



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILIES

Term 1 Week 7
Friday 10th March 2023



Upcoming Events

March

- 7-8th School Photos
- 16th P&C Meeting – AGM
- 20th Harmony Week begins
- 28th PBL Celebration Day
- 29th Primary Easter Parade
- 30th Secondary Easter Parade
- 31st Last Day Term 1

Our school improvement priorities for 2023

- Educational Achievement
- Wellbeing and Engagement
- Partnerships and Pathways

PBL Lesson of the week

WEEK 7

- I am Learner: Do your best

WEEK 6

- I am a Safe: Follow instructions

Little word of the week

WEEK 7 – or
WEEK 8 – to

Attendance data

Early Years: 87%
Middle Years: 84%
Junior Secondary: 79%
Seniors: 86%

A note from the Principal ...

Dear families and friends of Southport Special School

Recently, we were delighted to welcome over 50 guests to our Grandparent's and Special Guests Day. Our special guests were greeted by members of Senior 7 before being escorted to the Quad by the students of Junior Secondary 3.

Our Grandparents and Special Guests had the opportunity to participate in in some school activities. One group headed to the Music Room to learn to play rhythms on drums. One group went to our Work Experience Head Quarters to experience the world of work via Virtual Reality Headsets. Another group learned about Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and the final group enjoyed a session on Shared Reading at Home.

Our guests then visited classrooms to meet staff and students. Following this everyone enjoyed a morning tea which was prepared by our hospitality students. Well done to our students who are completing their Certificate 1 in Hospitality for doing such a stellar job!

Guests were entertained by our ukulele group and one of our students, Hunter, who played on the piano. The morning was deemed a delightful success by all, so much so that we will have another event in semester two. Thank you once again to those of you who joined us.

On Monday, we will be holding a School Leaders Induction Ceremony.

Secondary Assembly commences at 9:30, this is followed by the Primary Assembly at 10:15. During the ceremony we will also be giving all students one of our new school hats and our year 6 and year 12 students their school leader shirts. We welcome all families to join us for this special event.





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A note from the Principal ...

Celebrating student writing

OMG, our students are SUPER STARS! We are seeing significant progress in student writing. The foundation of good writing instruction is writing experience. Writing is not tracing or copying, writing is the art of putting thoughts to "paper" using the alphabet. Through the use of evidence based, high impact teaching strategies our staff support all writing attempts. Modelling writing for our students and talking out aloud about letter selection supports student learning. All student's in our school have a writing goal that is displayed in their classroom. Each classroom also has a "Bump It Up Wall" which outlines where the students are in their writing attainment using the Developmental Writing Scale. If you would like to find out how your child is progressing in their writing please speak with their teacher.

This week we had a visit from our Assistant Regional Director and also a Senior Reviewer from the School and Regional Review Team in Central Office. It was really pleasing to have validation of the work we are leading as school to support every student to realise their potential.

Carpark and bus set down construction

Thank you to all families for your patience and cooperation during the construction of our new drop off areas. We have requested for the traffic island in the centre of the holding area to be shaved down or cut back. This will help with the tight turning circle. In the meantime, I recommend not using the holding bay closest to the barrier and certainly don't use this lane if you have a large vehicle. There is also a tap on one of the poles that will be moved to the side so that it does not pose a risk of car doors hitting it. During the Easter Vacation period there will be some final works completed including the front stairs and signage. Please note that school commences at 8:45 and concludes at 2:45.

Outside School Hours Care – Ruby and Ollies

Our Outside School Hours Care service has commenced. At this stage Ruby and Ollies offers after school care and holiday care. If you are interested in this service please phone 07 2113 4478 or alternatively email enrolments@rubyandollies.com.au.

Inter-school Sport

Congratulations to our school cricket team who competed against students from Coomera State Special School. This week our school had a win, 126 runs to 80 runs. Whilst we are a little competitive, we are most proud of how the students' conducted themselves and played fairly and as a team.

Please don't forget to join us at the P&C Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th at 9:30.

Wishing all families a lovely weekend.

Warm regards

Susan Christensen

Principal





EARLY YEARS TEAM



Having FUN Down on the Farm!

Each week, students in the Early Years participate in a Design and Technology lesson. This term we have been learning about what is on a farm and why we need farms. The students have been exploring the farm, recognizing the animals, and how animals and plants are grown for food. Some students have participated in farm play and created wonderful artwork of farm animals. Popular activities were using playdough to make different animals and singing the nursery rhyme "Old Mac Donald had a Farm." Design and Technology incorporates literacy learning and students have been supported to share their observations and ideas through speaking, listening, and writing using their preferred writing tool. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) has also been used to support learning and communication in relation to the Unit of Work.

Hands-on activities consolidate our learning experiences in the Early Years. In Week 10, students will have the opportunity to get familiar with some of the special animals that live on the farm with a mobile farm visiting the school. This is an extremely exciting opportunity for everyone. If you shop at Woolworths and do not wish to keep the Farm Brick promotion, please donate to the Early Years as we are creating mini worlds related to farming this semester.

As you can see, Early Years have been busy! We are looking forward to lots more fun in Design and Technology as we continue to explore how food is grown and prepared for healthy eating.





