TERM 1 WEEK 9
FROM THE PRINCIPALS

NUMERACY PROJECT
This week on Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 we will have 3 teachers (Lee Williams, Jenny Cork and Annette Chappell) departing to travel to Rockhampton to attend the Numeracy Project on Wednesday.

TRS (Teacher Relief) will be provided for 2 hours on Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday. The following teachers will be relieving the classes on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Please make them feel welcome to our school and your child’s class.
Ms Teegan Kelly – Year 2/3
Mrs Lisa Neilson – Year 3/4
Ms Roanna Watson – Year 5/6

BULLYING
Last week we included in the newsletter some information about bullying. This week further information will be sent home.

However, I just want to stress the importance in advocating and supporting your child when they come home and discuss an issue from school.

Bullying is complex. Approaches to bullying need to include relationship and social solutions at the whole-school, class and student level, and on occasion, at the family and community level. Although bullying may stop in the short-term after a ‘get tough on bullying’ approach, unless the relationship and social factors are addressed, it is very likely to reoccur, take another form, or just become hidden (or covert).

What can parents do if bullying happens?
There are five key steps for parents if their child tells them they have been bullied:
1. listen carefully to what your child wants to say
2. reassure your child that they are not to blame and ask open and empathetic questions to find out more details
3. ask your child what they want to do and what they want you to do
4. discuss with your child some sensible strategies to handle the bullying – starting a fight is not sensible
5. contact the school

The Bullying. No Way! website provides information about various strategies. These can be tried to avoid physical bullying situations:
1. **avoid areas** which allow the bullying students to avoid detection by teachers
2. **stay with other students**
3. **talk** to a trusted adult at school or home

The Bullying. No Way! website provides information about various strategies. These can be tried if the child feels safe:

1. **walk away**
2. try to **act unaffected** or unimpressed
3. try to **deflect** the bullying behaviour (e.g. pretending to agree in an offhand way ‘okay, yeah, maybe’)
4. say ’No!’ or ‘Stop it!’ firmly
5. **talk** to a trusted adult at the school or at home

Strategies not recommended for dealing with bullying include:
- fighting back
- bullying the person who has bullied them
- remaining silent about the problem.

The Bullying. No Way! website provides information about things to do. If a parent suspects their child has been bullying others, they can talk to their child about:
- why they have been behaving this way
- taking responsibility for their behaviour
- how to sort out differences and resolve conflicts
- how to treat others with respect
- the effect of bullying behaviour on others
- the need to repair harm they have caused to others
- the need to restore relationships.

Parents may also like to talk to their child’s school to come up with a plan to help their child learn more appropriate ways to behave.

Most schools have a written policy about how they manage student behaviour, including bullying. Schools will consider your child’s circumstances and will develop the most appropriate strategies for them. These strategies could include:
- teaching and learning programs to develop students’ communication, social, assertiveness and coping skills
- changes to the school environment such as redesigning the playground
- increasing teachers’ supervision of students at particular times or places
- support from a school counsellor, psychologist or guidance officer
- mediation for the students involved with a trained teacher to resolve their problem
- changes to technology access at school
- timetable or class changes (that may be temporary or permanent) to decrease the contact the students have with each other
- disciplinary action for students who continue to bully others despite the efforts of the school to promote appropriate behaviour.

The school may develop an action plan for your child and any other children involved. Strategies you could use at home may also be included in this plan.

**What can students do if bullying happens?**
If you are being bullied, and you feel safe to do so:
- say ’No!’ or ‘Stop it!’ firmly
- **walk away**
- try to **act unaffected** or ignore the person
- **talk** to a trusted adult at the school or at home
- **ask friends, parents or teachers for their help** to deal with the issue safely.

Having the courage to talk to someone is important if you are being bullied. Sometimes, just telling the bully to stop can be effective. If that doesn’t work ask friends, parents or teachers for their help to deal with the issue safely.

