School Mission Statement

In a supportive partnership, provide for the development of each child the attitude, skills and knowledge needed to cope with the demands of living in our society.

Technology

Pentland State School is powering ahead with technology. Each student at our school has been allocated their own laptop to use during school time. These laptops are used for a variety of activities including research, email, Internet, learning objects, educational games and publishing work. Our school also proudly purchased a brand new Interactive Smart Board that students can access for various learning objects. The Smart Board is portable and students touch the screen to move objects and participate in games. It is a vital part of teaching and learning in our classroom! We also have 4 iPads that students access for different learning opportunities!! These iPads have English and Maths Apps downloaded for students to play. The Staff is busy exploring different apps to engage students in learning activities. The school has also purchased online subscriptions for Mathletics and Reading Eggs this year. These subscriptions enable students to work on interactive activities, both at school and at home. In this day and age, technology is such an important part of life and our students are tackling it head on!!!
Welcome back to the 2014 school year! I hope you had a fabulous Christmas and New Year!! We have hit the ground running and have already engaged in some exciting learning activities in the classroom.

New Staff and Student
I would like to welcome Ella James to our school and community. Ella will be teaching at Pentland SS on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please introduce yourself to Ella and make her feel welcome in our wonderful town!

I would also like to welcome a new family into our community. Jenna, Bobby, Savannah and William have moved to Pentland from Charters Towers. Savannah is in year 3 at our school and has had a fantastic start to the year! I think William wishes he was at school, but he is coming to playgroup each Wednesday and preparing for prep next year. Welcome!

Every Day Counts – Attendance
Pentland State School is once again focusing on attendance. Our goal this year is to have 92% attendance at school. We have implemented a new incentive program called Attendance Bingo. Every day that we have 100% attendance, we roll our barrel of numbers and select a number from 1-100 and cross it off our Bingo board. Once we get a full horizontal or vertical line ‘bingo’, students get a class prize. We have brainstormed a list of class prizes that include: a pool party, movie afternoon, pyjama day, 1 hour free time, etc. The students are eagerly waiting for ‘bingo’. Remember, if your child is going to be away, please phone the school or write it in their communication book.

P&C Meeting
Currently our books are away at the accountant for their annual audit. The AGM will be held as soon as they return. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please come and see me. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings; you don’t just have to be a parent! We look forward to your input into our school!

It’s been a lovely, positive start to the 2014 school year. The staff and students are enthusiastic and ready to learn! Keep it up!

Yours in learning
Laura Peagham
Principal
Class Update

This year our classroom looks a little different. We have introduced new approaches to learning and are catering for all children from Prep – Year 7 in the same class. As such, our classroom has lots going on, so I’m going to give you a quick look into what the children are learning this term.

In English, the children in Prep – Year 3 are learning about exploring emotion in picture books. So far we are having a lot of fun acting out different emotions and identifying these within characters from picture books. The Year 6 / 7 children are learning about short stories and the differences in the ways authors use text structure, language features and strategies to create humorous effects.

In Mathematics this term we are all learning about patterns and algebra, number and place value, using units of measurement, chance and data representation and interpretation. All children are working at varied levels and we are incorporating lots of hands on activities to help the children learn these concepts. The Year 6/7 children are also learning about fractions and decimals. Which they just love!!

In Science, the Prep – 2 children are doing a unit called ‘Finding Nemo!’ The children are investigating the basic needs of animals and their importance in our lives. We have even introduced a new class pet – a fish tank that the children are responsible for looking after, feeding and cleaning. The Year 3 – 7 children are learning all about animal adaptations, both structural and behavioural and how these help animals adapt to suit the Australian environment.
In Health all children are working together and learning about the 7 Natural Physicians. The 7 Natural Physicians are puppets that have been introduced to help remind us of the important elements we need to live a healthy life. Attitude is the Answer…

Attitude (this term we are learning about attitude thanks to Doctor Think Right)

Air
Nutrition
Sunshine
Water
Exercise
Rest

Gracie & Dr Think Right
In History the Prep – Year 3 children are ‘Remembering the past’. We have been looking at what stories tell us about the past and how to describe the sequence of time. The Year 6/7 children are focusing on Federation and democracy in Australia. The girls have been doing a lot of researching!

