28 May 2015

Principal’s Report

School Performance
High quality organisations always seek feedback and review their practices and results. During the past couple of weeks staff have been reviewing the school’s performance over past years as well as student academic results from term 1. The clear message coming through the data is that the school and its community are well down the path of “School Improvement” over a number of years. There has been notable improvements in a number of key areas including – School Opinion Survey (indicating an increase in student, parent and staff satisfaction), student attendance, student results in English, Maths and Science (years 8-10), student behaviour and year 12 outcomes. These key areas, combined with our intentional focus on Literacy and Numeracy, make the basis of our School Improvement Plan which can be viewed through the link below.

Reconciliation Week
This week sees a number of activities that recognise National Reconciliation Week. A significant aspect of the school’s improvement agenda is focussed on closing the gap in all areas of schooling for our indigenous students. Homework assistance is available at the USQ Hervey Bay Campus on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Parent Teacher Interviews
I hope that all parents took the opportunity to make an appointment with their child’s subject teachers for tonight’s Parent Teacher Interviews. As we move into what is a very stressful time for our students as the end of semester approaches, the tips and strategies that can come from these meetings is invaluable.

Uniform
In 2013 the P&C and the school conducted an extensive process in consulting the school community in relation to the school uniform. One uniform item identified in the survey and as such adopted as part of the uniform was a school jumper/jacket. The school is seeking your input by taking the opportunity to complete a survey through the link below. Feedback regarding the proposed school jumper will conclude on Friday May 29. The cost as indicated in the 2013 survey would be approximately $40. Samples are available for viewing in the Student Services foyer.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/38FKWNR

Glen Robinson - Principal

School Immunisation Program (SIP)
Round 2 of the School Immunisation Program will be held on Thursday 4th June for year 8 students who returned signed consent forms at the beginning of the year. Year 8 students will be having dose 2 – HPV (Human Papilloma Virus vaccine) and the Varilix (Chicken Pox vaccine).

There are also approximately 16 year 10 students (who were absent for Round 1) who are able to catch up on their vaccinations on this day. These students will be informed via Student Notices during the week of 1st June.

Please ensure that your child has a healthy breakfast, lunch and plenty of water on this day.

For Year 8 and 10 students who arrived at the school after consent forms were distributed, the forms can be collected at either Student Services or the Parent Reception at the school.

If you have any questions please contact Janet Morrow (School Based Youth Health Nurse) at the school on 4197 0111.

Community Health Expo
On June 10th, the year 12 Health class will be hosting a Community Health Expo. This Expo will be aimed at three main health issues that affect Wide Bay residents - smoking, nutrition and physical activity and mental health wellbeing. The expo will have information stalls, interactive displays, free health checks and activities all aimed at promoting a healthy life for residents of the Wide Bay. It will be held in the school gym on Wednesday 10th June from 9am to 11am. All members of the community are welcome to attend.
NAIDOC Week Activity Expression of Interest.

Any Community Members who interested to support our Art department and students in class around an art NAIDOC activity please let me know.

Shane Nelson - CEC email snels49@eq.edu.au Phone: 41970111

Big Science Competition

On Wednesday all students in the ACE program in years seven to nine sat the Big Science Competition. This 50 minute international competition tests students’ critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as their science knowledge. Each student who took part will receive a certificate as well as detailed feedback on their performance in the competition. They also go into a draw to win hundreds of iTunes and movie vouchers.

Our school will receive a comprehensive report showing how each student performed on each question, the percentage of students in the cohort who answered correctly and a comparison with the national results.

The competition is organised by Australian Science Innovations, a non-profit organisation committed to providing high quality science extension programs that inspire and challenge students in science.

ACE Excursion

The previously postponed ACE excursion has been rescheduled for Friday 19 to Saturday 20 June. Everything will run at the same times as the previous excursion. Please advise the school as soon as possible if your child cannot attend on the rescheduled dates so that a refund can be organised and a student on the waiting list can be offered the position.

Sporting News

So far this term we have had the school and district cross country. This year Triton won the second school carnival of the year. We had some great weather and some even better participation numbers, particularly in our junior grades. From this school carnival we selected 56 students to represent our school at the District Cross Country carnival which was held at Keith Dunne Oval on May 6th. All students put in a fantastic effort on a fairly warm autumn day. Special mention to Vanessa Wilson (Para-Athlete), Vincent Green (15 boys) and Gabbi Wilcox (17 girls) for taking out age champions in their divisions. We had 18 students qualify for the Wide Bay Cross Country Trials to be held on 26th May in Murgon.

