Last week we spoke about respect in the classroom. This week we will be exploring the value of commitment and how it can be displayed by students in the classroom environment.

Commitment is a value that is often overlooked by students, particularly when a task becomes difficult or unfamiliar, to ensure students continue to learn resilience and determination need to be utilised. These are skills that fall under the banner of commitment and are often taught incidentally in the classroom. Resilience training is important in every facet of life as it is fundamental for students to become more tolerant of not only difficult situations but also difficult personalities.

At St Helens students who demonstrate commitment in the classroom use the following indicators:
- I am punctual.
- I am organised for the day.
- I am prepared to learn.
- I strive to achieve my best.
- I concentrate on my own actions and work.

Student Council News
Tuesday the 21st of February will be Student Councils first fundraiser for 2017. We will be holding an ICE BLOCK DAY! Ice Blocks will be sold at first break from the tuckshop for 50C. Money raised will go to student council to go toward the many exciting initiatives planned for this year.

School Council
A huge congratulations needs to be extended to our expanding student leadership team. Yesterday during a special badge ceremony the student council representatives, drama leader, chess leader, library monitors, choir leader, strings leader and our second Ewart house captain were all acknowledged for the role they will play during this year as school leaders. Each of these students will work hard with school staff to ensure St Helens is a wonderful, exciting and innovative school for everyone. Congratulations Sasha, Channing, Aleyce, Elizabeth, Rosie, Catherine, Kayla, Amali, Jarrah, Eli, Lachlan C, Kai, Molly, Arlia, Miami and Emilia.

School Banking
Banking will resume this week. Deposit books are to be handed in at the classroom on Thursday mornings. They will be returned back to the student on Friday.

P&C News
Fundraising
Last Friday, the eldest child from each family should have received a form for our first fundraiser of the year: the Billie G’s gourmet cookie dough fundraiser. Please help us raise money for air-conditioning by supporting this fundraiser! Forms and payment are due back at the office by March 3, or you can utilise the online option to pay - go to www.cookiedough.com.au and search ‘4650’ and ‘St Helens’. Should you require them, additional forms are available at the office.
St Helens News

Carpark

Many thanks to Bruce Saunders MP and Cr Paul Truscott for attending the P&C meeting last week to address parents’ concerns about the redesigned car park. In explanation of the design of the car park, the following information was provided from the Department of Transport and Main Roads:

The car parking facility has been designed in accordance with AS2890.1, which is the Australian Standard for off-street car parking. Similar parking arrangements with angled nose-in car parks are currently in use at a number of sites where car park upgrades have been completed.

Due to the high traffic volumes (during peak periods) and one-way circulating nature of the car park, it is considered appropriate to provide nose-in angled car parking. It is highly undesirable to have motorists reversing towards designated pedestrian pathways. In addition, it is difficult for vehicles to stop and undertake a reversing manoeuvre into a car park when part of a high volume, one-way traffic flow.

Pedestrians should use the designated pathways and dedicated pedestrian crossings which provide optimal sight lines. This will remove the risk of conflict with vehicles reversing out of parks.

Additional driver education signage that was awaiting delivery will be installed within the facility in the near future.

Please continue to be patient with other drivers and children whilst adjusting to our new facility.

Thanks again to Bruce for all his work on the lights and the carpark - we’re very grateful for the incredible improvements in safety and convenience.

School Banking

Banking will resume this week. Deposit books are to be handed in at the classroom on Thursday mornings. They will be returned back to the student on Friday.

Strings News

Thank you to all the parents and students who attended the induction meeting last Friday. It was lovely to meet so many enthusiastic parents and students.

String Lessons for this Friday 17 February are cancelled as Mr.Sue Yek is at meetings all day.

Library News

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:

- Tuesday – 2B, 3F
- Wednesday – 3/4H, 6M
- Thursday – 1R, 3N, 4S, 4/5H
- Friday – Prep P, Prep W, 1A, 2C, 5H

Curriculum Corner

Assisting your child with mathematics at home – for older students

There are many activities you can do at home, using everyday items to help explore maths with your child.

