16 September 2014

Principal’s Report

Special Education Program

The quiet achievers of the school are the staff and students from the Special Education program. Mrs Ley Anson is the HOD of the program and Mrs Marnie Fader is the student coordinator looking after the social and emotional lessons for life (SELF). The SEP has been gearing up all term for their annual camp which leaves school on Tuesday 16th. Everyone is very excited about the opportunity to go camping, experience new challenges and develop some more skills. The staff are always seeking those moments for learning with the students as our motto reminds us Working Together to Learn. One such opportunity was the recent Gardening Competition. The SEP students rose to the occasion and made us extremely proud on the day of judging.

Practicum Students USQ 2014

Last week several new student teachers began their practical teaching at our school. We welcome Roy, Aiden, Shaun and farewell Rachel. This would not even be possible if there were not so many willing and welcoming staff in our school who volunteer to be mentors. The partnership with USQ continues to grow. This process assists when advertising for new staff as these individuals already have an insight into The Urangan Way, making for a seamless transition into work.

Parent Teacher Interviews

The recent interviews were a huge success with record numbers of parents in attendance. The Administration has received a lot of positive feedback on how well the staff knew their child and how useful the suggested strategies were for improving outcomes and results. The behind the scenes people that make this event possible are Sue Whyborn and Nick McMorrow. On behalf of the school community, I would like to say a very sincere thank you.

Student Events

I have had the privilege of being involved in a diverse range of events where the students are learning, but in a different environment to the regular school setting. The Equestrian team participated in the competition in Maryborough and the International students took a trip to see the whales on Whalesong. It was wonderful to see the team spirit with the HPV (human powered vehicle) teams at the Technology Challenge. The staff and student mutual respect was very evident at this test of endurance. Six talented Year 12 students performed at the Music Extension Recital evening on Monday 15th September. They started Year 8 as nervous music students and are now polished performers with amazing stage confidence. Congratulations to all of the students and the associated parents, teacher-aides and teachers who spend their valuable time enriching the lives of others through education and staging extra-curricular events.

Engaging Adolescents Parent Workshops

A recent set of parenting workshops were run at Urangan High School by Michael Radic, Leanne Olive and Julie Franklin. The feedback comments on the survey were complimentary about the quality of presenters and the relevance of the teachings. Thank you so much to everyone for attending and please spread the good word so we may fill the next parent workshop we run.

Teacher Aide Day

The school recently celebrated the wonderful work done by the teacher aides at our school through hosting a morning tea. Thank you to all our teacher aides and other support staff who are a vital part of our school community.

Third term is always a busy time but the staff and students have coped admirably with the host of demands. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Please return with a refreshed approach to complete the year achieving a little bit better than the best you can do.
Thank you for your support during my six months as Acting Principal. We welcome Ross Zelow back for term 4.

**Linda Buxton - Acting Principal**

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**SEP Garden**

On Wednesday the 3rd of September the students of Urangan High’s SEP presented their garden Amaroo to the judges of the 2014 Fraser Coast School Spring Garden Competition organised by Wide Bay Water and Bunnings Warehouse.

Students from both years 8 and 10 worked together to create a multimedia presentation that showcased the hard work and dedication that was invested to create Amaroo, an Indigenous word meaning beautiful place. Judges were guided around the garden where students answered questions and hand-picked fresh strawberries for the judges to taste. The judges were then offered a gourmet lunch inspired from the vegetables and herbs growing in the garden.

This is the third year Urangan State High School’s Special Education Program has entered the competition. They were lucky enough to win first place in 2013. Well done to all the students who have contributed to the garden. Your efforts have been outstanding. A special thank you to all of the staff who have gone above and beyond to help the students especially Mrs Olds, Mr Webb and Mr Rose.

**2014 School Spring Garden Competition**

Little green thumbs across the region showed off their waterwise gardening skills during the judging of the seventh annual Fraser Coast Schools Spring Garden Competition last week. The judges from Wide Bay Water Corporation, and Bunnings Hervey Bay and Maryborough were delighted with the standard of entries which involved over 1100 students from kindergarten to year 12 across the Fraser Coast.

Wide Bay Water’s Environmental Manager, Jeanette Harrold, said "The aim of the competition is for students to learn waterwise gardening skills while enjoying the fruits of their labour”.

Urangan State High School Special Education Program took out first place with perfect scores in the Special Education Category. The students fund raised to purchase then installed their own computerized waterwise irrigation system, made their own compost, handmade wooden garden signs and humorously presented their waterwise garden knowledge over a banquet they prepared from their garden”.

