Term 2 Date Claimers

Term 2 Dates 23/04 – 28/06/2019
Easter Monday 22/04/2019
ANZAC Day School Ceremony 24/04/2019
ANZAC Day Public Holiday 25/04/2019
Savannah/Peninsula PBL 30/04 – 01/05/2019
Art Camp 30/04 – 02/05/2019
Labour Day Public Holiday 06/05/2019
Tablelands PBL 08/05 – 09/05/2019
NAPLAN 14/05 – 16/05/2019
OLC Community Lunch 21/05/2019
Annual School Camp 27/05 – 31/05/2019
P&C Meeting 28/05/2019 (face to face) 17/06/2019
Robotics – Robocup 20/06 – 22/06/2019
Music Camp 24/06 – 25/06/2019
Year 10 & 12 Block Exams 24/06 – 28/06/2019

Principal’s Report

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019. We have had such a dynamic start to the year and our students, staff and community continue to grow in stature and capability. This year we are focussed on deepening our connections with our students, their families and our partner schools. Our improvement priorities are:

1. Connect with the school community through positive and supportive relationships;
2. Connect with students through case management;
3. Connect with students through a collaboratively planned curriculum.

We trust that you have seen a noticeable change in the type and frequency of meaningful contact from our staff. As a general theme for our upcoming Anzac Day Ceremony we are asking students to write about their connection to Anzac Day. You can check out all the details at the end of this edition.

Our key improvement agenda is focussed on ensuring our senior students complete their secondary education with a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). This is so that they have meaningful career options available when they matriculate. The second priority focusses on improving the literacy levels of our students through the use of the Literacy Continuum. The mapping of student achievement on the continuum will enable teachers and tutors to identify the next steps for academic progress. It should be noted that literacy is every teacher’s business. Explicitly our improvement agenda for 2019 is:

• Increase the percentage of Year 12 students attaining senior certification (Queensland Certificate of Education or Queensland Certificate of Individual Attainment) from 87.5% in 2018 to 90% in 2019.
• Improve reading and writing achievement by mapping onto the Literacy Continuum:
  • 90% of Prep to Year 5 fulltime students in 2019;
  • 95% of Year 6-10 fulltime students who require focused intervention in 2019.
Our school was pleased with recent press articles about our students’ success in the 2018 Overall Position (OP) scores. The February 18 edition of the Cairns Post rated us third overall in Far North Queensland, the highest state school in our area [Fig. 1]. We are proud of our students’ results and our staff for their part in achieving these outstanding results.

[Fig.1. Cairns Post 18 February 2019]

Staff profiles

We welcomed several new staff members to our school this term. This edition also gives you information about some of them. Check out the interesting profiles in the staff news section.

Student leaders

Our student leaders have been working on a number of projects this term. They have written to our flood-affected sister schools – Longreach SDE, Charters Towers SDE and Mt Isa School of the Air – to see what assistance affected families require to get up and running again. Action plans will be forthcoming from this exercise and a targeted support campaign will ensue. Stay tuned for more details of how you can assist.

Our student leaders are also working on deepening our connections with each other and our community through a podcast series. They have some exciting guests on their wish list of who to interview. Ms Greenaway and the student leaders are still working on the finer details and we look forward to seeing and hearing what and who eventuates next term.

Breaking news

Winners – Sumo Robotics’ Teams. Congratulations to all of our amazing students who participated in the recent Sumo Robotics Challenge. We came first in the Open Division and the Prep to Year 3 division. We were also awarded the Lincoln Hoad Perpetual Trophy for the P-3 Division. Thanks to Ms Leigh Howser and all the amazing staff and parents who worked behind the scenes to support our students.

Parents and Citizens’ Association

It is with great pleasure that we introduce our P&C’s executive committee for 2019:

- President – Judith Eriksen
- Vice President – Juanita Saal
- Secretary (correspondence) – vacant
- Secretary (minutes) – Juanita Saal
- Treasurer – vacant

We greatly appreciate the extraordinary work that our P&C does to support our entire school. If you are interested in either of the vacant positions please contact me via aoliv25@eq.edu.au or Christine Bluett cblue5@eq.edu.au and we can discuss what the role entails.

Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride

This year the Cairns to Karumba Bike Ride marks its 22nd event. It runs from 29 June – 5 July 2019. This is the P&C’s major fundraiser for the year and it is done in lieu of a traditional school fete. Again we ask for your support of this event. You can do this in several ways:

- Ride to Karumba
- Volunteer support
- Make a donation
- Bake some goodies for the morning teas – cakes, biscuits, slices etc. items that can easily freeze 😊

Go to https://c2kbikeride.com.au to contribute today.

At a recent event I was fortunate enough to present my colleague and friend of the ride, Mr Mark Allen, with a certificate of appreciation and a letter of thanks from our P&C. Mark has been involved with the ride since graduating as a teacher in 2002. Due to family commitments Mark is unable to continue his involvement in the ride and we thank him for his extensive contribution to the ride over the last 17 years.

Finally I hope that you have a wonderful autumn vacation and that if you believe in a scruffily, snuffily bilby, that she brings you some yummy chocolate surprises.

Stay safe, and school resumes on Tuesday 23 April 2019.

Kind regards
Andrew Oliver
Principal

The Finnish Way - Play in Learning

I was extremely fortunate to attend the 2018 Positive Schools conference in Sydney. With enlightening speakers, my main draw card was a Finnish fellow by the name of Pasi Sahlberg.

Pasi is currently a Professor of Education Policy, at the Gonski Institute for Education at the University of New
South Wales. This mathematics and physics teacher, researcher and author of *Finnish Lessons* is in Australia sharing his understandings and experience about what the world can learn from educational change in Finland.

Why Finland? Against all odds Finland has - over a few decades - transformed their systems to ‘top the ranks’ on the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) charts, alongside Japan and South Korea. This tiny nation consistently delivers equitable and quality outcomes for all of their students. Now others, like Australia, are knock, knock, knocking on their heavenly door.

How have they done this? In a manner quite the opposite of a number of Western nations who have followed the route of the Global Educational Reform Movement (GERM). What makes Finnish Schools so extraordinary? Three main qualities including Small Data, Equity and Learning through Play.

**Teaching is a Highly Qualified** and sought after **Profession.** It has gained the status and respect from Finns, akin to Medicine or Law. Only a portion of those who apply are chosen for candidacy. All teachers in Finland have a Masters degree specialising in research, and pedagogy – the art of, and practise in teaching. **Teachers Collaborate**, they are provided the time to share their art of teaching and learn from each other. They have a high degree of autonomy to design curricula to suit the needs of their students, and are committed to making a difference and passing on their love of learning. Finnish teachers are intrinsically motivated and love their work, as their profession provides meaning, purpose and fulfillment in life.

Finnish teachers use **Small Data** to improve their practice – the tiny clues / narrative (built in the fabric of the relationship) that emerges from their collective professional wisdom of what works for each individual child. Support is put in place prior to a problem becoming a major issue detrimental to the child’s future learning – a ‘stitch in time saves nine’ approach. Top down stress and pressure is non-existent, with the only formal standardised testing being the final matriculation examinations, for those looking to attain University entry. Lastly, students **Learn Through Play.** In Pasi’s words:

“Play is how children explore, discover, fail, succeed, socialise, and flourish. It is a fundamental element of the human condition. It’s the key to giving school children skills they need to succeed – skills like creativity, innovation, teamwork, focus, resilience, expressiveness, empathy, concentration, and executive function.”

**Expert organisations (such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Centres for Disease Control) agree that play and physical activity are critical foundations of childhood, academics, and future skills.”**

As the world around us is radically changing, researchers and practitioners are reaching an agreement on the skills needed to become able to adapt to this change. There is movement away from the more traditional cognitive skills towards collaboration, communication, content (learning to learn), critical thinking, creative innovation and confidence.

Unlike traditional success centred approaches, these skills can only be developed through failure and retrying. The best learning happens in a state of ‘flow.’ Flow needs a mix of two interrelated ingredients ‘joy’ and ‘challenge’. According to Pasi, play ticks all the Learning boxes, whilst children are feeling good and having fun they are engaging in:

1. Active construction of knowledge and learning
2. Accumulation, linking new things to old
3. Self-regulation by controlling, understanding and reflecting on your own learning, and
4. Cooperation, communication and helping

Pasi sure does practise what he preaches. He had his audience at the Positive Schools conference up doing Brain Breaks”. We were singing, telling stories, laughing and learning together. I walked out of the conference feeling totally exuberated by his presence and imbued with a sense of hope for things to come.