Sports Scores:

How does your favourite sport tally the score? What maths is presented on the tally? What maths is present for example, tennis, golf, cricket, netball, football? What maths do you use to find the total of the scores? Are there other ways to record the score? How long do your favourite sport games go for in minutes and seconds? Are they divided into halves, quarters or something else? What are the shapes of different playing fields and courts? Talk about edges and angles. How can you estimate the perimeter and area of a playing field?

Weather Maps:

Visit the website http://www.bom.gov.au or look at the weather maps in the newspaper.

What is the difference between the minimum and maximum temperature for each day for Maryborough? Find a seven-day forecast then record the actual temperature for each day and compare. Was the forecast accurate? What were the similarities and differences? Use the information on the weather website to explore differences in weather from your area to others. How much rain did you get compared to others? Are there differences in temperature?

Recipes:

Collect and read recipes and discuss the use of fractions, millimetres and grams. Encourage your child to make accurate measurements using measuring cups and spoons. Discuss how you would double a recipe. Encourage your child to record the new measurements for the recipe. Identify the temperature and cooking time on the recipe. Estimate the cost to buy all the
ingredients to make the recipe. Make a list of the abbreviations used in the recipe and then write them in full, for example, L for litre, mL for millilitre, tsp for teaspoon, tbs for tablespoon.

Catalogues:
How would you spend $40 from a catalogue? How many products can you buy for $40? Select five products from the catalogue then calculate what the cost be if there was a 50% sale. Does it make a difference if you add up the items, and then deduct 50%, or if each item is reduced by 50% then totalled? What is the best value sale item in the catalogue? Can you explain your reasoning? What are the cheapest and most expensive items in your catalogue? Compare the cost of a product across different stores using different catalogues. What did you find?

Travel Timetables:
Can you identify your starting point on the timetable? What is the earliest and latest time to travel on this route? What is the difference? How long does it take to travel the entire route? How many stops are there on this route? What is the difference in the time travelled when not making all stops? What is the cost? Is it good value compared to other travel options?

Money:
Encouraging children to think about money, saving money and considering how they spend money are important skills for all children to develop. Encourage your child to work out how much change you will get after buying something. Investigate costs for family trips together. For example, a visit to a theme park may include transport costs, entry ticket costs and food costs. Discuss saving money for presents or something your child may want to buy. Work out how long it will take to save this much if they get a small amount of money each week. Negotiate increases in pocket money as percentages. For example, a 5% increase would be how much money per week? Encourage your child to save a percentage of their pocket money or birthday money, and work out how much this would be. For example, how much money would you have if you saved 40% each week? Calculate together how much a mobile phone costs per month. How much is spent on messages and how much on phone calls?

Newspapers:
On the front page, estimate the percentage of picture and text. Does this vary over the first four pages? Research the cost per word/line to put a classified advertisement in the newspaper. Calculate how much it would cost to put an advertisement in the classified section. Find numbers in the newspaper, in digits and in words. Cut the numbers out and put them in order from smallest number to largest number. Visit the section that advertises entertainment. Select an event or movie. Find out how much the tickets are. How much would it cost for your family to attend? Try the number puzzles such as Sudoku, in the puzzle section of the newspaper or online.

Newsletter Direction
Over the coming weeks we will be trialling the process of utilising Facebook to display our newsletter articles. At this stage we will maintain the weekly newsletter but we are looking into ways to better utilise social media to inform our parents of important information. The newsletter articles will be uploaded onto Facebook at various intervals over the course of the week to ensure continual communication. We would appreciate parent feedback on this process to enable the best coverage of school information.

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.

Dinner Table Topics
Prep Possums & Wombats – We are beginning to make words using our Set 1 letters! Choose some letters to make a simple word and ask your child if they can work it out using stretching and blending.

