Welcome Back
Term two has started. I hope everyone had a safe, exciting and adventurous holiday. I took the time yesterday to visit a number of classes and was impressed with how well our students returned to school. The values of Respect, Integrity and Commitment were on display in each classroom and whilst the students played during break times. I was especially excited to see the prep students writing their first sentences on day one! These students excitedly explained what they did on their holidays, brilliant work to all our prep students for having a go and working hard.

Reminders
I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents of a few of the expectations that we have in place to ensure this term is a productive and safe one.

Arriving to School
Students arriving to school early need to make their way over to the undercover shed with their school bags. Whilst waiting under the covered area students need to sit down quietly and talk with their peers. A staff member will come over and let all the students go before 8:30am.

Uniform
Students should be wearing their school uniform during each school day. We are aware that at certain times students might need to be out of uniform but over the course of the term these should be rare occurrences. If your child isn’t in school uniform it would be appreciated if you could send a quick note into the classroom teacher. Our uniform consists of the St Helen’s maroon and navy polo shirt, navy blue shorts and the navy blue bucket or wide-brimmed hat.

New TV
Parents visiting the office may have noticed the new television displaying pictures of our students working hard during school. Over the course of the year new photos will be added to this collection by the classroom teachers and Mrs Southall. The pictures are a great way of showing off some of the tremendous work our students and staff are doing at St Helen State School.

Prep – 2:
Students in Prep to Year 2 will compete in their Cross Country this Friday afternoon from 2pm. All these students will complete one lap of our course, which is 1km.

Friday program:
2:00pm: Prep Boys
2:05pm: Prep Girls
2:15pm: Year 1 Boys
2:20pm: Year 1 Girls
2:30pm: Year 2 Boys
2:35pm: Year 2 Girls
These times are only an approximate so I would encourage parents to be 10 minutes early to avoid disappointment.

Years 3 – 7:
On Monday 18th April all other students will run their Cross Country. Races will commence at 9am after parade.

Monday program:
9:10am: 12/13 years Boys
9:15am: 12/13 years Girls
9:30am: 11 years Boys
9:35am: 11 years Girls
9:50am: 10 years Boys
10:10am: Year 4 Boys
10:15am: Year 4 Girls
10:25am: Year 3 Boys
10:30am: Year 3 Girls
These times are only an approximate so I would encourage parents to be 10 minutes early to avoid disappointment.

Student Council – Mother’s Day Stall
Student Council will be once again holding a Mother’s Day stall. There are some fabulous gifts for sale starting from $1 to $5. Students are invited to come to the hall on the 4th, 5th and 6th of May at first break to buy a gift for Mum.
Choir News
The Senior Choir will be performing this Friday at parade. Come one, come all to enjoy a popular song!

Curriculum Corner with Mr Hansen

This term, students in year 3 & 5 will undertake the NAPLAN testing.
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. It is important to remember that NAPLAN tests are not pass/fail tests. At the classroom level it is one of a number of important tools used by teachers to measure student progress. In 2016, NAPLAN tests will be held on 10th - 12th May.

I have attached a Parent information brochure that will hopefully answer any questions you may have about NAPLAN. If you have any other queries, don’t hesitate speaking with your child’s teacher or contact the school.

Each week I will include some examples of questions your child could be asked. It would be worthwhile sitting with your child and getting them to show you how they would go about answering them.

Year 3: Language Conventions

Polar bears
Polar bears live in very cold parts of the world. They have white fur that blends in with the snow. They can’t be seen easily. Thick fur also helps to keep them warm.

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Year 5: Language Conventions

Shooting netball goals

First, Jess holds the ball high above her head. Jess stands with her feet apart.
Jess bends her knees before she shoots.

stretches upward and takes her shot.

String News
Orchestra (non-beginner) students are required to have their own long black dress pants, black socks and black shoes to be worn with the St Helens music polo shirt (to be supplied) for their first performance of 2016 in May. No leggings, jeans or coloured shoes are permitted. Please make moves to having these items very soon as it can be difficult to find the pants to purchase at times.
Thank you, Mrs Hodgkinson.

Change of Details
Please inform the school if you have changed any phone numbers or contact details. Also emergency contact details if you feel that they need to be updated. We need the correct details at all times as this assists us if an emergency arises.

School Banking
Banking will start back this Thursday.

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from Queensland state schools. Information is continually added to this app by our office admin, Emily Southall. One of the easiest ways to view our weekly school newsletter is through this app as well. For more information please look at the link below, it will assist parents with the most effective way to enable the app on your smart phone.

PREP LEVY
Just a quick reminder that the Prep levy is due in full now. This will allow your children to access a variety of resources and programs throughout the course of the year. If parents could please pay this amount at the office at their earliest convenience, EFTPOS facilities are available.

