Today St Helens welcomed a number of excited prep students and their equally excited parents to the school to enjoy and a fun-filled morning session. Parents had the opportunity to hear from staff members about the programs that are offered in prep while our future students participated in a number of fun activities. We look forward to welcoming these students in 2017.

One of our new prep students Angus and his mum Emma.

Chess Competition
Over the next three weeks 45 students from year 1 to year 6 have signed up to participate in the annual St Helens knockout chess tournament. Games will be played at lunch time and the winners trophy will be awarded on parade at the completion of the tournament. Good luck to all players!

Vocabulary
As I mentioned last week, building your child’s vocabulary goes a long way in assisting them to develop strong and confident reading strategies that they will use throughout their entire schooling journey and even beyond. Sharing a new word with your child doesn't have to take a long time, just take a few minutes to talk about the word and then focus back on the book or conversation. Choose which words to talk about carefully — choosing every new word might make reading seem like a chore. The best words to explore with your child are ones that are common among adult speakers but are less common to see in the books your child might read.

When introducing new words to your young learner, keep the following four helpful hints in mind:

1) Provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word:
   Enormous means that something is really, really big.

2) Provide a simple, kid-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life:
   Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an enormous watermelon!

3) Encourage your child to develop their own example:
   What enormous thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tires were huge.

4) Keep your new words active within your house.
Over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary word in conversation.

Take the time to share new words and build your child’s vocabulary. You’ll be enormously glad you did!

Here are three new words to put in your Vocabulary Jar, remember to take the time to discuss these words with your child, using kid friendly definitions to help make strong connections.

**Gigantic** - of very great size or extent; huge or enormous.

**Diligent** - showing care in doing one’s work

**Pleasant** - giving a sense of happy satisfaction or enjoyment.

The next P&C meeting will be Tuesday 15th of November at 6pm in the library. All welcome.

We are in need of clean plastic shopping bags. Please drop up to the office.

Following on from previous newsletter articles elaborating on the strategies of ‘Activating prior knowledge’ & ‘Building vocabulary’, this week the focus shifts to ‘Inferring’.

**Inferring:**
Inferring is being able to ‘read between the lines’, when the author implies something but doesn’t exactly state it. You need to use the clues in the text and your own prior knowledge to help you understand.
This aligns closely with the ‘Author and me’ style of question from QAR that will discuss later in the term.
Here is an example at inferring at work:

“Sarah’s mouth was dry and she had a big knot in her stomach. She wished today was already over.”

I think Sarah sounds really nervous about giving her speech to the whole school.

One way you can assist your child to infer at home is to ask the why and how questions after they read: Eg. Why do you think the character choose to run away? How would you have ended the story differently?

---

**Maths Challenge**
Last week you will remember I included a maths problem from the Maths Team Challenge to test your mathematical ability with your children.

**Last week's challenge:**
Ben was going to buy 9 books, but it turned out he was $8 short. Instead he bought 8 books and was left with $5 to spare. How much did a single book cost if all the books Ben looked at cost the same price?
Answer: $13

**This week’s challenge:**
The numbers on the outside of each triangle are linked by a rule to the number in the middle of each triangle. What is the value of the missing number in the last triangle?

The answer will be in the newsletter next week.

---

The 2017 Book List is available from the office.

**Art Raffle Prize**
Tickets can be purchased from the office. $2 each or 3 for $5. Prizes will be drawn at the End of Year Concert.

1st Prize: ‘Two Koi’
Acrylic Painting by Jojo Frost

2nd Prize: ‘Garden Dragonette’
Acrylic Painting by Jojo Frost

3rd Prize: Origami Book
Chinese Symbolism Storybook
Photo Frame
Pencil case with pencils
**Dinner Table Topics**

**Prep Possums & Wombats** – All the prep students got to visit year 1 today while we welcomed our prep students for next year. They all had a great time.

**Year 1A** – We have had some great procedure presentations so far this week – ask your child about the procedures they’ve seen.

**Year 1B** – We made our own Fruit Caterpillars yesterday. We had a great time following our own written procedure. Parents please ask your child to describe the steps they took.

**Year 2B** – Students have enjoyed learning about water in Science. Whizzy the water drop has helped year 2 remember a special song about the importance of conserving water. Ask your child how water can be conserved.

**Year 2C** – This week the children are revising the structure of a narrative and learning that there are many events that lead to the complication and resolution of the story. They will eventually be writing a new event for a familiar story that we will read in class.

**Year 3F** – The children are currently working through their culminating assessments for Semester 2. A good night’s sleep and a hearty breakfast all help in the children being able to focus on the work as best they can. Thank-you for preparing your child for these important tasks!

