15 October 2014

Principal’s Report

I wish to take this opportunity to briefly outline some important messages for this time of the year.

I want to firstly congratulate our school community on a great Term 3, especially during the time I was absent from the school. While I was travelling around Australia, exceptional learning was continuing here at Coomera.

I particularly congratulate all of the students who participated in our Read-a-thon. I know that a huge number of reading minutes were achieved and we look forward towards achieving a million reading minutes next time we conduct a Read-a-thon. Together we can achieve this mighty goal.

I also especially congratulate our Year 3, 5 and 7 students on their NAPLAN reports received before the last holidays. Students at Coomera have shown great results and growth in these tests and we are very proud of your achievement.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our Wakakirri team for their achievements during my absence along with all of the other special student and teacher achievements during this time.

There are six highlights for Term 4 that I want to share with the school community.

In the second last week of school, we will be holding our Christmas Concert. This will be a great opportunity for all students to sing a couple of special Christmas songs as we celebrate this wonderful time with our families during the cool of an evening at school. We held a very successful event last year and the P&C and school have been working on several improvements ready for this year to make the event even better.

Swimming is commencing soon. Depending on the year level, students will be able to participate in learning to swim, swimming practice and separate swimming carnival also close to the end of the school year. Please check the firm close off dates for these events for registration and payment. Late payments can not be accepted.

Students will be receiving their end of year student reports at the end of this term. I have let students know today that they can really change the rating you receive in those reports through their schoolwork and assessment that is ahead of them. As students progress through the school, they become better at setting and achieving goals in their learning.

This continues to be a historical year at this school as we continue the transition around Year 7 in Queensland. This has meant things will be a little different in several ways during this term. We have Year 6 and Year 7 students leaving this Saturday on the traditional Coomera Sydney/Canberra Trip. We know and expect an amazing trip and a very special time for these students.

With both Year 6 and 7 year levels finishing primary at the same time this year, there will be a double set of special end of year events that will occur. This will be a special time and students need to be really clear on the expectations that they will be expected to live up to as part of these remarkable transition events.

Very soon, we will be commencing the leadership process with our current Year 5 students. Our Year 5s have stepped up extremely well to be ready for student leadership as Year 6 Seniors at Coomera in 2015.

A lot of forward planning has gone into getting things right for this year. For us, it will be an extra busy time this term as we get ready to farewell two year levels at the end of this year. We have wanted students to know that whether they are in Year 5, Year 6 or Year 7 this year, they are part of history and can look back later at a special time in Queensland education.

I am really pleased with the on-going work of teachers in ensuring that learning continues to be the best possible. Teachers have spent some time looking at other classrooms at other schools as part of our continual work on literacy and numeracy. We know that these young people will live in extraordinary times. In order to be fully prepared for living and working in this century ahead, young people will need high levels of literacy and numeracy along with many social and team skills within a well-rounded education. I continue to be excited with the work occurring in classrooms here at Coomera.

Have a great week,
Chris McMillan
Principal
Scooters at School

Many of our students bring their scooters to school with them. Often this is because they either ride to and from school or choose to play at the Skate Park. Please remember two important points about scooters at school.

1. Our staff do not supervise the skate park before or after school. In the interest of safety and attendance, students are encouraged to come straight to school in the morning and go straight home in the afternoon.

2. We do not have secure storage for scooters. Students are encouraged to lock their property at the bike racks.

If your child brings a scooter to school, please take some time to ensure they are doing so safely and are ensuring their property is secure.

Term 4 Events

Our first week back for term 4 was extremely productive. Students arrived fresh from the school holidays and have quickly engaged in their lessons, setting the high standard we expect from Coomera students. The following events are scheduled for Term 4:

- Wednesday 15 October at 2.10pm – Beginning of Term Assembly
- Saturday 18 October – Sunday 26 October – Year 6/7 Sydney / Canberra Trip
- Monday-Wednesday 10-12 November at 2.10pm – Mid-term Assemblies
- Monday 24 November – Thursday 4 December – Swimming program
- Thursday 4 December at 6pm – Carols Night
- Friday 5 December – Swim Fun Day
- Monday 8 December – Year 6/7 Farewell Ceremony
- Thursday 11 December – Reward Day

Social Skill Focus – Tidying Up

This week we are focusing on the social skill of ‘Tidying Up’. This social skill encompasses:

- Ensuring that your work area is neat and that you are ready to learn;
- The ability to sustain a neat environment;
- The confidence to help others in the classroom.