Year 1A – If you haven’t already please check your child’s folder for a note about an app called seesaw. It is a great way to see photos and videos of things happening in our classroom.
**Year 1R** – This week in English we are focussing on understanding characters emotions by the illustrated expressions in the book. When reading at home this week see if the pictures match the emotions.

**Year 2B** – Literacy groups went off with a blast this morning!!! Students were very engaged and worked well on all activities. We are still looking for a volunteer for Thursday at 9am for literacy groups and a helper for Tuesday from 11:50 for math rotations.

**Year 2C** - This week 2C are having library on Wednesday. Please send your child’s library bag in tomorrow if they are changing their books. It will be back to Friday next week.

**Year 3F** – We have been working hard on our counting. Please ask your child to count on from a number between 1 and 200 in tens. We are getting better the more we practise.

**Year 3N** – As part of our Science unit this term, Year 3N have embarked on a number of field studies around the school. Ask your child about how they use their senses to identify and observe tracks, scats and other signs of life. See if they can tell you the difference between living, non-living and once-living!

**Year 3/4H** – We have been working hard on their reading and spelling goals during literacy groups. Ask your child about the activities they have been completing.

**Year 4S** – We will begin our exciting Science unit of geology this week with some hands on experiments. Could you please spare a SIFTER from home so that your child can use them for their experiment on Wednesday.

**Year 5H** - As a writing warm up, your child is working on tension tightening. Ask your child what this is and to give you an example of one.

**Year 6M** – All students have been really enthusiastic in Maths lessons over the last week. We’ve introduced terms to our equations including known, unknown and restrictions.

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**Maryborough Community Kindy**
Maryborough Community is in full swing for 2017 and the children are busy making new friends, exploring their new environment and putting their creative side to the test. If you child is pre prep and you are looking for an awesome start for your child schooling journey then Maryborough Community Kindy might be just what you need. We have vacancies in both groups available. Please give one of our friendly staff a call on 4121 3865 should you wish to discuss enrolling you child or pop past the kindy and take a look for yourself, we’re located at 19 Farrell St.

**BRING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!**
Why not volunteer to host an international student from France mid year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our High Schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. Arriving in June, all the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au or call 0438 689828.
## Star of the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep Possum</td>
<td>Matilda Barbeler</td>
<td>For excellent enthusiasm to her learning and always using her manners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Wombat</td>
<td>Tyson Hinschen</td>
<td>For working hard to write his name correctly. Keep up the great job.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>Dalin Katt</td>
<td>For displaying commitment to his school work. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1R</td>
<td>Takira Kliendienst</td>
<td>For always being ready to learn. You are our role model!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2B</td>
<td>Tahlia Coe</td>
<td>For exceptional manners and listening intently at all times. You are a Super Star Tahlia!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2C</td>
<td>Matthew Truscott</td>
<td>For the effort you show every day and your kindness to all you meet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3F</td>
<td>Zarlee Schwarrock</td>
<td>For always showing commitment to her learning. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3N</td>
<td>Aidan Hansen</td>
<td>For your outstanding commitment towards settings and achieving short-term learning goals. You’re amazing!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3/4H</td>
<td>Tyson Gillard</td>
<td>For respectfully listening to others and completing all set tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4S</td>
<td>Ashleigh Northill</td>
<td>For consistently demonstrating an outstanding work ethic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4/5H</td>
<td>Shaun Ransome</td>
<td>For demonstrating cooperative skills in our rotation groups. Well done Shaun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5H</td>
<td>Semira Thomas</td>
<td>For always using your manners and being respectful to those around you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6M</td>
<td>Miami Hinschen</td>
<td>For your quiet yet dedicated approach to your learning each day. Magic Miami!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Natasha Keyworth (3N)</td>
<td>For her interesting thoughts on how to look after library books.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Student Absence Line: 4120 2260