Sanson’s Slate

Guten Tag! I trust that this newsletter finds you well and that you are well rested after an enjoyable weekend. We are now on the cusp of the halfway point of this term. Teaching, Learning and Assessment cycles are nearing an end so that another may commence going into the remainder of the term.

NAPLAN 2016

The NAPLAN assessments have come and passed for another year. As a school we are very much looking forward to the results of the tests and using these results to continue to improve teaching and learning for each student in our care. As I explained at our last P&C Meeting, A-E curriculum assessment provides a beam of assessment that targets a few curriculum descriptors whereas NAPLAN provides a floodlight of feedback on student achievement against a vast array of literacy and numeracy imperatives, giving teachers a wider range of student achievement data with which to individually tailor the curriculum and its implementation. I would like to thank the parents and carers of the Denison State School community for ensuring that we had a 0% withdrawal rate for the Year 3 and Year 5 tests. Thanks must also go to our staff for providing a calm, supportive and organised environment in which our children could undertake the testing as well as preparing breakfast each morning.

Teaching & Learning

As you are well aware your children are beginning to complete a variety of curriculum and diagnostics assessments. Previously I have spoken about the importance of attendance in empowering students to ensure they are learning the curriculum and as a result, able to complete their assessments with confidence. I always like to use the analogy of the brick wall. If we consider every day of education is like a brick in a wall and we start building a wall with a brick each day beginning with Prep. Consider what would happen to the wall if we missed 16 bricks out of 50 in a term. It means that our wall is only at 68% of its potential strength.

Prep Enrolments for 2017

Up to and following our recent Kindy Excursion to the school in Week 2 we have had many enquiries and enrolments from prospective parents wanting to enrol their child into Prep for 2017. We are continuing to take enrolments and places are filling quickly. If you have a child born between 1st July 2011 and 30th June 2012 and have not yet completed an enrolment application then please contact the school office for an enrolment pack and secure your place for Prep at Denison State School in 2017.

Year 5 Maths Problem

Late last week students from our Year 5B class gave me the following problem to solve. I am happy to say (as I wipe the sweat from my brow) that I solved the problem successfully. I would like you to have a crack at solving it. Remember to ‘Believe in Yourself’.

Three squirrels had a pile of collected nuts. One squirrel got worried that he wouldn’t get his fair share so he shared the pile into three equal piles, took one pile and combined the rest into one big pile. Later another squirrel did the same, followed by the third squirrel later that day. There were 8 nuts left over. How many nuts were there to begin with?

Have a great week!

Troy Sanson
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Attendance

Please see below the attendance data for this fortnight. Congratulations to both Grade 2 and Grade 4 on having an increase in your attendance data! This means that you are thriving to give yourself every opportunity to improve your learning!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Attendance % Week 3</th>
<th>Attendance % Week 5</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>93.8%</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
<td>Increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
<td>Decrease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAPLAN

Congratulations and well done to all students who participated in NAPLAN last week. From walking around the classrooms, I observed students who were trying their best and giving every question a go! All students should be very proud of their efforts. Well Done! Thank you to all staff who volunteered their time to serve Breakfast Club last week during NAPLAN. All students thoroughly enjoyed the toast, juice and milk and the Sausage Sizzle on Thursday morning! Thank you Mr Sanson for organising the supplies!

Denison State School Facebook Page

Denison State School has a Facebook Page that we update regularly with photos, important information and upcoming events. Please like our page so that you are kept fully informed about the happenings of Denison! Currently we have 315 likes on our page. Let’s see if we can get to 500!

A Focus on Maths!

On our Facebook page last week, we placed a maths problem for people to solve. Mathematics is an Explicit Improvement focus at Denison State School. Our students are busy solving maths problems on a daily basis. I visited 5B last week to see if they could assist me in solving the problem below.

Here is a response from one of the students: Tommy G- I knew that the apples must be 10 because 30 + 2 = 10. The bananas were 1 each because there were 4 in each bunch meaning 10 + 4 + 4 = 18. We know that the bunch of bananas is 4 and 4 – 2 = 2 so the coconut is equal to 2. The last line has only got half a coconut so is equal to 1 + 10 + 3 bananas = 14.

