Principal’s Report

What a wonderful few weeks we have had celebrating the excellent history and achievements of our school. Thank you to all who worked for and participated in the 25th anniversary, the Awards Night and that wonderful interpretation of The Tempest. In addition to that I congratulate all the students who have been so well recognised in sporting endeavours. We have so many talented young people performing to the highest levels in a wide range of endeavours.

The strong message I took from all these events is the strong sense of community, of a working together for success – staff and parents, staff and students, students and parents, community and business organisations all supporting young people to be there very best. Thank you to all who make this major commitment and I encourage all parents to continue to be involved in their children’s education.

We are also very proud this week to have our work in literacy and numeracy recognised and to be invited to participate in a Learning Sciences Institute of Australia (LSIA) to work with State Schools Division to establish a research partnership on the teaching and assessment of writing across the learning areas in Years 5–9. As one of 29 secondary schools invited we will be able to collaborate with other high performing schools to continue writing improvement for students across Australia. I commend the teachers for the work they have done to achieve significant improvement in writing for our students, and parents for the participation in NAPLAN by students which supported this work. Our targeted intervention and acceleration programs are certainly having a positive impact.

Congratulations to all those students recognised for their outstanding sporting, cultural, academic and citizenship this month. I look forward to attending graduations and the leaver’s ceremony.

Finally I bring to your attention, if you have not yet seen it in the news, that the change to senior schooling has been postponed.

The Queensland Government has, therefore, decided to introduce the new system with Year 11 students in 2019 instead of 2018. The first graduates will finish Year 12 in 2020. The extension will ensure that teachers have sufficient support to become completely familiar with the new system. It will also allow QCAA to analyse the findings of assessment trials and consult further with our education partners. I am sure our staff appreciate the extra time to prepare the best possible transition for our school.

Best regards
Robin Rayner – Principal

Vietnam School Tour

After twelve months of organising and planning, our school tour to Vietnam was successfully undertaken during the September school holidays. An extraordinary adventure was had by all as we first headed north to Hanoi to enjoy this bustling vibrant city from street level. Guided tours through the old quarter to enjoy the food and sights had our senses reeling on the first few days. The sounds and smells of this exciting city overwhelming the senses. Visiting Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum, Residence and Museum was a history lesson never to forget! Halong Bay stole our hearts away as we relaxed and enjoyed the breathtaking scenery. The beautiful town of Hoi An fulfilled all our shopping dreams but the incredible food and cooking tour along with the extraordinary eco tour adventure are memories we will keep for a lifetime. Heading south we encountered the Australian historical connections as we visited Cu Chi Tunnels, Nui Dat and participated in our 50th Anniversary Commemoration
service at Long Tan, a very emotional visit full of reverence and
great significance for our history students and teachers alike. Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) provided us with a rich experience of
modern Asian city life with its mix of old and new. The Mekong Delta gave us a wonderful taste of the food markets as we
enjoyed a leisurely Sampan boat ride and amazing lunch. The
great race around Saigon was a spectacular end to our tour as
our two teams led us all over the city to locate famous
landmarks. Check out the Facebook page for all the great
photos! We would like to thank our wonderful tour company
Vietnam School Tours, Quinn Nguyen our magnificent tour
guide who will always be in our hearts and memories and the
parents/families of all our students who worked patiently with
us to put together this tour. Most of all we want to thank the
students for engaging with the trip, soaking up every moment
and being such fabulous company to travel with. You were all
great ambassadors for our school and Australian students in
general and it was such a pleasure to travel with you all. “Oi Troi Oi” fellow travellers!

**The Tempest**

“The Tempest”

Congratulations to the students and staff that produced this
year’s school musical, “The Tempest”. We have been
overwhelmed by the positive feedback from our school and
local community and everyone feels proud of the production
we created. Thanks to everyone who supported our production
either by helping out or coming along to see a show. Twenty
years later, the magic still goes on…!!

**ANZAC Centenary 2014-2018 Youth
Competition**

On the 7th of October, two of our students, Julia Hill (year 11)
and Emily Waring (year 12) competed in the Hervey Bay RSL
Anzac Centenary Youth Competition. Students from schools
around the region were asked to prepare an 8 minute
presentation discussing what ANZAC day means to modern
Australians. Amidst some tough competition and very
impressive responses both girls performed exceptionally well
with Julia taking out first place and Emily placing third. Julia
will now present her speech at either the dawn or main service
on ANZAC day 2017 at Freedom Park. She has also won a
$2000 dollar scholarship for university books or equipment.
Congratulations to both girls on their efforts.

**Digital Classrooms**

This term has been very exciting because two of the ACE
classes have been transformed into Digital Classrooms. We
are using our BYOx (Bring your own device) devices for core
subjects which include Maths, Science, English and
Humanities.

We have been using online learning spaces such as a Virtual
Classroom and an Ed Studio to document our learning, engage
with digital content and interact with digital resources. During these classes, we interact with online activities that make the learning really fun! The best part is the online literacy games, the interactive quizzes and our own personal wiki spaces which are really cool!

