24 June 2014

Principal's Report

As Semester 1 draws to a close, it is the ideal time to reflect on the last six months, and to look toward the opportunities available to our school community in Semester 2. It has certainly been a very busy semester of academic, sporting and cultural events. We can definitely focus on all of these highlights, but for our students, it’s important to reflect on their achievement and effort in their school work.

There is well documented educational research that indicates students who reflect on their efforts and set goals for future learning, perform much better academically. This reflection should examine four different questions:

1. How hard have I tried?
2. Where have I succeeded?
3. What am I still having trouble with?
4. What do I need to do in the future to enable my success?

I would like to encourage all parents and guardians to sit down with their children over the school holidays and discuss these four questions. If your children are able to record their answers, it can enrich the reflection process when you review again at the end of the school year. A small investment of time now could reap big rewards in relation to your child’s future success.

Exams and Assessment

Our students are currently busy completing their assessment for the semester. This can often be a stressful time for our students as they manage their time to study for exams, complete assignments as well as fit in all of their other commitments. Preparation and time management are the keys to success.

Our Year 11 and 12 Higher Education students have just finished three days of block exams. Regular classes will run for the remainder of the week as students finish off all remaining assessment. Please disregard any claims from your children that they don’t need to attend in the last week. Students need to be working every minute, every day, up until Friday afternoon.

Reports will be issued on the second week of semester two, with Senior, then Junior parent-teacher interviews occurring shortly afterwards.

Winter Vacation

Our staff and students have worked extremely hard throughout Semester 1. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school staff for their professionalism and caring approach to supporting student success. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our students toward their studies. It’s very easy to be proud of our great school. I wish everyone a safe and happy winter vacation and look forward to seeing you all ready and raring to go for Semester 2.

School Hats

As you are all aware, we have made the decision this year to have the red bucket hats as an essential part of the school uniform. These hats have been kindly provided to all students by our school P&C association and form part of our sun-safe strategy. We are very proud of our school and the hats, as part of our school uniform, are part of the distinct branding to the public of our school community. Please support us by ensuring that, as your child leaves home in the morning, they have a hat (they can be replaced if lost by purchasing one from the uniform shop) and they wear the hat. During 2014, the grey reversible hats may also be worn. Under no circumstances are other caps, beanies, etc to be worn. We thank you for your support in this matter.

Nick Mc Morrow - Acting Principal

English Tutoring

Due to a recent influx in numbers, English tutorials will now focus on a different literacy skill each week. Sign up for these sessions will not be necessary. Students from all grades are welcome to attend. The next topic to be covered will be Word Functions and Grammar Games which will be held on June 25.

If a student requires help with an English assessment, they will still need to sign up in Staffroom 5, at least a day in advance, to ensure tutorials are adequately staffed.

Great state. Great opportunity.
Senior Block Exam Information

There are block exams for senior higher education students from Friday June 20 to Wednesday June 25. During this time period all higher education classes will be closed however all workforce classes will continue as normal. Higher education students are not required to be at school unless they have an exam or a workforce class. If a student is at school and their class has been closed they are expected to be in the library studying quietly.

Dance Night 2014!