I can’t wait to be enthralled by Pasi Sahlberg’s new book *Let the Children Play* and catch a “glimpse into the play-based experiments ongoing now all over the world, from rural China, Singapore, Finland and Scotland to North Texas and Oklahoma, as well as the promising results of these bold new approaches.”

As Art Aron (Professor of Psychology, specialising in Interpersonal Relationships) would agree - play changes our perspective from ‘Me to We.’ Families and schools that play together – stay, and learn, together.


**Camilla Haskell**
Parent Liaison Officer

**Student News**

**eZ Club of Cairns SDE Update**

This month, as part of our on-going eZ Club awareness, we celebrate the amazing achievements of Amelia Earhart. As part of this celebration the eZ Club of Cairns SDE members and staff have commemorated Amelia Earhart by creating a flying display in our entrance hall.
**Amelia Earhart Aeroplane Display by CSDE Students**

Where did Amelia Earhart grow up?

Amelia Earhart was born on July 24, 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. Her father, Edwin, was a lawyer who worked for the railroad. She spent a lot of her childhood playing with her younger sister Muriel.

Growing up, Amelia and her sister had all sorts of adventures. They collected insects and frogs. They liked to play sports including baseball and football. Amelia even learned to shoot a .22 rifle and used it to kill rats in her Dad's barn.

Amelia's first "flight" was when she was just seven years old. With the help of Muriel and her uncle she made a homemade roller coaster. After crashing dramatically she told her sister that it "was just like flying." When Amelia was eleven years old, in 1908, she saw one of the Wright Brothers’ first airplanes at the Iowa State Fair. She had no interest in flying and didn't think much of the plane at the time.

Amelia, Dr D’Aietti and Ms Scott

**Staff News**

**News from the Guidance Officers**

As you would be aware from the school website, there are 2 Guidance Officers supporting the students enrolled at Cairns School of Distance Education this year. Guidance Officers work with parents and carers, teachers, home tutors, specialists and external agencies to support the academic, and social/emotional learning needs of students enrolled at the school.

Jeremy has been at CSDE for 8 years. At first he worked as a secondary English/Humanities teacher, and then following his training in Guidance and Counselling, took on the role of Guidance Officer in 2017. Jeremy's strengths lie in the areas of career planning and counselling, senior schooling, the eLearning environment, and building relationships. His interests include basketball, music, and travel.

I have been based at the school for over 13 years but until recently, worked across the region supporting young people to engage and re-engage in educational programs. I transitioned to the role of school guidance officer at the beginning of the year and I am learning how to work within the online platform. My strengths lie in the areas of behaviour, engagement, parenting support and complex case management. My interests include yoga, walking on the beach, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

In this newsletter, I would like to share some information about wellbeing. Did you know that learning and wellbeing are closely linked? In fact, one supports the other. Wellbeing underpins the way we feel about ourselves and how we relate to each other. It affects how we think, learn and engage. I believe that this is true for adults as well as children and young people. Therefore, I would like to ask you to think about what you have done to support your own wellbeing today? If you need some ideas have a look at the Wheel of

**A Message from eZ Club’s Vice President about Amelia Earhart**

**Amelia, Dr D’Aietti and Ms Scott**

**Amelia Earhart Fellowships**

Women of any nationality pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree, who demonstrate a superior academic record in the field of aerospace-related sciences or aerospace-related engineering, are eligible and encouraged to apply. For a full list of the eligibility and application requirements, please refer to the application. Since the program’s inception in 1938, Zonta has awarded 1,573 Amelia Earhart Fellowships, totaling more than US$10 million, to 1,144 women representing 73 countries.

