Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

This week, our school lodged our submission to Region regarding the Great Results Guarantee Funding. This funding is targeted to support improvement in Numeracy and Literacy for students in Prep to Year 2. In our school, this includes a focus on 505 students in these year levels as well as some extension into Year 3.

Education Qld has earmarked $338,000 for our school to use to improve numeracy and literacy. Our plan includes the following major strategies:

• Significant in-class support from additional teachers and teacher aides.
• Focussed intervention programs for specific groups of students to address identified needs.
• A focus on early intervention eg some prep students are already receiving support with an oral language program. Additional Speech Language pathology time is being pursued.
• Genuine support for lower achieving students as well as students across the full range, including strategies to maximise the achievement of our more capable students.
• Support for teachers to develop inclusive programs based on quality pedagogy.
• Regular monitoring and analysis of student progress and use of achievement data to inform further learning for students.

The organisation of the above into a cohesive strategy, ensuring a balance between in-class support and withdrawal for intensive lessons is critical. We look forward to this journey being particularly productive for our students.

TECHNOLOGY

Our school endeavours to use technology to support the learning process. While there is often a focus on learning how to use a particular piece of technology, our aim is to maximise the technology to add value to the learning processes within classrooms to benefit students. Through this process, students will develop skills and understandings, preparing them for the technological environment at high school and beyond.

Our investment in technology is considerable. Funds are dedicated to licences, to internet access for the whole school, expanding wireless capability and for ensuring our devices (desktop, laptops and iPads) are current and serving their purpose.

Plans for this year include purchasing up to 40 additional computers – some to replace older models and others to extend our capability.
TECHNOLOGY continued…
Mathletics and Reading Eggs are two programs which are very valuable to support students’ growth in Numeracy and Reading Comprehension.
Mathletics can be organised by teachers to ensure students are able to access a suitable level of challenge as well as drill and practice. Reading Eggs provides stimulating opportunity for students to read and develop comprehension skills through challenging activities.
Both programs are available “online”, meaning that they can be accessed both at school and at home in such a manner that students build on their prior lessons, rather than restart each time.
Every child should have access to their username and password to use these programs.

TRAFFIC ALERTS
Parents are reminded that the area immediately in front of the school, along the fence from the front gate to the boom gate is a designated drop-off and collection zone. This means parents are welcome to use these bays to drop off students in the morning and to collect children in the afternoon. However, to use this facility properly, parents must never leave their car.
Police have been informed of inappropriate use recently.
On the eastern edge of the side car park, is an Energex depot. The entry/exit to this depot is to the left of the exit lanes. Energex has asked me to request that parents leave an entry/exit pathway open at all times. Therefore, parents are asked to not park in such a manner as to block entry/exit from the Energex depot.
This request is particularly important from a safety perspective – there needs to be access in case of an accident, allowing access by an ambulance.

LEADERSHIP “SHARING” NEXT MONDAY
Next Monday afternoon, our “sharing” will be a special event as we present badges to our school leaders. Badges will be presented to school leaders and house captains and student council representatives.
This “Sharing” is a scheduled junior sharing, so junior presentations by classes will be presented after the badge ceremony. There will be no class awards this week.
All parents are most welcome to attend Sharing. The parents of students receiving badges will be advised.

Mick Quinn,
Principal

WHOLE SCHOOL SHARING -
Monday, 3 March 2014 - 2:10pm
Badge Presentation for School Representatives, Student Councillors and House Captains.

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<th>Sharing Items</th>
<th>Social Skill</th>
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UP AND COMING EVENTS
Friday, 28 February 4E Ashmore Bicycle Safety Centre
Thursday, 6 March Visit by Helensvale State High School Principal, Mark Blackshaw to meet with parents regarding Year 6 and 7 transition to high school
**P&C AGM**
The Annual General Meeting of the P&C Association will be held on Monday 10th March in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend.

At this meeting, office bearers for 2014 will be appointed. There is also a change to the constitution to be confirmed, as required by EQ and QCPCA. The P&C plays an important role within the school. It adds to the life of students at school, raises funds to support the school and provides advice to the principals on key issues relating to the school and community.

Our school has relied on a small group of parents who have accepted the responsibility to be parent leaders and done an exceptional job in recent years.

