I want to focus this week on the two different ends of the school.

Our Prep students come to school with an expectation that they will learn; they have so much enthusiasm and believe that they can do anything. This is the wonder of Prep students and we work on helping them to achieve all of this. These children can learn anything and achieve anything given sufficient time, opportunity and persistence. Our Prep students are certainly on track in learning the essential skill of reading.

These children are learning and unlocking the mystery of text on the way to learning to read. The combination of sounds to making up a word that we hear and say and then the written version of these sounds unlock the world of literacy for these amazing young people. At Coomera, our teachers do teach Phonological Awareness and they do teach Phonics in a way that works best for children to learn. Our teachers use the most-proven current methods to assist children to learn to read. I commend the incredible work of the teachers and teacher aides along with the Prep parents for the early promising progress in learning for our 116 Prep students. Not bad for a few weeks at school!

At the other end of the school, our Year 6 student leaders spent last week at a leadership camp at Tamborine. These students were working as teams to solve problems and come up with creative solutions. They worked hard as a team, learnt a lot about themselves and grew as young leaders. It was challenging and there were periods of frustration that they had to deal with, but they succeeded on challenges that are used in the corporate world to build executive capacity. I congratulate our school leaders for their work so far on their leadership.

Learning to read and learning to work in collaborative teams are two of the many life skills that these young people will need to succeed in the world that they will inherit. I suspect that these people will inherit problems to solve and opportunities to create in more sophisticated and effective ways. This will take many skills and the power of working together in teams.

As I think about this, I note that we are so privileged to see so much growth from these young people during their seven years at primary school. We seek to work with our families to ensure that every single student gets as much out of these years as they possibly can. We are creating a great future for these young people.

**Meet the Teacher**

Thank you to the many families who came along to school last week to attend ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions. We have a really great group of families who are totally engaged and supportive of the work that occurs at school with their children. We certainly want to reach more families in whatever ways that we can as we know that this level of engagement really makes a profound difference to the success of the children at school.

We are looking at any ways that we can change events such as ‘Meet the Teacher’, our communication, the information and format in order to better reach all families at the school.

**P&C AGM Rescheduled**

The P&C Annual General Meeting has to be rescheduled as the first meeting fell short of the required quorum of attendees. We understand that not every person who comes along to a meeting wants to have an executive position. We do need interested parents to attend to the re-scheduled meeting to become ‘committee members’ and get involved at that level.
Please consider coming along to find out what happens, support the work of the P&C and in turn, your children.

Summer in Queensland

We are continuing to enjoy some warm to hot summer days. Please remember that we are one of a very few ‘fully air-conditioned’ schools in this area of the state. Children have play options under cover and in air conditioned areas during the heat to assist during this warmer period.

It continues to be an amazing privilege to report on the great progress that is occurring at school for students.

Have a great week!

Kind regards,

Chris McMillan | Principal
Coomera State School | South East Region

We believe in exceptional learning. Every student. Every day.

EXPRESSSION OF INTEREST

Casual and Relief Teacher Aides – Coomera State School

During the school year, additional funding becomes available for short term, casual and relief employment.

Coomera State School is seeking expressions of interest for Teacher Aides wishing to work with students across all sectors of the school. (e.g. Intervention programs, Special Education, Behaviour, Prep)

Please forward your Resume/CV outlining your experience and availability in no more than two (2) A4 pages to: bsm@coomerass.eq.edu.au together with two (2) professional referees

Applications must be received by COB Monday 22 February 2016.

Note: Applications will be retained for a period of 12 months.

Office News

Library Bag Orders from OfficeMax

If you have ordered a library bag for your child through OfficeMax, these have been delivered to their classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your OfficeMax stationery orders please contact them directly on 1800 004 427.

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.

Sports News

AFL Sports Education Program

On Friday 12th February excitement soon spread in PE classes when some of the elite players from the “Gold Coast Suns
Team” like Jarrod Harbrow, Tom Lynch, Aaron Hall and Mitch Hallahan visited our school.

