LEARNING, THEN LEARNING SOME MORE...
“PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT”...
BUILDING KNOWLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE...

PrINCIPAL’S REPORT...

Welcome to our sixth newsletter for term three, which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on: the progress that our program of renewal, ‘Refresh, Revitalize, Renew’ has made; the completion of the 2013 to 2016 Strategic Plan; and the responsible use of social media.

Progress continues with ‘Refresh, Revitalize, Renew’

As we began term three I listed for our staff the goals for this term which included the following:

- Implementation of our new behaviour support structures and teams including year level co-ordinators, junior and senior school Heads of Department and Deputy Principals.
- The development, implementation and management of whole-school action plans in areas such as vocational education, literacy, numeracy, junior and senior school curriculum by our Heads of Department.
- The implementation of revised Head of Department responsibilities and structure to create single clear leaders of whole school programs such as those listed above.
- Completion of the 2013 to 2016 Strategic Plan.
- Commencement of the implementation of the consistent teaching and learning framework called the Art and Science of Teaching, with a focus on establishing classroom routines and responding to adherence and lack of adherence to classroom routines.
- Continuing the development of our year 4 to 12 ‘Leading Extension Academic Program’ with our feeder schools and non-traditional feeder schools.

I can now report to you that all of these goals have been achieved, which has been largely due to the efforts of our great staff who are committed to ensuring that we provide the very best learning environments for your students to achieve in. In term four we hope to consolidate and review these changes to ensure they are contributing to the successful operation of the school and student success.

2013 to 2016 Strategic Plan completed

The school’s strategic plan for the next 4 years has been completed and will shortly be available on our school website. The document sets down the direction of the school and establishes how this direction will be achieved. I have provided below for your information a summary of the Strategic plan’s goals.

P & C MEETING

Thursday, 10th October, starting from 5.00pm in the school administration building. All are welcome!
• Create a culture of high expectations in student academic performance, behaviour and effort across the school community.

• Improve student learning outcomes to a level where all students are achieving success, which also includes improvement in literacy and numeracy skills.

• Develop a self-reflective student learning culture.

• Develop strategic partnerships with industry, other state schools, community organisations and government agencies to enhance student learning, achievements and future pathways.

• Improve the engagement of parents in school decision making and student learning.

• Develop a self-reflective staff performance culture.

• Prepare for and successfully include year 7 in secondary schooling.

I will endeavour to keep you informed on the progress we make towards achieving these goals.

**Responsible use of social media [internet, mobile phones and instant messaging]**

The internet, mobile phones and instant messaging provide wonderful opportunities for students to learn, be creative and socialise online. They also provide opportunities for inappropriate behaviour, bullying and harassment to occur, causing pain and suffering to the targets of such behaviour. Unfortunately, I am becoming increasingly concerned with the number of incidents the school has had to deal with related to the irresponsible use of social media. These incidents have a direct impact on the learning environment of students and have the potential to affect the academic performance of students. As a school we take our responsibility to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to learn and achieve in very seriously, and do not wish to see any student feeling unsafe at school. We have a number of proactive programs in place to ensure that the school is a safe and supportive environment which includes our RAS program, ‘Better Buddies’ program and ‘Peer Mediation,’ as well as a number of support staff which include year level co-ordinators, School Nurse, Chaplain, and Guidance Officer. I am seeking your support and assistance in ensuring that all students understand their responsibilities in relation to the appropriate use of social media. I am also asking you to discuss this responsibility with your student and to ensure that you are aware of your student’s online activities. To assist you in this discussion I have provided a link to a range of resources published on the Education Queensland Website. [http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/behaviour/gsaav/info-parents.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/behaviour/gsaav/info-parents.html)

The school is also planning to present to parents the Australian Communication and Media Authorities’ workshop on cybersafety in the future, to assist parents in supporting their student’s development of their responsible use of social media.

In conclusion, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education. I also wish to thank the school community for your ongoing support throughout term three and I look forward to working closely with you in term four to produce the best outcomes for your child.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WORKPLACE?

This term, Year 11 BCT Students have been studying the topic of Industrial Relations. Recently, we were privileged to have Mr Michael Waters, solicitor from MRH Lawyers in Bundaberg come and address our class on this essential topic. Michael, a past student of North Bundaberg State High School, enjoyed the opportunity to come back and give a talk in what used to be his old maths classroom many years ago.