Some students got the answer 16 to begin with but quickly found their mistake by looking at the half coconut and smaller bunch of bananas. There was great justification and conversations between pairs while answering this question. Great job 5B!

Date Claimers

- May 20th: Prep A Parade Performance
- June 1st: Emerald Show Holiday
- June 3rd: Arts Council—Cyberwiser
- June 9th: Prep to 3 Athletics 9am to 11am
- June 9th: Year 4 to 6 Jump and Throw afternoon
- June 10th: Year 4 to 6 Athletics Track Day
- June 16th: Year 3 Sleepover
- Aug 27th: Multicultural Festival Dance Performance
**Year 1**

We are now in week 6 of the term and it sure is flying by! Student assessment has begun so please make sure your child is coming to school well rested and with breakfast in their belly. If students have not returned their portfolios please make sure this is done within the next few weeks. RE is beginning this Thursday so make sure students have returned their pink forms to the office. 1B is on the search for more parent helpers between doors opening and 9:00am. If you are available please come in and lend a hand to help practice sight words (even if it’s just for a few days per term)!

*Regards, Miss Amanda Poolman, Mrs Shona Shaw and Miss Rachael Tulloch*

**Year 2**

Wonderful Week 6! Firstly, the grade 2 teachers would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort students put in when completing practise NAPLAN last week, we were all very proud of them. We continue assessment this week as students start to write their character descriptions. We can’t wait to read how Ariel is turned into a non-stereotypical princess. In Maths, our focus is still on time. Don’t forget to be encouraging students to be reading the clocks at home, they should confidently know ‘o’clock’ and ‘half-past’ and are currently learning ‘quarter to’ and ‘quarter past’ on an analogue clock, digital clock and in words. We ask that you please continue to send in bottle caps/lids with holes already put through the middle ready for our Science assessment, we shall start building our ‘push or pull’ toys very shortly.

*Regards, Miss Simone Bourne & Miss Lauren Laws*

**Year 3**

What a fortnight it has been!
- We’ve finished analysing Charlotte’s web and have started learning about procedural writing through a conversation with a character.
- In History we have learnt about the celebrations, Australia Day and QLD Day, and a commemoration, ANZAC Day. Still to come is Bastille Day and New Years.
- Last week students participated in NAPLAN testing. As teachers we are proud of each student for doing their best and demonstrating persistence and confidence.
- Each morning the classrooms were structured into rows and columns for NAPLAN, with equipment prepared neatly on desks. However, organised mess took over in the afternoons to create, design and construct moon buggies. We selected purposeful resources to match designs, manipulated objects, cut here and glued there. We had to make a couple of changes along the way, but that’s ok because it was part of the reflective and learning process. Overall, a great hands on experience! You never know, will one of these moon buggy designs make it to the moon to discover a new and mysterious object? Hmmm we wonder...
- Attendance has dropped in Year 3. We encourage students are here every day so they can do their job, to learn. We welcome Mrs Gobbert to 3C. She has been enthusiastic to get back into teaching after being on maternity leave. Mrs Gobbert is thrilled to have such a wonderful class and has been excited to implement engaging learning experiences.

*Regards, Mr Joel Davis, Miss Elyse Douglas, Mrs Tracy Gobbert*

**Prep**

Welcome to week 6! We have flown through the first half of this term! This week Prep A has their parade performance a note has gone home, however if you are unsure what your child needs to wear or what time they need to be at school please see Mrs Poole. As the weather is cooling down please remind children to bring their jumper to school. Jumpers can be purchased through the uniform shop otherwise a plain maroon jumper is acceptable. We ask that hooded jumpers and coloured jumpers be saved for the weekend and after school. Thank you for your support so far this year. Bring on the next 5 weeks!

