Dear Parents,

Jaxon – for great thinking during technology.

Rae-Lee – for her outstanding problem solving during calendar work and consistently applying herself.

Annabella - for working hard in many aspects of her schooling. Very impressed.

Jessica S. – for her excellent attitude and adjusting so quickly to the routines in her new class.

Mitchell R. – for having a great attitude and behaviour, both in and out of the classroom.

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE IS ON EVERY FRIDAY**

with sausages and Home Brand ice blocks.

Sausage and bread $1.20
Ice block $1.00
Sausage and ice block deal $2.00

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 29 October</td>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 31 October</td>
<td>World Teachers’ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 6 November</td>
<td>Prep 2015, Information Morning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10 November</td>
<td>Years 5-7 leave for Tallebudgera Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 14 November</td>
<td>Years 5-7 return from Tallebudgera Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, 4 December</td>
<td>Prep-Yr 2 Sleepover at School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 10 December</td>
<td>Concert Night</td>
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<td>Thursday, 11 December</td>
<td>Break Up Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 12 December</td>
<td>Clean Up Day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BOOK CLUB**

Brochures for book club issue no. 7 have been sent home. Orders are due back at school by Wednesday, 29th October. Please allow one week after this date for delivery.

**BEN TOPS THE STATE!! HIGHEST SCORE IN QLD!**

I received a fax after last week’s newsletter advising me that Ben, in Year 4, had the highest mark in all of Queensland for the UNSW Maths Test. Far out! What an amazing accomplishment, Ben. We expect that Ben will soon receive an invitation to travel to Brisbane to receive a special medallion to commemorate his achievement. Congratulations, Ben!

**ARE WE LOSING A TEACHER IN 2015?**

If there’s one thing I’m certain of in education, it’s that nothing is certain. Having said that, it looks very unlikely, at this point, that our teacher numbers will be dropping in 2015.

We’ve grown significantly this year and we’re currently sitting on an enrolment of 151 students. We know that we’ll lose 32 students, (21 x Year 6s & 11 x Year 7s), to high school in 2015. That reduces our student population to 119. The usual “cut-off” for a 6th teacher is around the 128 mark. That leaves us needing 9, (or more), Preps to keep our current teacher numbers. Given that we have 24 students enrolled in Prep this year, I’d like to think we’re a good chance of getting at least 9 Preps in 2015. If you know a child who is enrolling at Sharon School in 2015, please advise us. Some students may be transferring from other schools to Sharon next year or leaving Sharon. We need to know this information as soon as possible to finalise classes for 2015.

**FAREWELL, MISS PHILP**

While we’re unlikely to drop in teacher numbers, it’s with sadness that we will be losing Miss Philp at the end of this year. Although it’s very disappointing to see Miss Philp go, I know we only feel that way because we’ve been so lucky to have her with us in the first place.

Miss Philp has done a wonderful job during her time with us, not just in the fact that she has worked so hard, but also because of the genuine care she has shown towards her students and fellow staff members. While she still has plenty of work to do yet, I’m sure you’ll join with me in thanking Shona and wishing her all the very best in the future.

**WELCOME, MRS LEWIS!**

The Education Department must be confident of us getting those 9 Prep students because Mrs Shontelle Lewis has been transferred into our school as a permanent replacement for Mr Galea. Mrs Lewis has been to our school a few years ago to help students with robotics.
My name is Mrs Lewis and I’m happy with a cheer,  
To know that I’m coming to Sharon SS next year!  
This is my baby Daisy and I love to play guitar.  
I drive around in a little yellow car.  
I was so excited when I heard where I’ll be.  
A nice big change to the bush from the sea!

I am delighted to be heading your way in 2015. I have taught at Burnett Heads State School for 4 years, teaching years 4 and 5. Burnett Heads State School is a Reef Guardian School. You may have known me before if you were involved with Lego Robotics. I am pleased to be a part of your school community and I already feel welcome and comfortable knowing some people there already.

I am excited and look forward to getting to know you all soon.

Kind regards,

Shontelle Lewis

CLASSES FOR 2015

Teachers have already started work on considering which classes will be best for individual students in 2015. Parents have occasionally come to me (after we’ve announced classes) requesting their child be placed with a certain teacher. Let me assure you this is EXCEPTIONALLY difficult to do after classes have been set.

If you have a pressing concern over who your child will be working with next year, PLEASE CONTACT ME BEFORE WE FINALISE CLASSES. Even then, while I’ll certainly seriously consider your request, I cannot promise you’ll get exactly what you want. You’ll stand a much better chance asking before than after however.