At the AGM, all positions on the executive are declared vacant. Office bearers for 2014 will then be appointed.

Nominations for these positions are invited, through completion of the following form.

![Nomination Form](image)

Please complete, cut out & deliver to the school office by Friday 7th March.

**PERFORMING ARTS NEWS**
A big thank you to Katie’s family of 1D who donated some beautiful material and scarves to our department.

Also all our Instrumental students have been starting to bring in their new instruments and are very excited about learning a new instrument.

Our 3 choirs this year have begun and we are very pleased with the amount of children attending. We have 90 students who joined the Junior Choir. The Senior Choir and Little Voices also have good numbers. It is a testament to your talented children and their love of music.
LIBRARY NEWS

Book Club
The library offers students the opportunity to order through Scholastic Book Club. Brochures will go home via student’s classroom teacher. Issue 2 will be handed out this week. Completed order forms are to come to the library by the due date that will be placed on the school’s website and a notice in the classroom and library. Payment can only be via credit card, cheque or money order made out to Scholastic Australia. **We are unable to accept cash.** Issue 1 is due to the library by Tuesday 11 March.

Library Borrowing
To borrow, students need a library bag and their library number. Students may borrow before school, after school (Mon-Thurs), in their allocated lunchtime or their borrowing time. They are not permitted to borrow if they have an overdue book. The borrowing time is one week with 2 renewals for senior students. Students may log in to Olly with their library number to check what they have on loan, renew their books and reserve books. Prep, Year 1 and 2 may borrow one book. Year 3 and 4 may borrow 2 books. Year 5 to 7 may borrow 3 books. Home Readers – Students who are at level 14 – 26+ may borrow up to 4 home readers from the library.

NEWS FROM 4C
The beginning of this term has been very busy. Students have settled into a routine now and are ready to do their best. In English students are learning how to write their own chapter for 'The Twits' using language techniques. We are also focusing on learning our times tables and are hoping to be a lot faster at them. 4C has enjoyed the Bike Education Excursion, learning the road signs, improving their road skills and especially riding their bikes on the road.

We are going to continue working hard.

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Religion books for Years 1 and 4 to 7 are now available at the Tuckshop. We are still waiting for Years 2 and 3 to arrive.

Could parents also please avoid bringing $50 or $100 bills to the tuckshop to get change – we do not have enough cash to deal with large notes.

Also a reminder that there is a computer on the tuckshop counter for parents to access Flexischools and order online.

JAPANESE STUDENTS
Would you like to have wonderful cultural experiences with students from Japan?
Australia Japan Study Programme Pty Ltd (AJSP) organises short-term educational programs & host families for Japanese students. If you are interested in becoming a host family, please contact –
Mobile: 0417 902 035 (Miki)  Email: ajspmiki@gmail.com  Website: [www.ajsp.net.au](http://www.ajsp.net.au)

BEING A FRIEND VERSUS BEING A PARENT
It’s interesting the number of people both children and adults alike who believe that a Mum or Dad should be a friend in preference to being a parent. The job of being a parent is so much more than being a friend and holds a great deal of responsibility. This is worth some discussion.

What does Being a Parent mean:

- Being there for your child – to talk with them, take them places, stay up late waiting for them to come home to know they are safe, helping them with homework that sometimes is beyond your own knowledge, having school meetings with teachers, preparing lunches for years on end (this alone would test any friendship).
- Being with them to celebrate the good times but also to help them through the difficult times (and at times the difficult times out way the good times).
- Even when they say ‘I hate you’ you give them unconditional love by answering ‘I love you’ (not many friends would last the distance if they felt unloved).
- Using tough love when needed (letting them know when they have done the wrong thing; getting them to take responsibility for their actions; setting limits).
- Letting them know what they are doing well but also letting them know what they may need to improve on (which they may not want to hear).
- Being honest but not harsh eg. if an outfit is inappropriate who better to tell them than a parent (a friend most probably wouldn’t).
- Being the shoulder to cry on but eager to talk through the issue causing the problem.
- Modelling good behaviour and educating your child with skills needed for them to be ready for living in the community.
- In drastic times - dropping everything and coming to their aid – at these times putting their needs before your own.

It takes more than a friend to be a parent. It takes love, commitment, selflessness, and endurance. Let’s congratulate ourselves for lasting the distance.