His discussion with the students focused on the rights and responsibilities of employers and employees in the workplace, legislation, workplace agreements, awards, sexual harassment and bullying issues, grievance procedures, discrimination, equal opportunity, unfair dismissal and changes to legislation. It is interesting to note that bullying/harassment in the workplace is currently costing Australian business between 6 and 36 billion dollars a year!

Students have gained some very relevant and useful information to help prepare them for the “world of work” once they leave school. Guest speakers certainly enhance the learning environment in the classroom and we very much appreciate the time they give to share their expertise.

Keri Jensen (Mrs)
Year 11 BCT Teacher

Connor Silcox thanks Mr Michael Waters, past student & solicitor from MRH Lawyers in Bundaberg.

SCIENCE COMPETITION RESULTS

This year, 125 students entered the Science Competition. Congratulations to all students who participated.

Credit Certificates:
Year 8: Shayden Bamford, Liam Clark, Angela Elliott, Taylor Formica, Joshua Hayhoe, Sophie Parkinson, Jake Pollock, Cooper Roll, Anushka Santos, Russell White.
Year 9: Emily Fisher, Xanthe Schulte.
Year 11: Keegan Weber.
Year 12: Daniel Crook, Brooke Green, Lorien Murray, Bianca Potter, Jarred Taylor-Muller

Certificates of Distinction:
Year 8: Kate Crook.
Year 9: Sean Healey, Angus Ethell.
Year 10: Cooper Habermann, Matthew Wallis.
Reminder - Tax file numbers for school leavers

The Tax Office is encouraging potential school leavers to apply for their TFN while they are still at school. Generally this has already been done in Year 9/10 SOSE, however, some students may not have taken the opportunity back then.

As you know, students leaving early or completing Year 12 may need a TFN for their employment, deferring university fees or applying for Centrelink benefits. It is in the best interests of our students to take advantage of this program now before they leave school.

To ensure that students get their TFN before Christmas, completed application forms must be received in the Australian Taxation Office by 22 November, 2013.

Forms may be collected from the office.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>17th Sep</td>
<td>Wide Bay Athletics carnival – athletics grounds</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Sep</td>
<td>Last day of term 3</td>
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<td>7th Oct</td>
<td>Labour Day public holiday</td>
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<td>8th Oct</td>
<td>Term 4 commences</td>
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<td>10th Oct</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>16th Oct</td>
<td>Info &amp; enrolment afternoon – two sessions, 3:30pm and 5:30pm</td>
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<td>22nd Oct</td>
<td>Presentation Night in the school hall.</td>
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<td>28th Oct</td>
<td>Year 8 immunisations</td>
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<td>30th Oct</td>
<td>Arts Night</td>
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BUNDABERG FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS

Bundaberg Regional Council is progressing the restoration of flood damaged roads from the 2013 disaster and Golding Contractors Pty Ltd has been awarded the contract in parts of the northern regions.

Works may include drainage restoration and repairs to drainage structures, unsealed and sealed roads, road re-sheeting and floodway works.

These works are proposed to commence end of August 2013 for approximately 10 months, weather permitting. Stage 1 for a duration of approximately 8-10 weeks; weather permitting. Periodic progress reports will be made available on Bundaberg Regional Council’s website at:

www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au “Repair of Flood Damaged Road Network”.

Stage 1 areas
(BUCCA ROAD, MCLEODS ROAD, SIMPSONS ROAD, KOOLBOO ROAD, BIRTHAMBA ROAD, BINGERA BIRTHAMBA ROAD, BINGERA SIDING ROAD, MANOO ROAD, POULSENS ROAD, BAYLISS ROAD, BLAIRS ROAD, STITTS ROAD, HEALES ROAD, WARDS ROAD, HOLLANDS ROAD.)

REMINDER: Please ensure your child’s medical records are complete and up-to-date so we can provide the best possible care for your student.
Keep a watch on our school these holidays

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.
If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Volunteering is a valued experience

Interacting with young people and helping them to improve their Home Ec skills has been just a part of the motivation behind Mrs Dingle’s years of volunteering here at North. Our students make her feel welcome as they truly appreciate her assistance in improving their skills. Her extra hand, of course, is a great bonus for our teachers, as we all work together to give our students the best chance to succeed. Thanks Mrs Dingle for the contribution that you make to our school community here at North High.