At this stage, with what we know about transfers, estimated student numbers for next year, and staff input, we’re looking at the following arrangement for 2015.

Early Childhood 1 (All of our 2015 preschools will start in this class) Mrs Michelle Lester/Mrs Tarnia Boving
Early Childhood 2 Mrs Janette Puie and Mrs Wendy Searle (team teaching)
Middle School Mrs Shontelle Lewis
Middle to Upper School Mrs Catriona McGovern and Mr Tony McGovern (team teaching)

This setup is looking likely based on what we do know.

Booklists: We’re aiming to have booklists finalised and handed out soon. AASTAT (across the road from Hinkler Place) will pre-package our complete booklist for you. In return, they make a donation, of a percentage of sales obtained, to the school. Alternatively, you can use the booklist to do it yourself using a supplier of your choice.

STUDENT ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

If your address, phone or emergency contact details have changed please advise the office via email or a note in the locked box in the classrooms.

Email: admin@sharonss.eq.edu.au

PREP STUDENTS FOR 2015
– PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Please contact the office for an Enrolment Pack if you have children starting Prep at Sharon School next year or know someone who is enrolling in Prep at Sharon next year.

A Parent Enrolment/Information session is organised for Thursday morning 7 November 9:00am-9:30am in the Salt ‘n’ Peppers’ classroom with Mrs Michelle Lester and Mrs Tarnia Boving. Please bring your completed enrolment forms and birth certificate on that day.

THANK YOU FROM “BUY A BALE”

Earlier this year, I was approached by 4 of our students who were concerned about the plight of farmers out west suffering through the big drought.

As a result of their approach, we held a Gold Coin Donation and a Sausage Sizzle. A total of $555.65 was raised for this worthy cause.

“Buy A Bale” is very appreciative of the girls’ initiative and they’ve asked us to present the girls with certificates of appreciation for their efforts.

Tahlia, Chelsea, Lara & Brooke will be presented with these certificates on parade this Friday.

SCHOOL RULES

Our school has identified the following 3 overriding school rules to teach and promote our high standards of responsible behaviour. They’re all based on the idea of “caring”.

• Care for yourself
• Care for others
• Care for your environment

Caring for others can be as simple as keeping your hands off other people and their property.

QSCHOOLS SMARTPHONE APP

Queensland school communities can interact with their favourite state schools using the QSchools smartphone app.

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-minute information from and about schools.

While all schools are searchable using the app, the full app features are designed to integrate with the department’s preferred school website platform, to allow users to see when news, events and newsletters are posted to their selected school website. Users can also see other useful information provided by the school, such as tuckshop menus, uniform shop information, class times and the school’s and the department’s social media feeds.

The school community can also receive emergency announcements such as natural disasters and school closures through the app.

The QSchools app is particularly useful to parents who have students in different schools, as the app manages updates from multiple schools.

PELLODROME HIGH FLIERS

Students in the Macs class only have to score 300 points in Spellodrome each week. However, quite a few live up to our school motto of “Aim Ever Higher” and go well beyond that minimum expectation.
Special congratulations to Xander (1 015 points), Cloe (1 040 points), Scarlett (1 560 points), Jay (1 000 points), Olivia (1 110 points) and last week’s top scorer, Lena (2 425 points) who all finished with fantastic scores in Spellodrome last week.

QUADRENNIAL SCHOOL REVIEW

The time has come for Sharon State School to undertake a “Quadrennial School Review” (QSR). As the name suggests, a school’s QSR is scheduled every four years. The Teaching and Learning Audit (see below) is considered a vital dimension of this review and will be timed to inform the QSR. The QSR process includes:

• community consultation
• internal school review
• consideration of the achievements of the previous School Plan
• consideration of previous Plan priorities requiring renewed strategic focus
• consultation with the principal’s supervisor
• external review (Teaching and Learning Audit)
• risk assessment process
• verification of the review process
• endorsement of the School Plan

A “traffic lights” survey was sent home with last week’s newsletter. It’s an intentionally simple survey giving parents a chance to:

- Say what you don’t like about Sharon State School
- Say what you do like about Sharon State School and
- Offer suggestions for consideration

Participation in this survey is both voluntary and anonymous. You do not have to come up with 3 suggestions for each section. The space has been made for those who might have 3 suggestions. Nor do you have to answer all 3 of the sections. In fact, you don’t have to answer any of the survey. Just respond with whatever you think might be helpful for our school.

However, please be aware that information gathered from the survey will help us in formulating plans and goals for our school over the next 4 years.

To allow enough time for us to consider the responses from the survey, I’d ask that they be returned by Friday, 31 October.