Visual Art Excursion to GOMA and Reverse Garbage

On Wednesday 22nd of April, a group of around fifty students were up early and at school before most students would normally get out of bed. We were heading off to Brisbane on an inspiring art excursion. We arrived late morning at GOMA (Gallery Of Modern Art) and were given an hour of freedom inside the gallery to view the exhibits. There were lots of unique and complex pieces of art there which we viewed. There were about six exhibits ranging from Japanese to Indigenous to modern types of art, some hanging from the air, some on the floor and some on the walls.

When we left GOMA we headed straight to lunch at South Bank where a few of us snuck chips to the birds. From there we headed to Reverse Garbage. Reverse Garbage saves recyclable materials from ending up in the tip and sells them to all kinds of people, even teachers. The artist, Mercedes, spoke to us about what they do and got us to create puppets. All of our puppets were different and interesting and made from the materials they provided, such as paper, plastic, wire and other such materials.

Before heading home we treated ourselves to a shopping trip and arrived back in Hervey Bay at tired and ready for bed.

Tiarna Graham - Year 10 Visual Art student

Thanks to all of the students and parents who supported our annual senior Visual Art excursion to Brisbane. Providing students with opportunities to view and discuss contemporary art, and art by their peers, in a professional display environment is an essential part of Visual Art education and helps our students to develop their visual aesthetic and academic literacy.

Ms Young, Mrs Manttan and Mrs Larke – Visual Art Teachers
Legal Studies Excursion

On Wednesday 20th May, year 12 Legal Studies students witnessed the law in action when they visited the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law in Brisbane. While there, they viewed proceedings in the Supreme and District Courts, where they observed two murder trials, a number of drug cases and two cases of assault occasioning bodily harm. They saw trials in progress, the summing up of the Defence case and appeal applications. Of particular value to students was the opportunity to sit in on a couple of sentencing procedures, which allowed them to observe first-hand the complexities of sentencing.

Excursions such as this are wonderful opportunities for students to reflect on and respond to what they learn in class. Court exposure of such variety is seldom available in our local courts, thus this Brisbane experience enriches the Legal Studies course and allows students to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the law.

P&C Trivia Night

The third annual P&C Trivia Night is being held on Saturday 13th June in the school gym from 7pm. Tickets are now available at Student Services for $10 per person or $60 per team of 6. There is a $60 buffet dinner available from 6pm with RSVP for the dinner required by Friday 5th June. The theme for this year’s night is Super Heroes. There will be a licenced bar and canteen facilities available. No BYO. If you don’t have a team of six, don’t worry, come along and join another table and meet new friends. Everyone has a great night.

If you have a business and would like to sponsor the evening in the form of lucky door and team prizes, $100 round sponsorships or gold, silver or bronze sponsorships please contact Damien Symes on 4197 0111. All contributions towards this event are greatly appreciated. Businesses that support this P&C Fundraiser are promoted in our school newsletter and on each and every table on the night. Round Sponsorship means that your business name is prominently displayed during the round on a projected screen and on the score sheets, as well as announced by the Quiz Master at the beginning and end of your sponsored round.

Funds raised from this event will assist the P&C in supporting the education of our students through creating and developing sustainable projects at the school. For further information, please do not hesitate in contacting Damien Symes, P&C Secretary, on 4197 0111.

Sonic

Coming up on the 4th of June is Sonic! Sonic is Urangan State High School’s annual big music night. This year the theme is Fiesta! There’s going to be cacti, chillies, sombreros, moustaches and awesome musicians! The winners of Sonic will go on to play at Hoolihans Irish Bar on the 6th August. The winners will be decided by three judges – a past winner and two industry professionals. There is also the chance of winning a guitar as the lucky door prize on the night. Come along at 6pm for a 6:30pm start and bring your family and friends. $5 per ticket or $12 for a family. It will be held in the Performing Arts Centre with students from year 7 all the way through to year 12. These students will be showcasing their talent up on the big stage. Come and support these wonderful musicians!
Canteen Specials
As well as the usual menu, the canteen has an assortment of home-made specials as shown below. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer at the canteen please call Tammy on 4197 0114.

- Mexican chicken enchiladas w sour cream
- Surprise muffins and slices every Wednesday
- Crumbed fish and chips w lemon
- Fruit salad
- Beef nachos w sour cream
- Pork san choi bai tortilla cups
- Sausage and vegetable hotpot
- Fettuccini carbonara
- Seasoned pork wraps w cheese, lettuce and sour cream
- Potato wedges w sweet chilli sauce and sour cream

Australian Science Innovations
High achieving year 10 and 11 students are invited to challenge themselves by sitting one or more of the four Australian Science Olympiads Exams now on offer. Testing students’ knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, each exam lasts two hours and takes place in school on the following days:

- Chemistry: 5th August 2015
- Earth and Environmental Science: 7th August 2015
- Biology: 10th August 2015
- Physics: 12th August 2015

New this year is Olympiads Online which is a free online support program for students preparing for the Australian Science Olympiad Exams. This allows students to work through past exam questions at their own pace, receive feedback and monitor their progress.

