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2015 An amazing year!
Principals Report

The 27th of January seems like a life time ago, the day we began our 2015 journey. The first couple of weeks went by in what resembled a blurry haze as Jeanette noticed a familiar expression on my face, one I like to call “Deer in the headlights”. I would like to think that I have that expression less these days, although only Jeanette can verify that.

The start of Term 1 was not for the faint hearted, with a Full School Review, the Dalrymple Cluster cross country sleep over, trips to Brisbane and Townsville for ‘Professional Development’, the removal of frogs from the toilets, and the most important aspect, teaching 10 of the most amazing students.

By the end of April, the thought crossed my mind that things would slow down a little, but that was not the case. We had soccer training, the Dalrymple Cluster Soccer Carnival at Ravenswood, which we won! The Finance audit, end of financial year reports, Under 8’s day, a fantastic display at the Charters Towers Show, and Mr Single might have discovered the next Roger Federer or Serena Williams. Oh, and NAPLAN, how could I forget NAPLAN.

So during the June/July holidays, I decided not to think that things would slow down and true to form, Term 3 was just as jam packed. There were yet again many facets to focus on, the development of our Strategic plan covering 2016-2018, athletics training with Donna Rankin, the Dalrymple Cluster Athletics carnival (which by the way was -2degrees overnight, sleeping in a classroom), Aborigine for a Day and Music A Viva presentation which coincidently was the first time both performance groups were in the same school on the same day in 28 years. There was National Science week, Community sports day at Pentland, Golden Octopus Day and Cupcakes for a Cure fundraiser.

I wasn’t going to even look at the calendar as Term 4 commenced, Week 1 began with the celebration of the Cowboys winning the Premiership, and we celebrated Cowboy week, our Cowboys flag flew proudly for 6 weeks as we stretched out the celebrations as long as humanly possible. Tess Pemble coached swimming lessons at the BTC pool, and then my first trip to Greenvale for the Cluster’s swimming carnival, there was the Melbourne cup day luncheon, PetPEP program, Water play day, our Community day and of course, the End of Year Presentation Night.

The events of 2015 could not have been as memorable or successful without the support, dedication and commitment of our amazing staff, school community and our extended Homestead Community.

The P&C have been a tremendous support during this year, you set the bar high with your catering skills as the Cross country, you supported fundraising events, contributed financially to ensure every student participated in every activity, planned the direction of the school, transporting students far and wide for sporting events, and made every second Friday amazing with the best tuckshop menu I have seen. Can we please thank our amazing P&C.

Thank you to the Progress Association for your support, the use of the Hall and for your involvement in our school activities and fundraising ventures.

To the parent body of Homestead State School, your support, your willingness to help and be involved in your children’s education is truly remarkable. Your children, the staff and I sincerely thank you.
Speaking of the staff, it is you who truly make this school a great school.

Kerry – each month you create a fantastic account of life at Homestead State School, and go above and beyond for staff and students each and every day.

Sondra – you have worked tremendously hard this year and have not once hesitated at anything I have asked you to do, including painting pots for what must have felt like an eternity.

Emma – your can do attitude and positive outlook certainly keeps life on Fridays entertaining and interesting, and it’s usually when we rearrange the furniture.

Jamie – ensures that there are no frogs in the staff toilet, especially for my benefit and does an awesome job keeping our school clean.

Don – who has a knack of making our school look amazing, and just when I think I have found him a job to do, I realise he’s either done it or its just about done. He also reminds me that every day is a day closer to rain.

Kieron – our resident Chappy. Every time I ask how he is his response is the same, ‘top of the world of course’, your help whether it be with spelling tests, changing the sign or just a chat, has been invaluable.

And Jeanette, I have lost count of the number of times I have started a sentence like this “excuse me Jeanette, I know you have explained it to me but, what was it that I have to do, or who do I email that document to, where to you want me to save that.. One of the first things I asked Jeanette to do was to draw me a family tree so I know who is related to who. The second thing was ‘please point to where I have to sign’ I think I have improved a little, but the jury is still out on that one.

Finally, the students. My general knowledge has improved dramatically, particularly about pigging, did you know you can blow up the lungs of a slaughtered sheep and they still inflate, I now know that not every snake is a taipan even if it’s a the foot of the stairs to the house, that green frogs aren’t stalking me, they are actually looking for water.