In Geography, the senior students are learning about the world, including the location of places and how to read different types of maps. We will also be focusing on natural resources. The students in years P-3 are looking at mapping and location, but on a smaller scale focusing on our school and community.

For The Arts this term, we are looking at visual arts and have been exploring warm and cool colours. We will also investigate lines and create our own artwork.

As you can see, we are busy in each subject! We look forward to sharing some of the student’s work as the term progresses!

Show and Tell

This term I have introduced show and tell with the children. Every Wednesday each child presents their show and tell with the class. Each Wednesday the children share something from one of the following:

- Animal - What Am I?
- 3 funny jokes
- Countries and Cultures
- True or False (3 questions about themselves and we have to guess!)
- A favourite toy
- Wild Weather (an interesting fact about a ‘wild’ weather)
- Cool jobs (what do you want to be when you’re older?)
- Photo Memory
- From my garden

Within the next few weeks I will organise for parents to come in and watch their children share their show and tell! Here are a few we have had already.
Jemma’s Jocular

A teacher took her class for a walk in the country and Susie found a grass snake. “Come quickly Miss,” she called. “Here’s a tail without a body.”

“What might your name be?” the school secretary asked the new boy. “Well it might be Cornelius, but it’s not, it’s Sam” replied the boy.

What’s the longest piece of furniture in the school?
The multiplication table.

Why is a pencil the heaviest thing in your school bag?
Because it is full of lead.

When is an English teacher like a judge?
When she hands out long sentences.

Geography teacher: What mineral do we import from America?
Darren: Coca-Cola

Kenyon’s Capers

Q. Why did the orange stop in the middle of the road?
A. He ran out of juice.

Q. What happens if your toe falls off?
A. You have to call a TOE Truck.

Q. What does a cow like doing most?
A. Watching mooooovies.

A frog goes to the library to get a book.
The librarian hands him a book.
He says “Read it. Read it!”
Angela’s Anecdote

This Photo was taken in Philippines in 2008. I was only 5 months old in this Photo and he’s my uncle. Willer.
Althea’s Atlas Antics

Country: Spain

Spain has a population of around 47 million people, with its capital being Madrid.

Spanish is the only official language of Spain, though some of the ‘autonomous communities’ have other official languages.

How do you say hello and goodbye in their language?

Hello: Hola
Goodbye: Adios

Jemma’s Jammin’ Geography

Country: Italy

Rome is the capital city of Italy.

Many famous scientists and mathematicians were born and raised in Italy.

The country is the shape of a high heel boot.

Italians invented pizza and ice-cream.

Hello: Ciao and Buongiorno.

Goodbye: Arrivederci.
Selwyn’s Sensational Sedan

My favourite toy is this remote controlled car.

I like it because it can go backwards and forwards and has a big engine.

It is fun. It was a Christmas present.

This is how it works.

(Selwyn did a demo to show how it worked and how much fun it was). 😊

Savannah’s Spot on Sham

Have I been on a plane, train and boat? Have I cuddled a koala?

Does my dad make bow and arrows?
Gracie’s Guessing Game
What animal am I?

I am really ugly…..
I am really slimy…..
I live in the sea…..
And I am the only one…..
I am an unknown animal…….
I am less than 30cm….
I live in deep water….
I start with B and end with fish.
So who am I?

Blob fish

The blob fish is a deep sea fish of the family Psychrolutidae. It inhabits the deep waters off the coasts of mainland Australia and Tasmania, as well as the waters of New Zealand. Blob fish are typically shorter than 30 cm. Wikipedia

Scientific name: Psychrolutes marcidus

Rank: Species

Higher classification: Psychrolutes
If you got a dollar for every time you told your kids to plan their work, you’d be living on a tropical island now, right???