They were involved in a special “Meet and Greet” session as part of the AFL Sports Education Program currently running at our school. Many students had the opportunity to practice various AFL skills with them as well as collecting autographs and chatting one on one to these players. Our students are to be commended, as they were impressive both on and off the field practicing ball skills during PE class and showing a keen and polite manner while queuing and talking with players. Thank you to AFL staff for making this visit a memorable sporting experience for our students.

Coming up soon for all ages is the AFL “Auskick program “ which will be held at the local Coomera Magpies oval on Beattie Road, Coomera over 8 weeks. Interested students please see Mrs Felton for more information.

P&C News

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 Helen 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.

Student Banking

Banking has resumed for 2016, with student banking days every Thursday during the term.

Our account opening session isn’t until Thursday 17 March (week 8) so anyone wanting to open an account before this date can do so at your nearest Commonwealth Bank branch.

School Hats

Just letting parents know that school hats are also available to purchase from the Tuckshop during operating hours if you are not able to make it to the Uniform Shop during their operating hours (stated below).

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

The Uniform Shop operating hours for 2016 will be as follows:

- Monday: 8.15am – 9.15am
- Wednesday: 8.15am – 9.15am

- Friday: 8.15am – 9.15am

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

Go to:

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.

Community News

BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY MESSAGE

‘The Gold Coast Road policing Unit are seeking your help in again highlighting the following issues and complaints that we get each year. We like to see everyone safe in and around our schools and if parents could take note of the following and adhere to the road rules we can create a safe environment for all. We understand that this time of year sees new school children arriving at most schools and this is often an exciting and stressful time for both parents and students. Remember that by not adhering to the road rules you are placing both your own children and the children of others at risk of injury or worse.

1. Speed Limits. By now hopefully all parents are aware of the 40km/h speed limits during school times. Fines for exceeding the speed limit are as follows:

Exceed speed limit in school zone by;

- less than 13km/h $157 - 1 Point
- at least 13km/h but not more than 20km/h $235 - 3 Points
- more than 20km/h but not more than 30km/h $392 - 4 Points
- more than 30km/h but not more than 40km/h $549 - 6 Points
- more than 40km/h $1,099 - 8 Points

2. Illegal parking. The most common parking complaints and offences

- Stop on children’s crossing $47
- Stop within 20m before or 10m after children’s crossing $47
- Stop contrary to ‘NO STOPPING’ sign $47
- Stop contrary to ‘NO PARKING’ sign $47
- Stop contrary to continuous yellow edge line $47
- Stop unauthorised vehicle in bus zone $47
- Double park $47
- Stop across footpath $47
- Stop across driveway $47

3. Crossing

- Fail to stop at children’s crossing when ‘STOP’ sign displayed $353 - 3 Points

4. General Road Rules

- Driver fail to wear seatbelt $353 – 3 Points
5. For those that have students driving to school

- Driver drive with unrestrained passenger 16 years old or older $353 - 3 Points
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger < 6 mths old unrestrained $353 - 3 Points
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 6 mths old but < 4 yrs unrestrained $353 - 3 Points
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 4 yrs old but < 7 yrs unrestrained $353 - 3 Points
- Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger < 4 yrs in front Row $353 - 3 Points
- Drive motor vehicle with more than one row of seats while passenger aged 4 years to < 7 yrs in front row and other seats not occupied by children aged < 7yrs $353 - 3 Points
- Drive motor vehicle while passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs unrestrained $353 - 3 Points
- Drive vehicle with passenger at least 7 yrs but < 16 yrs in same seat position as another passenger $353 - 3 Points
- Driver use hand-held mobile phone $353 – 3 points

Thanks again for your assistance in creating a safe road environment in and around schools and the Gold Coast in general

PARENTING COURSE

**Bringing Up Great Kids With ASD**

A tailor-made course for families with children with autism

**PARENTING COURSE**

**Weekly for 6 weeks Term 1 2016: Wednesdays 17 February to 23 March**

**Time:** 9.30am to 12 noon

Coomera Family Central, 3 Jowett St Coomera

No cost

**Bookings/Enquiries:**

55194129 or 55029797

or familyresourcing@fsg.org.au

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**SAND SAFARI IN SURFERS PARADISE**

