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29 April 2014

Principal's Report

Welcome Back

Welcome back to Term 2. I certainly hope you had an enjoyable and pleasant vacation. A special welcome to new students, parents and staff who have joined our school this term.

National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN Testing)

On 13th to 15th May this year, all students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia will sit Literacy and Numeracy tests. Planning is currently underway for the implementation of these tests with year 9 students at Urangan High School. More detailed information regarding these tests will be in future newsletters.

ANZAC Day

An emotive ANZAC ceremony was conducted for the school community on the first Tuesday of Term 2. The student leaders, year 10 students from Mrs Byers and Mrs Vanzetta's classes and the Concert band featured in the presentation. It was our privilege to host two RSL guests at the function. Tom Dietrich is to be commended for his performance of the Last Post. Our school was well represented at the Hervey Bay ANZAC parade and the Dawn Service. We marched with pride and looked spectacular in the new hats provided by the P&C Association. Many thanks go to all who marched on the day.

Every Day Counts

As we commence Term 2, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information:
www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts .

Discipline Audit

As part of an initiative to strengthen discipline in Queensland State schools, Discipline Audits will be conducted in every Queensland state school by November 2014. The purpose of

the Discipline Audits is to provide quality feedback on how the school is ensuring a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment and to inform school behaviour management planning processes. During the audit, an independent, experienced school principal will visit the school to collect a range of data and information about school-wide, programs and procedures in the area of discipline. Interviews will also be conducted with staff, students and parents to gather a range of perspectives on school strategies and practices in relation to behaviour management. The school will receive the auditor's report within 15 days and key findings will be discussed with the principal, the school's leadership team and school staff. Our school's Executive Summary and Profile have been made available to parents and caregivers via our school web site. For further information about Urangan's Discipline Audit please make contact.

During the term we once again look forward to working with students, parents, staff and members of our community.



Linda Buxton – Acting Principal

Dates to Remember

Monday 5 May - OP Mentoring YR 12
Tuesday 6 May - Education & Career Planning Interviews
12.30pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday 13 May - P&C Meeting, 7pm in Administration Block
Conference Rooms
Tuesday 13-15 May - NAPLAN testing (Year 9 only)
Wednesday 14-16 May - Year 10 Camp

Education and Career Planning Interviews (ECP)

This year the school has decided to introduce Education and Career Planning Interviews (ECP) for all students, teachers and parents. These interviews will be held on Tuesday May 6 and will focus on a review of Term 1. Interviews will commence at 12:30pm and finish at 7:30pm.

All parents/guardians should have received a letter from the school concerning these interviews. A copy of this letter can be accessed by clicking on the link below.

Queensland Core Skills Test Community Representatives

Urangan State High School invites expressions of interest from members of the community to nominate for appointment to the positions of chief community representative or community representative for the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. You must be available Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd of September 2014. If you can support us with your application, please call me on 41970101 for the application forms or print yourself at: <http://uranganshs.eq.edu.au/wcms/index.php/curriculum/senior-schooling/qcs-test> . Forms must be returned to the school no later than Friday May 23rd, 2014.

Andrew Rye - Acting Head of Department -Senior Schooling

School Absence Exemption Application

What is an exemption and why do I need it?

Every parent of a child of compulsory school age or a young person in the compulsory participation phase has a legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attending school or participating in an eligible option. Parents can apply for an exemption from this obligation when their child cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for their child to attend school or participate in an eligible option for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days.

Situations where an application for an exemption may be made include:

- Illness
- Family reasons
- Cultural or religious reasons

If your child is exempted from compulsory schooling, you are excused from your obligation in relation to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation. The school principal is not responsible for providing an educational program to your child, however they may provide advice on other educational options available.

Who decides to grant or not grant an exemption?

- **For state school students:** Decisions about exemptions for up to one school year are made by the principal of the school the student attends. Decisions about exemptions for more than one school year are made by the relevant Regional Director of the Department of Education, Training and Employment, responsible for the supervision of the school your child attends.
- **For non-state school students:** All exemption decisions for non-state school students are made by the Manager, Office of Non-state Education.

- **For children who are not enrolled in any state or non-state Queensland school:** Decisions about exemptions for students who are not enrolled in any state or non-state school are made by either the Regional Director, Principal Advisor Education Services, Principal Advisor Regional Services, Director Regional Services, of the Department of Education, Training and Employment region in which the child resides.

Applying for an exemption

You are encouraged to discuss with the school whether an application for exemption is a suitable option. The school can provide you with an application form for an exemption. It is important that supporting documentation and evidence are attached to the application.

When a decision about the exemption has been made, you will be informed in writing whether or not the exemption has been granted and if any conditions have been imposed. If you are not satisfied with the decision made, you can make a submission for the decision to be reviewed.

Community News

Rhee Taekwondo

Rhee taekwondo will be hosting two free self-defence classes for the community. These classes are designed for people who have had absolutely no martial arts experience. The classes will teach easy to follow techniques that anyone can do. You will learn valuable knowledge on how to effectively defend yourself in some common situations whilst also learning ways to boost your own confidence and self-esteem. To guarantee a spot for yourself or a group of friends, call 4124 7835 or 0404 747 413.