If you are a student interested in participating please see Mr Clancy, HOD Science in Staff Room 1 or your Science teacher. Registrations close 22 July 2015.

ConocoPhillips Science Experience
The ConocoPhillips Science Experience is a three or four day hands-on science activities program being conducted in 35 universities and tertiary institutions around Australia in 2015/2016. These programs are designed for students in years 9 and 10. The aim is to inform students of the importance of science and technology while stimulating and heightening their interest in a wide range of science disciplines. Programs will be held at Griffith University (Gold Coast), James Cook University (Cairns and Townsville), University of Southern Queensland (Toowoomba) and University of Queensland (St Lucia).

Full cost of enrolment is $120 per student for three days and $160 for the four day program. Rotary sponsorship is often available for those who need it. There is no selection process and students can enrol online at www.scienceexperience.com.au.

English Tutorials 2015
English tutorials will continue to run in term 2. This term will focus on reading comprehension, sentences and improving vocabulary. Weeks 4, 9 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.

ANZAC Day 2015 – Hervey Bay RSL
I write on behalf of the Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch committee, members and the veteran community to express their appreciation to you, our staff and students for participating in the ANZAC Day commemoration services. The attendance of such ever-growing numbers of Hervey Bay students and staff ensures that the tradition of observing ANZAC Day will continue well into the future.

We would also express our thanks to your school’s involvement in the annual sale of ANZAC memorabilia to students and advise that approximately $3,000 was raised within the school communities of Hervey Bay of which $30 was collected from your school. As you are, no doubt, aware all monies raised go towards the support and welfare of the Hervey Bay veteran community.

We look forward to your school’s continued support into the future.

BJ Tidyman – Vice President, Hervey Bay RSL Sub-Branch Inc

Parents Have Needs Too
As parents, a great focus of our time and energy is spent on ensuring that our children’s needs are met. We do this out of love for our children. Sometimes though, it is easy to forget our own needs. When this happens it usually leads to a feeling of discontent which certainly impacts on all members of the family. Many parents have common needs that, if fulfilled, will
help greatly in the enjoyment of family life. Here are some suggestions:

- Take time away from the children. Having time with your spouse or partner without the children can be very beneficial for your relationship. So too is personal time for yourself. We all have a need for privacy.
- Enjoy your job. As employment caters to financial security it is important it is something you enjoy. If you don’t then this will impact on not only your own health and well-being but your families as well.
- Be healthy. Look after your health through good eating habits as well as exercise. When you look good you feel good. As you are a parent for a very long time (at least 18 years), being healthy makes the job easier. Exercise also helps the mental health – you can work through a lot of problems when you are on the go.
- Take time to relax. Take holidays when they are due (what really is the point of saving them if it eventually leads to stress from overwork) and use weekends well. They are a time to relax and unwind. A relaxed parent is better able to enjoy the family.
- Pursue an interest. Whether it be a leisure interest, friendship group or community involvement. Find time to do the things you enjoy.
- Let others support you when you’re down. It’s often said you need a community to raise a child, but it is also true that the community can help you in this sometimes difficult task.
- Educate yourself on being a better parent. Often our only model of parenting may have been what our parents did. It is worthwhile attending parent classes, seeking advice and talking to other parents to ensure you are well equipped for the challenges that children provide.

Remember, we are all important. No one is more important than the next person. Just as children require their needs to be met, so do parents. So, factor in time each day to meet your needs. Happy parents can only benefit the entire family.

Community News

Position Vacant – Schools Officer Grounds & Facilities – 38 hour/week

The above vacancy is at Sandy Strait State School, 134 Robert Street, Urangan. Application packages are available via email at bsm@sandstrass.eq.edu.au or from the school office. Applications close Thursday 4th June 2015 at 3.00 pm. For further enquiries please phone Tanya Brady, Acting BSM on 4197 0333

Rhee Tae Kwon Do

At Rhee Tae Kwon Do children are encouraged towards principles such as doing your best, respect, self-discipline and being a good role model to others. Its no tournament policy takes the emphasis off having to come first to be a winner.

Classes are held at Dundowran, Torquay, Maryborough and Tinana. Free trial lessons are available. Phone 4125 4669 or 0417 637 306 for more information.