



# newsletter



## Principal's REPORT

10th March 2009

### **NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)**

The NAPLAN tests were first implemented in May 2008 when national tests were held in literacy and numeracy for all students in Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. These tests replaced the previous state and territory-based assessments and have the support of all education ministers.

The tests will assess students in the areas of literacy (reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar) and numeracy (number, measurement, chance and data, space, algebra, function and pattern, and working mathematically). The NAPLAN tests will be conducted in all Queensland schools on **Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 May 2009.**

All eligible students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Queensland must sit the tests. We ask that parents and carers take note of these dates so that family commitments are not planned for this test week.

Our school encourages parents to work with us to develop their child's / children's literacy and numeracy skills. Here are a few tips to get you started:

- Encourage children to re-tell stories they have read and to share these stories with other family members.
- Ask "Why do you think the author included that part in the story?" to ensure they understand what they are reading or have read.
- Show your child how you use maths for different reasons, such as looking at timetables, calendars and clocks.
- Ask questions such as "Does that make sense?" or "Can this be done another way?" to help develop numerate thinking when they are solving problems.

- Talk positively about maths and show interest in the maths they learn at school.

For more information about how you can help your child with literacy and numeracy skills visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/)

### **MOBILE PHONES**

There have been incidents recently at school involving fights and the videoing of these fights on mobile phones. The school has a zero tolerance policy on violence. Consequences will include suspension and exclusion should there be exceptional circumstances of serious violent acts. These matters will be referred to the police.

We, as a school community, are greatly disturbed by the actions of students who video these acts of violence with the intent to share them with other students and community members. This goes far beyond breaching our mobile phone policy and breaches the code of acceptable behaviour in our school and the wider community.

Any student who we find:

- videoing acts that breach our school's behaviour code,
  - sharing these videos or
  - in possession of such videos
- will be suspended.

The matter will also be automatically referred to the police. Students and parents should be aware that video evidence has been used in assault cases elsewhere in Queensland that has led to convictions.

Parents, you can support the school by monitoring the contents of your children's phone files and educating your children on acceptable moral behaviour related to the use of mobile phones. You have our full support on this matter.

*Ross Zelow - Principal*



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## YEAR 12 – QUEENSLAND CORE SKILLS TEST (QCS TEST)

The Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS Test) is a test that all Year 12 OP eligible students in Queensland sit on the Tuesday and Wednesday of the third last week of Term 3 each year. Students who are not OP Eligible can elect to sit the test.

The test is comprised of a four elements: a writing task, a short response test and two multiple choice tests. The Core Skills Tests are based upon a set of Common Curriculum Elements that cross all subject areas, as such, they do not relate to any particular curriculum or subject area. Questions typically require students to interpret and analyse information, draw conclusions, perform comparisons, create ideas, etc...

Students in Year 12 level complete a variety of assessment tasks which have some aspects in common with the QCS test, however, the structure and requirements of each of the four QCS tests are inherently different to assessment items that students have experienced in the past.

History has shown that students who do not partake in a comprehensive QCS preparation perform below their optimum and, as a consequence, adversely affect their final OP.

Urangan State High School has developed a number of strategies to assist students to perform at their peak on the day of the QCS tests.

A table outlining this years QCS preparation is shown at the bottom of the opposite page.

Students aiming to achieve the best possible result for their OP should:

- attend all QCS preparation sessions,
- practise test techniques using a number

of past papers,

- perform at their best in each of their subject areas so that they develop and practise the Common Curriculum Elements that are inherent in all subjects.

*Wayne Piggott - HOD Senior Schooling*

## CHESS NEWS

On the 27th of February the Urangan SHS Chess Team competed in the Wide Bay Secondary Chess Championships at St. Mary's College in Maryborough.



Competitors were divided into teams of four and faced off against a total of 22 teams. Urangan teams finished 3rd, 5th, 11th and 16th. Three players: Ray Horwood, Ryan Lynem and Cameron O'Donnell; earned medals for finishing in the top 10 individually. Medals for finishing third overall were awarded to the team of Ray Horwood, Thomas Feldman, Cameron O'Donnell and Brady Goss.

Other students competing for Urangan SHS were Michael Lewis, Ildiko Sturm, John Clutton, Tom McKie, Alex Wanstall, Jacob McFarlane, Stephen Taylor, Sean Leonard, Jack Disher, Chris Box and Daniel Arnold.

Congratulations to all students on a great result for our school! The next round in the Wide Bay Championships will be held on 26th of May and all students are welcome to attend. Contact Mr. Barnes in Staffroom 5 or turn up to room GA05 at first lunch any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

*Chip Barnes - Chess Co-ordinator*

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This year we welcomed eleven new International students to Urangan High. The students come from Germany, Brazil and Norway. Together with our continuing students from last year, this takes the total number of international students to fourteen.

In addition, we will be hosting a Study Tour Group from Germany for four weeks in August 2009 (dates to be confirmed). We are looking for expressions of interest from families who are able to host a German student for a 4-week period. If you have a spare bed, an interest in learning about another culture and are keen to show our visitors what it's like to live in Hervey Bay, please contact the Homestay Coordinator on 4125 5440.

