Principal’s Report

We are now mid-way through term 1 and our new students in Years 7 and 8 have settled into their Junior Secondary programs. It was great to see the attendance at the information sessions for all the Year 7 and 8 classes (last Tuesday) and the ACE classes the week before. It is vitally important that the communication lines between the school and home are open and effective. Feedback from both sessions was positive and I will be using it to further develop programs and plans around the Junior Secondary agenda.

The school’s key strategic documents for 2015 have been finalised. The School’s vision “Pursuing Excellence – Every Minute, Every Day” remains the same and will be a focus throughout the year. The Annual Implementation Plan has been developed for 2015. Our Explicit Improvement Agenda is focussed on EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDING through:

- The development of the schools critical curriculum.
- The development of professional pedagogical practices to improve student engagement.
- Improving student achievement (in particular around Literacy and Numeracy)

BYO Devices

In the coming weeks there will be more information in relation to the commencement BYO device program at Urangan SHS. The latest information that we have is the IT equipment will be with us in March and that we can have network connections up and running by the start of term 2. Parents are advised that the suggested minimum specifications can be found on the schools website –

https://uranganshs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Resourcescheme/Pages/Bring-your-own-device.aspx

Uniform

2015 has seen the end of the transition period for the wearing of the new school uniform. There have been a couple of cases of students wear non-uniform jumpers to school. We ask that parents assist the school in ensuring that your child adheres to the agreed dress code. Please find attached is the link to our uniform page -


Glen Robinson - Acting Principal

Year 10 to 11 Information Night

There will be an Information Night for the families of year 10 students on Wednesday 4th March in the Performing Arts Block. There will be two sessions held at 5pm and 6:30pm.

Information will be provided about SET plans, future pathways, QCE, subjects, work placement and much more. It is essential information night for both parents of and students currently in year 10.

More detailed information about this Information Night has been mailed to the parents/guardians of all year 10 students. If you did not receive this letter in the mail please click on the link below to print off a copy. Information is also available through our website and Facebook.

Andrew Rye – HOD Senior Schooling

National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)

Year 11 students studying science subjects have the exciting opportunity to attend the 2016 National Youth Science Forum. Urangan students can apply for selection for the 12 day intensive residential program being held in Canberra in January 2016.

The forum is a unique program that offers students entering their final year of secondary school the opportunity to learn about study options in the diverse fields of Science, Engineering and Technology.

Students live on campus as university students to gain a perspective of campus life. They experience real science and work with scientists at a range of laboratories and workshops and in field work. It’s a great opportunity for our students to talk with researchers and build professional and personal networks.
During Year 12, NYSF students also have the opportunity to participate in further short programs at various locations which extends their experience and adds further perspectives to assist in the transition to university.


**Bringing Real-World Science into Our Classrooms**

Last Thursday, a few of our Year 8 Science classes had the opportunity to be part of a virtual excursion to a Plasma Lab in Australian National University in Canberra. Our guest speaker, Amelia Greig, is a PhD candidate in Physics in ANU. Together with her colleague, Andy (Ho Teck Seng), she spoke about the nature of plasma, showed the class how plasma is generated in her lab and explained how plasma can be used to propel mini-satellites (cubesat) in space. The students were excited to ask questions in the end, and it was great to see our year 8s interacting with real scientists like Amelia!

Some of the messages which the students wrote for Amelia and Andy are:

“**The plasma looks really cool!”** – Jess

“**Thanks for teaching us about plasma; we never knew it could be so useful!”** - Ben

“**Thank you for the presentation. I feel honoured to have been able to speak to you about plasma and face to face with a very important person who plays a very important role in our future.”** - Kyesha

“**It was amazing to have this experience with you and to ask questions.”** - Jess

“**It was great to hear that you have achieved your childhood dream and have helped to improve our world!”** - Latarni

**Thank you so much for skating with us; this was a huge step for USHS!”** - Clare

“**Thank you for inspiring us about plasma today.”** – Tom

“**Thank you for our extremely interesting presentation. We enjoyed listening to you talk about plasma and it was really considerate of you both to answer all of our questions.”** – Mason and Paige

**Thank you for answering our questions on plasma. Your presentation was very interesting and I think our school should do things like this more often.”** – Mia

**Microsoft Office 2013**

Great news — all state school students can now download multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite to their personal home and mobile computer equipment! Please, take advantage of this marvellous opportunity, and if you need any help, come and see Mrs Kuzio-Barnes in the library.

