9 December 2014

Principal’s Report

Year 12 Farewell

The last few weeks have been packed with exciting events and celebrations as Urangan High farewelled the year 12’s of 2014. Following exams, the students had a couple of days to receive the assessment feedback and then make the final arrangements for Leavers’ Ceremony and the Formal.

Dreamworld, at the Gold Coast, was the destination for 106 graduating year 12s on the final Wednesday. The day was a huge success and has been recommended for future groups as a final week activity.

The Hervey Bay community enjoyed two massive celebrations with the Leaver’s Ceremony staged at the Hervey Bay Baptist Church and the Formal at the Beach House. Nikki Morris was the year 12 Student Coordinator and her drive, creativity and ability to form and lead a terrific team, meant we were in very good hands for these events. Please look at the Facebook pages for Urangan SHS, Beach House or Fraser Coast Chronicle to see some awesome photos of students at the 2014 Formal.

A huge thanks must go to Mr Bill Rose and the students from the Special Education program. They decorated Mr Rose’s truck so the year 12 band Fool’s Forum could perform one last time as students of Urangan High. The footage can be viewed on YouTube.

State Honours Ensemble Program

I recently received a letter of congratulations from Professor Scott Harrison, the Director of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. He advised that the 9 students representing Urangan SHS at the State Honours program did so admirably. The students, parents and school community are very proud of the commitment and achievements of Josh Braine, James Cresswell, Julia Hill, Kathleen Kalkaus, Thomas Key, Hannah McIlwain, Ethan Rostedt, Nicholas Taranto and Emily Waring.

Peer Mentoring

Two intensive days of training have occurred in Peer Mentoring. The year 8 and 9 mentors have been schooled in the art of being a positive mentor for the 2015 year 7 and 8 students. Eighty students were involved and the group appreciated the efforts of Mr Brian Harrington, Mr Ben Lethborg, Mr Paul Crilly, Ms Deb Smith and Mrs Jacqui Larke. Huge thanks to our trainers, Snez (Chaplain USHS) and Paul (Hervey Bay SHS Chaplain), Janet (School based nurse) and Bev (Youth Support Coordinator) on a job well done. We are such a lucky team to have motivated staff and students keen to work together to make the school a better place for all.
Parent Information Evening

There were record numbers at the Year 7/8 Parent Information Evening last Monday. Thank you to Brian Harrington and Stephanie Whitehead for their organisation skills and to the P&C members for manning the Uniform shop and the BBQ. The event was a success and parents left with their questions answered. Bree Mitchell of year 11 upstaged the other speakers when she reassured the future students about being confident in their ability to learn. She also encouraged them to attend the free tutorials on offer at Urangan and ask questions if not understanding something in the classes.

Start Dates for 2015

Day 1 for the 2015 Year 7s, 8s and 11s is Tuesday 27th January at 8:45 am for assembly.
Day 1 for the 2015 Year 9s, 10s and 12s is Wednesday 28th January at 8:45 am for assembly.

The staff at Urangan High wish the school community a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Please return after the holidays ready for an exciting year ‘In pursuit of excellence, every minute every day’.

Linda Buxton - Acting Principal

Junior Secondary School (JSS) Years 7-9 2015

Parent Teacher Evening Years 7/8 2015

Thank you all for attending this night. If you did miss it please go to our school website where the power point used on the night is there to view. Please call the school if you have any further questions.

Peer Support Program

Eighty Year 8 and 9 students completed the Peer Mentoring Program last Thursday and Friday. These students will assist year 7 and 8 students on day 1 next year and in each of their SELF lessons. Congratulations to all mentors and special thanks to our facilitators Janet, Bev, Snez and Paul. Thanks also to Mrs Larke, Mr Lethborg and Mr Crilly for supporting these students over the 2 day program.

Day 1 2015

Year 7 and 8 students will be attending day 1 on Tuesday 27th January. Year 7 students will be meeting for a parade at 8.40am at the “Map of the World” near the new Year 7 block and Year 8 students meet at the Performing Arts block.

Student Resource Payments

Student resource payments for 2015 can be paid to the school office this year which would be greatly appreciated to help with a smooth start to 2015.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact myself at school. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe holiday and looking forward working with you and your child in 2015.

