6 December 2016

Principal’s Report

In this final newsletter for 2016 I wish to thank everyone in our school community for their support throughout the year and to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Last week I was very pleased to receive our provisional Year 12 Learner Report and to see the outstanding results for our students. Although these results are provisional they indicate that we will have over 95% of students graduate this year with a Queensland Certificate of Education, Vocational Certificate or School Based traineeship or apprenticeship. This is a wonderful result for such a large group of students and I wish them the very best for their futures.

Mrs Hannant and I attended School Council training and we look forward to engaging our community in a new constitution and initiatives to support student learning outcomes. Thank you to Mrs Kalkaus and all members of the School Council for their work this year and over the years since School Council was established in 2001.

Mr Rye and I also attended the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority seminar on the new Senior Schooling proposals. This was very useful for preparing our school for the changes ahead when QCS tests will no longer exist, external exams will contribute to results and tertiary entrance will be totally managed by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre. Parent information is available on the QCAA website and I encourage parents to keep informed of the changes ahead.

Mr Stutz, our new Acting Deputy Principal for 2017, has visited and I believe enjoyed his time with us. We look forward to working with him and all the new teachers in our school in 2017.

Farewell to Mr Christie and all the staff leaving us this year. We wish them the very best in their future endeavours and thank them for everything they have done at Urangan State High School.

The holiday season is fast approaching and I encourage everyone in our school community to be aware that this is often a high stress time as the normal routines of work and school change, people travel, visit and celebrate. During this time it is important to stay connected, look out for one another and those around you and ensure everyone is safe.

Some of my reading this week was about wellbeing and I came across some recent research where the survey showed Australians are happy and optimistic compared to other countries. Mateship is what makes Australians happy, according to a new national survey on the nation’s emotional wellbeing. The Australian Psychological Society’s (APS) Compass for Life survey has found people who connect with family, socialise with colleagues and are actively involved in their local community are the happiest people in Australia. Those who spend a lot of time on social media, which is designed to bring people closer together, feel higher levels of loneliness and negative emotions. So during the months ahead until school resumes try to connect with family and community.

Finally I am able to announce that our school has been selected as one of the last 70 Independent Public Schools in Queensland. As well as the extra funding, this decision will allow us greater autonomy and flexibility to enhance learning for students, work collaboratively with community and implement innovations to benefit young people. Thank you to the whole school community for their support of our application.

I look forward to seeing you all back at our great school in 2017.

Best regards
Robin Rayner – Principal
Taste of Chinese Kungfu

On 29th of November 2016, the faculty of Languages hosted “Taste of Chinese Kungfu” at Urangan State High School for over sixty Year 8 Chinese language learners. Taichi is an ancient Chinese martial arts form that is one of the most symbolic representations of the Chinese culture combining both physical and mental well-being. A rapid, energetic sequence of moves with a hard bamboo fan called ‘shan’ (?) was used by Mr Glen Smith, our visiting Taichi master. His smooth display impressed our language students as well as onlookers as they watched in fascination and asked for repeated performances. The Confucius classroom is proud to be sponsoring this worthwhile program for our students and to join in this fantastic program which is fun, social, and motivational.

Graduation Ball

Friday 18th November saw the Year 12 graduating class attend their Graduation Ball. It was quite special to see all students dressed up so lovely, they no longer looked like students, rather young adults. I personally would like to thank all parents for all of the hard work you have contributed to the students in preparing them for the monumental occasion of graduating 12 years of schooling. I would also like to pass on my gratitude and thanks to everyone who had involvement in the preparation and execution of the final week activities, there are too many to name individually. Just a gentle reminder to all Year 12 students that you only have until this Friday to order your graduation photos off of the school website. Lastly, I would like to congratulate and thank each and every Year 12 student who has graduated for the past 3 years. It has been quite a journey and it has been an absolute pleasure to have been your Student Coordinator. Good bye and good luck in your future pursuits.

Congratulations!

Congratulations and thank you to all of the Creative Futures staff who have helped to make 2016 another amazing Arts year for students at Urangan State High School. This year the faculty have provided students with opportunities to participate in “Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage”, ‘Rockets’ cheer/dance squad, our school musical “The Tempest” (as part of the school’s 25 year celebration), instrumental music performances including Gala Night, as well as the usual array of performance and display events such as Dance Night, SONIC and Kaleidoscope which occurred throughout the year. We look forward to working with your children next year and encouraging their interest in the arts.