MIDDLE YEARS TEAM



The wonderful world of technology!

Students in Middle Years have been engaging in numerous activities related to Digital Technology and the world around us. Students are learning about the different types of digital systems and how they are used in everyday life. Students are being introduced to basic computer skills such as using a mouse and keyboard and navigating the internet safely. Alongside computer systems they are exploring a variety of hardware such as tablets, microwaves, switches, phones, printers and other devices and adding this vocabulary to their digital technology word walls.

Alongside navigating the hardware, students are learning to understand the purpose of software and how this supports the physical digital device. Students are being engaged in using basic software through programs such as communication tools, word processors, drawing tools, online texts, cause/effect and sequencing interactive whiteboard games. Students are also working hard on using software programs appropriately and for their intended purpose.

Online safety is another major component of our digital technologies' unit. As the students age and online platforms become more prevalent it is essential they know the skills to keep themselves safe online. In Middle School we are introducing them to the beginning tools by ensuring they only access the computers using their own logins and keeping them in a safe area in the classroom.

Students are being encouraged to look at and safely explore different technology at home and the community. Parents and Carers can support their child's learning by discussing the different devices you use and how you use them.





JUNIOR SECONDARY TEAM



We are becoming Digital Citizens

Students in Junior Secondary will be learning about digital technology and how to apply these skills into their everyday lives. Students will be engaging in activities that use the language of location, direction and movement. A variety of digital systems are explored throughout each lesson and the purpose they serve. Some students use digital systems as their voice to deliver a message.

Digital Technologies will be focusing on providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to be active and informed digital citizens. A range of topics will be covered over the semester, including computational thinking, coding, the use of digital technologies at school and in the home and how digital technologies can be used to solve problems and create solutions.

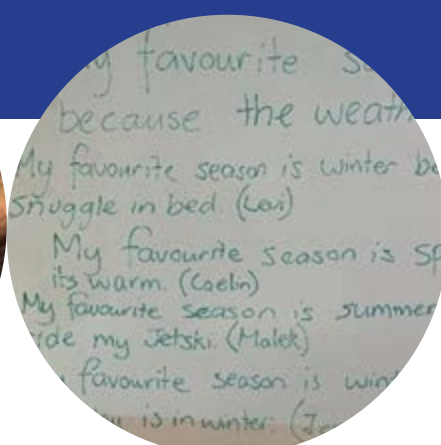
Throughout the semester students will engage in whole class discussions about cybersecurity in our digital world. This includes a focus on the importance of keeping personal information safe. Students will learn about the potential benefits and risks of digital technologies and how they have evolved over time.

Students are excited to learn about the first arcade games and compare them to the video games of today. Whole class discussions are had over the different types of games available in the modern era and students have made predictions on how gaming looks in the future.





SENIOR TEAM



It's all about data and the weather!

Year 10 students have been busy collecting data and exploring the many ways it can be represented. Students have used their communication skills to pose questions within the school community to find out answers regarding things they would like to know such as which pet popular and what colour is liked the most.

Whilst the Year 10 students have been collecting data, Year 11 and 12 students have been busy mastering all things weather. Engaging conversations have been had about what is the best clothing to wear at which time of the year. Some of our students even enjoyed advising their teacher on what they should wear during different weather occasions. Creativity was displayed as art was used represented to indicate the change the seasons throughout the year and visual posters that incorporated traditional and Indigenous seasons.

Thoughtful conversations were had as students discussed their favourite weather events and the reasons why. All the recent weather events have been a high point that has led to real world connections being made with classroom learning.





CURRICULUM HUB



Over the past two weeks our teachers have been spending time meeting with families and carers to build Individual Curriculum Plans, Senior Education and Training Plans (Yr 11/12) and Communication Goals. We would like to thank you for engaging in these discussions and for contributing to your child's educational goals for this semester. If for some reason you are yet to meet with your child's teacher, please don't be concerned. Some meetings are still being scheduled, we know it is sometimes hard to co-ordinate things.

Shared reading is a collaborative learning activity that resembles and builds on the bedtime book experiences that many children and parents have together. The focus during shared reading is on the interaction. This year we have added Shared Reading Texts Cycle to our unit plans. Some of the titles include the Gruffalo's child by Julia Donaldson, Welcome to Country by Lisa Kennedy, Say Hello by Linda Davick and I went Walking by Sue Williams to name just a few. Students and staff have engaged in various activities to support the reading of these texts and by all reports students are loving the stories.

Communication is a huge priority at SSS. Every person has a right to communicate. This poster highlights the rights summarised from the Communication Bill of Rights put forward in 1992 by the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities. The Communication Bill of Rights underpin our core beliefs as a school community. Many of our students communicate using a range of Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC). AAC is the term used for all communication that is not speech, instead other types used to enhance or replace speech. We accept and value ALL forms of communication- aided and unaided.

