

TERM 1 WEEK 1

From the Principal

Welcome to the 2009 school year. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday period and are revitalised and ready to work hard.

SEAFORTH WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

I would like to welcome the following students and their families to our school. Please feel welcome and part of our school community.

Prep – Flynn McGill-Schweida, Timothy Bowman, Riley Beggs, Ella Boreham, Bailey Kennedy, Brayden Turnbull, Bethany Gillies, Abbie Tancred, Bella Paris, Breanna Page, Sky Ludwig, Patrick Vaillant-Roche.

Year 1 Zoey Gillingham

Year 2 Georgia Park, Connor Staples

Year 3 Bradley Francis, Lachlan Kennedy

Year 4 Tori Staples,

Year 5 Jayden Gillingham, Ryan Park,

Here are our new Preps for 2009.



2009 UPDATE

PARADE – Mondays 8:30 – 9:00am

PARENT TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS

These are organised to provide information to parents about the routines, expectations and organisation of your child's new class and teacher/s. These meetings will be held next week and a timetable will be sent home later this week and also in next weeks newsletter.

PRINCIPAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2009

Sam and I will continue with our part-time Administration arrangement for Term 1/2009. I will work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Principal role and Sam will work Thursdays and Fridays in this role. This has been an extremely successful arrangement over the past 3 years and we will continue to work in the same way.

Please don't hesitate in contacting either one of us if an issue arises.

CLASSES & STAFFING FOR 2009

Even though these can't be finalised until after Day 8 (Thursday 5th February) the following is what we have started the 2009 school year with:

Prep/Year 1	Mrs Judy Atkins
Year 1/2	Mrs Jo-Ann Clout
Year 3/4	Mr Samuel Strang (Mon-Wed) Ms Julie Matheson (Thurs-Fri)
Year 4/5	Mrs Julie Richardson
Year 5/6	Mrs Jenny Fergus
Year 6/7	Mrs Cheryl Mandryk (Mon-Wed) Ms Calista Butler (Thurs-Fri)
The Arts	Mrs Rhonda Stablum (Tues & Thurs)
HPE	Mr Jim Hamilton-Smith (Thurs)
LOTE	Ms Christine Harkins (Tues) Japanese
Learning Sup	Mrs Maureen Munro (Tuesdays)
Principal	Ms Rebekkah Pollard (Mon - Wed) Mr Samuel Strang (Thurs, Fri)
Cleaner	Mrs Sandy Baker
Groundscare	Mr Gary Popperwell
Special Needs	Mrs Lisa Barns-Jackson

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The best educational opportunities occur when open communication happens between class teachers and the families. If you have any queries or concerns about your child/ren, please contact the classroom teacher for a suitable time. 8:20am isn't the best time as this is an extremely busy time for teachers. Ask them can you make an appointment.

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL 2008 PROGRAM

Active After School will happen again this year. It runs on limited places (25 per activity), so please ensure if your son or daughter are interested that they collect the form from the office and return it asap.

Activities are listed below:

Term 1	Basketball	Thursdays 2:40 – 3:40
	7 sessions	1st day 05/02/2008
		Last day 19/03/2008
	Rock & Roll	Weds 2:40 – 3:40
	Dancing	1st day 04/02/2008
	7 sessions	last day 18/03/2008

Have a great week

Rebekkah

MESSAGE FROM EDUCATION QUEENSLAND

Achieving with Literacy and Numeracy

Parents and carers play an important role at home in supporting the valuable literacy and numeracy lessons Queensland children are learning in the classroom. Check the newsletter items section of *Schools Update* each week for advice on how parents can help their children with literacy and numeracy and see the range of tips for parents [online](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/).

www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Protecting against dengue fever

With recent outbreaks of dengue fever in Cairns and Townsville, parents in our northern regions are encouraged to apply insect repellent to their children on a daily basis. Dengue fever can be found in any tropical or subtropical area and is most prevalent during the warm and humid seasons.

As there is no vaccine available to prevent dengue fever, people in high risk areas are advised to avoid getting bitten by wearing clothing which protects the skin and by using insect repellents on exposed skin. It is also recommended to remove all potential breeding sites for mosquitoes such as still water found in containers, pots, and old tyres. Mosquitoes carrying dengue fever typically bite during the day, especially at dawn and dusk.

For more information visit the Queensland Health website:

http://www.health.qld.gov.au/dengue/dengue_fever/dise ase.asp

How you can help your child with writing

Everyday tasks such as making a shopping list can help improve your child's writing skills.

Our school encourages all parents to help their children with their writing at home. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ask your child to make a greeting card for a special occasion
- talk about the different ways we use writing (making lists, writing messages or notes)
- make personalised scrap books with your child – glue a photo or picture your child chooses onto a page and ask them to write words or sentences about the picture
- create a special place for your child to write. Providing writing materials, such as an easel or blackboard with scrap paper and pencils, makes a great environment to experiment with writing
- set up some plastic letter tiles or magnets for your child to play with or a keyboard to spell out or type words.

For more information and ideas on how you can support your child's writing visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

How you can help your child with reading

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher and it is important to encourage your child to read outside of the classroom.