Liza Young – HOD Creative Futures

Thank You!

The staff and students of Urangan State High School Special Education Program would like to thank Maryborough Ag Supplies for the bale of cane mulch they donated for our gardens. Thank You.

Don’t forget to update your Centrepay details for 2017.

In this summer survival kit you’ll find everything you need to know, from tips for getting through the holidays to suggestions for curing boredom. Most importantly, be kind to yourself and remember there’s always someone to talk to if you need help. This might help if:

- You’re bored over the summer
- You’re worried about dealing with Christmas stress
- You’re heading to a summer festival

From the Guidance Officer
Mannly Dubroy

Urangan State High School Uniform Shop

The 2017 holiday opening hours from 9 - 21 January will be as follows:

- Monday : 10am – 2pm
- Tuesday: 8am – 2pm
- Wednesday: 10am – 2pm
- Thursday: 10am – 6pm
- Friday: 10am – 2pm
- Saturday: 10am – 2pm

If you would like to use Centrepay to purchase uniforms please organise a slip from Urangan State High School Reception before the 9 December 2016.

Bookings for the Uniform Shop school holiday opening hours can be made online via the School Interviews website.


The code to book online is - cfntry

Old Second Hand Uniforms

With the year coming to a close, if you have a student in Years 9 or 12 who no longer require their uniform and you would like to sell it, the uniform shop is more than willing to sell it for you on consignment. As long as the uniform is clean, unstained and there are no tears just drop the uniform off to the uniform shop during the above holiday opening hours. Megan will register your uniform and then put it onto the second hand rack. When your uniform is sold, you will receive a cheque to the value of the uniform less $5 consignment. For more information please contact Megan on 4197 0116.
Community News

$20,000 Back to Work ‘Youth Boost’

Queensland employers will have an additional incentive to hire local young people this festive season. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk announced in Parliament today the doubling of the Government’s $10,000 incentive, offering a $20,000 kick-back for regional businesses who hire unemployed youths.

A Christmas and New Year Road Safety Message

A Christmas and New Year road safety message from your Wide Bay Burnett District police.

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.

Strategies for Success Seminars

In the January 2017 school holidays, Study Crunch will again be holding the popular ‘Strategies for Success’ seminars. A two-day senior seminar for students in years 10, 11 and 12 and a two-day Junior seminar for students in years 7, 8 and 9 are available. Three main areas of learning are covered:

- **Learning skills** that help students to learn easier and more efficient methods of approaching study. These include organisational skills, essay planning, note taking, memory skills, presentation skills, and speed reading (speed reading in 2-day senior seminar only).

- **Motivation Skills.** A close look at how self-motivation works. Learn how to get motivated and stay motivated.

- **Stress Management.** Simple techniques for relieving stress, especially important at exam time.

Students leave the seminar with the skills needed to improve their ability to study, improve their school results, and make a success of their years at high school. Quality materials are used alongside films, group activities, and lectures. Investment in the senior seminar is $410 and the junior seminar is $260 (GST included). Seminars will be held at Q.U.T. Gardens Point Campus in Brisbane. For more information call (07) 3281 1400 or register online below.


If your child is going into Years 7 to 12 - you have a tough year ahead

You can help!

January Holiday 2-Day Seminars in

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

How you will benefit: Students emerge from the seminar confident and motivated towards their studies and possessing powerful new strategies for speed reading*, understanding, advanced summarising, memorising and revision, essay planning, stress management, time management, goal setting and correct study methods.

This unique Australian program has been tried and proven over many years with a broad range of students. It is presented in Brisbane during school holidays by qualified university lecturers and/or consultants in learning performance and student motivation. In a survey conducted on an average of six months after their child’s attendance, 93% of parent respondents said there had been a persistent positive change in their child’s actual school performance.

What previous students have said:

*A very worthwhile investment in my life.* C. Howell
*A very enjoyable and informative seminar.* J. Matey
*A powerful presentation - an educational must.* M. Bents

Register at studycrunch.com.au or Ph: 07 3281 1400

Limited Places

Examine hands on exhibits and apply the latest crime solving techniques to solve a murder

Who dunit?

OPEN 7 DAYS
10am - 3pm
MARYBOROUGH CITY HALL

MURDER

3 DEC 2016
1-2 Jan 2017

Whodunit?

CRIME SCENE
FORENSIC
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