We are reminding children to:

- Be proud of your work and learning area.
- Do what you believe is right for your class.
- Respect other people’s work and learning areas.

Student Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following classes and students who have received awards in Weeks 10 & 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Weeks 10 &amp; 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Jimmy G &amp; Shayne H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PB</td>
<td>Riley E &amp; Hunter H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Tyson E, Jah L &amp; ‘Ana T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Office News

Confirmation of Enrolment

We currently have a lot of confirmation of enrolment forms that have not been returned. If you still have your form at home, please complete and send it in as soon as possible. We have blank forms in the office, and a link for one below, if by chance you have mislaid yours.

Payments Due

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity for Payment</th>
<th>Amount Due</th>
<th>Last Day for Payment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Lessons</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 November</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1-5</td>
<td>$56.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment Deadlines

Please be aware that payment deadlines will be strictly adhered to. This also applies if your child is sick or absent on the final day of payment. If you are unable to utilise the finance window on the last day of payment, you can still pay by the deadline via the following options:

- Provision of the printed acknowledgement page / remittance advice, with the date and time of the transfer, from your internet banking;
- Phoning the office and paying over the phone with credit card details.

If you are requiring an extension, please contact the office prior to payment deadline. Any payments received after the deadline, and do not have an approved extension granted by the office, will not be processed and will be returned home with your child. If payment has been made by EFT, a parent will be contacted to organise either a credit on your child’s account or a parent refund. Please be aware that parent refunds can take several weeks to process.

Finance Window

Just a reminder that the finance window is closed during the last week of term for administration purposes. However payments can still be made via internet banking.

Student Absence Notification

In the event of your child being absent from school, please notify us by:

- Phoning the student absence line at any time on 5519 6360
- Emailing: StudentAbsences@coomerass.eq.edu.au
- Sending a note in with your child on the day he/she returns to school
- Seeing the class teacher or office staff member in person

Loading Zone for Drop-off and Pick-up of Children

We have at the immediate front of the school (Dreamworld Parkway) a designated Loading Zone for the purpose of dropping off and collecting children. This has been provided to assist families with a quick and easy option to deliver and collect children from the school. This area is the zone which
runs parallel to the school fence and is clearly marked with special parking restrictions. The way that this operates is that people drive up to the front of the zone where they can drop off or collect children without stopping or getting out of your vehicle. This area is assisted by school staff in the afternoon who will call out your family name to bring your children to your car. Please note that you should not park or leave your vehicle in this area. It will be patrolled by officers from the QPS.

Families who wish to use this area can assist by having their family surname marked on a card placed in a conspicuous place in front of the driver so that our staff can read and announce the name.

Parking Around the School

We have received a complaint from Surfside Buslines that parents are parking in the bus zone. We have been politely reminded to please keep this zone free from vehicles at all times.

Please note that there are parking restrictions denoted around the school through signage and also road markings. Families are advised to be very aware of these restrictions as this area is also regularly patrolled by the QPS in order to maintain road safety around the school. Our advice for good parking is to look for quieter parking spots further away from the school as there is easy access into the school along Dreamworld Parkway, Yaun Street, Beattie Road and Lorenzo Drive via an easement. The other option is to use the Loading Zone, as mentioned.

Please note that the QPS provides school patrols in the interest of the safety of children. You will find that ignorance of the signs or the fact that other drivers park in a certain place are not going to get you off a possible infringement notice. This is an unfortunate lesson learnt from others in the past. The other possible painful lesson to be aware of is that the fines around a school zone can be quite steep. The school seeks to have no families fined through making you aware of the existence of parking restrictions and patrols. The rest is up to you as a driver. Thank you for your assistance with this important safety consideration.

Student Council News

Indigenous Literacy Day/The Great Book Swap

Our Student Council is holding a reading activity for the term, which is to be held on Indigenous Literacy Day (ILD), Thursday 30 October 2014. This charity event is being held for the first time at CSS to help raise funds to assist in raising literacy levels and improving the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions. We need your support to help raise funds to buy books and literacy resources for children in these communities.

Indigenous Literacy Day aims to help raise funds to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions. We need your support to help raise funds to buy books and literacy resources for children in these communities.

The Great Book Swap challenge is a fundraising event where students make a gold coin donation and swap books with one another. Staff, parents and students will be asked to bring a book from home that they have really enjoyed but can bear to part with. Ideally books should be not just an unwanted item but a book that they think someone else would enjoy as much as they did. They may wish to record why they cherish the book on a GBS Book Plate that can be included with the book.