Our school is asking all parents to help their children to improve their reading skills. You can do this by:

- visiting the local library – this is an economical way to provide access to different kinds of books and learning materials and allows children to borrow from a wide range. Your library may also offer a reading program which makes reading an exciting experience and allows them to mix with other children
- asking 'why' questions as you read a book or story together to help your child understand and asking them to think about alternate endings to make much-loved books even more interesting
- reading to your child as often as you can and by trying to carry a book with you when away from home
- letting your child hold the book and turn the pages when you are reading together – this lets your child join in and allows you to talk about the pictures
- congratulating your child on their reading – this will encourage them to enjoy the reading experience
- pointing out words as you read them, especially long or interesting words – this will create a

word bank or a spelling list which will help your child with their writing

- making a message board or space at home and encouraging your child to read and leave messages for other family members – this will also give them an important job in the household.

For more tips and online resources about literacy and numeracy visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Exploring numeracy with your child

While board games and puzzles may appear to be just fun activities, they can also help to improve your child's numeracy skills and encourage them to think logically.

To be numerate is to confidently and effectively use mathematics to meet the everyday demands of life.

Many opportunities to be numerate happen at home. Here are a few ways you can explore numeracy with your child:

- show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks
- talk about the numbers and patterns your child comes across each day while playing games or sports
- encourage your child to count and sort objects into groups. You could use books, clothing or shoes and discuss how they sorted them into those groups
- explore ways to use and count money through budgets and shopping. Let your child calculate the cost of items and help them add up how much change you will receive
- ask questions such as "does that make sense?" or "can this be done another way?" to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems
- talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.

If you would like to know more about exploring numeracy contact your child's teacher or visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Worm Farm

Well, the worms survived the long holidays and it's now time to get down to worm business! Worm juice can still be purchased any time, \$1 for 1 litre, from Mrs Atkins. Home scraps will again be on a weekly class rotation. Worms eat all vegetable, bread and fruit scraps (NO onion, meat or citrus).
Year 6/7 is on home scraps roster for Week 1.

Vegetable Garden

WOW!! Last year, the Preps planted some vegetable seedlings and you should see them now! Our garden is near the Year 6/7 classroom. Unfortunately the lettuce has gone to seed, but the tomatoes and zucchinis have ripened

over the holidays. The Prep/Year One class will continue with this project in 2009. (We fertilised our plants with worm juice!!) We're also going to try potatoes, cucumbers and possibly watermelon!

P & C NOTICES

The AGM is set down for February (date to be advised in next newsletter) and everyone is encouraged to attend and have their say. Please don't be reluctant because "you might get a job!"

The following positions will be vacant:

Vice President – chair meetings when president is away and assist other office bearers.

Secretary: Inward/outward correspondence, agenda, minutes.

Treasurer (Assistant) – balance cash tin and bank each week. Treasurer report each month.

Tuckshop Convenors (2) – Order food each week – mostly delivered. Some fresh produce to be bought weekly eg: bread and salad. Do rosters each term and set menu.

Fundraising Committee – Term 1. Planned so far is a family fun day "Monte Carlo" night, family portraits by Advanced Photos, catering for the Seaforth Fishing Classic and Bowls Club raffles. More details will be available in the coming newsletters.

Bookshop/Uniforms – Order stock and organise small group to sell throughout the year and during busy times (end of year/beginning of year).

Any assistance is greatly appreciated. You don't have to nominate or accept a position but may prefer to be a member or help with fundraising only.

The same people have been involved for the past 4 years and we'd love to have more helpers and fresh ideas this year.

TUCKSHOP

TUCKSHOP WILL BE OPEN THIS FRIDAY.

A new Tuckshop Price List for Term 1 is attached to the newsletter.

New Roster for 1st term is getting put together so if you would like to help out please call Justine Mayes on 49664013. Thanks!

PUBLIC NOTICES

**ADULTS - WOULD YOU LIKE SOME HELP
WITH READING, WRITING, SPELLING OR
MATHS?**

George Street Neighbourhood Centre in South Mackay is offering tuition to those adults in the community who need help with reading, writing, spelling or basic maths.

We offer either individual 'One to One' tuition or you can join a small class.

Classes are structured around what each individual needs. For example some people would like to read for leisure, others want to improve their writing skills to obtain a job or move upwards in their workplace, or help their child with homework, feel more confident when completing forms or maybe wish to undertake a course at TAFE or University with our support.

There is no cost to students and our sessions are conducted by trained Tutors in a friendly, non threatening environment. Students can join at any time during the year.

It doesn't matter what age you left school or what level your skills are.

We also have ESL (English as a Second Language) classes available.

This program is funded by the Department of Employment & Industrial Relations under their 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative'.

If you would like to find out more call Jeni Leibie, the Learning Support Coordinator at George Street Neighbourhood Centre (Mondays to Thursdays) on 49572626.

Ceilidh Dance Studio

Highland dancing lessons will recommence

Wednesday 4th February at the Seaforth

Community Hall.

Classes will be 3:30 - 4:30 pm Beginners/Juniors

and 4:30 - 5:30 pm Seniors.

All are welcome. For more details please contact

Sarah on 0400 074818.



UNIFORMS FOR SALE

Mackay North High uniforms for sale. Girls white blouse 1 x sz 8, 1 x sz 10, girls sport shorts 2 x sz small. See Judy Atkins in Prep.

FOR SALE

HP Deskjet f2180 all in one
printer/scanner/copier

Like new \$50

Toshiba Satellite Notebook
New Condition

\$800.00

Phone Sue Rogers 49664097