll want to read them. If you pick them out, they won't.

"Let your children pick out whatever interests them. When I was little, I always picked dinosaur books. My dad would read them to me. I got to pick out any book, and he would read it, no matter how hard it was," says Brian.

Set goals and reward reading

Reward reading with more reading, we've always said. Stop by the library or bookstore for the next book in your child's favorite series, or let your child shop for it online. Most kids agree, but they don't also see a problem with more... well, extrinsic rewards.

"Go around your town and find out about contests – you know, like the ones at the library where if you read so many books, you get a reward. Or make up your own," says Vincent. "If your kid likes ice cream, then every time he finishes, say, two chapter books at least over a hundred pages, then take him out for a little treat."

Let your kids see you read

Read the newspaper over your morning coffee, take a magazine from the rack in a doctor's office while you wait, and stuff a paperback into your purse, pocket, or briefcase. Your kids will catch on to the fact that reading is something you like to do in your spare time.

"If parents don't read a lot in front of kids, and instead watch lots of electronics – like TV and the computer – then the kids will think that's what they're supposed to do and they might not read as much," says Cameron.

Make reading together fun and memorable

Parents can convey important positive impressions about reading by making reading an experience their children will remember and cherish.

Emily says, "My mom really likes to read to me and she makes the books sound funny by using different voices."

It's not what you read to your child that counts; it's how. Make a story come alive by changing your voice and pace, or using sound effects and motions.

"For me, it was not just books – it was how my mom read the book that got my attention," says Brittany.

Create loving associations with books and reading

Reading together is a time for closeness and cuddling – another way to show your love as a parent, grandparent, or caring adult.

"My mom would write magical notes from Santa, from the tooth fairy, and 'discover' and read them with me in the morning. It was the sweetest reward knowing she'd taken the time," says Brittany.

Luis says, "My grandma is coming, and I want her to read to me."

For children lucky enough to have parents who read to them, the memory is lasting and their love for books and reading lifelong.

"Most of all, do it the old-fashioned way. Hold your child while you read together. One of my fondest memories is having my mom read to me in bed at night and falling asleep in her arms. I slept perfectly those nights," says Taurean

This week's Behavioural Article

Belonging improves mental health, wellbeing and learning

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children's mental health and wellbeing.

Children who feel that they belong at school are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work. Research into children's mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older 'buddies' to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying.

Recent events

Year 3-6 Camp





P&C News

P & C Meeting— The next **General Meeting** is **Thursday, 12th November, 2.00pm** at the Halifax Community Centre.

QSR Meeting— The final **Quadrennial School Review Meeting** is **Thursday, 29th October, 2.00pm** at the Halifax Community Centre. All parents welcome.

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

Roster for Term 4

| Date | Workers | Baker |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 26 th October | Louise Jones Josie Barrett | Dallas Mallett |
| 2 nd November | Raylene Eveleigh Michelle Thompson | Angela Wigg |
| 9 th November | Louise Jones Jan Marinoni | Prachern Morley |
| 16 th November | Louise Jones Josie Barrett | Davina Hamper |
| 23 rd November | Louise Jones Jimmy Thompson | Raylene Eveleigh |
| 30 th November | Louise Jones Michelle Thompson | Dallas Mallett |
| 7 th December | Louise Jones Amanda Steven | Prachern Morley |



Parents working hard on the Quadrennial School Review