Welcome back!
I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome all our families back to St Helens in 2016. The start of a school year can always be a little chaotic, but I have been super impressed with how all our students, including our new preps have returned after their big break. Staff have mentioned how eager students are to get back into learning, which is fantastic to hear. I would also like to say hello and welcome to all our new families, St Helens prides itself on its supportive and welcoming community and we hope that you feel like part of the team right from the beginning.

St Helens is lucky this year to have two new teaching staff members. Miss Emileigh Rice, teaching our year 2/3 class and Mrs Michelle Poulter, teaching our year 6 class. Mrs Melita Govers has returned to us this year also, taking on the role of Learning Support Teacher. We also have a new teacher aide, Misty Rice. I would like to take the time now to welcome all the new staff and encourage our community to say hello when you see these new faces around the school.

Michelle Zemek
Our school community received the sad news of the passing of Mrs Michelle Zemek over the school holidays. Michelle was a dedicated member of staff who was a part of our school for over twenty years. On behalf of the staff and students of St Helens I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Michelle’s family and friends.

Before School
As mentioned on parade, students who arrive at school before 8:20am need to walk, with their school bags, to the under covered area and sit down sensibly. This expectation has been put in place to ensure all our students are safely looked after when at school. Staff start their morning duty at approximately 8:20am, at this time students will be released to complete their morning jobs and to play with their classmates. We encourage parents to reinforce this expectation with their children to ensure an easy transition when at school.

Line up Trophy
Each class has the opportunity to receive our special St Helens Line Up Trophy, allocated to the cohort who demonstrates our school values of respect, integrity and commitment whilst preparing to return to class. Staff are encouraging students to ensure they are lined up, quietly and sensibly before the second bell. There is already some tough competition between classes, with students from all grades eagerly encouraging their peers to follow the school expectations. We look forward to seeing the first winner of the trophy next Friday.

Prep Enrolments
If you have a sibling starting prep at St Helens in 2017 please let our admin staff know as soon as possible, places are already filling fast.

Choir News
Senior Choir begins next week. The senior choir will rehearse on Tuesday during second break. Students in years 4-6 who have an interest in singing and having fun are encouraged to join.

Student Leaders 2016
School Captains: Lila Rob’er’t & Pheobe Parker
Vice Captains: Candyce Leigh & Emma Newman
Ewart Captains: Holly Jenkins & Jasmine Price
Morgan Captains: Maddison Doblo & Mackenzie Kerswell

An exciting year awaits these students. It is now up to them to make the most of this opportunity.
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Ice block day Friday!
This Friday Student Council will be holding an ice block day. Ice blocks will be 50c. There is a limit of one ice block per student, unless buying for a sibling.

Curriculum Corner with Mr Hansen

St Helens Wrap-around Support 2016
This year at St Helens we are introducing a new system to support every student in every classroom. Wrap-around support will be achieved by a combination of staff within the school over the course of the week:
1. Classroom Support - Teacher Aides
2. Student Support – Mrs Govers
3. Student Extension – Mrs Thiele
4. Student Inclusion – HQ
5. Student engagement – high interest programs/events

Central to these arms of support is the classroom teacher. Through their careful planning, your child will be receiving the support they need to improve their learning. Whether it be support or extension, our primary focus is to allow students to achieve their goals.

One strategy to further develop some of our young writers is through a program called ‘Impact’. We have carefully selected seven students from grades 3-6 that will be a part of this program. The project will be delivered over 12 school weeks from February to May 2016 and each student will attend one web conference per week. Each web conference goes for approximately 60 minutes and is delivered by an online teacher, from the Brisbane School of Distance Education, with support from Mrs Thiele at our school. We look forward to seeing the wonderful outcomes!

Tired of getting the usual response when you ask your child how their day was? Try asking these:
- What was the funniest thing that happened today?
- Who made you smile today?
- If you had the chance to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
- What is your teacher’s most important rule?
- What challenged you today?

St Helens P&C
The first P&C meeting will be next Wednesday at 6:30pm in the library. There will be the annual AGM followed by a general meeting. All are welcome.

School banking
School banking will resume after the next P&C meeting and we have volunteers to run the program.