A sincere thank you to all of you, each person has made 2015 the most rewarding, exciting and eventful year. I honestly can’t wait for 2016!

I have received confirmation that Mrs Fay Staub will be teaching at Homestead State School for Semester 1, 2016 on Thursdays and Fridays.
Fay comes to Homestead with a wealth of experience and has spent time with the students this year in a relieving capacity.

Congratulations Fay and welcome to Homestead State School.

Principal

Renee Cross

Issue 11 December 2015
The Kevin Bredden ‘All Rounder’ award recipient is a student who has demonstrated:

- Achievement and/or improvement in Academic areas
- Achievement and/or improvement in sport related activities and
- Enthusiasm and initiative in curricula and extra-curricula activities

The 2015 Kevin Bredden “All Rounder’ award goes to Jasper Epong.

The “Reach for the Stars’ Leadership Award was donated by Miss Helen McCullough, a past principal of Homestead State School. This award is based on 5 criteria and has been awarded to the student who consistently demonstrated leadership qualities through the school year.

This student has:

1) Been an effective and responsible role model, both academically and behaviourally

2) Displayed positive and influential behaviour to others to participate fairly and to their fullest potential

3) Established and maintained an excellent rapport with all member of the school community through positive interactions and communication.

4) Demonstrated commitment and initiative towards learning and has encouraged positive actions to implement and support the ideas of self and others.

5) Positively and enthusiastically participates in the life of the school

This year the Reach for the Stars Leadership award goes to Jasper Epong.

This year sees the introduction of the Student Council Shield and the names of the members of the Student Council executive are engraved on a plaque in recognition of their contribution to the school. The student council has played a vital role in the engagement of our student body and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each member of the committee.

Jimmy Stewart – Student Council President
Jasper Epong – Student Council Vice President
Dana Ford – Student Council Secretary
Archie Stewart – Student Council Treasurer

Congratulations boys and girls.
Luke Bredden proudly presented Jasper Epong with the Kevin Bredden Memorial Award for 2015.

Mr. Shane Knuth presented Jasper Epong with the Reach for the Stars Award for 2015.

Mr. Wally Brewer presented Archie Stewart with a $25 Voucher form.

This award has been presented to a student who has shown outstanding achievement in Science, Technology or Maths.

Mr. Wally Brewer presented 2015 the Student Council Committee with their inaugural shield.

Denzel and Jimmy did an amazing job at presenting parts of our presentation.

Principal’s Report, Student Council President’s Report and P&C President’s Report
Shimmy Shake

Australian Hokey Pokey

Book Award Presentations
Students of the Week

**Term Four**

**Week Three:**
- Principal’s Award: Denzel – for your interest and enthusiasm during History
- Class Award: Megan – for showing great rhythm and movement during Dance

**Week Four:**
- Class Award: Makayla – for trying her best in her races
- Principal’s Award: Archie – for demonstrating wonderful behaviour at the swimming carnival

**Week Five:**
- Class Award: Tyler – for being brave and courageous in ‘the deep end’ at the pool
- Principal’s Award: Jimmy – for showing true leadership and citizenship qualities

**Week Six:**
- Class Award: Caleb – for showing determination during swimming lessons
- Principal’s Award: Jasper – for your explanations during Science

**Week Seven:**
- Principal’s Award: Makayla – for your dedication towards your learning
- Class Award: Denzel – for working hard and completing difficult tasks.

**Week Eight:**
- Principal’s Award: Jasper – for showing dedication and resilience
- Class Award: Archie – for following instructions and finishing tasks.

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**Student Council Report**

2015 has been a successful year for us. We managed to raise over $400 from various fundraising events such as Cupcake Day, Footy Colours Day, Crazy Hair Day, Golden Octopus Day, Free Dress days, Pyjama Day, sale of veges from our garden and a Loom Band stall at Under 8s Day. That doesn’t include the funds from this year’s Christmas Raffle.

We were able to make generous donations to Walk for Life, PetPEP, and Vanessa Hankin.

With Mrs. Epong’s help, we have been busy potting plants around our school grounds to make it look a bit brighter.