*Regards, Mrs Katelyn Poole & Mrs Sam Patterson*

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**Year 5**

Hats! Hats! Hats! Hats are needed at school every day. It is coming into the cooler months of the year please ensure your child has a BLACK or MAROON jumper. Please make sure their name is on their jumper. No hoodies are allowed as per the School Uniform Policy. We smashed NAPLAN tests last week! Some students noticed that the work we just finished in Math on angles and shapes was in the Numeracy test. We are very proud of our students and the effort they put in over the 3 testing days. Payments for camp are due by FRIDAY 15TH OF JULY.

*Regards, Mrs Leigh Robinson, Miss Rachael Wedmaier and Mr Wade Thompson*

**Year 6**

A big ‘THANK YOU’ to all parents who made sure that their child was at their best this week for NAPLAN testing. Another big ‘THANK YOU’ to all parents who have sent in the Expression of Interest form for the Year 6 camp. We need to know exact numbers as we have to book the venue very soon. Also, a big ‘THANK YOU’ (can you see a pattern here?) to all parents who ensure their child attends school every day. We have a friendly competition between the year 6 classes as to which class gets a ‘Perfect Attendance’ first.

*Regards, Miss Pauline Dunn and Mrs Barbara Wade*

**Prep/1**

Wow! Week 6 is here already, how the time fly’s. We are now entering our assessment and reporting period so it is essential that your child attends every day of school possible. This will ensure a smooth and steady process for both teachers and students. As the weather has started to get a little cool the children have started wearing jumpers to school. Please make sure it complies with the uniform policy. Our uniform policy states that it must be a school jumper, purchased from the uniform shop or a plain maroon jumper.

*Regards, Miss Amanda Potter*

**Year 4**

Well done to our year 4 students who have had NAPLAN to complete on top of their regular classroom work and assessment. They all knuckled down and got on with all tasks without complaint. Our favourite activity over the last 2 weeks has been building our birdhouses. Students have been keen and engaged in this task and are producing some fantastic pieces. Science assessment has also begun, with students taking notes about an endangered animal, before converting these to sentences and putting the information into a power point which will be done at home in the coming weeks. More information will be sent home about this soon.

Our traditional tales are coming together with students writing about such traits as greed, lying and laziness. Our favourite activity over the last 2 weeks has been building our 'push or pull' toys very shortly.

*Regards, Mrs Diane Waine-Barclay, Mrs Lisa McHugh, Miss Nikita Maiden, Mrs Brooke Raine and Mrs Christine Joass*
Performing arts news

We are halfway through this term already and there is so much left to do! All students are in the middle of preparing for or completing their keyboard and music symbol, Italian word and music term assessments. Junior (Prep/1), Intermediate (2-4) and Senior (4-6) Choirs have all commenced and songs have been chosen to perform for Eisteddfod in September. Please remember that if your child would like to do a solo or duet for singing, instrumental or poetry to please come and see me for a note or from the office. All nominations and money need to be in by Thursday the 2nd of June to the office.

Eisteddfod

Dates of Solo/Duet events: Tuesday 6th and 7th September
Venue: Emerald– various venues
Transport: Own Vehicle for solo and duet events (Bus for choir and band)
Cost: Solo - $5, Duet - $10 ($5 each student)

If you are able to be a volunteer for our Eisteddfod on any of these dates, please notify me or the office. We need to have a volunteer representing Denison State School or a short time and the jobs include Door Person, Usher, MC or Scribe.

Yours in Dance and DSS talent,
Monique Podolak

Special Education News

Hello Everyone,

There is an upcoming ‘Planning for the NDIS’ Workshop being held at Borilla Kindy, with a presenter from the Parent to Parent Association Queensland. This workshop has been designed to increase readiness for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) roll out from 1st July 2016. Parents and carers are invited to attend this workshop, which will give access to the most up to date information relating to the NDIS. Registration for this workshop is required, with forms available at Denison State School or via Parent to Parent Association Queensland at 1800 777 723 or email info@parent2parentqld.org.au.

Date: 25th May 2016
Location: Borilla Kindergarten
Time: 9:30am – 2:30pm
Closing of RSVP: 20th May 2016

info@parent2parentqld.org.au.