Strings News
All orchestra students (non-beginners) will start classes this Friday the 5th of February at 8am in the hall. Please find attached all the information attached for the beginner students.

Library News
Library lessons are now under way for all classes. Just a reminder that if your child is in Prep, Year 1 or Year 2 they will require a library bag before they will be allowed to borrow a book. It is recommended that all students have a library bag or some sort of carry bag (e.g. plastic shopping bag) to help keep library books clean.

Please remind your child to return their library books on their borrowing day. Library borrowing days are as follows;
- Monday – 5H
- Tuesday – 2C, 2B, 1A
- Wednesday – 3N, 4S, 4M
- Thursday – 1B, 6H
- Friday – Prep P, Prep W, 2/3R 3F

Dinner Table Topics

Prep Possums & Wombats – Welcome to all of our Prep families for 2016. So far we have learnt four words. See if your child can find one of them in their home reader tonight!

Year 1A – Thank-you for a wonderful start to the year! Just a reminder homework books are due back on Friday.

Year 1B – Homework, camera words and home readers are to be returned each Friday. Students should have enough home readers to get through the week.

Year 2B & 2C - We have had a terrific first week back at school in year 2! Please ensure you have returned swimming notes to the office as soon as possible as we are heading to the pool for our first swimming lesson this Friday.

Year 2/3R – Welcome to 2016! This week are looking at persuasive texts and telling time. Homework is also due back each Friday.

Year 3N – Welcome to our new Year 3 students! It’s going to be a fantastic year, full of fun and learning. A reminder to parents, some students are still missing essential items from the book list. If these supplies could be brought in this week, it would be greatly appreciated!

Year 3F – Welcome to the 2016 school year. We are off to a great start. If you could ensure all items from the booklist are at school by the end of this week it would be greatly appreciated. I would also like to ask for 1 more scrapbook please.
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Year 4M – The students have settled into class well. The boys particularly enjoyed our ‘nasty noun group’ activity in English today. There will be a note coming home later this week regarding an upcoming Parent Information afternoon.

Year 4S – Students have had a wonderful start to the year. Homework will be sent out this week. Students are very excited about Japanese this year!

Year 5H – Welcome back! Homework starts this week and is to be returned Fridays. Students need to read for a minimum of 15 minutes each night. I’m looking forward to a great year.

Year 6P – The students are settling into routine and learning about how to create a humourous short story.

COMMUNITY NEWS

NETBALL SIGN ON 2016

Come and play netball for a great club, Comets Netball Club
Sign on is on February 13, 2016
We are looking for girls of all ages from 8 years to 17 years old to play in our junior competition and ladies from 18 years and above for our senior competition.
If anyone is interested in joining our friendly and growing club please contact our Secretary Aileen McKay on cometsnetballclub.secretary@outlook.com
We will remind you all again when school starts next year Have a great Christmas and enjoy your holidays.

Are you looking for caring, fun, safe, inspiring and educational environment for your child to begin their lifelong journey of learning? Why not enrol them at the Maryborough Community Kindergarten and Pre-Prep where your child will have access to quality early education and care within a supportive, local community. Health Care Card Subsidies are available for Pre-Prep children also. Taking Enrolments now for 2016. Please also contact us if you were on our waiting list for 2016. If interested, please phone the Kindy on 41213865.

Looking for a friendly, fun, family club? We want you to play Soccer!!

Sign on with Tinana Football Club Register now for the 2016 season. www.myfootballclub.com.au
Junior and Senior information day:
Sat 30th Jan - Station Square from 9am to 1pm Sunday 7th Feb - Our clubhouse, Gympie Road from 11am-2pm (free sausage sizzle)
All age groups, Boys and Girls from Under 6 wanted.
Payment of registration can be paid off prior to season kick off in March.
Come and try day:
Sat 13th Feb – Boys and Girls from Under 6 so bring a friend and come down to our clubhouse at Gympie Rd Tinana from 9am – 11.00 am
FREE SHORTS AND SOCKS FOR ALL NEW PLAYERS TO THE CLUB. For more information contact: Trevor Parry - President 0422 487 260 Michelle Ivey - Secretary 0418 150 706 tinanafc@hotmail.com