It’s hard to show people HOW to plan, so here’s a quick method. Good stories (like movies, books, poems and even jokes) are all planned - and they all have a similar structure. This is what it looks like.

1. Start with a bang - this usually has the main character in an action scene.
2. Back fill - the Who, What, Why is filled in while the action unfolds
3. The main problem is introduced
4. Complications and more problems. Things get very bad indeed
5. Tension scene where hero/heroine fights against incredible odds
6. Climax - incredibly, wonderfully they win!

Once writers know these basics, they have a SYSTEM to their planning - and this really improves their writing.

**TOP TIP:**
Think first, write second. Draw yourself a graph like this one and plot your stories out BEFORE you start writing.

**ACTION ACTIVITY:**
Watch TV ads - you know the ones that ‘tell a story.’ In 30 seconds, some ads can create a start, tension scene and great ending, exactly like the story graph.

© Jen McVeity, author and National Literacy Champion
Two weeks ago Mrs Peagham, Miss List and I attended a professional development course on the 7 Steps in writing. The seven steps is a unique system that chunks writing into seven main techniques. First we are going to learn each individual skill, practice the skills over and over and then put the skills together. The idea of the seven steps is to ensure that the children are planning for an interesting story that entices the reader to continue reading. We can’t wait to see the improvements in the classroom. The seven steps include:

1. **Plan for Success**
   - Brainstorming and throwing ideas around.

2. **Sizzling Starts**
   - Write an opening sentence to a ‘top topic’.

3. **Tightening Tension**
   - Here we provide the children with a scenario and they have to brainstorm what they would see, hear, touch, taste, smell and feel if they were in that situation.

4. **Dynamic Dialogue**
   - Paper fight – writing a conversation with a peer on a given topic.

5. **Show, Don’t Tell**
   - Given a topic and children are given 5 minutes to write a scene.

6. **Ban the Boring**
   - Writing a really boring sentence then changing it to become interesting for the reader.

7. **Exciting Endings**
   - Writing a boring before ending and then changing that ending to be exciting and interesting.

Ella James
The students are keen to get out there and make a buck. They started their fundraising this term with a tuckshop this week. The students cooked up a gastronomic storm. What a great success! We may have some budding chefs from the taste of their food.
OMG this cooking caper is hard work!

I know eh! I think we need a little break. Maybe if we are quiet they won’t miss us in class.

Student Council has purchased three scooters for the bigger students to ride. They are a huge hit. The students can be seen zooming around at lunch times, trying to perform tricks like ‘ollie”, “pogo” and “tail whip”.

We have a couple of up and coming events, the first being a free dress day next Friday. Jemma and Gracie have been busy in their lunch breaks getting the gardens weeded and ready to start Garden Club, which will be run by Chappy during lunch times. Students are also busy going through fundraising brochures looking for new and exciting fundraising ideas.
Hi there, for those of you I am yet to meet, my name is Ella James and I am the new classroom teacher at Pentland State School. I hold a part-time position and will be working in the classroom Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Monday and Tuesday I will be doing relief work at the state schools in Charters Towers.

I have moved to Pentland from Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast. As you can tell, this is a big lifestyle change for me as I have been living by the beach my whole life. Although there is no surf, I look forward to all the new experiences I will no doubt have here in Pentland. I have already seen three snakes in the month I’ve been here! One of which was sun baking on my veranda…! That’s not something you see everyday on the Sunny Coast!

Thank you to those I’ve met for making me feel welcomed into your community. I’m looking forward to an exciting year at this fantastic school and becoming a part of the Pentland community.

Ella James

Week 1
Althea – a great start to PREP
Jemma and Gracie – displaying excellent leadership skills

Week 3
Kenyon – excellent independent work in Maths
Selwyn – fantastic work in Spelling and Handwriting
Playgroup Postings

Playgroup is up and running for 2014, and both parents and children are very happy to be coming in to school each Wednesday morning!