Library News

We are very excited as this week marks the beginning of the Premier’s Reading Challenge. This is a statewide initiative for all schools and early childhood centres that commences on May 16 and ends on August 26. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage students to develop a lifelong love of reading. Through the challenge the students are encouraged to read a wide range of texts and at Denison we have a very well resourced library that provides students with a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to choose from. At the end of the challenge the students that complete the challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Premier of Queensland. For a student to successfully complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge they must read or experience the number of books as detailed in the table. Experiencing a book can include classroom or at home activities such as shared reading, listening and reading along with a book, or being read to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Number of Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 2</td>
<td>Read or experience 20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3 to Year 4</td>
<td>Read 20 books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 to Year 6</td>
<td>Read 15 books</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Denison the Premier’s Reading Challenge recording sheets are completed at school. However, if you would like your child to complete an additional sheet at home we would be very happy to supply an additional recording sheet and these sheets can be collected from the library.

Happy Reading

Deno Readers

Gum Nut           Brianna M, Lachlan B
Possum            Zachary N, Xander VW
Sunflower         Cooper G
Red Claw          Yishan G
Bearded Dragon    Amy P, Bruce G

School Banking program

Congratulations to the following students who have earned Dollarmite tokens through the School Banking program and are now ready to redeem these tokens for a fantastic reward item and receive their Certificate.

Bronze Certificate: Lane L, Cormac M
Silver Certificate: Tamara C, Indie L
Gold Certificate: Neveah D, Zane D
Outstanding Achievement: Jazmika T, Izabella T, Julian F

If you haven't already, please complete your reward card coupon and return it, along with your 10 tokens, on the next School Banking day and the item will be ordered for you.

Make Sandwiches Different Everyday

Choose your bread...
Wholemeal, wholegrain, multigrain are good choices. Also try using wholemeal pita bread to make wraps.

Choose your filling combo...
- Egg + lettuce + low fat mayonnaise
- Skinless chicken + avocado + lettuce or alfalfa
- Hummus + cucumber slices + grated carrot
- Baked beans + grated reduced fat cheese
- Tuna + corn + tomato + grated reduced fat cheese + mustard
- Roast beef/turkey + roast pumpkin + low fat cream cheese + lettuce
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

A reminder that all Fanfare notes need to be returned to the school office asap as they are now overdue. All parents are welcome to attend Fanfare at the Emerald Town hall on Monday June 6. A timetable will be published soon. Festival of Bands notes were due back by Friday May 6. All Denison SS Instrumental music students participating are in concert band 1. If your child is available for this festival I highly recommend it. It’s one of the few opportunities your child will get to work in a large ensemble with visiting industry professionals without having to travel out of town. The band was scheduled to play on parade in week 5 this term however I have rescheduled them to week 11 as we have had a lot of student absences lately. If you know your child is going to be absent from a rehearsal/ performance could you please email me asap so I can take it into consideration when planning.

Leanne Hilder ,

P and C News

Volunteers Required for Tuckshop

We are chasing some helpers to help Leanne in the tuckshop. If you can help for any amount of time it would be greatly appreciated. Please call into the tuckshop and see Leanne or call her on 49807333.

Tuckshop Roster for May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>6th Dee H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>13th Dee H &amp; Robyn M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>18th</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>20th Dee H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>24th</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>26th</td>
<td>27th Dee H &amp; Robyn M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>31st</td>
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If you are unable to attend please call Leanne on 49807333. Thank you for volunteering.

DENISON STATE SCHOOL
16 Gray Street
P.O. Box 1475
EMERALD Qld 4720
Phone: 49807 333 Fax: 49876 058
Website: www.denisonss.qld.edu.au
Awards for the week ending 6th May 2016

Prep A  Imogen A
Her fantastic writing. Imogen is using her letter knowledge to write super sentences.

Prep B  Isabella M
Your positive, “Have A Go”, attitude to all tasks within the classroom and your focus on improving the quality of the work you do. You are a “Classroom Champ!”