**Year 3N** – Click go the shears boys, click, click, click! Year 3N are continuing their study of Australian poetry this week, with an in-depth look at this traditional piece. Ask your child who the ‘ringer’, ‘old snagger’ and ‘boss of the board’ are. Can they tell you what a ‘bare-bellied joe’ is?

**Year 4M** – It has been a pleasure having Miss Wical in 4M this Term completing some Practical Teaching Experience. Today is her last day and the students are sure to miss her! On another note, please make sure the students have a hearty breakfast on Thursday. We will be completing our three PAT tests and the students will require plenty of brain food!

**Year 4S** – We will begin our class rehearsals for the end of year concert this week. Please make sure your child knows if they will be attending the concert. A note regarding costumes for the night will be sent out closer to the time.

**Year 5H** – Students are looking at probability in Maths this week. Ask your child for an example of a likely, unlikely, equal, certain and impossible event. Year 5 are also holding their Sweets Stall Wednesday and Thursday morning this week. Come along to pick up some delicious treats.

**Year 6P** – This week in science, students are conducting an investigation to determine a suitable environment to store bread. They are performing a fair test and will investigate which environment grows the least mould. Ask your child to explain how they are doing this.

**Maryborough District Junior Cricket 2016/17**

All players need to be signed on using the online website: [www.playcricket.com.au](http://www.playcricket.com.au)

- Type in Maryborough’s postcode, 4650.
- Click on ‘Maryborough District Cricket Association’
- Select the competition for your child:
  - MILO In2Cricket (5 – 8 years) $75
  - MILO T20 Blast (7 – 12 years) $100
- Click ‘Register’
- Complete the online form
- Make your payment online

**Competition & Training details:**

**In2Cricket** – Friday afternoons 4:00 – 5:30pm, Field 1, Mboro Cricket Grounds, commencing 28th October 2016.

**T20 Blast** – Friday evenings 5:00 – 6:30pm, Field 1 Mboro Cricket Grounds, commencing 21st October 2016.

For more information, contact Clinton Hansen at school.
### 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>Neve Straker</td>
<td>For excellent enthusiasm toward all writing tasks. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep Wombats</td>
<td>Quinn Jackson-Kruger</td>
<td>For always being a helpful hardworking classmate. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1A</td>
<td>Felicity Field</td>
<td>For consistently displaying our school values of respect, commitment and integrity!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1B</td>
<td>Rachel Bosustow</td>
<td>For using effective sentence starters when writing a recount.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2B</td>
<td>Phoenix Robert’</td>
<td>For being a Super Star Student that follows the three school values. You are a valuable member of 2B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2C</td>
<td>Jack Johnson</td>
<td>For your enthusiasm and independence when writing your informative text. Great commitment Jack!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2/3R</td>
<td>Ashleigh Northill</td>
<td>For consistently being ready to learn and demonstrating what a positive role model looks like. You’re an inspiration!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3F</td>
<td>Jill Marshall</td>
<td>For always showing commitment, respect and integrity. Well done, Jill!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3N</td>
<td>Cooper Davidson</td>
<td>For your outstanding commitment during Maths lessons this week. Keep up the great work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4M</td>
<td>Lucy Scheltinga</td>
<td>For always demonstrating our school values through her quiet and consistent efforts in all set tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4S</td>
<td>Riley Newman</td>
<td>For your ABSOLUTE dedication to your school work. You are a role model!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6P</td>
<td>Emma Newman</td>
<td>For always being a positive and helpful member of our classroom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Tiah Bailey (6P)</td>
<td>For giving up her own time to help out in the library. Thanks!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Did you know that recording behaviour data online is another component of the wonderful job that St Helens staff do? Every time your child reaches a 25-star milestone, makes a positive behaviour choice, or receives Star of the Week, our diligent staff record it. The PBA use this data as part of the driving force to determine which direction the school moves in next, in regards to behaviour.

Just as we assist our students in setting and achieving learning goals, the PBA sets goals for staff in recognising and recording positive behaviours in the school. Achieving these goals are important in ensuring that the overall focus on behaviour at St Helens remains positive and consistent!

The following graphs demonstrate some of the current positive behaviour we have seen in 2016. Graph 1 shows the total positive behaviour recordings made by staff in each term. The current goal for staff recordings in Term 4 is 600.

Graph 2 shows the current number of students who have achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Award status. As our Gold Party is fast approaching, it is clear that the next few weeks will show great growth at all three levels!

Last week’s hugely successful challenge required students to demonstrate Commitment in returning the lost School Stars to Mr Morgan.

This week, every staff member will be given ONE gold star to hand out to a single student who independently demonstrates outstanding Integrity. These gold stars will be redeemable for FIVE standard stars. Remember, Integrity means doing the right thing – even if nobody is watching! (Although you never know who might be watching!)

Jess Nicholson, Data Analyst