On June the 11th and 12th a big event happened for all Dance students at Urangan State High School. Over the two days more than 300 students performed in four dance shows. These events took lots of preparation including 18 weeks of rehearsals, and for our year 11 SAS Dance students, lots of organisation as they were in charge of running this major event. Lots of different roles were performed such as lighting, backstage, costumes and advertising. All this preparation was necessary to make sure the nights went to plan. The talent that was demonstrated on Dance Night was outstanding. One of the major dances performed by senior students was Mega Jam (by the way, both the year 12 Higher Ed and Workforce classes went away to a regional competition in Brisbane; Higher Ed walked away with 2nd place and Workforce walked away with 5th place. To top it off the OP class went away to state and came home with 1st place). The school boys’ aerobics team (Gareth Dundas, Brad Brown and James Lorbrtio) also performed after winning at both regionals and state – they are off to nationals very soon to do our school proud! We also had the Urangan Rockets Cheerleading Squad performing their amazing pom and jazz routine. The girls had performed at competition recently, bringing home a 1st for their amazing jazz routine and in a few weeks will be heading to the Gold Coast for a competition. The Dance students were also lucky enough to have an opportunity to learn either a hip hop or a contemporary routine, or even both, in a work shop with guest choreographer, Madi Howarth, who last year graduated from Urangan State High School and is now going even further with her dancing studying at RAW Dance. Some of our more interesting performances were performed by some of our Maths, English and even cooking teachers in the brand new ‘So You Think Teachers Can’t Dance’. Mr Manttan performed a ballet routine with two of the grade twelve boys Gareth Dundas and Brad Brown. Mr Symes and Ms Zhao preformed a rock ‘n roll routine and Ms Vanzetta and Mr Swan performed a contemporary piece. With all these amazing performances, and many more, Dance Night 2014 was a success! We pulled off four amazing shows all nearly sold out! None of this could have happened without the help of our three amazing Dance teachers Ms Milne, Ms Starkey and Mrs Saliba. These three wonderful ladies are the people behind all the success of Dance Night and without them we would all be lost. Here’s to an amazing Dance Night and an amazing experience for all Dance students!

Jade Wilkie - Year 11 SAS Dance Student

Sonic

Sonic was held on the 5th June in the Urangan State High school Performing Arts Centre. It was a huge success with some fabulous performances on the night. A special mention needs to go to the judges, Rob Mackay, Trevor Franklin and Dan Boulton, who gave up their valuable time to judge the competition. The competition was fierce with two winners from each category going through to perform at Hoolihan’s on 14th August. The winners were:

- Solo/duo – Lachlan Rose and Tom Dietrich;
- Bands – Macca and the Fella’s and Fools Forum.

Well done to all the performers on the night. Congratulations to all the winners. We are looking forward to your performance at Hoolihan’s in August.

PaCE/USQ Indigenous Literacy and Numeracy Tutorials

Are you interested in your child participating in Literacy and Numeracy tutorials? These tutorials will be at least once a week at the USQ campus study centre. Transport will be provided from Urangan high school to USQ and to your home address. This is at no cost to you! I encourage parents to come along to support this program and have access to Literacy and Numeracy resources to support the indigenous students in the school. Please contact our PaCE team staff, Lesa or Krissie, on 41913108 or 4191 3115

Shane Nelson – Community Education Counsellor
I would personally also like to thank everyone who had involvement in the success of the night, especially Mr Anthony Swann, our Quiz Master, and Betty Douglas and Jo Rasby for being our Judges on the night and Rose Grundy for all of her assistance. The 3rd Annual Trivia Night will be held on Saturday 13 June, 2015.

Damien Symes - Year 12 Tourism Teacher

Parenting Tips

Make sure you connect with each of your teenagers every day alone, even if just for a short time. Being on hand when they get home is a sure way to hear about their day. It is helpful to develop a ritual with your teenager, like sharing a cup of tea every night before bed while the two of you catch up. Don’t expect your teenager to invite closeness or volunteer emotions at each interaction, or when you expect it. But if you set up enough regular opportunities to be together, it will happen.

The Guidance Officer

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.

Z-PAC Theatre – Hoovering on the Edge

Z-Pac theatre presents, by arrangement with NODA, the Australian Premiere of Hilary Spiers’ Hoovering on the Edge, a comedy which sparkles!

Hoovering on the Edge is a must see play written with such wit by Hilary Spiers and directed by Ann Hopwell. If you loved Calendar Girls you surely won’t want to miss this one. A first in Australia, hoovering on the edge is set in a Spanish resort and follows 7 English women having a few days away to learn from their overzealous young male lecturer creative writing. There are plenty of laughs and pathos as they begin to get to know more about each other and the very lacking Gareth. Follow, Honor, Rita, Sue, Gwen, Chris, Moira and Clare on their writing journey, with plenty of surprises on the way.
Z-PAC Theatre will be presenting this entertaining piece of comedy on 27 and 28 June at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased from Mary Ryan Bookshop, Pialba. Adults $25, Concessions and/or groups 10+ at $20.

Adolescent Parenting Seminars

*An end to the arguing and yelling! 'It saved our lives' Simple, sane, effective.