Principal’s Note

Dear Parents,

Have you seen our new School Uniform? You may have seen it on the TV, in the newspaper or at Parade. It looks fabulous and breaks new ground with a sun-protection standard of UPF 50+.

Our P&C have worked tirelessly over the year to produce our new uniform, and we thank them for that. Thanks also to Dr. Simone Harrison who has consulted with the P&C to ensure that our new uniform leads the way in providing the highest standard of sun-protective clothing, as well as being cool and comfortable.

The new uniform will be implemented from January 2015. Prep students (and all new students) will be required to wear the new uniform next year. Other students will have the year to change over. The P&C are selling off the old uniforms at a discounted price and a note has gone home advising of the times when these are available.

Please read carefully the letter including the school’s Dress Code policy that is being mailed home this week. If you have any questions, feel free to join us at the P&C meeting in the staffroom this Thursday at 6.30pm.

Jo Sinclair-Jones

WE ARE BATTERY WORLD WINNERS AGAIN!

Congratulations to everyone who placed their batteries into our recycling bin at the school. We are the very proud recipients of a $1000 cheque from Battery World as the largest recycler for Semester 1 in 2014. Greg Leslie, Manager of Battery World Ingham Road, said “Congratulations on another great effort and many thanks for your continued support of the Battery World Recycling Program.”
Homework Assistance

Dear families and friends of PCYC Magnetic Island, with the introduction of homework in Year 2 some parents have requested that their children receive help with their homework. Therefore our service now offers homework assistance to all students that attend Afterschool Care.

This assistance will be provided primarily by myself as I am a secondary teacher with nineteen years of teaching experience across a broad range of subject areas. I have taught different age groups from Primary through to Tafe and University levels. I am more than happy to assist your children with the completion of their homework and assignments. The Homework Assistance is provided to all children in Prep to Year 7 attending our Afterschool Care Service. If you think this is something that your child/children can benefit from please do not hesitate in having a chat with me to find out more information.

Until next time keep well, stay safe, not long now until the holidays!

Leanne Paul, Co-ordinator
Telephone: 0429 305 192
magneticislandSAC@pcyc.org.au: (We are on Facebook! Please like PCYC Magnetic Island)

P&C News

I would like to extend my thanks to Shelley Mackiewicz, who put in an enormous effort to host the “With Love From Maggie” Art Exhibition and Auction which was held recently. The Exhibition looked fabulous and Shelley raised over $500 for the P&C - thank you so much Shelley and all those that worked with her! Please don’t forget to buy a raffle ticket in the Super Raffle - see left.

This money, along with other P&C raised funds, will enable to P&C to provide the school with $3,000 in new library books - a great effort! This Thursday 13th November 2014, is the final P&C Meeting for the year. The main topic of discussion will be the new school uniform and uniform policy. If you have a view about this, please come to the meeting in the Staff Room at 6.30pm. I look forward to seeing you then.

Helen Mowat, P&C President.

Gold & Silver Awards

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<th>Class</th>
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**Gold Awards** went to Chloe and Joshua.

**Stanley** went to Year 3.

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<th>Class</th>
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<td>6/7J</td>
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**Gold Awards** went to Ethan and Amarlie.

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Prep News

Swimming: Some families have yet to pay for swimming lessons this term. Please make your payment at the office. Free lunchtime swimming is now on Tuesday. I am on playground duty of a Tuesday so if a parent is able to accompany the Prep swimmers that would be a great help.

Homework: The history homework relating to the significant family object was due in last Friday. Most children have handed in their work and will be presenting their family stories (relating to the family object this week instead of show and tell). Please help your child to complete this as it is compulsory. If you have misplaced the task sheet please see me for a replacement. Week 6 spelling homework has gone home.

English: Everyone has done a great job presenting his / her ‘Mouse Tale’ for our oral literacy reading goal. We have also been learning about writing and receiving letters. This week everyone has written a letter to Rosie, a character from the ‘Wallace and Rosie’ series of stories. Please talk to your child about the different kinds of letters that are received at home, including emails.