Our digital class has been going for three weeks now and both classes are really enjoying it. It allows us to complete our work easier, we can work at our own pace and we have access to all of the awesome digital resources. Our teachers are incorporating digital learning in the classroom and it is a fantastic opportunity for us to engage and learn ICT skills along the way.

_Lacy G and Lilly O._

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**2017 China Trip Information Evening**

Thank you to all of the families who attended Thursday’s information session for our 2017 China Trip. It is a great opportunity for Chinese Language and Ancient History students. For those unable to attend, we discussed the following items:

- **Detailed tour Itinerary** - to be collected from Staffroom 7
- **Tour cost inclusions/exclusions** – information on the itinerary
- **Hotel Accommodation**
  - Twin/Triple share – students will request groupings prior to departure
  - Communication with home – Skype recommended as hotels have free wifi
- **Homestay component of tour** – three days
  - After school Chinese language lessons will be provided free of charge by the Confucius Classroom to students duringTerms 1-3, 2017 to ensure that students have basic language skills to communicate with their homestay.
- **Tour** will require a minimum number of students to be viable and will be capped at 30 students. There will be a Reserve list for students who pay after the 30 limit is reached. For those on the Reserve List, hand in all forms, but no deposit will be taken. You will be contacted with the final decision.
- Deposit payment to Student Services with completed forms is due Friday 2nd December, 2016. This deposit will be fully refunded if the tour is deemed not to be viable. An email/contact will be made to all families who have paid a deposit to confirm that the trip is moving forward with its booking (before the end of the school year).

Please remember to submit:

- Permission form – with your best contact email
- Medical form
- Photocopy of either student a) passport details page or b) birth certificate
- Signed Code of Conduct form
- **Passports** - Must be valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of travel (17th Sept, 2017). Evidence of application for passport required in Term 1, 2017, once tour confirmed.
- All students will be expected to have had **high behaviour standards at USHS** regarding their: attendance, behaviour and assessment completion. This will be taken into consideration when accepting students on the tour.
- **Code of Conduct agreement** – collect from staffroom 7, sign and return to Student Services with deposit. Students who significantly breach this agreement will be returned to Australia at their own costs.
- **Money in country** – more details will be provided during 2017 meetings
- **Travel insurance** – purchased at the same time as official money transfer to travel agency. Included in tour cost. Details of the insurance will be forwarded to those paying deposit for perusal.
- **Communication prior to departure** – Thursday evening meetings (3-4 throughout 2017) and emails. Please provide your most frequently checked email address on the permission slip when paying deposit.
- **Vaccinations** - Advised to seek recommendations from your Doctor in Term 1, 2017. Students travelling with prescribed medication – more details will be provided during 2017 meetings.
- **Smart Traveller** - China currently has a Level 1 rating – exercise normal safety precautions. All travellers will be recorded with Smart Traveller prior to departure.

Please ask your child to collect the information package from Staffroom 7 if you would like to express your interest in the tour. We are extremely excited to offer this amazing opportunity! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Kimberly Vanzetta (HOD Languages and Humanities) kvanz5@eq.edu.au
**Parenting Tips**

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 the parent does 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.

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.’ Example of 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.

Take a ‘Parenting’ class, 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

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**Junior Homework Club**

Junior Homework Club is now running on Tuesdays and Thursdays during first break in GD01 for years 7 and 8. Help can be provided with any subjects and homework tasks or assessment tasks.

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**Urangan State High School Uniform Shop**

The 2017 holiday opening hours from 9 - 21 January will be as follows:

- Monday - 10am – 2pm
- Tuesday - 8am – 2pm
- Wednesday - 10am – 2pm
- Thursday - 10am – 6pm
- Friday - 10am – 2pm
- Saturday - 10am – 2pm

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**Community News**

**Indigenous Business Australia**

IBA (Indigenous Business Australia) will be holding individual interviews and provide information for anyone who may be interested in buying or building their home through IBA.

- **Where:** Maryborough Aboriginal Housing Corporation & Cultural Development Shop 1 164 Bazaar Street, Maryborough QLD 4650
- **When:** Wednesday 9 November 2016 (Individual Interviews 30 minutes each)
- **Time:** 9.00am to 4.30pm

Richard Burton from IBA will be in attendance and be available for either general information or individual interviews. For further information and to book an appointment with Richard please call Elaine Bayles on 07 4837 0066, mobile 0458 604 283 or email elaine.bayles@iba.gov.au.

**Position Vacant - Casual Canteen Assistant**

**Urangan State High School**

- **Salary:** $28.09 per hour (002.01)
- **Key Duties:** See attached Role Description
- **Contact:** Kacey Hannant
- **To Apply:** Submit a current resume to:
  - Private and Confidential
  - Kacey Hannant
  - Business Services Manager
  - Urangan State High School
  - PO Box 5100
  - Torquay, QLD, 4655
  - khann19@eq.edu.au

The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to a Working with Children Check. The applicant will also be required to undergo a criminal history check. Education Queensland actively supports and encourages workforce diversity and equity.