5 August 2015

Principal’s Report

School Review

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the school was involved in a review process in the last week of term 2. From this review, process by the School Improvement Unit, a report with a range of recommendations has been produced to provide the school with some direction in developing its Strategic Plan for 2016-2019. A copy of the Executive Summary is now available on the school’s website.

Report Cards

Now that all students have their report cards, it is time for all students to review their performance in semester 1. Not only should the students consider their academic performance but they need to reflect on their ratings for Effort and Behaviour. The question that then needs to be considered is “Am I pursuing excellence, every minute, every day?”

Everyday Counts

There will be a continued focus on student attendance throughout semester 2. The school has a target of students attending school 90% of the time. During semester 1 the following attendance rates were recorded:

- Year 7 – 91.3%
- Year 8 – 90.2%
- Year 9 – 88.3%
- Year 10 – 86.6%
- Year 11 – 86.9%
- Year 12 – 86.3 %

NAPLAN

Individual Student Reports arrived at the school this week. The school is in the process of checking the details on these reports and once that is completed they will be mailed home. We anticipate that this will happen by the end of the week.

School Jumpers

I have seen a number of our students in the new school jumpers and they look great. Again I would like to remind parents and carers that there are two options for 2016 in Years 7-11 in relation to school jumpers, those being the tracksuit top and the pullover/cardigan whilst the Year 12 students will have their senior jumper.

Gideons Visit

The Gideons will be visiting the school on Wednesday August 19. If you require further information about this visit please contact the school on 4197 0111.

Glen Robinson – Principal

Maths Faculty News

Last week was an exceptionally busy week for students and staff in the Mathematics Faculty. Mr Waters would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Maths team members, as well as Mr Harrington and Ms Whitehead, for taking the lead and putting on a successful QAMT Quiz last Wednesday. As usual, there was no rest for the wicked as students sat for the Australian Maths competition the following morning.

Australian Maths Competition

In a huge boost to previous participation, 76 students from year 7 through to year 12 sat for the Australian Maths Competition on Thursday morning during period 1. Here is an indication of the level of some of the questions the year 7 and 8 students were exposed to. You can be sure it wasn’t any easier for the senior year levels:

Two ordinary dice are rolled. The two resulting numbers are multiplied together to create a score. The probability of rolling a score that is a multiple of six is:

- 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9
- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Results are usually back to the school within 6 to 8 weeks, we look forward to seeing some Credits and Distinctions amongst our participants.

Queensland Association of Maths Teachers Quiz

Mr Harrington, Mr Deighton and Ms Whitehead have been preparing 20 year 7 and 8 students over the past couple of months for Wednesday evening’s competition. Urangan SHS fielded 3 teams of two year 8 students and one year 7 student. One of our teams tied for second on the evening, not far behind the eventual winners from Aldridge SHS. Special mention must go to the efforts of Archie Hinds, who filled in on the evening for the second-placed team from Hervey Bay, and Paris Mullen who deputised for the winning Aldridge SHS team. The three
teams go on to represent the district in the Bundaberg Area competition later this term. Congratulations to all students who participated, particularly those who did not make the team but still came on the evening to assist. Thank you to the parents and teachers who turned up on the evening to support the Urangan teams.

The second-placed team members from Urangan: Mitch Gainsford, Latarni Thompson and Emily Honfay

Mr Stickley issues his secret weapons to Urangan team members

World of Maths

Another great opportunity presents itself for students in years 7, 8 and 9 with a visit from the World of Maths group. Students will be interacting with hands-on, engaging and challenging Maths activities in two groups on Friday August 14. Entry to the event is a very reasonable $6. If you would like your child to participate, please ask them about the form their teacher has handed out in class during the past week. If students have lost the form or haven’t been issued with one, please call Mr Waters on 4197 0186 so a form can be emailed to you.

Tutoring sessions

Mathematics students are still able to access the school’s free tutorial sessions. Maths staff members are rostered on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning and lunch, Wednesday morning, lunch and afternoon, Thursday morning, lunch and afternoon and Friday morning and lunch. This service is freely provided by the Maths teachers, so if your child is struggling with their Maths please encourage them to attend the tutorial sessions in GB05.

Problem-solving

A major emphasis of the faculty is and continues to be, problem-solving. Try this rather topical question:

At a football match, one-third of spectators support the Maroons and the rest support the Blues. At half-time 345 Blues supporters leave because their team is being thrashed by the Maroons. The remaining Blues supporters now make up one-third of the total. How many Maroons supporters are there?

2015 NAIDOC Celebration and Flag Raising Ceremony

Last week the school celebrated and recognised NAIDOC Week focusing on the theme of “We All Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate” with a full school flag raising ceremony on the oval. The ceremony consisted of a Welcome to Country in Butchulla language by Elder Uncle Mackie Burns and a didgeridoo performance by parent, Zane Ross. A special hand crafted and painted artwork was presented to Principal Glen Robinson by Jessica Kirby and Kyrani Flanagan-Togo.

