Hello everyone,

Selected students participated today in the Sarina District Cross Country event held at Sarina Golf Club. Naturally, it is a big step up to compete against students from farther afield, but all finished the course. Well done to Bodhi, Tarrell, Chris M, Katie, Alice and Alysha for your sportsmanship. Katie-May Jones placed 2nd, and Alice Hamblin placed 4th. Both girls have now been invited to compete in Mackay at the next level. Congratulations Katie-May and Alice! 😊

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will take part in NAPLAN testing next week. Students will be tested on language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and writing on 10 May, reading on 11 May, and numeracy on 12 May. NAPLAN testing aims to provide schools with information about learning areas where students may need assistance to improve their outcomes. Results will be released later this year, and students will receive NAPLAN report cards. Teachers will be in touch with parents if exemption or adjustment forms need to be signed. Parents also have the right to withdraw their child from taking the tests, though an appointment with me will be required. Breakfast will be provided for Y3/5 students on NAPLAN mornings. Donations of eggs would be much appreciated.

Have you purchased your ticket to the Mother’s Day Morning Tea! Looking forward to seeing you there!

**A World Of Shape**

We have recently finished assessing a maths unit about shapes. The children have learnt the names, and investigated features of 2D and 3D shapes. As part of the unit, the children have created an amazing display of artwork in the library of shapes in their environments. If you haven’t already seen it please take the time to have a look. To ensure we are giving every student the best opportunity to learn their shapes we have especially included shapes in our daily Rapid recall exercises and the Perceptual Motor Program each week. Students’ best learn when their whole body is engaged! The students have been calling the shapes names out as they have been crawling through them.

**Important Dates:**
- 6 May – Mother’s Day Stall
- 8 May – P&C fundraiser: Mother’s Day Morning Tea
- 10 – 12 May: NAPLAN (Year 3, 5)
- 11 May – P&C meeting @ 5:00pm in the library
- 24 May – Under 8’s Day
- 23 – 27 May - Bookfair
- 2-3 June – Principal conference

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**Our Learning Objectives:**
1. Reading and writing must make sense!
2. Student know what they know, and know what they need to know next!
School Dental Van

No doubt you saw the Dental Van parked on the path and ready for business. The dental technicians are planning on starting their checks with the children today (Wed). As parents are now required to be present when the children attend the van, they will be getting into contact with parents to make appointment times. Unfortunately, the Dental Service is reliant on mobile service, and so experience difficulty sending and receiving calls while on the school grounds. Please contact the school landline if you need a message passed on.

The dental van is expected to be here for just over a fortnight. Permission forms were sent home in February, allowing client files to be created/sorted. If families missed returning their form, spare forms are available in the office and will be accepted until the end of this week.

While the van is on the grounds, the carpark is no longer as secure as it was. Please be watchful.

Food For Thought

What Are You Wearing?

For many people today body art, fashion, hair colour and style, the car they drive or the house they own can be the defining factor of their identity or social status. Now there is nothing wrong with any of these things. We need clothes, we like jewellery and a roof over our head is essential. However, when these things define us rather than being an expression of our personality or life in time, we may suffer greatly when things change or are lost.

Growing older, losing youthful beauty or career, property or a partner are all risks of life - be prepared but don’t worry. Focus and work on those things that are internal; your attitude, love for others, compassion, forgiveness, honesty and other values and character that defines you. You will then find when the external things change and decay what really matters, the real you, what and who you are inside will last and give comfort and satisfaction.

-- Chappie Di

Mother’s Day Stall

There will be a Mother's Day stall at the school on Friday morning 6th May – during first session. There will be a range of items available priced from $1 to $5 to spoil Mum (and Grandma) for Mother's Day.

The children really enjoying shopping for Mum/Grandma, and it is a great opportunity for them to handle money. It is also very affordable.

For younger children, please put their name on an envelope and write on the front who they are buying for and how much they are allowed to spend. The teachers and helpers will guide the children. There is no need to order or hand in the money early. Just bring the money on the day.
Homework can get to be a real bore if it’s the same thing day in day out. I like to change things up a bit every now and then to make homework a time that my child enjoys, and is also memorable. From my personal experience, I have found that making up some simple activities to create a fun homework time to hold my child’s attention. All he wanted to do after a day of school is run around and play. So I made some of the homework part of the play time. These ideas have helped my child through their homework tasks over the years, so I wanted to share them with other families who are finding homework a challenging time.

- A large zip lock bag with a little paint inside and sticky taped to the table is a fun way to write out spelling words. Plus mess free.
- Two cups of cooking salt in a biscuit tray with sides makes a great sensory activity which is calming and a great way to write out spelling words with fingers or with a paddle pop stick.
- Rolling out playdough into thin strips to make up spelling words.
- Writing out sight words in chalk on the trampoline and jumping on the correct one when it’s called out.
- Writing out sight words and spelling words in chalk on the fence, concrete path or chalk board. To mix things up a bit, throw a tennis ball at the words on the fence or floor and call them out as you hit them.
- Draw up the spelling words in a ‘find a word’ grid.
- Recite spelling and words while balancing on one leg.
- Write out sight words that your child is having trouble with on post it notes and stick them up on the bathroom mirror, in their bedroom or around the house.
- Write out the sight words on small pieces of paper, lay them out on the table or floor and have your child swap them with a fly swat as they get it correct. If you have more than one player who ever swats it first get to read it out and earns a point.
- Old Tupperware shapes balls have lots of sides to stick sight words on or spelling words on. Roll it around and read out the words.
- Write letters on the sides of Mega blocks, Duplo blocks or Lego blocks and build your spelling words.
- Turn the lights out and play spot light inside. Have the sight words written out, hide them around a room or house, and have your child search with a torch to find all the words.

by Tania Vonhoff
(The above resulted from a parent/teacher conversation……more ideas coming in next week’s newsletter.)