Suitable Homestay families will undergo orientation, training and a police check (Blue Card). A homestay allowance is provided to cover the costs of meals and transport.

We are also looking for new homestay families for longer term students (3, 6 or 12 months) from Semester 2, 2009. Please contact the school for further information.

*Michelle Berryman - ESL Teacher International Program*

## POSITION VACANT HERVEY BAY SHS

- ◆ Administrative Officer
  - ◆ Special Education program
  - ◆ Permanent, 15 hours per week
- For more information please contact Mieka English, HOSES on 07 41943734

Position Descriptions available from the school office or email [sgedd9@eq.edu.au](mailto:sgedd9@eq.edu.au)

Closing Date: Friday 13 March 2009

## Canteen Duty Roster

It is not necessary to start before 8.30am. Finishing time is approx 2.00pm. If you cannot make your rostered day, a telephone call would be appreciated. Contact Barb on 41255440.

Wednesday 11/3	Thursday 12/3	Friday 13/3	Monday 16/3	Tuesday 17/3
J Stone	Help needed	S McDonald	Help needed	Help needed
Wednesday 18/3	Thursday 19/3	Friday 20/3	Monday 23/3	Tuesday 24/3
S Turnbull, S Beu	Help needed	Help needed	Help needed	Help needed

## CERTIFICATE 3 IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES

2009 has begun well for our twenty-eight Year 11 students. The classes have been busy with preliminary tasks of enrolling, applying for Blue Cards and preparation for their practical placements in Childcare facilities all over Hervey Bay. The students are all very enthusiastic and motivated to work to their best ability in order to complete the course and leave school in 2010 with a Certificate 3 in Children's Services.



Our fifteen Year 12 students are powering through the remaining units of their course. They have returned to their placements welcomed by lots gorgeous little children and an extra set of hands is always appreciated by the carers. These students have gained an incredible amount of confidence and skill as they make a very valued contribution to Childcare Centres. It is exciting to see that the Year 12's have started the year with an impressive work ethic and are very focussed on the Certificate they are working towards. WELL DONE GIRLS.

Some great news on the Class of 2008 is that many of our students have already begun a rewarding career in Childcare.



Belinda Skyring, Emilie Daken, Ashlee Dale and Tamara Funnell, are all enjoying working in the centres that they worked in whilst at school (getting paid for it makes it even more exciting). Kimberley Tappenden and Jessica Stephenson have gone on to continue their studies and are working towards their Diploma in Childcare. Go Girls!!!

A highlight for one of our current Year 12 students, Natalie Elford, was to be offered paid work in a centre on Mondays. Very Impressive.

As a teacher of Certificate 3 in Children's Services I am very inspired by the focus and interest our students are showing. It is thrilling to think that this course is creating pathways and widening the choices we offer our students at Urangan High.

*Cassie Byrne - Cert III CCS  
Teacher*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tues 10 Mar - P&C Meeting 7.00 pm in Admin. Conf. Room
- Wed 11 Mar - School Council Meeting, 6.00pm at RSL
- Tues 17 Mar - Fraser District Winter Trials
- Thurs 19 Mar - Acoustic Night

## ART LESSONS FOR CHILDREN - MURRAY CHARTERIS ART GALLERY

We offer on-site art lessons for children aged between 6-15 years of age at a cost of only \$15 per lesson. Lessons are available on Thursdays and Fridays after school and Saturday mornings. No experience is necessary.

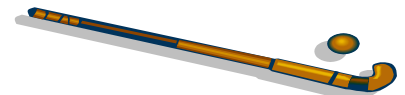
Please call Murray or Kathryn for bookings on 4125 1177. The Art Gallery is located at Shop 3/4, 577 Esplanade, Urangan, opposite the Urangan Pier.



## HERVEY BAY HOCKEY SIGN-ON

It's not too late to join Hervey Bay Hockey Junior Fixture Competition on Saturday mornings. Training is 4pm this Thursday at the Hockey grounds in Tavistock Street.

Bring a friend and come along to sign up. Vacancies exist in all age groups but particularly for U9, U13 and U15. For more information please contact Gloria on 4128 7548 or Debbie on 4124 6214.



When	What	Where
March 10 to April 2	Familiarity with the test and some basic strategies Some during class times and some between 8am and 9am	Class Rooms
Monday April 6 Tuesday April 7	QCS Simulation Performed under identical conditions to the QCS Test. Marked by professional markers. Paid for by the school	Gym
Term 2 First 4 weeks	Simulation Marked by External Markers No QCS Prep Classes	Outsourced
Term 2 May 12 to Jun 9	Analyse student results from the simulation Strategies for improving performance. Multiple Test Practices	Class Rooms At Home
Last week Term 2	Optional QCS Simulation Marking fee at student expense	To Be Advised
Term 3	No Specific Preparation – Students concentrate on individual subject assessment Additional previous papers are available for personal practice available on request	