**Where is the Zonta Connection? The Amelia Earhart Scholarship for Women in Technology**

According to Women in Aerospace, in 2010, roughly 10 percent of the aerospace industry was made up of women. While the number has slowly increased, there must be reinforcements behind each step forward. To assist the future of women in this field and other aerospace-related sciences and engineering, Zonta International established the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in 1938 in honor of legendary pilot and Zontian, Amelia Earhart. Today, the Fellowship of US$10,000 is awarded annually to up to 30 talented women, pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-related sciences or aerospace-related engineering around the globe.

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Wellbeing website which sites research that suggests that our health and happiness can be boosted by engaging in wellbeing activities on a daily basis. I like to remind myself of the familiar statement in the safety talk when you fly in a plane - "fit your own oxygen mask first, and then help others!"

Enjoy the rest of the term and take care of your wellbeing.

Robbie
Guidance Officer

Chappy Chat

As School Chaplain, my role at CSDE is to provide social, emotional and spiritual support to staff, students and families.

On the 18th March, with School Nurse Sally O'Brien, I am running a 'Love Bites Healthy Relationship Workshop' for all CSDE and OLC students in Years 10, 11 and 12. This will be held on campus. Do not despair if you live out of the Cairns region and think you would like to be part of this workshop - we are working on delivering an on-line version in Term 3.

For more information on Love Bites, check the following link: https://napcan.ismartsoftware.net/Content/Tenants/132/Files/Love%20Bites%20New%20Info%20Pack%20(1).pdf

During Term 2, I am working alongside other members of our Support Team to deliver some on-line modules developed by Kids Helpline. The initial modules cover 5 topics - 'How to Ask For Help', 'Cyber-Bullying', 'Staying Safe On-Line', 'Looking After Yourself' and 'Developing Resilience'. Information has been provided to all eligible students through the school website, on how to access these modules and engage with the content. Modules are designed for two age-groups - Years 5-9 and Years 10-12. Each module will be opened for viewing on a specific date and available for 3 weeks via Collaborate, during which time a discussion board forum will enable questions, feedback and interaction with members of our support team.

If you would like to organise a one-on-one chat with me at any time about any of the topics raised above or other matters of life, spirituality or just need a listening ear, please feel free to email me at debbieb@chappy.org.au and we can arrange a time-slot for a 'virtual cuppa'.

Kirk Findlay

Welcome to another school year, I have joined the CSDE team in what will be my 28th year in education. Over half of my experience has been in executive roles, including a four year period in regional roles connected to student engagement. This has allowed me to observe where we have been and where we are in the evolution of education, and while there have been exciting changes, we aren’t there yet.

I have not travelled far as a 5th generation Cairns local – yes they do exist. However, the location keeps drawing me back so my wife and children are settled in for the immediate future.

My experiences have taken me to rural, remote and urban settings from Mackay through to the Torres Strait, and the opportunity to join the CSDE team is not accidental. I have a strong belief that CSDE can provide the supportive environment necessary for the design and implementation of innovative teaching and learning that will prepare our students for the future.

In addition to my day to day work I am also involved in School Sport, with 26 years of involvement as a Regional Team official and 11 years as a Peninsula School Sport Board member. Sport has played a significant role in my life, initially as the main reason I made it to school regularly, and then guiding my post school study and employment.

It will be my great pleasure this year to assist as many students as possible in the exploration of their strengths and values in order to give direction and ownership to the learning and life choices that they make.

Jessica Bai

I am Jessica Bai and I am one of the Chinese, Mathematics and Science Teachers at Cairns SDE. Before moving to Cairns, I have worked in a variety of schools in South Australia, Western Australia and Overseas teaching Mathematics, Science and Chinese since 2011.

Distance Education is a brand new yet exciting experience for me and I have found that the staff at Cairns SDE are very supportive; our students and parents are also extraordinarily keen.

I appreciate that the students and home tutors have been very patient with me as I am still learning and I thoroughly enjoy the diverse range of duties as a teacher. 2019 will be a fantastic school year.

Meaghan Jones

Hi everybody!

My name is Meaghan Jones and I have recently moved to Cairns from Canberra. This is my first year at CSDE and I want to thank the staff and community for being so welcoming. I studied a Bachelor of Arts in History and Japanese at Australian National University and a Masters of Teaching at Canberra University. While studying to become a teacher I worked with young children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) as an assistant therapist and tutored a variety of students in senior subjects.