Various activities are set up in the downstairs classroom and the children choose to rotate around the different activities, which are based on a different theme each week. The children and their parents then mix with the school students for play and morning tea. Last Wednesday everyone enjoyed the fruit kebabs, which the playgroup students prepared for morning tea.

It is pleasing to see so many young ones participating.

Everyone is welcome from 9.00am each Wednesday.

Pat Peagham
This term the focus for Active After School is on swimming and dance. The students are loving cooling off in the pool on the hot muggy days and are making the most of their time, even though it is raining now and the weather is mostly pleasant, before the cold fingers of Autumn (maybe we will get one this year) and Winter creep in.

For dance, the children have been bopping and grooving to a range of creative dances, some with more gusto and dance acumen than others, but all giving their best. As yet we haven’t decided on a favourite dance, we are enjoying them all.
Great Results Guarantee

Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes.

We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy.

Read more about the guarantee at http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/state/targeted/great-results.html

If you have an idea on a way to support our students to learn more, or if you would like to take part in the discussion, please get in touch. We will be discussing how to spend this money at our next P&C meeting. In the mean time, feel free to come and see me if you have any ideas.

Calendar of Events

➢ 28th Feb – Student Council Free Dress Day
➢ 19/20th Mar – Cluster Swimming and Cross Country – Charters Towers
➢ 2/3/4th April – Pot Plant Painting - Sondra

School Rules

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be an Active Learner.
If there was something easy you could do that could measurably improve your student's self-esteem, intelligence, creativity, career prospects, health and happiness, would you take that opportunity?

If there was something that could put your student up to a year ahead of some of his or her classmates, would it be worth a try?

On March 3 last year, the Melbourne Age published an article about research proving what many people already knew... that reading to primary-aged children helps them a lot. Reading to a student, a couple of times each week, boosts their reading level by up to 6 months. Reading nightly can boost them to 12 months ahead.

Not only do we see improved reading skills from students who are read to, but regular reading has also been shown to:

- Enhance family relationships as they participate in this bonding activity
- Develop and foster curiosity (an enquiring mind)
- Develop creativity and foster imagination
- Develop better communication skills, both oral and written and greater confidence when communicating
- Build listening skills, improve attention span and concentration
- Improve IQ and grades
- Give greater potential for academic and career success
- Calm students, particularly if anxious, fretful or restless
- Teach thinking skills
- Increase happiness and health

These are just some of the many benefits of reading. The more reading, that is done; the greater the benefits. So, my encouragement to you this week is to read one more time than normal with your child/children this week.

I always enjoyed reading bedtime stories to my boys and miss that now that they’re not at home. Try to find a time that works for you to add one more session to your regular reading.

Chappy Jarvis
### Asparagus crumbed with parmesan on bocconcini salad

#### Ingredients
- 250 g fresh asparagus spears
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 4 roma tomatoes, quartered
- 100 g bocconcini cheese (milk cherries), halved (see Notes)
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- pepper, to taste

#### Method
2. Place asparagus on a lined oven tray and bake at 200°C for 8 to 10 minutes or until parmesan cheese is golden and crisp.
3. Combine tomatoes, bocconcini cheese and basil and drizzle with vinegar. Arrange salad onto serving plates, top with crumbed asparagus and season to taste.

### Baked Chocolate Fudge

#### Ingredients
- 200g dark chocolate, chopped
- 60g butter
- ½ cup (90g) brown sugar
- ¼ cup (60ml) pouring (single) cream
- 3 eggs
- 1 tablespoon plain (all-purpose) flour, sifted
- vanilla or coffee ice-cream, to serve

#### Method
Preheat oven to 150°C (310°F). Place the chocolate, butter, sugar and cream in a saucepan over low heat and stir until melted and smooth. Place the eggs and flour in a bowl and whisk to combine. Gradually whisk in the chocolate mixture and pour into six lightly greased 1 cup-capacity (250ml) ovenproof dishes. Place the dishes in a deep baking dish and pour in enough water to come halfway up the sides of the dishes. Bake for 45 minutes or until puffed and firm to touch. Refrigerate until cooled. Top with scoops of ice-cream to serve. Serves 4.
Jokes & Quote

PUPIL: Teacher, would you punish me for something I didn't do?
TEACHER: Of course not.
PUPIL: Good, because I didn't do my homework.