**Urangan vs St Luke’s**

Congratulations to the Year 9 Rugby League/Union specialisation class that travelled up to Bundaberg on Wednesday, 27 August to play against St Luke’s Anglican College. In a close match, the boys (and their champion cheering water girl, Jokara) prevailed – scoring 4 tries to 3.

The class has been working hard to develop their rugby skills and this was shown on numerous occasions at the breakdown where the boys turned St Luke’s possession over at crucial times. Player of the match was fly-half, Ben Hudson, but all players put in full efforts. The boys were hosted to a BBQ after the game by St Luke’s. A great time and a good rugby experience. Thanks also to Mr Austin who drove the bus on a raucous return journey.

**2014 Multi-Arts Camp**

A reminder to students and parents that the Multi-Arts Camp will depart on Thursday 18th September at 6.30am and will return on Saturday 20th September at 3.00pm. All students have been provided with a ‘Things to Bring’ list. If you have any questions prior to departure, please contact Liza Young on 4197 0178.

**Certificate I and II Business Catch-up Sessions**

There will be catch-up sessions available for Certificate I and II Business in IT01 during first break Monday and Wednesday and also period 1 Wednesday.

**English Tutorials**

Normal tutorial sessions will continue to run each Wednesday afternoon from 3-4pm in GC02. Anyone is welcome to turn up to these tutorials. The topics covered for the rest of the term will be as follows:

- Week 10 – Short stories: creative writing

If students require help for a specific assessment task, they need to place their name and details on the sign-up sheet (which is in the English staffroom) by Tuesday afternoon.

**Community Education News**

This term has been a very busy, but successful, one.

**2014 NAIDOC Flag Raising/Celebration**

This was a success once again with the entire school cohort attending. Thank you to members of the Student Council who ran proceedings and Mr Christie who attended as the Administration representative and speaker. Special acknowledgement to Shane Bird who coordinated this event.

“Closing the Gap” Indigenous Primary Health Checks. These health checks have recently been carried out at the school. We acknowledge and thank our partnership with Galangoo Duwalami Primary Health Care service in conducting these health checks. With 142 students, we have had approximately 20 students each a day and follow ups with the doctor. With approximately 80% completed we will continue health checks into term 4.
Year 7 to 8 Transition Day. Our participation in the transition day with our feeder primary schools was a great success. All students engaged in activities such as a Bush Tucker garden experience and an Indigenous Games activity. Thank you to PCYC’s Les Ravenaue and Dean Azzopardi. The upgrade of the Bush Tucker garden is ongoing with a donation from the Council of mulch and support from Tina Ravenaue and her volunteers and donation of bush food and Medicine plants.

Student Support. PaCE’s Lesa Stagg and I have commenced some home visits with parents to support student Literacy and Numeracy outcomes. PaCE has also had success with the commencement of a homework centre with USQ once a week where our parents and students are participating. Thanks to PaCE/UCC and USQ!

Indigenous Connection Day. This was held on Thursday 18th where 15 students from years 10-12 attended. The day consisted of students participating in listening to guest speakers, activities and information sessions that support better choices for further education after year 12.

Administration Mural. In term 4 we plan to have an expression of interest go out to local artist to either complete a mural or have an artist in residence for one week.

I have also enjoyed supporting our students one on one, in small groups and in class. I also thank the Welfare team, partners and service provider members for their support. And thank you too! Hope you all enjoy the break and stay safe!

Shane Nelson – Community Education Counsellor

Relay for Life

Join USHS team efforts to conquer cancer

When? 11th & 12th October
Where? Seafront Oval
Why? To raise funds and support for cancer survivors, sufferers and carers.

Mini Gig

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS
Friday 7th November 2014
6.30pm to 9.30pm
$5

Tickets available from Student Services

USQ Events

Ergon 2015 Trainee Intake

In September Ergon will be advertising the for the 2015 Apprentice and Technical Trainee intake. These positions are great opportunities for young people to start their career in a dynamic and ever-changing industry. Ergon Energy has an award winning apprenticeship program which opens doors not just within Ergon Energy, but earns trainees a recognised trade qualification that can take them all over the world.


Specific apprentice opportunities for 2015 include:

• Electrical Powerline Linersperson (Distribution)
• Electrical Transmission Linerspersons
• Electrotechnology Electricians

Parenting Tips

Stay available. Most children don’t keep an agenda and bring things up at a scheduled meeting, and nothing makes them clam faster than pressing them to talk. Children talk when something is up for them, particularly if you’ve proven yourself to be a good listener, but not overly attached to their opening up to you. If you act like the information they have is a gem you need, they often won’t be able to resist that power and will become even more tight-fisted about sharing.