I am a young teacher and this is the third year of my teaching career. I spent the first two years as a Japanese and Humanities teacher at a school in
Western Canberra so I am excited to continue teaching both subjects at CSDE. A highlight of my teaching career so far has been accompanying 24 students to Japan in the Spring of 2018. My teaching philosophy is centred around care and relationships - although I will be building relationships in a new way at CSDE I can’t wait to keep getting to know my amazing students.

Judy Li

Hi, my name is Miao (Judy) Li and I am a Shanghainese. I have been a Maths, Science and Chinese teacher since 2011 in South Australia. Now, I am a year 8 Mathematics, Science and Contact Teacher, and I also teach Y11 and 12 Chinese.

I like travelling (all around the world) and enjoy taking adventures (paragliding and surfing) so Cairns is a very ideal place for me to explore.

I am very excited to have the opportunity to get to know all of you and start our new journey together.

Melanie Craig

My name is Mel and I am excited to be a new member of the team here at the Cairns School of Distance Education. I am currently in my ninth year of teaching, having spent the last eight years at Gordonvale State High School where I taught everything from English, History and Geography, to Media, Film and Television, Visual Arts, Health and HPE. Phew! Prior to Gordonvale High I completed three university degrees: Bachelor of Applied Science – Human Movement Studies, Bachelor of Business – Public Relations (Queensland University of Technology), and a Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning (Central Queensland University). I just love being at school and learning!

I am hugely passionate about health and sport, and am heavily involved with Peninsula School Sport as a manager for softball and hockey, as well as a state and national championship convenor. Every chance I get I do encourage students to get involved with being out and active I take, as I truly believe in a healthy body, healthy mind! I am particularly excited about some of the opportunities to get students moving at our school camps and sports carnivals later in the year.

Being new to distance education, I find I am connecting really well to students who are also new to this way of learning. Some days are harder than others, and it is certainly a monumental change to being in a classroom, but geez, isn’t it exciting!

Ruth Thompson

Bonjour everyone! My name is Ruth Thompson and I am very happy to be at CSDE. I have lived in Cairns for 14 years and love the relaxed lifestyle. Before coming to Cairns, I lived in rural NSW where it snowed in Winter. So, I am also glad that I no longer need to deal with the cold weather.

I have been a Languages specialist (French and German) for over 30 years with leadership and pastoral care experience. Until now, I have taught in co-educational independent schools. Over the years, I have also taught ESL, Humanities, PDH, study skills and Religious Education. I have been a State and District Senior Assessment Panel member, an active member of my professional association and have enjoyed a good working relationship with JCU. French is my passion and I am excited to be teaching Year 7 and 8 students at CSDE. This is very different to any of my previous teaching settings and I am gradually getting used to on-line delivery and all that it entails. I do hope students will continue to be patient with me.

CSDE is a very friendly environment and I feel lucky to be a part of that. Prior to starting here, I think I knew about 15 CSDE staff members, mostly from its large Languages Department. We had made contact either through our local professional association or my last position, which included the supervision of distance students. I feel as though this has given me a head start, but I am grateful for the warm welcome that I have received from everyone. I look forward to strengthening my working relationship with colleagues, students and parents/carers at CSDE.

Anna Ludwigs

My name is Anna Ludwigs and I am a new member of the CSDE teaching team. I graduated in 2007 with a degree in History and English. Straight after graduating from university, I got into a PhD program specialising in African studies and international organisations. During this time, I was also learning French and German. I moved to Germany in 2008 where I lived and worked for many years. It was the time when I left teaching and ran a successful company. However, teaching was always my passion and I missed it very much. So when we moved to Australia, I went back to what I really enjoyed doing – teaching! Since then, I have worked across primary and secondary schools teaching English and History in Brisbane and German in CQ. Teaching at an Australian school of distance education had been a dream of mine since I had watched a documentary about Australia while still living in Germany. I was thrilled when I got a position of English and German teacher at Cairns SDE. These few months have been amazing as I get to teach great inspiring students, and work with a nice friendly group of people.