The Student Council have started to make plans for 2016 which include being involved in Clean Up Australia Day, putting money toward the school camp in Term 3 and we have an exciting garden project planned. We intend to upgrade the nature garden and we would like to develop a garden near the bike and scooter track to make it cooler.

Thank you to all the people who have donated their empty drink cans throughout the year. It is much appreciated.

Thank you to those people who generously donated to our raffle: Hollimans Home Hardware, Marie Skerritt, Pentland Hotel, Red Rooster and Hair Worx.

The winners of the Xmas Raffle are:
- 1st Prize Daphne Isabeth
- 2nd Prize Sammy Cross
- 3rd Prize Sondra Epong

Thank you to everyone who supported this raffle.
Chappy Chat

What Is Our Greatest Treasure?

I was at the Community Christmas Carols in Charters Towers on Sunday Night. For some reason, that made little sense to me at first, they had decided that the carols would be pirate themed. I don’t know if you’ve ever seen children dressed up as Christmas Pirates, but it was a little bit mind-boggling.

As the evening went on and the story unfolded, it was found that the pirates were on a treasure hunt and inevitably they reached the conclusion that the treasure they were really looking for was the baby Jesus in the manger.

Now, as a Christian, I agree that Jesus is our greatest treasure that we should all seek at Christmas time. But... I want to think beyond the obvious, the trite, the expected and the Christian viewpoint.

Setting aside the obvious Christian answer, I’d like you to think about “What is our greatest treasure”? As I’m writing this article in a school newsletter, I would suggest that most readers should answer “Our children” or “Our family”. If this wasn’t your answer, feel free to turn the page now or to read on and argue the point with me later.

Our treasure is that which is most important to us!

The World Values Survey [http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSOlive.jsp] investigates what is important to people in 52 countries, representing 90% of the world population from poorest to richest across multiple faiths and values systems. When asked the importance of Family, Friends, Leisure Time, Work, Politics and Religion; Family consistently ranked highest across the world (except in Egypt where at 99/100 it scores one less than Religion at 100/100). Almost 99% of Australians rate Family as important or very important.

As we head into the holidays, what will we do with this treasure that is so important to us?

I encourage you again, these holidays, to spend time with your family. Appreciate the treasure you have. With one of my treasures living independently and not coming home for Christmas, I can attest to the truth that they grow up so rapidly. Will you look back on these years with regret or fond memories.

How can you increase the value of your greatest treasure?

Enjoy life with your family. Spend quality ‘family time’ with them. Treasure them.

I wish you and your treasures a very happy holiday and safe return next year.

Chappy Jarvis
December/January Birthday Wishes

1st Dec        Denzel Epong turns 9       8th Jan       Tess Pemble
1st Dec        Tony Isabeth              10th Jan      Kirsten Hafemeister turns 10
1st Dec        Laura-Beth Martin         14th Jan      Mick Curtis
4th Dec        Maxie Leggett             18th Jan      Renee Cross
6th Dec        Peter Leggett             23rd Jan      Zoe Curtis turns a BIG 21!!!
10th Dec       Jimmy Stewart turns 11     24th Jan      Tamsin Hafemeister turns 11
15th Dec       Makayla Ford turns 10      27th Jan      Coen Pemble turns 2
16th Dec       Arion Isabeth             27th Jan      John Pemble
17th Dec       Peter Griffiths           31st Jan      Jeanette Curtis
18th Dec       Rhonda Isabeth            
20th Dec       Owen Hafemeister           
24th Dec       Erica Campbell             
28th Dec       Jasper Epong turns 8       

Newsletter Items:
An issue of the Homestead Headlines will be printed at the end of each month. Anyone wishing to place an article in the ‘Headlines’ must have their article in to the school by the Wednesday before printing.
Small articles can be emailed to kpemb1@eq.edu.au
Any additional flyers or inserts must be pre printed before submission.
The next issue will be printed in the New Year!!!!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11th Dec       Last day of Term 4, 2015
25th Dec       Christmas Day—we wish you all a very enjoyable time.
21/22/25th Jan Pupil Free Days
26th Jan       Australia Day public holiday
27th Jan       First Day of Term One for 2016
Visitors to our school

FIRE SAFETY

Richie White from the Charters Towers Rural Fire Brigade visited our school to talk to the children about fire safety.

