Welcome back after a refreshing long weekend for students. The term is progressing quickly, with staff and students working energetically to complete a number of critical work tasks. I have had the opportunity to witness a number of classes over the last few weeks and have been extremely impressed with the level of commitment demonstrated by our students. Teachers are working hard to plan some very exciting end of year concert items and the students have started to rehearse the steps.

**Vocabulary**

Vocabulary is an exceptionally important element in a student’s education. Exposure to a wide variety of words is crucial to developing a child’s understanding of the written and spoken word. At St Helens State School staff work hard in class to develop strong connections with familiar and unfamiliar words, this process builds a bank of words that the student can use when deciphering a text. It is well understood that the more words a child know, the more they will be able to recognise when they see them in print. As children learn to sound out words, they will reach into their store of words to figure out what they mean. Making meaning during reading is important and is crucial to comprehension. As a parent you can assist your child to develop the tools they will need to face the challenges they will face at school and beyond. One tool that is easy for parents to assist with is the development of a rich vocabulary. Parents can work on expanding and enriching their child’s vocabulary without any expensive supplies or huge chunks of time.

A fun and interactive way to work on your child’s vocabulary is to make a word jar. When at home simply flip through the dictionary and select a few new words and their meanings. Write these words on a piece of paper and add them to the word jar. At dinner time or just before bed, have your child select a word at random and talk about the word. Once you have had a discussion with your child have them make a sentence using the word. Each new word will be adding to your child’s vocabulary, the discussion is very important as it will also help to strengthen the connections that your child makes with the new word. The process is easy and over the next few weeks we will be putting words in the newsletter for you to add to your word jar.

- **Boastful**: showing excessive pride and self-satisfaction in one’s achievements, possessions, or abilities.
- **Thrill**: a sudden feeling of excitement and pleasure.
- **Exhaust**: make (someone) feel very tired.

**P&C MEETING**

Just a quick reminder that tonight is our P&C meeting. All parents are welcome to attend and listen to some of the outstanding initiatives being planned by our committee.

**Booklists**

The 2017 Book List is available from the office or attached to last week’s newsletter.
**Strings News**

Last Friday our Strings students performed for the younger students in the hall. If your child is interested in joining this wonderful program there will be more information coming out shortly. Students in year 3 next year and above have the chance to audition for a position in the Strings program.

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**Dinner Table Topics**

**Prep Possums & Wombats** – We have been learning all about Seahorses! Ask your child some interesting facts about Seahorses!

**Year 1A** – Look out for the production presentation note coming home today.

**Year 1B** – A friendly reminder to check your child’s homework folders for their new counting goals that have been given out this week.

**Year 2B & 2C** – This week we are starting reading and maths groups again. We hope to see our wonderful volunteers this week to help support our children.

**Year 2/3R** – Last week our class created a 2/3R city out of 3D shapes. Students were required to design their building, labelling the shapes needed and then create it. It was great to see children highly engaged in an enriched learning task, discussing 3D shapes and their features. Ask your child about it today and discuss the 3D shapes you might see in your environment around you.

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**Year 3F** – As we are entering our third week of Term 4, assessments are underway for end of year reports. It is vitally important that students are at school every day so they don’t miss important learning episodes that they need in order to complete assessments successfully. EVERY DAY COUNTS!

**Year 3N** – Year 3N are fraction superstars! It appears there is no shape they can’t equally partition; no collection they can’t divide; no equivalent fraction they can’t identify! Parents, challenge your child! Look for fractions around the home that might stump them. Encourage them to bring some in to share with the class!

**Year 4M** – This week in Maths the students will have the chance to investigate fractions and decimals using chocolate. Sounds like a tasty rich task!

**Year 4S** – Over the next couple of weeks the students will be asked to create a product and the advertising that goes with that. We have been viewing both written and visual commercials and they have gotten some valuable strategies to create their own ad. Take the time to ask your child about some of their ideas.

**Year 5H** – In English, your child has been comparing and analysing the narrative and film adaptation of ‘The Lorax’. Ask your child what some of the major differences were between the book and movie are and what Dr Suess’ underlying message is.

**Year 6P** – This whole term, students are working on the strategy of summarising texts and putting it into their own words. This will not only assist them with research projects, but will assist them to complete assessment tasks at High School.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Maryborough Auto Extravaganza!!**

**22 October 2016**

**SWAP MEET CAR/BIKE SHOW**

Entry: Adults $10, Pensioners & Students $5

Kids under 12 FREE

Gates open 9am at the Maryborough Speedway, Gympie Road Tinana.

Sound off  Donut comp  Dyno comp

Burnouts  Kids Rides & Entertainment
# Star of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Possums</td>
<td>Cooper Jeffrey</td>
<td>For wonderful classroom behaviour at all times. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Wombats</td>
<td>Imogen Morgan</td>
<td>For a wonderful improvement in her reading skills. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>Charlie Sheppard</td>
<td>For displaying commitment to her learning every day!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
<td>Madison Fouracre</td>
<td>For having her equipment ready for each task and for being a helpful class member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2B</td>
<td>Christina Jones</td>
<td>For her commitment towards classroom learning this term. Great work Christina!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2C</td>
<td>Jessy-Lee Mathieson</td>
<td>For the wonderful effort you put into writing your math’s word problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3R</td>
<td>Jordan Ethell</td>
<td>For willingly assisting his peers and sharing his knowledge on topics. You’re a St Helens Super Star!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3F</td>
<td>Nicholas Gillieatt-Jones</td>
<td>For trying really hard with writing tasks this week and showing great improvement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3N</td>
<td>Thomas Austin</td>
<td>For the commitment and enthusiasm you have showed towards reciting poetry aloud in class. You rock!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4M</td>
<td>Jarrah Rober’t</td>
<td>For tackling tasks with enthusiasm and showing respect to classmates and teachers at all times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4S</td>
<td>Aysha Diprose</td>
<td>For applying excellent commitment towards your Mathematics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5H</td>
<td>Jarred Farmer</td>
<td>For your improved commitment and respect towards classroom tasks. Well done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6P</td>
<td>Sophia Wischnevsky</td>
<td>For creating an impressive poster on ‘Moon Bears’ that meets all the requirements plus more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Harminnie Johnson (PP)</td>
<td>For listening carefully to this week’s story and eagerly answering questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The word on the street is that the students at St Helens are very impressed with the new signage that went up around the school last week. These signs replicate the positive and negative consequence charts that are on display in every classroom. The exciting news is that the behaviours and consequences listed on these charts have been written by the students themselves. This has inspired many students to make a conscious effort to demonstrate positive behaviours and actively discourage negative behaviours, both in and out of the classroom.

It is the mission of the PBA to not only ensure the three school values are talking points in the school community, but to encourage student accountability. The students now have clear expectations in the school grounds and are taking ownership of their actions. This is fantastic!

*CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK*

Our School Star is lost somewhere in the playground. The first student to find it and return it to 4M will be rewarded for their commitment to ensuring the star is safe. Keep your eyes peeled, and ears to the ground!

Next week’s newsletter will feature some of the positive data that has been collected by our team.

Phil Morgan, Graphic Designer

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR ALLEGIANCE