Proston State School’s Improvement Agenda

Every year Proston State School reflects on school and student data, identifies trends and examines research that can possibly help us get the maximum return on investment regarding student outcomes. This year is no different. We have identified three areas to focus on which will reflect student improvement by the end of 2016 and beyond.

1. Relationships:
This has been at the forefront of our improvement agenda for many years. Over the past years we have adopted diaries, improved communication with parents, improved our exposure in the community, adopted an ‘open door’ policy, sought feedback from students, parents and staff to name a few. The improvement we have seen in student outcomes and school opinion is proof that most of these new strategies are effective.

2. Strong Pedagogy in Reading:
Reading is the foundation for success in all academic fields and life in general. Without a strong foundation in reading, research shows that students are more likely to commit criminal offences before the age of twenty. We also understand that results in any subject largely hinge on how competent the teacher is. Pedagogy is essentially the practice of teaching. A strong pedagogy obviously states that we are focusing on developing teachers and teacher aide skills in the teaching of reading.

3. Strong Pedagogy in Numeracy:
Numeracy is also an essential part of your child’s education and a solid foundation is key for success during their academic journey and later in life. Like a strong pedagogy in reading, we will continue to focus on developing our skills in teaching numeracy. Proston State School’s ‘Big 3’ will shape teachers’ professional development choices, school resourcing, observation and feedback.

Parents are also invited to learn more about our school priorities and we have great programs to assist your child with their reading development. I would invite all parents to come in and speak to their child’s teacher to learn how they can help enhance numeracy and literacy development at home.

Student Laptops and Attendance
Last year we announced that we would be equipping our secondary students with a laptop. Year 9/10s would be able to bring their laptop home with them on a daily basis, while the Year 7/8s would be required to hand in their laptop to the office on a daily basis. The school is trialling an incentive for the Year 7/8s in an attempt to boost their attendance rate at school. From the start of Term 2, Year 7/8 students who demonstrate a 92% attendance rate at school will be able to take their laptops home with them on a daily basis. To date, the majority of students have hit that target and will be able to bring their laptop home with them, provided they have paid the laptop fee. Our goal is to have 100% of students able to take their laptop home with them by the end of Term 2!

Mr Ryan Pedley
Students Of the Week

Week 2, Term 2
Back Row: Lachlan Doessel, Colby Smith, Skye Palmer

Middle Row: Ollie Thomas, Noah Christie

Front Row: Josh Strauss, Milla Brown, Polly Brown, Reese Hamilton, Declan Puller

Cross Country Highlights
Year 1/2 Star News

The first two weeks have been exciting with our Maker Space well underway. Students and parents have donated lots of interesting items. We have started planning our characters and our storyboards. We have also had our first lesson on the computers and learnt to log into a computer. Next lesson we will be investigating a program called Photo Story. This is a term project and we are thankful to the parents who have donated resources to our learning. The students will all need assistance throughout their Maker Space projects, any time you can give is greatly appreciated. Maker space is about being creative, collaboration and planning. If you are still interested in volunteering please let Mrs H know and I will add you to the roster or just come along during the times below and join in.

Parent Roster for Maker Space.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 9.50 to 10.50</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Cummings</td>
<td>Colleen Humphries</td>
<td>Tania Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Jocelyn</td>
<td>Robyn Puller</td>
<td>Louise Wright</td>
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<td>Jolie Wieland</td>
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Mrs Holland
Welcome back for Term 2.
We have started the term with some great energy….Literally Electrically Energy in our science unit. Students have had a great time creating electrical circuits using batteries and light globes. We will combine this unit with our Technology unit to design and create an alarm system. Watch out burglars! You will have no chance against the current Proston 5/6 class!!!!!

The English unit for the term has students adapting advertisements and eventually creating their own. I can’t wait to see what they come up with.
Homework has been issued to all students. This needs to be completed Monday to Friday and returned to school every day. They all have booklets that are tailored to their own spelling groups. Please ensure they are completed each day and are also returned each day as well. Homework club will be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunch breaks.

Mrs Belinda Waterford
Year 3/4

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone,
This term is a little longer than most but we will also be very busy with NAPLAN testing and Semester one assessment. NAPLAN testing is from the 10-12th May. The year three students are working very hard on developing their comprehension skills for the reading task and their ability to comprehend the type of maths questions they may come across in the maths section of the test.
All students are about to begin work on their entries for the CWA School Children's international competition for 2016. The year 3 students will be working on an A4 size Flag of Greenland and the Australian flag - all drawn on the one A4 page. The Year 4 students will be working on an A3 size Poster - Flora and Fauna of Greenland.
Don’t forget we have Kitchen/Garden every Friday morning and we would love to have volunteers come and help in the garden.