Maths: We are continuing to work on the addition concept as well as brushing up on left and right and chance (likelihood of something happening).

Science: Last week the children worked in teams to create marble runs along with playing games of marbles to investigate rolling. This week they are investigating spinning and sliding. Everyone is making amazing thaumatropes as part of this project.

History: The children have been presenting their significant family objects and relating the family story that these objects help their families to remember. Everyone brainstormed special events and celebrations that take place throughout the year and have made commemorative discs for each event.

Art: We have been continuing to work on our collograph plates along with using hand-carved Indian wood blocks to make attractive prints.

Linton Watkins
**Year 1 News**

With only five weeks to go, we are very busy in Year 1!

In Maths we have been practising adding teen numbers using a variety of strategies. Perhaps your child can demonstrate some of these to you. We are also revising time (o’clock and half past) in words and with digital and analogue clocks. This is something that can also be revised at home.

Our weekly spelling tests are continuing each Tuesday. Please remind your child to practise for these tests.

It was pleasing that all students were well prepared for swimming last week and almost everyone had their Library bag.

A number of students have not yet paid for swimming lessons. Please check to see if swimming money is outstanding.

Continued thanks for your help with home reading...

Jo T

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**Year 2 News**

We are well into our assessment for our end of year reports, so please make sure that your child is at school every day unless s/he is sick. Every day of school is important so please make sure your child is here on time, well rested and with plenty of food. There have been several children over the last couple of weeks who have not had anything for their healthy snack break. Please give your child a piece of fruit or some vegetables (most kids like carrots and cherry tomatoes) every day so that they can fuel their brains in the middle of our most productive session of the day. Also, could I ask that you cut up your child’s apple or orange to make it quicker for them to eat as we only have five minutes?

Thanks to the parents who have been helping with Maths group activities. We are having a two week break while we are doing some online testing in the computer lab, but our Maths groups will resume next Wednesday, 19th November at 9.20am. Unfortunately the home readers have not been getting changed very often lately as we have had very few helpers in the mornings. Reading is one of the most important and useful skills that you can practice with your child and one of the few types of homework which will actually improve their results. It is very boring to read the same book over and over, so please come in for a few minutes in the mornings to help out. If you don’t have much time, you can just get the children to change their reading books and not worry about getting them to read to you. Hopefully they all have someone at home to listen to them.

Many thanks,
Melissa Digby

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Our Year 2’s supported Day for Daniel by dressing in red ....
Year 4 News

We have a very busy time at the moment, trying to complete major assessment work and ensure everyone is up to date. So it is important that children are at school on time every morning, and are present every day where possible. Many thanks to those parents who are working to enforce and encourage longer sleeping hours for the children, and congratulations to those children who are making sure they get to bed on time, and who try to stay alert and focused in class.

In English, we have almost completed our assessment of the advertising unit where children analyse ads and identify the persuasive techniques that were used. We follow this with a unit where children create packaging and advertising for a breakfast cereal product, and children need an empty cereal box for this task. If you have cereal boxes we could use, please send them along as soon as possible.

In Maths we have been working on fractions, developing understanding of common fraction, decimal fractions, mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have also worked to understand the connections between these. Those children who are looking for logic and are staying on task are finding this understanding is coming quite easily, which is great to see. We have also continued to practise the four operations, including decimal fractions in addition and subtraction operations.

In Geography, we are discussing sustainability, thinking of ways we could change some current practices to improve sustainability. Children have enjoyed these discussions and are looking at ways to analyse the things they do regularly, learning more about some of the problems that arise.

Please encourage children to stay on track, both with their learning work and with their self-management of behaviour. The class has made tremendous progress during the year, and it will be wonderful to finish our year in a positive light. Thanks to parents for the great support you’ve given to date.