Strings News
Orchestra (non-beginner) students are required to have their own long black dress pants, black socks and black shoes to be worn with the St Helens music polo shirt (to be supplied) for their first performance of 2016 in May. No leggings, jeans or coloured shoes are permitted. Please make moves to having these items very soon as it can be difficult to find the pants to purchase at times.
Thank you, Mrs Hodgkinson.

School Absence Line: 4120 2260
If your child is sick or away please call the schools Absence Line.
**Dinner Table Topics**

**Prep Possums & Wombats** – Welcome back! Keep up the great work with the homereaders and sightwords! Today our students also wrote some fantastic stories.

**Year 1A & 1B** – Welcome back. Homework commences next week.

**Year 2B** - Welcome back! We are still waiting on some students to return their homework books and folder. Please send this in immediately so that all students can bring homework home this Friday.

**Year 2C** – We are starting a new unit in History on how has daily life changed over time.

**Year 2/3R** – Welcome back to term 2. Please remember to record your child’s read reading each night. We celebrate their achievements in class every 25 nights they read! This week in Maths we are looking at chance and data, ask them what they know about it.

**Year 3F** – Welcome back. Homework commences next week.

**Year 3N** – Welcome back to school after a restful break. There is no spelling or 4-square for homework this week. Students still need to complete their homework sheet and home reading.

**Year 4M** – Homework has commenced for the term. A reminder this is due every Friday. Parent/Teacher notes will be sent home later this week.

**Year 4S** – The students have settled into class routine very quickly. Homework will commence next week.

**Year 5H** – Welcome back! We have started working on persuasive writing. Ask your child to persuade you to do something.

**Year 6P** – Welcome back. A year 6 newsletter went home this week inviting parents to parent interviews. Please return your form with the preferred time.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Guinea Pigs are at the 2016 Fraser Coast Show**

Schedule and entry forms available online at [www.frasercoastshow.com.au](http://www.frasercoastshow.com.au) OR from the Fraser Coast Show Society Office, 84 Gympie Road TINANA, 9:30AM-3:00PM Monday – Thursday.

Entries close 13 May 2016 at 4:00PM. No late entries will be accepted.

Judging: Friday 20 May 2016 10:00AM.

***Guinea Pigs must be healthy and parasite free***

**Mothers Day Shop**
Maryborough Heritage Combined Crafts will operate their Mothers Day shop, at Maryborough Central Plaza, opp. IGA, from 26th April to 7th May. Open 8.30am to 5pm Mon to Fri, 8.30am to 3pm Sat, and 9am to 1pm Sun. Selling quality handmade crafts including, paper crafts, vintage cake stands, knitting, decorative art, jewellery, sewing, crochet, dressed dolls and teddies, preserves, home cooking and much more.

**Host an exchange student this July and show off your backyard!**

Volunteer to host an overseas exchange student this July and open a world of new experiences for your family. WEP overseas exchange students are wonderful role models for young Australians. The personal rewards and friendships that come from hosting often endure for generations.

Three-time host mum, Di, says, “Hosting has made our children more patient and understanding in their personal relationships. It has opened up their world and inspired them! Being a volunteer host family has brought us closer together and I think it may have something to do with our overall happiness and wholeness as a family!”
All exchange students undergo a rigorous application process. Students attend school full-time, are fully insured and have their own spending money to cover personal expenses.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact us as soon as possible. To request an information pack, head to our website, www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733 to speak to our friendly hosting team!

FOR SALE

2 x size 8 dressers, $5 each
1 x size 6 jumper, $5
Please enquire at the office.

2 x size 6 boys dress shirts, very good condition. $15 each or 2 for $20. Please enquire at the office.

Size 13 Mary-Jane school shoes (very good condition) $15
Please enquire at the office.
What is NAPLAN?  
The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?  
NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school’s assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested and how?  
NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. From 2016, NAPLAN content will be aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this please see the NAP website: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au). Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

Who will run the tests?  
NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?  
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance. If you have any questions about your child’s preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to reassure your child that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?  
All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.
How is NAPLAN performance measured?
NAPLAN is not a pass-or-fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has 10 bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands represents the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?
Where possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 13 May 2016.

Will I receive a report on my child's performance?
A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent to you. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?
- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website: www.myschool.edu.au

Where can I get more information?
For more information about NAPLAN:
- visit the NAP website www.nap.edu.au
- contact your child’s school
- contact your state or territory’s education authority (details available on the NAP website).

NAPLAN 2016 tests timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tuesday 10 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 May</th>
<th>Thursday 12 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 45 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>language conventions 40 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 50 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy 50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>language conventions 45 minutes writing 40 minutes</td>
<td>reading 65 minutes</td>
<td>numeracy calculator 40 minutes non-calculator 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Language conventions test includes spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Numeracy test includes number; space; algebra, function and pattern; measurement, chance and data.
- Calculators are NOT permitted in the numeracy test in Years 3 and 5. In Years 7 and 9, each student sits one numeracy test where calculator use is permitted and one where it is not.