Prep/1C  Emma E
Being a fantastic friend. You have a delightful nature and know just what to say when someone is sad.

1A  Benjamin L
Your effort and persistence with learning your sight words. Well done!

1B  Nate W
Making good behaviour choices. Keep up the good work!

2A  Hayden J
Hayden’s fantastic organisational skills. His tidy tray is neat and he is always prepared for learning.

2B  Jasmine C
The positive attitude you have towards school; you always show respect and try hard to overcome any challenges you face. You’re a great role model!

2C  Leayana M
His very well presented topic talk. Travis spoke very clearly and knew his speech inside and out.

3A  Travis P
Amiriya’s dedication to improving towards achieving her Numeracy goal (10 less and 10 more than). You’re getting quicker.

3B  Amiriya Y
Her ability to stay on task and complete work in a timely manner.

3C  Ava S
Your continued focus and commitment to your learning. You are an exceptional role model to your peers.

4A  Jorjia W
His eagerness to begin tasks straight away and remain focused. Keep up the great effort!

4B  Tyler CD
Improved classroom behaviour and focus. Keep up the hard work and great attitude!

4C  Harrison CD
Excellent behaviour and always working to the best of his ability. Well done! Keep up the excellent work!

5A  Ethan J
Your awesome effort during problem solving. You took initiative and risks, showed perseverance and resilience when tackling Mr Sumpter’s problem.

5B  Taya B
Her fantastic effort with her health assessment. She worked well with her fellow group members in a role play about health and safety.

5C  Berrick K
His focus and brilliant justification during maths activities. Well done Berrick!

6A  Meisha G
Your amazing enthusiasm for learning and your extraordinary resilience when having minor setbacks.

6B  Molly H
You were a wizz at constructing a circuit and showed great skill in paraphrasing. Amazing work!

Awards for the week ending 14th May 2016

Prep A  Eliza M
Her whole body listening. Eliza does her best to participate in carpet activities and always remembers to put up her hand. Well done Eliza.

Prep B  Zachary N
The enthusiastic attitude you have shown to all learning tasks and your completion of all tasks on time. You are a Prep Pirate!

Prep/1C  Stephanie H
Her progress in working independently. She gets started straight away and takes pride in her work.

1A  Levi B
Consistently putting in 100% effort 100% of the time! You are a pleasure to teach.

1B  Logan CD
You trying your very best to do the right thing. Well done on putting such an enormous effort into making good choices.

2A  Jack H
Jack’s focus and effort during writing lessons. He thinks of fantastic attributes for our alternate character description!

2B  Ethan Y
Your persistence and great ideas during the stereotypical writing task this week. Awesome work!

2C  Zane B
Your consistent ability to apply the four school rules; self-responsibility, respect, safety and effort. Well done!

3A  Cormac M
Your focus and attention to detail when building your birdhouse for Technology. You are a champion!

3B  Tamati M
The motivation and enthusiasm he demonstrated when completing NAPLAN testing this week. Michael was focussed and gave everything his best shot.

3C  Loki C
His super effort building a moon buggy in Technology. You had lots of clever and original ideas.

4A  Ethan M
Your effort to complete the NAPLAN Writing Task. You concentrated, put your head down and wrote and wrote and wrote! Excellent effort Ethan!

4B  Thomas P
His awesome effort with his Technology assessment. Thomas made a creature suited for a desert environment.

4C  Harrison CD
Your cheerful attitude in class and your willingness to excel! Welcome back to 6A!

5A  Kassandra A
Your brilliant understanding of square and triangular numbers. You made the connections and provided clear and precise justification and reasoning. Well done!
Work as a polling official and make votes count

Temporary positions are available in your local area to work on election day.

Even if you haven’t worked on an election we want to hear from you. Training is provided.


We are seeking registrations for:
- polling officials 7am until finish of counting
- polling officials to work at early voting centres (prior to polling day where applicable)

If you are interested please register online at the above website and contact our office on 4976 9011.