**Urangan SHS Fun-Run 2015**

We will be holding an Adidas School Fun-Run as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on **Thursday April 2nd** in conjunction with the school cross country.

The School Fun-Run is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.

All students interested have received a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school. The funds raised will be used to purchase general sporting and fitness equipment.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise just $10 or more will receive a reward for effort. In the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits like the chance to win a family holiday to Disneyland!

Students wanting to track their progress, and use online fundraising, can do so by logging onto schoolfunrun.com.au/ students and creating a Student Profile page.

Finally, we would like to welcome parents and family members to attend the School Fun-Run event day at the school on April 2nd to help cheer on the students.

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

**Peter Abra - Fun Run Co-ordinator**

**Reading with THEIVES**

When it comes to reading, many people are overwhelmed by a large amount of text and are unsure where to start. Urangan SHS is using a common approach to breaking down information from written text, called THEIVES. Using this approach, we quickly skim and scan features of the written text, to give us a better idea of what it is about and where to find the information we need. THEIVES is an acronym which directs us to the Title, Headings, Introduction, Every first sentence, Visuals and Vocabulary, End of text questions and Summary. Many texts only contain some of these features, and in that case, we just use what is available. The point is to allow us to read and extract information from a written text more quickly and easily. This approach can be very helpful when researching for assignments.

**Problem Solving Think Board**

The See Plan Do Check Problem Solving Think Board is being used across school classes as a way to approach problem solving. While it is very useful for numeracy based problems,
students are finding it helpful across many different curriculum areas.

**PROBLEM SOLVING THINK BOARD**

![Problem Solving Think Board](Image)

**Constitutional Convention Excursion**

Four students from Urangan High; Jack Mason, Morena Tirona, Bree Knight and Connor Clarke; attended the Constitutional Convention held in Maryborough. Students from High Schools in Bundaberg, Childers, Maryborough, Kingaroy and Hervey Bay attend the Convention. The purpose of the day was to test students’ knowledge and understanding of the role that the three levels of Australian Government play in our community.

Each school nominated a spokesperson to represent their school and compete against each other by presenting a speech. The focus of the speech was ‘State Rights versus National Priorities’. Jack Mason was the student who spoke on behalf of Urangan High. The ultimate winner of this contest has the opportunity to represent our region in Canberra next month. Kepnock High, Bundaberg, was elected the successful winner by the students.

During the day students were addressed by Federal Member for Hinkler, Mr Keith Pitt and Fraser Coast Mayor, Gerald O’Connell. Both gentlemen spoke to students about their roles within government. Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss was unable to attend the event due to political commitments, however sent a message to students in his absence.

Students enjoyed a day of discussion and networking, whilst examining the important roles that different levels of government play.

Regional Assistant Director, Ross Zelow, visited during the morning to show support to students competing for the opportunity to travel to Canberra. Mr Zelow congratulated all students on their ability to address the audience and taking the opportunity to compete in a challenging event.

Congratulations to all students who attended the event and especially congratulations to Kepnock High’s representative who has the honour of representing our region in Canberra next month.

**English Tutorials 2015**

English tutorials will run again this year. This term we start with the basics: improving students’ understanding and use of punctuation, tense and word functions. Weeks 4, 5 and 10 will be dedicated to assessment. So if students require one-on-one help on their English assignments, they should attend tutorials during these times. Tutorials are free and run from 3-4pm in GC02 every Wednesday afternoon.

**Junior Secondary Information**

**ACE Classes (Year 7, 8 and 9)**

Any parents/ guardians who missed the information evening and would like to be added to a parent email group to be kept up to date with information, please contact Stephanie Whitehead at swhit365@eq.edu.au . Thank you.

**Dingoes Sports Academy**

Our Dingoes Sports Academy is starting again next Tuesday, the 10th of Feb. All students are welcome to come down and join in for some free fitness. Training starts at 7:15am sharp in the gym. Bring a water bottle, towel and change of clothes. Training is held every Tuesday and Thursday.