Brian Harrington - Head of Year 8 2015

Student Story Anthology

Coming soon….the best student short stories from 2014! We have selected the best written narratives of some of our budding authors. Outstanding short stories from students across all grades have been chosen and can be seen by selecting the web address below. Congratulations to all students whose work has been selected.

https://uranganshs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Studentwork/Pages/Studentwork.aspx

Uniform Shop

The new uniform phase in period is almost complete and as of the commencement of 2015, the only authorised uniform allowed to be worn at Urangan State High School will be the new version. All students who own the old uniform are now required to purchase the new uniform for the commencement of 2015. The Uniform Shop at Urangan State High School will be open up until Friday 12 December from 8:30am to 10:00am daily. We will reopen on Monday 5 January for the 3 weeks prior to the commencement of school for all of your uniform needs.

Our opening hours during this time are:
Monday 10am—2pm
Tuesday 8am—2pm
Anyone who has second hand uniforms in the uniform shop for sale (i.e. the old version of the senior and junior polo’s; senior and junior skirts, senior blouses/shirts) need to collect them by Friday 12 December otherwise they will be disposed of. Canterbury shorts will still be held for sale. The P&C apologises that, through our best efforts, we were not able to sell your product. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Moss (Uniform Shop Convener) on 4197 0116. A price list and downloadable version of our order form is available in the Forms & Documents section at the top of this newsletter. Layby and EFTPOS facilities are also available.

**P&C Sausage Sizzle**

The P&C will be holding a Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser at Bunnings, Hervey Bay, on Tuesday 6 January 2015. If you are able to spare some time and come along and help, we would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Damien Symes on 4197 0204 or dsyme9@eq.edu.au for further information or to register your name. If you can’t assist, come along and purchase a sausage on the day. All proceeds go back to the school.

**Community Education 2014 Overview**

**Parent Meetings**

We have endeavoured to have at least one meeting each term with a good number of parent and students attending. This provided an opportunity for those who attended to receive reports on our progress and to give our school valued feedback.

**NAIDOC 2014**

Once again we celebrated with a Flag Raising ceremony with the entire school. Our school community embraced the 2014 National NAIDOC theme. The theme this year was *Serving Country: Centenary and Beyond.* This year’s theme honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have fought in defence of country. This ceremony was conducted by our School Captains and executive members along with our Indigenous students. On short notice Mr Christie stepped in as our guest speaker. Thanks go to Mr Christie and Shane Bird for coordinating.

**Murri Pathways**

This was an opportunity for our senior students to explore options for further education opportunities with presentation from Peter Welch Regional Manager Indigenous Education and Shelly Howden from DATSIMA and Anita Cockburn from TAFE on education and employment pathways.

**Bush Tucker Garden**

This year we have endeavoured to expand on our achievements of 2013 with classes using the garden for educational outcomes across the curriculum. We also conducted tours of the garden and cultural presentations with individual classes and with Goomblar, our Indigenous police liaison officer and our Japanese exchange students.

The garden has been extended and we have received a donation from the council of mulch, purchased some soil and installed a watering system. To date we have identified 36 plants. With support from Tina Raveneau, we have also been developing a booklet for the school to use across the curriculum. This booklet will go to print in 2015 and will be downloadable to be added school’s curriculum resource to be used by teaching staff. Many Thanks to all those involved in this project.

**Student and Staff Support**

We have approximately 140 students at Urangan high. We have supported staff and students with “Closing the Gap” outcomes. Students have received in class support with literacy, numeracy, behaviour issues and alternative programs and activities, attendance and retention. We have accessed support from external service provides in regard to referrals for student and parent support.

**Indigenous Education Workers Network**

We have been able to represent our school at PaCE meetings and IEW’s Forums in relation to addressing “Closing the Gap” outcomes.

**USQ Indigenous Connection Day**

We had senior students participate in the USQ Indigenous Connections Day in October. Student used this opportunity to explore option to further education, listening to guest speakers and participating in activities. This was a good day and well presented. Congratulations and Thanks USQ!

**PaCE Parent Support**

We have liaised closely with our PaCE team members from Uniting community Care. They have supported our school and parents with attendance and home issues. At PaCE meetings we were able to address any barriers to education for parents and students such as transport issue. We have also commenced home visits to parents to offer our support and students.

PaCE have also had good participation numbers with the establishment of the “Deadlycation” homework centre in partnership with USQ. This program runs on a Tuesdays and Thursdays with fee transport provided. Many thanks! Lisa and Krissie

**School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships and Work Experience**

We continue to support our senior students with opportunities to undertake industry placement in areas such as hospitality/tourism, medical administration and trades related positions. Our thanks go to Bev Dangerfield our SITE coordinator and United Community Care.

