



Principal's REPORT

18th August 2009

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY

Each year, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts undertakes a survey of parents and students to gauge their satisfaction with important aspects of schooling.

The survey is occurring this week with a random sample of Year 9 and Year 11 students. Staff are also being surveyed and a random sample of parents have been sent survey forms to complete.

Included with this newsletter is a 2009 Mid Year Report on the performance of the school to date. This progress report provides further information for the benefit of members of our school community on the outstanding achievements of all who are a part of this great school.

Later in the year, the school will receive a report outlining the results of the survey for our school. The results will help the school to evaluate and to reflect on how well the school is going, and to identify areas for future development. The survey results are also an important part of the school's annual report. For these reasons, if you are selected by Education Queensland to take part in the survey I ask that you complete the questionnaire so that we may be able to make the school a better place for your child(ren).

Thank you in advance for your participation in the survey.

QUEENSLAND COMPARABLE ASSESSMENT TASKS

As part of an integrated approach to curriculum, assessment and reporting in all schools across Queensland, all state schools will be undertaking a QCAT (Queensland Comparable Assessment Task) in Year 9 Mathematics, Science and English between 24th August and 2nd November 2009.

QCATs are designed to contribute to student learning (drawn from the curriculum). They support teacher's assessment practices and help schools work towards consistency of teacher judgments and comparability of reported results.

It is important to note that QCATs are tasks, not tests (as per the Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 nationwide tests). They will be completed over a period of days within class time and in some cases may be incorporated into the current curriculum of the students.

The result will be used within schools to further develop curriculum offerings and teacher's assessment skills. Parents/caregivers will receive an overall result for their child's achievement in the QCAT with our end of semester reports. This result will be reported as A (where student work demonstrates a very high level of knowledge and understanding) to E (where student work demonstrates a very limited level of knowledge and understanding) or N (if there is insufficient evidence to inform an overall judgment).

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SUBJECT SELECTION YEAR 11 2010 SET PLANS – YEAR 11 2010

Tomorrow, **Wednesday 19th August**, we will hold our Subject Selection Evening for students entering Year 11 in 2010 in the school's PA building. Session 1 starts at 5pm and Session 2 begins at 6:30pm. Students will be completing their preliminary SET Plan which is required to be entered on the school's computer system by Thursday 27th August. SET Plan interviews with students, their parents and a SET Plan counsellor will be conducted on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September 2009.

ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT

The school's School Council representatives, Parents and Citizens Association's Executive, Student Council representatives and Administration team met recently with Education Queensland staff to discuss enrolment management for Urangan State High School. Urangan State High School recognises as its prime obligation the provision of access to an appropriate educational service for students resident within this community as defined by its local catchment area. Due to enrolment capacity and growth, Urangan State High School may be unable to meet this obligation in the future, unless action is taken now to manage enrolment. An enrolment management plan sets out the conditions under which students may be enrolled into Urangan State High School.

Students and families already enrolled at Urangan State High School are not affected by the enrolment management plan.

This is the early phase of the process as we move through the consultation, design, communication and implementation phases. This process will now be a focus at School Council meetings, P&C meetings, staff meetings and student council meetings.

QCS TESTS

The official Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Tests will be held on Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September.

Students will shortly receive an information sheet from the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) explaining what materials students will be allowed to take into each session. Please ensure that your child has the necessary equipment, as they cannot borrow from other students once the test session starts. **Included in the information sheet is the mandatory medical certificate that the Studies Authority requires students to have their doctor complete if they are unable to attend any session due to illness.** The Year 12 students not involved in the QCS Tests will not be required to attend school on Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Wed 19 Aug - Red Day at the Canteen
- Wed 19 Aug - Year 10 into Year 11 2010 Subject Information Evening, PA block
- Fri 28 Aug - Ministerial Holiday (Student Free Day)
- Mon 1 Sept to Fri 5 Sept - SITE Week for Non-OP students
- Tues 1 Sept - Year 12 QCS Test
- Wed 2 Sept - Year 12 QCS Test
- Tues 1 Sept - Year 10 SET Plan interviews
- Wed 2 Sept - Year 10 SET Plan interviews
- Mon 7 Sept - Parent Teacher Interviews for Years 8, 9 & 10 in school gymnasium from 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm
- Mon 8 Sept - Year 8, 9 & 10 Interim Reports issued
- Fri 18 Sept - Last Day of Term 3
- Mon 5 Oct - First Day of Term 4

Ross Zelow - Principal



CHESS NEWS

On Friday 31st July, thirteen of our students competed in the final round of this year's Wide Bay Chess Competition.

Some great improvement has been shown this year by several players and they now have a term off before the competition starts again in term 1 next year. In the

Open Division, the *Bishops* team finished second, by only half a point, and will certainly give the competition a real shake next year. Congratulations to team members Ben Henningsen, Stephen Taylor, Robert Friske and Sean Leonard.

In the Premier Division the competition has improved and our teams were desperate to keep pace. Finishing fourth

overall were the *Kings* consisting of Ray Horwood, Thomas Feldman, Cameron O'Donnell and Brady Goss.