On the swap day the books brought by participants will be displayed on a ‘shop’ table. Participating students will be asked to donate a gold coin in exchange for the right to choose a book. Money raised will be donated to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

Joanne Sharpe and Rana Jackson - Student Council

School Banking Competition

Rewarding regular savings with precious prizes.

The Colleagues has uncovered the ancient Claws of Fortune. Inside they found these amazing prizes that you could win a share of:

- 40 x GoPro HERO3 White Edition Cameras
- 150 x Slip 'N Slide Double Wave Riders

Here’s how to win

Every deposit you make with School Banking will automatically enter you into the competition. The more you save, the more chances you have to win up to a maximum of 2 prizes. Competition runs 20 October – 16 November 2014.

To find out more, visit commbank.com.au/deeppassavers

Congratulations to the following winners of our read-a-thon;
Well done to those students that took part there were some great times being read. We hope to make this event bigger and better next year.

**Tuckshop**

If you order through Flexi schools, can you please make sure that your children are aware they are having tuckshop ordered, and which break it is for. There are many children that are confused whether they are having tuckshop and which break it is for.

We are also still in urgent need for volunteers in the tuckshop, whether you can give a whole day or an hour, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nicki in the Tuckshop on 5519 6317 if you are able to help.

Menus are available from the tuckshop, front office and also on our school website.

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours**

The Uniform Shop operating hours will be as follows:

- Monday: 8.30am – 9.15am
- Wednesday: 8.30am – 9.15am
- Friday: 8.30am – 9.15am

Please be aware that the Uniform Shop is operated by volunteers and therefore is subject to differing operating hours due to the availability of our volunteers.

The uniform shop has been made available to purchase from on FlexiSchools.

Go to: www.flexischools.com.au

You can select to have your items sent home via your child’s class or you can pick up from the shop during opening hours.

**Homework/Library Bags**

Please note that these are now available for purchase from the Uniform Shop and will not be available from the finance window.

The Homework/Library Bags remain at the same purchase price of $10 each.

**Volunteers Needed Urgently!**

We urgently require volunteers to help in the Uniform Shop and Tuckshop. If you are able to assist please drop by the Tuckshop to pass on your details.

**Helping Hands News**

**New Co-Ordinator**

Helping Hands Coomera has a new Co-ordinator... so why not pop on in and say hello. My name is Miss Rikkie-Lee, I am a Qualified Teacher who has a passion for working with children.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks here at Helping Hands and I look forward to getting to know the children and families that utilise the before and after school care, vacation care and pupil free day sessions at Coomera State School.

In consultation with the children who currently utilise the service and the fantastic team here at HHC we have implemented some great improvements within our service and this is having positive impacts for the children, families and carers. If you have any further suggestions or feedback, please feel free to come and see me during our service hours.

Helping hands still has vacancies for both before and after school care, so if you need ongoing or casual use of our services, please do not hesitate to give us a call on 0459 990 651!

*Thank you,*

**Miss Rikkie-Lee**

**Helping Hands Coordinator.**

**Helping Hands Mad Scientist**

If you’re looking for some fun science experiments for kids then you’ve come to the right place. This program is full of fascinating hands-on experiments that are a great way to enjoy the world of science. This fantastic program is available to all the children at Coomera.

On this extraordinary 5 week science journey, children will have the opportunity to engage in messy, gooey, bouncy, exploding and interactive science fun with the Mad Scientist, including experiments such as elephant toothpaste, slime, egg drop and balloon powered cars! The program will look at chemistry, energy, biology, movement and the world around us.

Over a 5 week program, you will be guided by our scientist to learn some fun and exciting experiments!

For more information or to book onto this exciting 5 week program please contact Helping Hands Coomera on 0459 990 651 or email coomera@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au

Booking forms will also be available from the school office and Helping Hands Coomera service.

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**1st Prize – Zaina Ilyas – 5B**
**2nd Prize – Makayla-Grace Jonsson – 5C**
**3rd Prize – Erin Woodcock – 7A**
**Class Prize – 5B**
Free Playgroup – Save the Children Australia – Mobile Playschool

Free Playgroup for children 0 to 5, their parents and other carers. Come and join in with some of the free play, structured activities, craft, singing, stories, a healthy afternoon snack and lots of fun.

Every Monday morning between 9-11am during the school term at Dreamworld Parkway (near the scout hall).

For further information, please contact Romy (0411 869 131) or Raven (0438 202 058).