**Year 7 Transition Program**

This year we support our entire feeder school population with an Indigenous games presentation and Bush tucker garden.
tour and activity. We have also provided our feeder school with an opportunity for an Indigenous student tour of the school.

Primary Health Care Clinics

In partnership with Galangoor Duwalamii we ran Primary Health checks at Urangan High this year. Seventy students completed their primary health check and sixty four students completed doctor consultations. Special thanks goes to the Health team from Galangoor and our student services team to achieve our intervention to “Closing the Cap” on chronic health decease.

Thank you for all your support in 2014! We look forward to 2015! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay Safe!

Mr Shane Nelson Community Education Counsellor

USQ Maths B Tutorials

Parenting can be fun, exciting and logical. It often depends on the parenting experience and training. If ever in doubt about parenting, enrol in a parenting class. Parenting classes prepare parents to make rational, logical choices and consequences.

When a child misbehaves, it is so much better and it relieves stress to have the skills to deal with any inappropriate behaviours. It helps to have logical consequences in mind, before the issue appears. There is no need for hitting, threatening or name calling. Managing inappropriate behaviours can and should be dealt with in a professional manner. Always stop, think and CALMLY deal with the situation. Anger or any emotion is fine; it is the violence, name calling or threats directed toward a child that is unacceptable.

Think of any situation that does not include violence (name calling, refusal to follow directions, etc.), if you do not already have a logical consequence in mind, then calmly take the time to think of one. The child will be waiting in anticipation for what will be decided.

For example: As a parent you want the children to stop ‘name calling.’ First, as a parent, it is time for a discussion on bullying and how name calling can hurt feelings and won’t be tolerated. The discussion might include other forms of bullying, the effects and possible consequences. At the same meeting it would be good to decide on consequences that everyone agrees is fair and deserving. Second, if the name calling persists, simply FOLLOW THROUGH with the consequence decided and agreed upon at the meeting. Third, following through is most important. False threats will soon fall on deaf ears. Consequences should always be logical if possible (logical – consequence related to the behaviour), if that is not possible, decide on a consequence that affects the child’s thinking. It is one of our jobs to help the child change their way of thinking to change their way of behaving. Some consequences might include: removing technology (computer, Facebook, iPhone, etc.), don’t allow the child to watch a favourite television show or visit a friend.

Consequences are best delivered immediately. Giving a consequence for more than 48 hours can be detrimental and ineffective. There are an infinite number of consequences for naughty behaviour a parent can utilise if aware.

When you deal with inappropriate behaviours in a calm rational manner, your child will continue to respect and follow their parent’s directions.

Mannly Dubroy - Guidance Officer (BSc., Med)

Community News

Eating Disorder Group

Eating Disorder Support Group, Hervey bay. Phone Nancy 0498 965 728 or Sarah 0401 709 048.

WEP Student Exchange – A Once-In-Lifetime Opportunity!

Ever wondered what it would be like to live in another country and to swap your vegemite sandwich for a pop tart or croissant? Applications for WEP Student Exchange Programs to over 25 countries around the world are now open for programs starting from July 2015 onwards. Choose from more than 100 short and long-term programs, designed to fit into your Australian schooling. Find out more today!

Whether you wish to go overseas or host an exchange student in your home, request an information pack today to find out more about WEP’s not-for-profit student exchange programs.

Visit: www.wep.org.au
Phone: 03 9598 4733 / 1300 884 733 (cost of a local call)
Email info@wep.org.au
Strategies for Success

In the January 2015 issue of Scholastic, BrainStorm will again be feature the popular "Strategies for Success" seminars. Teachers have been using the tips to help their students improve test scores and grades. Junior seminars for students in grades 7, 8, and 9 are available. Three main areas of focus are highlighted:

1. Learning skills: This section covers how to learn and how to use efficient methods of studying. These include organization, attention, memory, and test-taking skills. Memory, organization, and study skills are three important skills to master. Learn how to get organized and stay organized.

2. Test-taking skills: A deep dive into how self-motivation works. Learn how to get motivated and stay motivated.

3. Study habits: Simple techniques for improving your study habits. Easy ways to improve your study habits.

Study habits are the same in and out of school. The key is to establish good habits in and out of school. Always establish a study plan to help you improve your grades. The Junior Seminar will help you get ready for the Junior Seminar in 2015. The Junior Seminar will help you get ready for the Junior Seminar in 2015. The Junior Seminar will help you get ready for the Junior Seminar in 2015.