“I couldn’t do my homework because my computer has a virus and so do all my pencils and pens.”

TEACHER: That should be enough homework to keep you busy.
PUPIL: That should be enough homework to keep the Chinese Army busy.

TEACHER: This homework looks like your mother’s writing.
PUPIL: Of course, I used her pen!

“I find if you rub sausage on your homework you greatly increase the odds of a dog eating it.”

TEACHER: Anyone who doesn’t bring all the homework to class tomorrow morning will get an “F.”
FRED: And anyone who does bring all the homework to class tomorrow morning will get a hernia.

PUPIL: Teacher, is there life after death?
TEACHER: Why do you ask?
PUPIL: I may need the extra time to finish all this homework you gave us.
All My Great Excuses
by Kenn Nesbitt

I started on my homework,
but my pen ran out of ink…
My hamster ate my homework…
My computer’s on the blink…

I tripped and dropped my homework
in the soup my mom was cooking…
My brother flushed it down the toilet
when I wasn’t looking…

My mother ran my homework
through the washer and the dryer…
An airplane crashed into our house…
My homework caught on fire…

Tornadoes blew my notes away…
Volcanoes rocked our town…
My books were taken hostage
by an evil killer clown…

Some aliens abducted me…
I had a shark attack…
A pirate swiped my homework
and refused to give it back…

I worked on these excuses
so darned long my teacher said,
“I think you’ll find it’s easier
to do the work instead.”
Why is attendance important?

Approximately half a million students are enrolled in Queensland state schools and all students are expected to attend school every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse. While parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring children attend school, Queensland state schools can play a role in helping maximise attendance and promoting benefits of regular school attendance.

Low school attendance is not good for students or schools. It has been linked with many negative outcomes for students. Persistent non-attendance requires additional resources to re-engage students in schooling and to catch up on missed learning. This can involve learning and student support staff, and interagency collaborations. Supporting students and families to deal with barriers to school attendance can be part of improving attendance. Schools can be most effective when they understand the needs of their students, contemporary research into school attendance and effective practices that help to maximise attendance.

Improving attendance

The evidence base is not particularly strong for identifying strategies that are effective at improving attendance, although the evidence is gradually increasing. Although some interventions have demonstrated a positive effect, the average student absence rates after intervention for the majority of studies remained above 10%. This is sobering in terms of what schools face in trying to improve attendance, and reflects the fact that low school attendance is likely to be a marker for a range of complex social issues that students experience inside and outside of schooling.

Schools and communities need to work together to select an approach suitable to their own context. Schools have implemented a range of successful strategies, including:

- connective approaches,
- reward and incentive programs,
- sanctions for absences,
- individualised responses for some students.

Students who demonstrate frequent and persistent unexplained and unauthorised absences, and their families, might experience a myriad of barriers to school attendance, including poverty, lack of parental aspiration, lack of transport, poor physical health, and a lack of peer relationships with higher attending students. A collaborative, comprehensive intervention that involves the school, social service agencies, the justice system and the family can have a significant impact on attendance, particularly for chronic non-attendance.

Queensland state schools making a difference

Interviews with staff from Queensland state schools with improved attendance rates revealed that communicating the value of attendance to both the school community and the broader community is essential. Schools report that tracking and rapidly responding to non-attendance by individual students is central to making improvements, requiring both human resources and technological solutions. Assisting parents/caregivers to access relevant services and support also seems to be a common aspect in schools’ success in improving attendance.

More information

The full report Performance Insights: Student Attendance including extensive analyses of data, literature, promising practices in Queensland state schools, and reference list can be accessed on the department’s Every day counts website at http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/