Beginning this weekend in Surfers Paradise is our fifth annual Sand Safari event, on Feb 5-28. This year we have evolved the event to now encompass a whole range of art elements inspired by sand & sea. There’ll be giant inflatable art installations, mural art, and pop-up art galleries. Plus, returning from February 12 is everyone’s favourite sand event, the 2016 Australian Sand Sculpting Championships where this year we are bring DreamWorks Heroes to Surfers Paradise, with your favourite friends carved in 10 tonnes of sand.

It would be great if you could please put up some posters around the school, or include the event as a listing in your school newsletter over the coming weeks (event summary attached for you to use). Please let me know if you can help us out. We kindly request copies of any newsletter inclusions.

For more information, visit our website

http://www.surfersparadise.com/whats-on/free-events/sand-safari

**YOUR INVITATION**

We invite you and your students to come and check out our Sand Safari pop-up art galleries (at The 4217 and Soul Boardwalk) from Feb 5-28. These galleries include Sand & Sea photos from professionals, amateurs, and artworks from students of Surfers Paradise State Primary. Our partners at The 4217 have kindly offered some great Sand Safari deals for all those who visit the Sand Safari gallery – see attached flyer. Simply print out the flyer and bring with you to redeem!
SIB AND FRIEND – DRUMBEAT. FOR CHILDREN AGED 9-12 YEARS

Do you have a brother or sister who has a disability? This is a special 10 week program (across 2 terms) for you and one of your friends. Yes, you get to bring a friend!

Drumbeat is an evidence-based program using djembe drums to create music, rhythm and movement, helping children to:

- Explore relationship issues such as peer pressure, family relationships, bullying, identity, dealing with emotions and teamwork
- Meet other children
- Learn to drum!
- Great for kids who may be anxious and not enjoy ‘talk-based’ activities
- And much, much more

A combined program for girls and boys. If there is sufficient demand a second program will be offered.

Program Cost: $30 total per young person attending, payable in advance.

Enquiries and expressions of interest: Monique Galvin or Julie Cox 55194129 / 55029797 or familyresourcing@fsg.org.au

Our thanks to Wesley Mission Brisbane and Communities for Children Northern Gold Coast for the opportunity to present these activities.

Limited spaces - Bookings Essential
Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6 students,

At Helensvale State High School, we pride ourselves on our ability to cater to ‘One Student’ through our Academy programs: EXOCTE: Academy, Japanese Academy, Sports Academy and Arts Academy, previously known as our Excellence Programs. It is through these programs that we aim to fostered a large number of our students work towards constant improvement in their chosen field, whether it be football, drama, Japanese, or EXOCTE. We would like to provide you with the key dates that you will need to be aware of if your child is planning on applying for a position in one of our Academy programs.

Please take particular note of our Information Evening and the date for close of applications.

Should you have any questions regarding these dates, please contact our Enrolment Officer, Chloe Gamman, on 5513 8300.

Kind regards,

Hodli Boudi
Deputy Principal (Junior Secondary)

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<th>Term One</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Monday 22 February, 2016 6 - 7pm</td>
<td>Parent General Enrolment and Academy Information Evening</td>
<td>Indispensable State High Student Activity Centre (SHSAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 23 February, 2016</td>
<td>Academy Applications Open EXOCTE, JAPAN, Spoken Japanese (JAPAN)</td>
<td>Submitted to SHSAC Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Thursday 10 March 12 noon</td>
<td>Academy Applications Close</td>
<td>Submitted to SHSAC Administration</td>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Saturday 13 March, 2016 9:30</td>
<td>EXOCTE Academy Entrance Exam Japanese Academy Entrance Exam</td>
<td>Discovery Place</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Week Beginning 14 March, 2016 After school</td>
<td>Academy Trials EXOCTE: The Arts (Monday/Tuesday) Sport (Wednesday/Thursday)</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Friday 15 April, 2016</td>
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