There are various opportunities for volunteering here at school – tuckshop, Home Ec, Manual Arts, library, grounds and general classes. If you would like the chance, please contact me on 41300311 or krayn24@eq.edu.au

Katrine Rayner
SOSE HOD/ Parent and Community Engagement

Bundaberg Regional Council advises a total of nine community information sessions associated with the development of a Burnett River Floodplain Action Plan will commence next week.

Dates, times and locations for the 90 minute Community Information Sessions in your area are as follows:

Tuesday, September 24 - North Bundaberg Progress Hall – 3pm; 5pm and 7pm.
Wednesday, September 25 - North Bundaberg Progress Hall 7am to 9am

For further information contact 1300 883 699.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

DNA AQUATICS LEARN TO SWIM OPEN DAY

Free assessment & sign on

When: Labour Day Public Holiday Monday 7th October 2013
Where: Kepnock State High School pool. Gate 3, Baird Street Kepnock.
Time: 8am – 4pm For more information contact:
dna.aquatics@hotmail.com https://www.facebook.com/DNAaquatic
Donna Keech 0466 034 503
What can parents and teachers do to support children experiencing school refusal?

It is important for parents and teachers to address the initial concern(s) of their child, while at the same time supporting them to maintain school attendance. Asking open questions and engaging young people in collaborative problem solving allows them the opportunity to express their feelings and feel listened to. Things

**Identify the issue**: Gaining an understanding of why your child is anxious about school can help with problem solving and developing strategies around helping them back into school. For example, if your child is being bullied, then a collaborative approach with the school on how to manage the issue may be the first step. If your child is nervous about a transition, then working through their fears and worries and equipping them with skills to manage stressful changes may be more appropriate. Seeking guidance with a Psychologist can help to clarify the issue behind your child’s school refusal and help to put in place effective strategies to facilitate your child’s transition back into school.

**Keep things calm and predictable**: Keeping morning routines and school routines (such as classroom and playground routines) calm and predictable can help to minimise your child’s anxiety about attending school and can facilitate positive school-based experiences. Routines can include things that you know your child finds calming, such as taking a shower, drawing, walking to school and meeting their friends at the gate.

**Keep an open dialogue**: Be your child’s advocate and support and keep the dialogue and communication open with the school as to why your child is fearful about attending school and what your child needs at school to help them feel safe. Help your child identify which staff they would feel safe with involving to support them and check in with these staff members regularly. Also be open with your child on the importance of school attendance and what things they, the school and you as a parent can do to support them.

**Develop a sense of school connectedness**: Feeling like a valued and important member of the school community can develop a child’s sense of confidence and happiness at school. Ask your child’s teacher for ideas of how to foster your child’s interests and gifts at school and strengthen school-friendships by inviting friends to play after school and on weekends. Praise your child for their efforts in attending school and don’t let the small gains they make go unnoticed.

**Set some goals**: Confronting feared situations is never an easy task, however, setting small goals with your child can help them gain a sense of confidence and mastery over their anxiety. With your child and their support team (eg. teachers, friend, grandparents), set small achievable goals to help them get back into their schooling, such as going to school for the morning, having mum walk them in, sitting near the teacher. Help your child challenge and replace any unhelpful thoughts along the way (eg. “I hate school”) and look for more realistic, helpful thoughts based on their experiences (eg. “going to school in the morning was okay, I was able to see my best friend and read my favourite book”). Reward your child for every achievement and continue to set small achievable steps to help them reach the goal of being back at school.

This article was initially published by [The Quirky Kid Clinic](http://www.essentialkids.com.au/older-kids/education-for-older-kids/school-refusal-in-older-children-20130829-2sr9.html?utm_source=FD&utm_medium=lifeandstylepuff&utm_campaign=schoolrefusal). If you are worried about this issue with your student, please contact your student’s Year Level Coordinator or the Guidance Officer, Rob Miller.

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**Bundaberg North SHS P & C Student Resource Scheme**

An important agenda item at the upcoming P & C meeting on 10\textsuperscript{th} October is to seek endorsement of the Student Resource Scheme and endorsement to continue the scheme in 2014. Levies and subject fees will also be put forward for approval.