Write a Book in a Day

Last Saturday, thirty five students competed in the “Write a Book in a Day” Challenge which is a fundraiser for the Kids’ Cancer Project. The students worked in groups to write, illustrate and publish a book in just twelve hours. It was a mammoth achievement by our teams with stories about hairy caterpillars eating the moon and a plague of mutant mosquitoes amongst some of the plotlines. All the finished books will be donated to children’s hospitals and students are also busy raising funds to donate to this worthwhile cause.

Write a Book in a Day participants
Relay for Life

Urangan High School is now calling for QATSIF scholarships for round 7 2016/2017 applications from year 10 and 11 Indigenous students, closing on 16 September 2015. Under the QCE Scholarship Program, QATSIF provides two-year scholarship funding to support students commencing in Year 11.

Student Eligibility Criteria

An eligible QATSIF Scholarship Applicant:

1. Is a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and is accepted as such by the community in which they live

2. Is an Australian citizen and resident of Queensland

3. Is enrolled at this school as a student in 2015

4. Intends to undertake and complete their Queensland Certificate of Education during the school years 2016-2017 and has the ability and the confidence of the school to obtain the QCE by Year 12 Graduation

5. Has a current school attendance of 85% or more

6. Is under age 35

7. Is currently achieving A-C in Mainstream English and a C or higher in Year 10 subjects

8. Demonstrates effort and Behaviour of a C or above

9. Actively supports school activities which enhance his/her Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural identity

10. Demonstrates willingness to fully participate in the life of the school and be a worthy role model for other students.

For more information go to http://www.qatsif.org.au/qce-scholarship-program. If you wish to apply please contact Shane Bird (Head of Department HPE/ Sport/Indigenous Ed) via email at sbird29@eq.edu.au or Shane Nelson (Community Education Counsellor) at snels49@eq.edu.au.

RSA Course

The annual RSA Course for Year 11 and 12 students will be conducted on Saturday 8 August between 8:00am and 4:00pm. Letters are available from the Year 11 Notice Board outside Staffroom 3. The cost of the course will be $89 and is payable by Friday 31 July. A minimum of 20 students is required for this course to run. This course is being run through Nu-Path Training out of the Sunshine Coast. For further information please contact Damien Symes on 4197 0111.

Woolworths Earn & Learn

Stickers are starting to come in for the Woolworths Earn and Learn. Please remember drop off points for stickers are Urangan Woolworths and at Student Services here at school. If you don’t have completed booklets, you can still drop them off as we have lots of stickers that need homes in booklets. Keep collecting up until Tuesday 8 September, 2015. Please make sure to put your child’s name and form class on the sheet for them to go into the competition for the form class with the highest points collected.

The more points we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we’d like to get lots of new equipment! Products in the range include resources for Mathematics, English, Science, Arts, HPE gear, Library Supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Damien Symes on 4197 0111.
Uniform Shop
Pre-ordering of uniforms for 2016 is now underway. If you would like to utilise this service and to ensure sufficient stock, please fill in an order form and return with your child to the uniform shop where Megan will check sizes with your child. Payment options available include cash, EFTPOS, Centrepay, cheque and credit card. If paying by cheque please make it out to Urangan State High School P & C.
For general enquiries and purchasing, the uniform shop is open 8:15am to 10:00am Monday to Friday, 3:00pm to 6:00pm Thursday and 10:00am to 2:00pm on the last Saturday of the month.
Collection of pre-ordered uniforms can be made during the Christmas holidays from Monday 11 January 2016 to Saturday 23 January 2016 during the following times:
- Monday: 7:00am to 2:00pm
- Tuesday: 10:00am to 2:00pm
- Wednesday: 3:00pm to 7:00pm
- Thursday: 12:00pm to 6:00pm
- Friday: 10:00am to 2:00pm
- Saturday: 10:00am to 2:00pm
For further enquiries, please do not hesitate in contacting Megan Moss on 4197 0116.

P&C Meeting
If you would like to have a voice in the education your child receives at Urangan State High School come along and join the P&C. The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 August starting at 7:00pm in the Board Room of the Administration Building. We hope to see many new faces.

Canteen Volunteers
If you have some spare time and would like assist in providing students with delicious healthy food from the Food Cave, volunteers are always welcome. We are looking for parents, grandparents, caregivers and other family members to help out in the school canteen. If you are free and would like to help, give Tammy a call on 4197 0114.

Managing Difficult Moments
Praise and other kinds of acknowledgement are motivating, and are often needed to help children (and adults) change their behaviour. Psychological research has shown that following up on a person’s good behaviour with something positive makes it more likely that the behaviour will happen again, but is this enough?
The following suggestions will also contribute to a calmer household:

Pick the battles
Especially as children get older, the battlefield can, if not monitored, become ‘out of control’. As children grow and assert their independence they, at times, push the boundaries. Friends and technology become a focus rather than family; safety can be ignored; messiness and mood changes can create disharmony in the family. Picking and choosing which battle to tackle is an art to acquire. Here is a tip - Focus on the most important issue at any one time rather than a plethora of problems. If children perceive that nothing they do is right then often they give up listening.
Remember: Safety is a priority not to be negotiated.