Other competitors on the day were Ryan Lynem, Michael Lewis, Tom McKie, Jarvis Rich and Daniel Arnold. Congratulations to all players on your sportsmanship and behaviour on the day.

Chip Barnes - Chess Coordinator

HELP NEEDED!



The Special Education Program (SEP) team are looking for someone who would be interested in building us some outdoor tables and chairs. We are looking for a similar design to those that are found in parks that can be fixed to the ground. All building materials will be supplied. If you are interested in please contact Robyn on 4197 0167. Thank you.

Robyn Hutchinson - HOD SEP

JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL

On Wednesday August 5th, Emma Molen and Hayden Watson, from Urangan State High School, along with three other students from the Hervey Bay region, were anxiously waiting to meet the Fraser Coast Regional Councillors for the first time.

The students learned about how the city is run from a 'behind-the-scenes' perspective and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Even the councillors had a great time and appreciated seeing the youth having a say in what happens in the community.

The students will now take this back to their regular Junior City Council meeting in August.

USQ SCHOLARSHIPS



If you are looking at going to university next year, USQ have many scholarships which you can apply for now. We offer a wide range of scholarships, bursaries and prizes which are awarded according to a variety of selection criteria. The total amount paid to recipients throughout the period of their studies also varies with a range from \$1000 up to \$12,000. And you can choose to spend this money however you want. USQ scholarship applications are now open, but close on 30th October, so contact USQ now to find out how you might secure a scholarship to help you achieve your goals. If you would like more information visit our website at www.usq.edu.au/scholarships or email: study@usq.edu.au or free call 1800 269 500.

SPRING HAIR AND FASHION SHOW

7TH SEPTEMBER, 7PM

BAYSWATER RESTAURANT

Tickets \$10

Available at Dare Hair and Shoe Frenzy
Proceeds to go towards giving 3 year old Bradley who has cerebral palsy a trip to Australia Zoo.

TEMPORARY PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE CLOSURE ALTERNATE PEDESTRIAN ROUTE - NEW FOOTBRIDGE

A temporary closure of the Eastern Footbridge is required due to excavation works to the northern side of the Urangan St. Drain. A new bridge design proposal will be submitted shortly for approval. Once confirmed, the bridge will be relocated to the proposed location.

Considering the approved revision for a wider drain contour, the new bridge location will provide a more direct route to the Eastern laneway (being closer) for pedestrians having to travel through less vegetation buffer adjacent the rear boundaries of Garden Drive properties. Temporary signage will be installed to divert Robert Street; Garden Drive and USHS pedestrians via Elizabeth Street.

Onsite consultation with Fraser Coast Regional Council and Bellerio Constructions Occupational Health and Safety considerations indicated it would be prudent to keep pedestrians away from the construction zone until the new bridge is installed and the revised route is adequately signed and fenced. We anticipate the temporary closure to take approximately 8 weeks.

Public notice will be posted in the Fraser Coast Chronicle upon approval, and a letterbox drop will also be completed to affected residents. Once the bridge is installed, unnecessary temporary pedestrian closure signage will be removed and the original approved traffic management plan signage will be adjusted to suit the revised route.

Bellerio Constructions

STAFF MOVEMENTS 2009

Staff	Position	From	Returning	Replacement
Mr Czislawski	HOD IT&D		10 Aug	
Ms Buxton	Deputy Principal		17 Aug	
Ms Ashlakoff	Arts Teacher / Year 11 YLC		17 Aug	
Mr Mills	HOD Curriculum	17 Aug	4 Sept	

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 19/8	Thursday 20/8	Friday 21/8	Monday 24/8	Tuesday 25/8
RED DAY-S Turnbull	Help needed	S Beu	Help needed	Help needed
Wednesday 26/8	Thursday 27/8	Friday 28/8	Monday 31/8	Tuesday 1/9
M Harding	Help needed	Ministerial Holiday - Student Free Day	Help needed	S Beu



URANGAN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL REPORTING – MID YEAR REPORT - 2009

The Queensland Government is working with schools to continually improve the way that schools report on student and school performance. These changes will ensure Queensland parents receive information they need to help their children throughout their schooling. For example, some basic annual reporting information relating to the school is available on our school's website www.uranganshs.eq.edu.au. This publication provides further information for the benefit of members of our school community on the outstanding achievements of all who are a part of this great school.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Urangan State High School has maintained a strong tradition of high academic achievement amongst students as the following sample of results demonstrates.

Year 12 graduates of 2008 showed very positive academic achievement, for example:

- The percentage of Year 12 students achieving Sound Achievement (SA), High Achievement (HA) or Very High Achievement (VHA) compared favourably to that of State results, as the following sample shows: Accounting – 83%; Ancient History – 84%; Biology - 85%; English - 92%; Maths A – 86%; Maths B – 87%; Maths C – 89%; Physics – 92%.
- Students' Overall Position (OP) Scores determining eligibility to universities meant that of the 2008 Year 12 students who sought placement in a tertiary education course, 90% of students received an offer.