Are you interested in learning more about AAC at Southport Special School? Please contact Krystal (kholm73@eq.edu.au) to show your interest in attending an AAC parent/career session.

| Types of AAC | |
|--|--|
| unaided | aided |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no tools needed no physical aids sign language gestures/movements facial expressions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tools needed pictures/photos technology (low/high tech) communication boards object symbols written words/letters |





POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL)



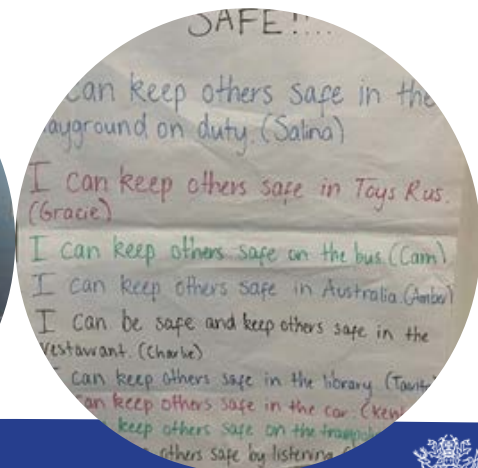
Weekly Focus:

- Keeping Others Safe
- Being Respectful

In week 5, classes used the 'keeping others safe' topic as a prompt for their predictable chart writing. Students start their sentence with 'I keep others safe by...' adding their own words on how they keep others safe. Students discuss the different areas of the school and different situations where they can keep their peers and teaching staff safe. The discussion led to talk about how to keep each other safe online and how to protect ourselves in the online world. Students completed sorts on safe and unsafe behaviours and explained the reasons certain behaviours are unsafe.

Students participated in classroom discussions on what it means to be respectful. Helping friends when they need it, staying together as a group when exploring, giving space to those who need it and listening to teaching staff and peers when they are talking. We show respect by our actions and the words we use. Waiting our turn, sitting quietly whilst the teacher explains an activity, tying a friend's shoelaces and using our manners are all ways we can be respectful at school and at home.

Celebration day is held every term to celebrate students for being Safe, Kind, Learners. This term our celebration is a Carnival Day featuring a petting zoo, carnival games, showbags, face painting and lots of fun stuff.





**POSITIVE
BEHAVIOUR FOR
LEARNING (PBL)**

Tuesday 28th March

Carnival Day

JSC 9.30am – 10.15am
M 10.30am – 11.15am
Snr 11.30am – 12.15pm
EY 12.30pm – 1.15pm





EVENTS ORGANISING COMMITTEE (EOC)



HARMONY WEEK

CELEBRATES HOW ALL
OF OUR DIFFERENCES
MAKE AUSTRALIA A
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

HARMONY.GOV.AU



Harmony Day – Tuesday 21st March

To celebrate our cultural diversity, we will be hosting our own “World Fair” from 9:30am on Tuesday 21st March. This “World Fair” will feature members of our staff sharing their cultural heritage with our students. So far countries such as New Zealand, South Africa, Vanuatu, Samoa, Italy, The Netherlands, and rural Queensland will be represented. Staff will be sharing language, games, crafts, artefacts and in some cases foods, things that speak of who they are and where their families come from.

To make this “World Fair” extra special we would like ask any of families who would like to share something of their cultural heritage with us to join us. It may be game you played as a child, it might be wearing traditional clothing, it might be how to say hello and goodbye, please feel creative with what you could share. Please let us know either, via your child’s teacher or email Sue Lowry on slowr17@eq.edu.au if you would like to contribute.

We will be asking all our students to either dress in clothes which reflect their cultural heritage or ORANGE the colour of Harmony Week!

To make this morning extra special we will also be having a performance of traditional Japanese drumming by Kizuna Taiko Gold Coast.

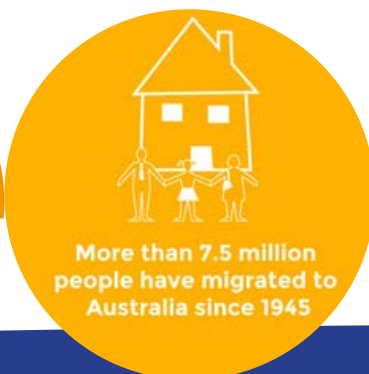
It should be a colourful and exciting morning for our school.



HARMONY WEEK

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HARMONY.GOV.AU





Southport
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P&C NEWS



Southport
Special School



PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL — GENERAL — MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY 16 MARCH 2023

TIME: 9.30AM

WHERE: SEABREEZE STAFF ROOM

The P & C Association plays a vital role in school decision making and your views and ideas can greatly assist in this process.

Be involved - come & join us.

P & C Committee

Kirsty & Paula

ENGAGE - ENCOURAGE - EMPOWER





Southport
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Come along for coffee, a chat and catching up with other parents and carers.

When: 9:30-11:30am

Wednesday 15th March

Wednesday 29th March

Where: Southport Special School
(unless otherwise advertised)

**play
matters**
the heart & science of play





Southport
Special School

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ruby
&
ollies

We are opening at Southport!

TERM 1, 2023

★ ★ ★
ruby & ollies

We are excited to be bringing Ruby and Ollies OSHC to
Southport Special School

To secure your spot please email:
enrolment@rubyandollies.com.au





Southport
Special School

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