Please be sure to contact me if you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress. Thanks for your ongoing support.

Martin Hammelswang

…. and so did our Year 4’s.
Year 3 News

Year 3 have been exceptionally busy with assessments at this stage of the term so it is extremely important that when your child is away, they catch up on any assessment items as soon as possible.

In English this week all students will be expected to present their own poem to the class. We have been writing the poems over the past week adapted from a poem about a desert community. The children will be marked on their presentation, clear speech, tone and volume and eye contact. They should have a copy of their poem at home this week to practice as well as the usual written homework.

In History we are looking at transport, the natural and built environment of our local area and continuity and change in these areas.

In Science there is lots of hands-on fun with experiments involving change of state between solids and liquids.

Please remember to have swimmers on Thursday for our lessons. We still have quite a few who need to pay the $20 term fee for the lessons. Please send it into the office ASAP.

Julia Shafer

Year 5

Our class got to enjoy a History excursion to Charters Towers last Friday. They got to meet ghosts on the gold heritage tour, check out some mining equipment and pan for gold themselves. Everyone struck it rich!
Years 6 & 7 News

Only 25 primary school days left!!

We have almost completed our first English unit where students wrote a motivational speech. Some of their topics have been quite interesting and meaningful – racism, bullying, school and changes they would like to see to Australia. Combined with their speech, students have also been posting blogs online in response to questions. This has been a new experience for most students which they have enjoyed. Their balloon-powered vehicles in Science are coming along well with some great ideas on how to modify their vehicle, such as using CDs for the wheels! They will recreate the prototype vehicle and test it again this week.

Homework this week will be to practise their speech to present it on Wednesday. They will also have their usual weekly spelling and reading homework.

It is almost report card time. Assessments are continuing and grades are being processed. Please ensure your child is at school every day to ensure they have the best opportunity to achieve their best efforts.

Graduation will be held in week 10 of this term and we have been brainstorming some great celebration ideas, some of which the students know about and others that will be a surprise. One of these ideas requires a baby photo of themselves. Can you please either scan and email a baby photo of your child or send it to school with them? Thanks.

Homework Club: Thursday afternoon - 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Swimming: Please ensure students come to school on Thursday with their togs, towel, goggles and a swim shirt/rashie.

Cat and Kerri-Anne

Balloon powered vehicle

Group writing task
OPEN LETTER TO ALL SCHOOL FAMILIES REGARDING THE NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM

During 2014, the Magnetic Island State School P&C has been working hard designing a new school uniform, which includes a new school logo, for implementation from January 2015. The phase-in period for the new uniform will be 12 months. This means that during 2015, either the old or the new uniform can be worn, however all Prep students and new students starting at our school in 2015 will be required to wear the new uniform. The new uniform and the process of its development has been the centre of discussion at our P&C meetings throughout 2014, although sadly very few parents have turned up to put forward their point of view.

Our new uniform was presented to the students, teachers and parents in attendance at parade last Monday and was very well received. A new uniform sample will be on display in the office and available to view at our P&C meeting this Thursday 13 November in the Staff Room at 6.30pm. You are all most welcome to attend.

You may have noticed that our new uniform has been caught up in a media frenzy which has promoted our little school and our beautiful island in a positive light locally, nationally and even as far afield as New Zealand, Fiji and the United Kingdom. The main reason being:

Dr Simone Harrison, (BSc., MPHTM, FACTM, PhD), Director of JCU’s Skin Cancer Research Unit is a parent at our school and member of our P&C Uniform Committee. Simone has published scientific papers showing that some of the pigmented moles that develop in childhood can be prevented by regularly wearing high UPF clothing that covers a significant proportion of the body surface. In a recent study of 770 children she demonstrated that this could be achieved through minor alterations to clothing such as knee length shorts and elbow length sleeves – features we have adopted in our new uniform. Given that the number of moles children develop is the most important risk factor for melanoma (the most deadly form of skin cancer) these precautions can make a huge difference to your children’s long-term health. This latest research was published worldwide last week and our uniform was used to demonstrate the alterations required to protect our children from developing skin cancer. Our new uniform photo featuring Ned, Molly and Nikki has appeared in Australian newspapers and on several international websites!!