The Bullying. No Way! website provides information about things to do. If you see someone else being bullied, and feel safe to do so, you can:
- refuse to join in
- not watch
- tell the person doing the bullying to stop
- tell the person doing the bullying that you will talk to a teacher
- say something supportive to the person who is being bullied or invite them to join your group
- say to the person being bullied that the other person’s behaviour is not okay.

However, most importantly, report to someone. The school can’t do anything about it if they don’t know what is happening. If your child says that they are telling the teacher and nothing is happening, have a conversation with the class teacher to alert them or touch base as many things may already have been put in place to support your child. If you are unhappy with the class teacher’s response, please contact the office to make an appointment. Please don’t take this issue up with the first person that answers the phone call as this isn’t productive! Ask to speak to the Principal and if unavailable, ask for them to phone you back with a time to discuss a potential bullying or (playground or classroom) issue.

**Review - What is bullying?**
Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more...
persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious or hidden.

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Single incidents and conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved.

Bullying can happen:

- face-to-face (e.g. pushing, tripping, name-calling)
- at a distance (e.g. spreading rumours, excluding someone)
- through information and communications technologies (e.g. use of SMS, email, chat rooms).

Identifying bullying can sometimes be difficult. Bullying is often conducted out of sight of teachers and children may be reluctant to report bullying.

**REBEKKAH’S DEPARTURE**

As you will be aware after reading the letter sent home in last week’s newsletter, I will be leaving Seaforth on the 22nd May 2015 to take on the Acting Principal role at Bucasia State School until October and then permanently relocate to the Deputy Principal role at Bucasia. I understand this was a little bit of a shock to many people and am happy that people are talking to me again!

My position at Seaforth has officially been identified as vacant and Central Office (Brisbane) will process the paperwork in the coming week. In the last week of term 1, we will be notified if the position will be filled through:

1. Relocation or
2. Merit/Selection Recruitment

The position will be permanently filled and the new Principal will be appointed beginning work on Monday 13th July 2015.

There will be 4 school weeks from the time I depart until the end of Semester 1. I would like to see the school staff remain as stable as possible with my departure and the Year 5/6 class continue the last 4 weeks with Mrs Chappell and Ms Watson. This decision will be finalised in the coming weeks and Regional Office will notify us with further details. I have had a number of discussions with Senior HR officers and Alan Whitfield who is my Assistant Regional Director.

Mrs Chappell is only contract to our school to cover Mrs Atkins for Semester 1. Mrs Chappell will be on Long Service Leave for the first 5 weeks of Semester 2 and her return to Seaforth will depend on the process listed above.

**Upcoming events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>24/3/2015</td>
<td>Roanna Watson on Year 5/6 class as a swap for 27/3/2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24/3/2015</td>
<td>3 staff leaving at 12:30 to travel to Rockhampton – TRS provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>25/3/2015</td>
<td>Jenny Cork, Lee Williams &amp; Annette Chappell attending Numeracy Project in Rockhampton. TRS provided</td>
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<td>25/3/2015</td>
<td>P&amp;C AGM &amp; General Meeting</td>
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<td>26/3/2015</td>
<td>Take the Lead Group of aspiring Principals will be visiting Seaforth for the day.</td>
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<td>30/3/2015</td>
<td>Rebekkah at PD – Developing a Classroom Observation and Feedback Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>31/3/2015</td>
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<td>1/4/2015</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade – Kindy – Year 2 from 9am</td>
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<td>1/4/2015</td>
<td>Alan Whitfield (ARD) @ Seaforth – 8 – 10:30am</td>
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<td>2/4/2015</td>
<td>Seaforth School Cross Country 9am start</td>
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<td>3/4/2015</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>20/4/2015</td>
<td>Term 2 Week 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>22/4/2015</td>
<td>Northern Highway Cross Country Trials @ Seaforth 9am start – selected students only (9 years +)</td>
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<td>23/4/2015</td>
<td>ANZAC Day Captains rehearsal @ Seaforth Town Square</td>
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<td>25/4/2015</td>
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<td>30/4/2015</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
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<td>12/5/2015</td>
<td>NAPLAN – Language Conventions &amp; Writing</td>
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<td>13/5/2015</td>
<td>NAPLAN - Reading</td>
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<td>14/5/2015</td>
<td>NAPLAN - Numeracy</td>
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**MARK SVENDSEN WRITING WORKSHOPS**