Students in other year levels also consistently achieve highly throughout the year. For example in the last round of semester testing (Semester 1 2009), the following examples are typical of subject/student achievements. The percentage of students obtaining a Sound, High, or Very High Achievement (passing) is as follows:

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English – 92%	English - 77%	English - 70%	English – 75%
Maths – 70%	Maths – 67%	Maths – 69%	Maths A – 84%
Science – 71%	Science – 74%	Science – 69%	Maths B – 74%
			Physics – 72%

The school also continues to offer and have a very high demand for students to enrol and participate in the schools music and information technology acceleration classes.

Vocational Education through the gaining of competencies or nationally recognised training certificates (equivalent to those offered in TAFE or training colleges) continues to grow. In 2008:

- 577 Year 11 & 12 students took part in structured work placements
- 10 Year 12 students completed or were completing a School based Traineeship / Apprenticeship.
- Hospitality/Tourism package course implemented and students graduated with Certificate II in Tourism / Hospitality
- First group of Year 12 students graduated with a Certificate 3 in Children Services.
- Continued commitment by the school to Student Industry Training Experience (SITE), Education Hervey Bay, Chamber of Commerce, and University of Southern Queensland.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Urangan State High School has a computer ratio of 1:3 (one computer for every three students) which exceeds Education Queensland's 1:5 targets.

The school's computer infrastructure includes:

- 12 computer laboratories
- Access to a computer in every classroom
- Recording Studio
- Resource Centre, Arts and I.T. faculties boasting a high number of computers, lap tops and data projectors, digital videos, digital cameras and digital editing equipment.
- Every teacher has a lap top computer

The school has implemented a 1:1 Laptop program in 2009. This program is currently being trialled with the acceleration program classes. Our goal is to create and maintain a learning environment where students and staff can use Information Communication Technologies to support learning and teaching. We believe that the use of Information Communication Technologies as tools will enhance student learning.

STUDENT WELFARE

A range of personnel are provided to support students in their schooling including Guidance Officer/s, School Based Youth Health Nurse, School Based Police Officer, School Chaplain, Behaviour Management Teacher/s, Community Education Counsellor & Indigenous Education Workers (supporting indigenous youth), Youth Workers from external agencies supporting "at risk" youth (e.g. Community Solutions & Life Line), Year Level Coordinators, as well as a Special Education Program to assist students with learning difficulties or Special Needs.

An increasingly successful Breakfast Club is run by the School Chaplaincy and Indigenous Education Workers every Tuesday and Thursday before school for students who have difficulty having a breakfast before coming to school. This activity is supported by donations from the local community.

Also the Student Council meets regularly to promote student interests and discuss any issues of the school environment that might be concerning students.

CO-CURRICULAR and EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Subject based

- Successful participation by students in subject competitions/activities continues to feature strongly on the Urangan State High School agenda. For example during 2009 students have been involved in Literacy and numeracy competitions, Constitutional Convention, Science and Engineering Challenge, McGregor Music School, Regional Chess competitions as well as students enrolling in University of Southern Queensland "Head Start Program".
- Numerous school excursions offer Urangan High students valuable learning opportunities outside the school context for example: Year level camps, Legal studies trips to Brisbane Law Courts, English/ Arts/ Drama students to Shakespeare on the Bay, Marine Studies camps to Fraser Island, Tertiary Studies Expo in Brisbane, Tourism Travel Expo, and production of a Community Movie Project.

Cultural

Each year the school is involved in significant cultural events/productions. So far this year:

- 52 Urangan State High School students featured in the spectacular State Education Week 'Creative Generations – State Schools on Stage 2009 at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre. One of our students Keenan Cronau was a featured artist in this production.
- The school has had outstanding student involvement and participation in the instrumental music program, sonic blast and music performances, dance performances and music originals performance evenings.
- The school continues to feature strongly in the International Schools Program with 15 international students choosing Urangan State High School as their school of choice.

Sport

- In 2008 there were 2 students selected as Queensland representatives, 9 students selected as Queensland Country Futsal representatives and 30 students selected as Wide Bay representatives. This is in addition to the raft of Interschool representative events that USHS students actively participate in.
- Students participate annually in the Maryborough Technology Challenge. This involves many months of preparation culminating in a 24 hour race through the streets of Maryborough in a human powered vehicle designed and built by the students.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Urangan State High School has been very successful in enhancing school facilities and resources, providing the best possible learning environment for our students; a physical environment that most other school communities would love to have. Some examples include:

- The school received a Special Education facility which was commissioned for the commencement of semester 2 2008 for our Special Education Program and the school are currently in the process of working together with Education Queensland in siting an additional building to enhance our Special Education facilities.
- The school has had a modular building installed to cater for the schools' increasing student population.
- The school received \$200,000 in the federal government's National School Pride Program which is currently being used to enhance facilities within the school.
- The school received a National Secondary Schools Computer fund grant from the Australian Government for \$515 000 purchase of student computers and associated support.