Be clear in your expectations
Is what you have asked your child to do clear enough? Saying ‘I want you to pick up the clothes off the floor in your room’, is clearer and achievable than ‘your mess is annoying me’.

Ensure the expected behaviour is realistic and achievable
Sometimes we ask children to do things that are too difficult for them to do without help e.g. expecting a child to be in charge of young siblings is not realistic nor safe.

Monitor your own behavior
Are you managing your own emotions when you are requesting your child to do the same? Yelling at a child because of their angry outburst is actually reinforcing that yelling and loss of control is OK. Do you say one thing and do another, e.g. getting annoyed about mess when you are messy.

Catch your child being good
Keep a record of the behaviours you are pleased with and share the positive observations with your child.

Have reward strategies up your sleeve for those ‘hard to change’ behaviours
Ask your child about what they like. If they suggest the reward, it will be more motivating. Make sure the reward is realistic for you to give (and preferably not costing money). If your child becomes bored by use of the same reward, use a menu of items to create variety. When your child meets their behaviour expectation, they can select one reward from the menu. A mystery reward is also very motivating for most children.
If a child wants to earn a big reward (e.g. computer game, movie, etc.), you could use a token system. Each day they could earn tokens that can be exchanged later for a bigger reward.
Emphasise social rewards and privileges over material rewards. Material rewards (e.g. toys, money, etc.) are expensive and often don’t work. Many children enjoy having time to spend with their parents or carers. Rewards involving time and activities with parents or carers (no matter what age), can be reinforcing and promote good relationships at the same time.

Follow through with consequence
Is it fair and related to the misdemeanour? Does your child understand why they are given the consequence? Will there be opportunity for your child to learn from their mistakes, e.g. discussion about the problem at hand, problem solving with your child around better choices, and if necessary, role playing of appropriate behaviour?
Homework for the week ahead

Double the amount of praise you give your child for their good efforts in the coming week, and monitor its success. Keep a track of negative responses you use in conversations with your child. You may need to expand your own vocabulary so you have a variety of positive comments ready to encourage your child.

If you have reached this far in the article, then, well done for taking such an interest in reading these strategies. Good luck with your implementation.

Community News

ADFA Open Day

Get Started Voucher Program

The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing’s Get Started Vouchers program is accepting applications for a voucher of up to $150 to help pay an eligible child’s sport or recreation club membership and/or participation fees. Parents or carers who hold a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card can apply straight away.

Children who aren’t eligible under this criterion can apply if they are nominated by two referral agents. The list of referral agents still includes principals, school guidance officers and police officers among other occupations, but teachers are unable to nominate a child in this round.

Vouchers are issued on a ‘first-come first-served’ basis and applications will close when all the funds are allocated or on 30 September. So submit your application as soon as possible.
Hervey Bay Surf Life Saving Club
2015/16 NIPPERS PROGRAM

Why not make the most of living by the beach and join in the
Hervey Bay Surf Life Saving Club’s Nippers Program this summer.
Get fit, stay healthy and have fun.

The 2015/16 Nippers Program commences with a Program Briefing and
Proficiency Swim at the Hervey Bay Aquatic Centre on Sunday 13 September from
9AM (bring bathers, goggles and towel and if you’re a new member please bring a
copy of your Birth Certificate).

Sign on will be held at the Surf Club on Saturday 22 August, 9AM – 11AM or Sunday
23 August at 9AM – 11AM. Registration Forms and Club Season Handbook will be
available on this day.

The first session will be Sunday 20 September starting at 9AM (NB: Participants
need to have completed the proficiency swim to participate.) These Sunday sessions
conclude around 11AM. Nippers will also need to purchase from the club a Nipper
Cap ($15) and Hi Vis Pink Vest ($15).

Nipper’s continues through to mid-March and participants need to be aged between
5-14 years of age as at 30 September 2015.

For more information:
• Visit the clubs website at www.herveybaysurfclub.com.au
• Contact Junior Activities Coordinator, Col Lindford 0421 885574
• Email your enquiry to: bsdic@herveybaysurfclub.com.au
• Or call in to our Office, Thursday 10am -2pm, at the Surf Club, Esplanade,
Torquay. Ph: 4125 1718.

Tobanlea State School
FETE

• Rides and Slides
• Annual Art Auction
• ‘Torbo’s Got Talent’
• Entertainment
• Food - BBQ, Dutch pancakes
• Drinks and coffee van
• Show bags/ Lucky dip
• Side show alley Chocolate Toss
• Jam, cake and book stalls
• 100 wheel & raffles
• Dunking machine

Fairy Floss

Pre-purchase armbands for unlimited rides and
slides for $27 from the tuckshop
SATURDAY AUGUST 29TH - 10AM TO 1PM