**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop Opening Hours are from 8:30am to 10:00am, Monday to Friday. All proceeds from the Uniform Shop go back to the school through the P&C. If your child has lost their hat and requires a new one, these are available through the Uniform Shop for $10. EFTPOS facilities are available.

**Canteen**

Volunteers needed to help out in the Canteen. If you have some spare time and would like to contribute to your child’s education, come along and volunteer in the school canteen. Whether it is a full day or only a couple of hours, your assistance is greatly appreciated. For further information, please contact Tammy on 4197 0114.
P&C Meeting

The next P&C General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 March at 7pm in the Boardroom of the Administration Building. If you would like to have a say in the education your child receives at Urangan High, then come along and join the P&C. Hope to see some fresh faces as well as the current dedicated members there. For all enquiries, please do not hesitate in contacting Damien Symes (Secretary) on 4197 0204 or at pandc@uranganshs.eq.edu.au.

Clean Up Australia Day

Clean up Australia Day will be held on Sunday 1 March. Urangan High has registered a team to clean up the foreshore and bike path from the Marina to the Pier. If you would like to register as a volunteer and come along on day to help, please go to http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Urangan+Foreshore to register or put your name on one of the sign up lists either outside Staff Room 3 or in the Junior Secondary Precinct. We will be meeting in the car park outside Cafe Balaena at 8am. If you would like to just come along and help without registering, please email Damien Symes (Activity Organiser) at dsyme9@eq.edu.au. There will be a Sausage Sizzle provided for all participants at the Pier once we have all completed the clean at approximately 10:30am. Please wear a hat and sunscreen as there will be moments you are in the sun. Latex gloves will be available, however if you would like to provide your own gloves, please feel free. Any questions, please feel free to contact Damien Symes on 4197 0204.

Clean Up Schools Day

Students will be participating in the Clean Up Schools Day campaign on Friday 27 February. During the first 10 minutes of Period 4, students will lock their bags in their Period 4 classroom and proceed to an area around their classroom with their Period 4 teacher to participate in this campaign. This campaign is running in conjunction with Clean Up Australia on Sunday 1 March. It is expected that every student participates in this campaign. Every half bag of rubbish that is collected equates to points towards their houses. This is a whole school event.

Acoustic Night

It’s that time of year again….that’s right it’s ACOUSTIC NIGHT! Coming up on the 12th of March, students from Urangan State High School from year 7-12 will be showcasing their talent up on the big stage playing ‘acoustic’ instruments. The performances will start at 6:30pm in the PA. Prices are $5 per ticket or $12 for an immediate family and there will be lucky door prizes on the night! We would love to see you there supporting the performers!

Medicine UMAT

Students interested in pursuing medicine and other health courses need to sit the UMAT on 29 July 2015. MedEntry is a government accredited Registered Training Organisation specialising in UMAT preparation. MedEntry offers discounts of 30% for groups, and numerous scholarships. For more information, please visit www.MedEntry.edu.au.

Japan Skiing/Snowboarding Tour 2016

Child Safety

There are a couple of opportunities for parents and caregivers to attend events where the focus will be on child safety. Click on the links below for more information.

Community News

**PARENTS!!!**

Do you get frustrated when helping your child with their homework? Would you like a better understanding of your child’s maths and English whilst learning together in a fun and motivated environment? If you want your child to strive to be the best they can be - this is for you!

DEADLY-CATION STUDY GROUP IS BACK IN 2015

**FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/CAREERS**

STUDENTS AND PARENTS LEARNING TOGETHER IN A RELAXED ENVIRONMENT

FULL ACCESS TO COMPUTERS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

TEACHERS ON SITE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS

IF YOU THINK THIS WOULD BE SOMETHING FOR YOU AND YOUR STUDENT PLEASE GIVE US A CALL

VENUE: USQ LIBRARY

**DATE**: EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Starting 17th and 19th February

4PM TO 5PM

Cost: FREE

Light afternoon snacks and coffee

TRANSPORT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

CALL LEAH STADD on 41258350 TO REGISTER

Working together:

Parental and Community Engagement Program (PacE)

USQ - Fraser Coast Campus

Hervey Bay High School

Urangan High School

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Helen Keller

**Acoustic Night**