Young children usually talk with no hesitancy. Some time-honoured strategies include asking questions while in the car, or while they do art or build things. Picking up a crayon or
a block yourself creates more connection and more likelihood that they will share their thoughts.

With older children, whether they will talk to you depends on your overall relationship. If it’s close, then they won’t need to worry about whether to trust you with delicate information, and they won’t need to seize a rare chance for power in the relationship by withholding info. Do remember that teens cherish their right to privacy and resist being intrusive.

**Urangan SHS Guidance Officer**

**Josh McGuire – Ken Stephen Medal**

Earlier this year for the NRL Community Carnival, Broncos player Josh McGuire visited your school and spoke to your students for the NRL’s Tackle Bullying program. Josh has since been nominated by the Brisbane Broncos for the NRL’s Ken Stephen Medal, which recognises the efforts of an NRL player who has not only achieved on the field, but has committed time off the field to community projects.

Josh is a passionate supporter of young people who are suffering from illness or adversity through his work with Ronald McDonald House Charities Australia. In addition to his club’s charitable commitments, Josh works tirelessly to raise funds and provide support to critically ill children by regularly visiting the families and children involved with Ronald McDonald House.

To help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House Charity, Josh partnered with long-time friend Richard Holt to establish the Holt Bolt. This 6-8km military inspired obstacle race has become a popular event amongst Brisbane’s athletic crowd and has been a key donation driver for Ronald McDonald House Charities Australia.

In addition to his fundraising for Ronald McDonald House, Josh dedicates his time to supporting the Bringing Calyn Home Appeal. This charity aims to provide support to Calyn Hoad and his family after Calyn selflessly threw himself in front of a four-wheel drive to save his younger brother – suffering critical injuries in the courageous act. Josh has since dedicated his time to visiting Calyn and his family, and worked to secure Channel 7’s restoration of the Hoad family home to be more accessible for Calyn.

We are encouraging everyone to vote for Josh to win this prestigious award. Members of the public can vote for Josh here - http://www.nrl.com/telstrapremiership/awards/tabid/11056/default.aspx

Is possible, could you please include something regarding Josh’s nomination in your school’s newsletter/communications?

**Community News**

**Rhee Taekwondo**

Rhee taekwondo will be hosting two free trial lessons for beginners. Imagine being a black belt in one of Australia’s most popular martial arts! Become a leader amongst your peers as you cultivate stronger confidence and a healthy self-esteem. For more information visit the website: rhee.net.au or call 4124 7835 or 0404 747 413.
Christmas Celebration

Do-you-love-to-Sing?
Do-you-love-Christmas-Songs?
Come-and-join-All-Sorts-Youth-Choir-for-their-Christmas-Performances.

Help-us-create-a-great-Youth-Choir-for-the-
Fraser-Coast-Area-at-this-Christmas.
ALL-students-from-
Grade-3---12-are-welcome.
Rehearsals:-Tuesday-4pm-6pm
Held-at-the-Kawungan-State-School-Hall
Conductor:-Miss-Cherie-Trelor
Music-Specialist:-from-Maryborough-West-and-Albert-Schools
For-more-Information-Please-Contact
Mrs-Karen-Painter
Mobile:-0468-812-965

Gain-A-Friend-From-Another-Country!
World-Education-Program-(WEP)is-making-Australians-families-to-experience-another-culture
within-their-own-home-by-becoming-host-families. Choose-a-student-from-Italy,
Belgium, France, Switzerland, The-Netherlands-or-South-America and get-a-glimpse into-the
life-of-another-culture-without-having-to-leave-the-comfort-of-your-home. Imagine-the-excitement
of knowing your new brother’s or sister’s face as you introduce them to Vegemite for the-first-time.
Our-exchange-students-are-just-as-excited-about-sharing-their-own-culture-and-life
experiences-as-they-are-about-becoming-a-member-of-an-Australian-family.

Arriving-in-January:
Harla (24) from Italy tells us that she is incredibly fond of animals, and that if she had her
own way, she would turn her house into a zoo! She enjoys drawing in her spare time, as well
as tennis. She believes that living so far away from home will help her broaden her mind, and
she can’t wait to live with a welcoming family.

Marian (25) from Italy is an animation student at her local church group and enjoys playing both
football and basketball with his friends. He also enjoys playing video games, going to the gym for
an hour or so after school. He is looking forward to sharing his Italian culture with you, and
hopes you will share your culture with him here Down-under.

— MANY MORE

Find-out-more!
Getting-to-know-your-student-before-he-or-she-arrives-brings-fun-and-joy-to-everyone
involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack
for your family, including student profiles.

Sylvia Kelly
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