Last week 6 students from Year 3/4 travelled to Hampden to participate in a Writing workshop by renowned Yeppoon author Mark Svendsen. The students were able to see how an author starts the writing process directly from the action with a ‘Show Don’t Tell’ approach to writing. Students were able to join in and have a go and utilising basic descriptive sentences to build on this process. Thanks to the
parents who transported these students and Hampden State school for allowing our student’s to join in.

**CLASSROOM MAKEOVER - DAILY MERCURY**
Thank you to everyone who assisted in collecting tokens for this competition. It has now closed and all tokens have been added up. We got close to 500 from the school which was a really great effort. We will not know who has one for some time yet, but fingers crossed this will be enough.

Have a great week!
Regards, Rebekkah & Annette

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<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class</strong></td>
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**INSERTS**
- Music Assessment
- P&C Membership
- Bullying No Way!

**PREP PHOTO - DAILY MERCURY**
*Reminder to Prep Parents.*
The Seaforth State School Prep Class will be in this Wednesday’s Daily Mercury.

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE TOURS**
*A Swag of Tales* was held on **Wednesday the 18th/3**
If you haven’t paid, please send the money to the office asap. $6/student, $15/family

**EASTER HAT PARADE**
The Easter Hat Parade for Kindy to year 2 students is being held in the Library on Wednesday the 1st of April from 9am-9:30am. Parents are welcome to attend to watch the class presentations.

**CROSS COUNTRY**
Our Seaforth Cross Country will be held Thursday 2nd March (next week). All classes have commenced training and a group of children have been training with Mrs Watson for a few weeks now. All year levels from Prep to Yr 7 will be racing, commencing at 9am outside the library. Students can wear their house colours as they will be scoring points for their teams.
All parents and family members are welcome to come and cheer on their child/ren and sports teams.

**SCHOOL PHOTO INFORMATION**
Advanced Life will be taking the School Photo’s on Thursday the 30th of April. Please see the back of the newsletter for online ordering information and payment otherwise there will be photo envelopes sent out in the coming days.

**P & C NOTICES**

**CHOCOLATE DRIVE FUNDRAISER**
All monies, boxes and any unsold chocolates are to be returned by Wednesday the 25th of March to the office. If you are having problems selling them feel free to drop them to the office as other families then have the opportunity to sell them.

**AGM**
The AGM is being held in the Library back room at 8:45am Wednesday the 25th of March. If you are interested in joining, please complete the application attached to the newsletter and bring it along to the meeting.

**TUCKSHOP**
Volunteers are needed.
If you are interested, please contact Carrol Harris.

**UNIFORM SHOP**
Open Monday and Wednesday 8:00am – 9:00am

**UNIFORM PRICES**
- Jumpers $20.00 (Sz 6-16)
- Shirts - $25.00
- Skorts - $14.00 (Sz 4-8)
- Hats - $15.00
- Homework folder - $12.00
- Heavy duty chair bag - $11.00
- Pencil case - $6.00

**BUFFSTARS COFFEE**
A mobile coffee café will be at school from 7:45am every Monday morning. Find us in the grass field behind Mrs William’s classroom.

**TAI CHI**
Held at the Kindy every Friday morning from 9am-10am. $5 for the session.

**FOR SALE**
2003 Honda XR80. Runs well, great kids bike in good condition. $1000 ono
Ph 0420 909 068 or see Denyelle in the office.