In consultation with Dr Harrison, we have developed a new uniform that offers our students greater body coverage and complies with sun-protective clothing standards (UPF 50+), which our current uniform does not have. We have however, gone one step further to be one of the first state schools in Queensland to develop a uniform that goes beyond the current AS/NZ Sun-Protective Clothing Standard, by increasing sleeve length to the elbow, thus minimising our student’s risk of developing skin cancer later in life.

Our new polo is predominantly navy, with small sections of teal green and white and is made of a breathable polyester sports mesh weave with a UPF 50+ rating. When choosing school uniforms the QLD Government recommends that the following be considered:

- be durable and kid-proof
- be cool and comfortable
- have a tight weave
- be dark in colour (dark orange, red, green, blue and black are recommended)
- have a 30+ ultraviolet protection factor (UPF)

Our new polo satisfies those criteria. We have also selected unisex navy cargo shorts to the knee and navy culottes for girls which will go almost to the knee. Our new uniform does not offer a dress option as we are unable to source a "unsafe" design at an affordable price. A new bucket hat won’t show as many stains, and is made of a durable, high-quality, sun-protective clothing that wicks perspiration away from the skin, making it cooler to wear. The new uniforms also wash well and don’t need ironing if they are hung directly from the clothes line. The 770 children in an earlier study in north Queensland led by Dr Harrison also reported no significant discomfort in elbow and knee length clothes. Please consider a slightly looser fit polo for your child. Not only will this fit them for longer as they grow, it will help to keep them cooler.

It is unfortunate that our uniform will no longer be able to be purchased from the School. Due to the lack of parent volunteers coming forward to manage uniform stocks over the past two years this change has become necessary. Our new uniform will be available to order online, without the P&C having to outlay thousands of dollars on uniform stock thus freeing-up much needed P&C funds. It will also be far less time consuming for Helen and Susan in the office and the P&C Committee. It is not part of the job description of our School Admin staff to sell P&C uniforms.

For these reasons, the new uniform will be a little more expensive than our existing uniform, but the advantages over the old uniform are numerous. For instance, the new polo won’t show as many stains, and is made of a durable, high-quality, sun-protective clothing that wicks perspiration away from the skin, making it cooler to wear. The new uniforms also wash well and don’t need ironing if they are hung directly from the clothes line. The P&C Committee has even applied for a grant in the hope that we can relieve some of the financial burden for parents of current students when changing over to the new uniform in 2015. The results of this grant application will be known mid December. We hope that concerned parents will help the P&C Committee by devoting some of their time and effort into helping write a few more grants to improve our chances of achieving this aim.

Our new uniform is being supplied by School Threads – a small business in Ashgrove, Brisbane called “Ashgrove West Drapery”. The drapery has been running for over 60 years and in that time has been locally manufacturing and retailing uniforms to the local schools. In Nov 2010, the Drapery launched their website called “School Threads” so that they could supply uniforms to schools outside of the Brisbane area. The new uniform will be available to purchase online from today at www.schoolthreads.com.au. In order to have a new uniform to start first day of school in January 2015, School Threads are asking parents to place their uniform order by December 3rd 2014 to avoid disappointment.

A full sizing set of the uniform will arrive Monday 17th November for parents to try on their children before ordering. These will be available before school from Monday 17th November to Thursday 20th November between 8am and 8.30am and Monday 24th November to Thursday 27th November after school from 2.25pm to 3pm. They will also be on display at the Prep Orientation morning. If these times are not suitable an alternative time can be arranged with the P&C by appointment only.

Jo Sinclair-Jones
Principal

Helen Mowat
P&C President