If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to come and see me at school or email me on sxmar2@eq.edu.au

Miss Stacy Martin

Year 9 English

The Year 9 English class recently had to design a new Australian flag and persuade the rest of the class why their flag represented a contemporary Australia and why it should be the one chosen to replace our traditional flag. As you can see there are some fantastic designs and who knows, maybe one day you may see one of these designs flying high and proud from our flagpoles!

Mrs Salter
Prep/One Busy Bee News

What a wonderful start we have had this term. We have been completing a lot more subjects. The students are learning about History of the families in class as well as Technology and Visual arts. We are still completing English and Maths as well so they are very busy days. If you can lend a hand in the classroom please come and see me as this would be appreciated. Here are some photos of our highlights of the past week.

Folders and Diaries: Please check these everyday as this is a form of communication between parents and myself. Homework needs to be completed and sightword books need to come back everyday so when we have time they can be tested on them and the reading books changed.

Please remember that all students need their hats every day as the school as No Hat No Play policy.

Yours in Education,

Mrs Sue Jones

Community News

If you have a group with an upcoming or ongoing events, let the school know and we will endeavour to include it in the newsletter if we have space.

**Proston Playgroup**

Proston Playgroup will be having a pie drive soon. Forms will be available in shops in Proston or you can contact Trudy on 0428 802609

Please support our playgroup to give our kids a great start in life!
Goomeri Show
Goomeri Show was a true test of endurance for both our students and the animals. It was by far the hottest conditions we have had to show in ever with the top temperature reaching 36 degrees. It was however our most successful show as well. Our heifer Kai Kai won her age group, then went onto win Champion Junior Heifer and got pipped by a cow and calf outfit for Champion Female Exhibit. Our other heifer Kassidy got 3rd in her age group as well. Our middle weight steers were also very successful with Leo winning the class and Clyde getting 3rd. Our heavy weight steer Felix then won the heavy weight division. We also walked away with a 1st and 2nd in the top 5.

Due to the heat and the well-being of our animals only 4 of the students participated in junior handling and they did particularly well handling the heat at 1pm in the afternoon. All students participated in junior judging and Hayley once again had the opportunity to speak to the line-up and received a 3rd for her age group.

Thank You!!!
A massive thank you once again to Noel Chesterton for lending us a bull. Joe arrived in early January and has been working very hard. I would also like to thank Basil and Riverina Stockfeeds for their continued support. Basil went above and beyond for us last season stretching our tonne for tonne deal to the absolute limit. He also dropped off a box of hats, judging books and other goodies for the students. We need to say a very big thank you to Robert Harper from Triumph Angus in Murgon for donating 2 Angus steers, Buster and Felix. They have been an absolute godsend this past year. It took about an hour to break them in as 12 month olds and they did not put a foot wrong. We could trust them with our absolute beginners even when they reached 600 kgs.

Steers Needed!!!
Our strike rate last year wasn’t what we wanted but that can happen after an extended dry period. We only ended up with 2 heifer calves and one steer, Leo, born in July. As a result we have no steers for next year’s show season as we intend on taking Leo to the Ekka this year. So if you happen to have a steer that you wouldn’t mind donating to the program or perhaps you know someone that might, please keep us in mind at weaning time and call the school. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.
The Proston SS Cross Country Carnival was a major success on the last day of Term 1. The weather was perfect and everyone had fun cheering on their schoolmates, friends and children. What a way to start the holidays! The Age Champions are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jack Dunlop</td>
<td>Milla Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Ollie Thomas</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Barber</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Riley Dunlop</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Liam Wright</td>
<td>Mersadeez Nielsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Ethan Jocelyn</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nicholas Urban</td>
<td>Brooke Nielsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Lachlan Doessel</td>
<td>Seneva McGhee</td>
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<tr>
<td>15+</td>
<td>Cody Beasley</td>
<td>Skye Palmer</td>
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Congratulations to everyone who participated, and especially those who came first in their age division. Each student should be very proud of making it past that finish line! At the end of the day, the House points were tallied and Stuart came out on top with 262 points. Just behind them was Boyne with 234 points. Well done to both Houses - the war cries were shouted loud and proud all day long!

Next up...Athletics Carnival in Term 3!

Miss Jessica Hall