TEACHING & LEARNING/DISCIPLINE AUDIT

Mr Stewart Jones will be visiting our school on Wednesday, 29 October to conduct our “Teaching & Learning Audit”. The process will involve time looking in classrooms, talking to students, talking to staff, P&C representatives and examining school planning documents. It’s a very thorough process and our heads will no doubt be spinning at the end of the day.

These audits are usually carried out every four years or following the appointment of a new school principal.

At the same time, we will also be undergoing a “Discipline Audit” which examines methodology and effectiveness of behaviour management in the school. As a part of the process, Mr Jones will select some students to talk with and might also contact parents.

STRATEGIES TO READING SUCCESS - QUESTIONING

This strategy might sound a little strange. After all, shouldn’t we be getting kids to just answer questions? Well, yes. However, if we can encourage young readers to get in the habit of questioning, and understand the different “types” of questions, they’ll not only become more successful readers, they’ll also get more enjoyment from it.

Good readers ask questions before, during and after they have read a text.

Sometimes the question is answered in the text.

Sometimes you have to use your own prior knowledge and what’s in the text to help you come up with the answer.

Sometimes the question may not be answered by the text at all and you will have to find another source of information to help you.

Asking and answering questions helps you look for information, which builds understanding.
How Can Parents Help?
If you’re reading with your child, (or even watching a movie with him/her):

- **show** them how to question. “I wonder why, where, when, how, if, who . . .”
- “What’s going to happen next?” (Predicting)
- “Do I/we already know something about . . .?” (Activating prior knowledge)
- Ask questions where the answer is in the text (“Right there” or “Literal” questions) e.g. “Which pig made his house out of sticks?”
- Ask “Think & Search” and “Author & Me” questions where the skill of inferring is required. e.g. “Why did the brick house take longer to build?”
- Ask “On My Own” questions where the answer is not in the text. e.g. “What else could the pigs have used to build a safe house?”

CHATTER MATTERS. NEW “SPEAK” APP
The SPEAK, (Speaking Promotes Education And Knowledge), oral language app has been developed by the department as a joint initiative with Queensland Health and Redland City Council to help develop children’s speaking and listening ability. SPEAK is for anyone who wants the best start in life for their child and provides a fun, convenient way to make chatter matter.

The SPEAK app is available for free download from the iTunes store and Google Play.

SMILE AWHILE
Q: What did the necktie say to the hat?
A: You go on a head. I’ll hang around for awhile.

Q: What kind of vegetable do you get when a giant walks through your garden?
A: Squash.

Q: Why did the rooster cross the road?
A: To prove he wasn’t a chicken.

Q: Why did Darth Vader tie his spaceship up next to the pier?
A: Because he favours the dockside.

Q: What is the best hand to write with?
A: Neither - it’s best to write with a pencil!

WANT OUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED?
If you’d like our newsletter emailed to you, (and I hope you do), please email me with “newsletter email” in the subject heading. By emailing newsletters, we save lots of paper, heaps of time and can be sure the newsletter will make it home.

Please keep in mind that, if I email a newsletter to you, I won’t be handing a paper copy out to your child at school.

Kind regards,

Next Meeting:
The next P&C meeting will be held in the library on Thursday, 20 November at 7:00pm. Everyone is very welcome.

South Kolan Hotel Cent Sale:
A huge thank you to all those who volunteer their time at school, at the cent sale and providing baked goods and a huge thank you to the companies and families who have been providing the wonderful produce. Your help and the wonderful support from the community continue to make our Cent Sales very successful.

Last Saturday was our last Cent Sale for the year and we look forward to letting you know our final figures in a coming newsletter.

AIR CONDITIONING – The P&C is looking to fund the purchase of reverse cycle air conditioning for the Demountable Building (currently Lesters’ Learners classroom). A huge thank you to all of the supporters and volunteers who have contributed to fund raising to make this possible.

Tuckshop:
Two new items for this term are Fried Rice and oven baked Fish and Chips.

P&C FUNDRAISING – ADVANCED LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY
Don't miss out. Book now!
For JUST $15 you get a FRAMED 10 x 13“ family portrait, a key ring and wallet-sized family portrait.

This fundraiser is open to family and friends. So, if you know of anyone that might be interested, please pass on the information.

Your $15 can be put in an envelope and placed in the classroom collection box. Please put your phone number on so we can ring you to organise a time.

With Christmas getting close, it would also make a really great present.

Hayley will have the photos she had done 2 years ago with her. If you would like to see the quality, or have any questions, please let her know.
0407 652 056.

We need 30 families for this to go ahead. So, if you are interested, please act now!