Pet Pep

Justine and Toby came out to our school to explain to the children how best to care for our pets.

Melbourne Cup Day

The children joined with the community at the Homestead Hall to enjoy a lovely luncheon. They also participated in the fancy hat parade and colouring-in competition.
Our Community Fun Day was an amazing way to end the year. The jumping castle, face painting and playdough activities were enjoyed by all the students and visitors who attended.
Keep a watch on our school these holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school.

If you see anything suspicious, please remember to call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

If you would like to know more about the School Watch Program, please call Education Queensland’s School Security Section on (07) 3237 0874.

We wish you a relaxing (and wet) Festive Season and we look forward to working with the Homestead Community in the New Year.

Homestead Progress Association
Christmas Tree Event
at the Homestead Hall on Saturday 12th December, Starting at 6:30pm
BBQ tea provided
BYO drinks
Santa will arrive to deliver gifts, so don’t miss out!

WINNING NUMBERS

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P&C News

It has been another great end to another great year for the Homestead State School P&C Association. The end of year Presentation Night was a wonderful celebration and P&C were more than happy to cater for this very special occasion. It was great to see so many in our small community supporting the children and the school on the night.

We would like to thank the many people who continue to support our wonderful school in so many different ways. Thank you so much to those who participate in the Footy Tipping Competition, Powerball and who attend events and purchase raffle tickets. It is with your continued support that we are able to provide valuable contributions to the school which assist in providing some of the best resources and opportunities for all students attending Homestead State School.

We would also like to thank the many people who have assisted us in any way during the year and those people and businesses who have kindly made donations with which we have used as raffle prizes.

A special mention must go to UnitingCare Community in regards to the $2000.00 Community Drought Program funding which was made available to our P&C through Jeanie Brook at North Queensland Rural Family Support Service. This amount of funding is absolutely phenomenal for such a small entity as ours and will certainly be put to beneficial use by the P&C and the school.

IMPORTANT - Please find attached the flyer for personal pavers. This must be finalised as we are all keen to see the end result.

The Homestead State School P&C Association would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a very safe and Happy Holidays! We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year and to begin working together towards a very productive and rewarding 2016!
Last Call for Paver Orders!

Homestead State School began a unique fundraiser quite some time ago which involves beautifying our school grounds with personalised pavers.

This project aims to preserve the names of the many people who have been a part of the schools valuable history. These pavers will be able to be appreciated for generations to come.

Our P&C Association have endeavoured to keep costs at a minimum to supporters rather than to making this a major fundraiser.

Homestead State School have organised with Signature Engraving to finalise our order so we can lay these pavers early next year. We thank everyone who have so kindly and quickly filled and returned their forms and appreciate your eagerness for the project to proceed.

We initially anticipated the project to be completed by now. Upon speaking to the company we have discovered we are definitely not alone, with many schools experiencing a longer timeframe for everyone to return forms and pay for their pavers. The company have often received requests after pavers have been laid and have advised that pavers cost more than double after the initial order has been filled.

We ask everyone to please return their order forms as soon as possible. Our single pavers are still $30 each, and double pavers $80.

Again, thank you to everyone who has already returned their forms and payment.

Forms are still available from the school or you can contact Sondra Epong on 0418738180 or email sepong3@eq.edu.au to get these finalised over the Christmas break.
Name Pavers
Homestead State School P&C Association

YOUR NAME WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY

INDIVIDUAL PAYER
Your donation of $30 or more entitles YOU to have your name engraved into a paver as a lasting record of your valued support. The paver will be permanently installed at Homestead State School.

$30

Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (34 max)

A unique and lasting record of your support.

DOUBLE PAYER
Your donation of $80 or more entitles YOU to have your name engraved into a double paver as a lasting record of your valued support. The double paver will be permanently installed at Homestead State School for all to see for generations to come.

$80

Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (64 max)

Simply fill out this form and return with full payment by cheque or money order to the school, or mail to:

Homestead State School
c/o Post Office Homestead 4816

Contact Name: Sondra Epong (Secretary)
Phone: 0418738180
Email: sepon3@eq.edu.au

Individual paver  □ Double paver  □

Offer closes end of Term 1, 2014

Please photocopy and pass on to business associates and friends.

Homestead State School would love your support!