Parents and Citizens

Welcome everyone to a new school year! Term 1 has just whizzed by and has been so busy that it does feel like Term 3 already. Orientation Week was a great start to the year with an average of 150+ students per day attending the on-air sessions. That is fantastic! Thanks Christian and all the staff, students and home tutors for making O Week such a success.
Your P&C have been working on a strategic plan for the coming year. Our Vision is to represent our Cairns SDE School Community – parents, families, caregivers and the wider community – welcoming expression of opinion and concerns in a safe and respectful environment whilst providing ongoing support to home tutors, teachers and staff of CSDE in the best interests of all our students.

We can achieve this together by using the following strategies:

1. Positive Education
2. Fundraising
3. Connection
4. Governance

We’ve prepared the table below that lists Activity Ideas relating to our plan and notes the school term and strategies to which they relate. We are looking for volunteers to help with some of the activities, or if you have any great ideas for fundraising please contact us at pandcexec@cairnssde.eq.edu.au.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Positive Education</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Connection</th>
<th>Governance</th>
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<td>Barista Coffee Machine</td>
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<td>Breakfast Meet &amp; Greet (Annual Camp)</td>
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<td>C2K Bike Ride</td>
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<td>Christmas Hamper Raffle</td>
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<td>Colour Run?</td>
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<td>Comply with Constitution, Financial Guidelines and legislative requirements</td>
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<td>Containers 4 Change</td>
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<td>Cookie Dough Fundraiser?</td>
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<td>Disco (Annual Camp)?</td>
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<td>Encourage parents/caregivers/home tutors to raise topics for discussion and provide feedback at P&amp;C general meetings and Biannual Forums</td>
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<td>G-Block Refurbishment/Upgrade</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Lolly Bags from Santa</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Lunch (Annual Camp)</td>
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<td>Presentation Night Awards</td>
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Our AGM was held on the 25th of March and we will be updating the school website with the 2019 P&C Executive and Cluster Representatives contact details. Issues will soon be collated by our Cluster Reps for the Biannual School Forum which will be held during Annual Camp week. The Forum is an opportunity for the whole school community to come together and discuss the direction of the school. So, if anyone has any issues they would like addressed please contact your Rep so your ideas can be included in the agenda.

Planning is underway for the 22nd C2K Bike Ride to be held from the 23rd June to 5th July. Money raised as part of this important annual event supports your P&C and your children’s education. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Bike Ride in any way please contact our Bike Ride Rep, Kachena Cullen, and you can also help out at the working bee session at Annual Camp.

The Easter break is almost upon us, so best wishes to all for a great holiday and I hope to meet you at Annual Camp in May.

Judith Eriksen
P&C President

Miscellaneous

This year CSDE will be hosting an ANZAC Day ceremony via Blackboard Collaborate at 11am on Wednesday 24th April. This ceremony will be run with the support of a representative from Australian Army 51st Far North Queensland Regiment and will run for approximately 30 minutes. We encourage all students and parents to attend and would like to remind students to be mindful of the solemnity of the occasion. Students are invited to get involved in a variety of ways:

- **Lower Primary School students:** Paint or draw a poppy to be included in the ceremony (please send us a photo)
- **Upper Primary school students:** Create an artistic representation of ANZAC Day (please send us a photo)
- **High School students:** Tell us in 50 words or less what ANZAC Day means to you.
- **Year 9/10 students** in particular are encouraged to use what they have learnt in English and Humanities this term to create a poem. Their teachers will be in contact
with further details soon. Other students are also welcome to get involved - please email mmjon0@eq.edu.au for details.

Any submissions or enquires should be directed to Miss Meaghan Jones (mmjon0@eq.edu.au).

We look forward to the involvement and support of our school community.

CSDE Writing Group Invitation

Are you a keen writer? Would you like to spend time with other like-minded students – other lovers of reading and writing? Perhaps you dream of becoming a blogger, a screenwriter or novelist in the future? Do you want to be a journalist, a graphic novelist, biographer, editor or poet?

CSDE has a Year 7 – 12 writing group and we publish some of our writing electronically e.g. in the newsletter. We also offer support if you wish to enter writing competitions or contribute to online forums. If you would like more information or want to join our group, please contact Helen Crampton, email hecra0@eq.edu.au or phone 4080 9165.

Zonta

Access at: zontaintl@zonta.org