Principal’s Report...

Welcome to our second newsletter for term four which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on: Presentation Night; Year 12 students’ last few weeks of schooling; student attendance and our 2013 Year 9 Naplan Performance.

North Bundaberg State High School celebrates student achievement.

I hope you were able to join with us last Tuesday night at the Annual Presentation Night to celebrate the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of our students. The feedback from the school community has been overwhelmingly positive with community members expressing high levels of satisfaction and praise for the organisation of the evening, student entertainment and achievements. The success of the evening would not have been possible without the support of our great staff. Many staff contributed to the success of the night but the work of Robyn Kent and Trish Sellers was quite outstanding and without their commitment to quality we would not have enjoyed as much success. Congratulations to all staff and students for your contribution to what was a night to be remembered and a further thank you to the many community sponsors who also provide generous support for our many awards.

I have included here an extract from my report which is a message to our students.

“My thanks and congratulations to both parents and students for your efforts and support and special congratulations to our prize winners tonight. Well done on your achievements.

To our continuing students, believe in your dreams and take every opportunity by both hands and make the most of them, continue to shine and be the best you can be.

As Muhammad Ali said “Don’t count the days, make the days count.”

To our graduating Year 12 students, I give you the words of the play-wright, George Bernard Shaw.

“Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations”.

Congratulations on your achievements and best wishes for the future. Make sure your torch burns brightly all your life.

And finally, to our School Leaders Rachel Brigden and Jack Ford, thank you for your work throughout the year and the support you have shown to your fellow students and your school. You have made a great contribution to North Bundaberg State High School and will be remembered.

Tonight I have focused on our achievements, I have not delivered any profound or inspirational message but the message and inspiration I believe is before us all tonight. It is simple and evidenced by the students receiving the awards tonight, and that is if you are prepared to work hard you will produce outstanding achievements and your performance will be rewarded.

Thank you for your participation in tonight’s celebration of achievement.

The countdown begins for Year 12 students.
Our Year 12 students are now entering the last two weeks of formal schooling which I mentioned in the last newsletter. I write again to ensure that our students remain focused on completing remaining assessment and competencies for vocational qualifications. This is a time for balance and to ensure that students do not become distracted by early celebrations. Student safety is also a concern for all of us at any time but it is more so at this time of year. A recent car accident involving some of our Year 12 students who fortunately received only minor injuries from the accident, is a timely reminder of the potential dangers faced by our students. I again encourage you to discuss with your children the absolute need for them to celebrate safely, within school expectations and within the law.

Successful students attend school regularly.

School attendance in Queensland is compulsory for all students up to the completion of Year 10 or when the student turns 16. Students then are expected to participate in an eligible option of either fulltime schooling, participation in an apprenticeship or a certificate three level qualification at TAFE or employment of 25 hours or more a week. It has been shown that regular student attendance at school helps to improve student performance. Did you know that:

- Strong links have been established between attendance in one year and student achievement in the same year and in the future.
- Students not present in school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning.
- The recommended attendance range is between 95 and 100% attendance rate which is the equivalent of being absent for 10 days or less per year. Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% [16 absent days or more] of the time will have lost almost 1 year of school contact.

I ask you to check your student’s absence rate and if it is in excess of 10 days or more per year I encourage you to contact the school so we can discuss with you ways to resolve this situation.

North High has a strong commitment to the development of literacy and numeracy skills.

Shortly, all year 9 students will be mailed a report on their individual performance on NAPLAN. While our overall school performance was down compared to national benchmarks, our students’ relative gain [improvement from Year 7 to 9] was significant for most students. This data indicates that our literacy and numeracy development programs which include Spot–Lit, Fli, our intervention Reading Program and the Foundation, Core, Extension and LEAP ability groupings in the Junior School are improving individual student’s literacy and numeracy skills. I have provided for your information a table showing our Mean Scale Scores by NAPLAN strand for 2013. This table does indicate that our performance is similar to like schools but still has a distance to travel to match the national means. For our current Year 9 students we will continue our focused literacy and numeracy development programs into Year 10 to move our students closer to those national benchmarks.

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<tr>
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<th>NBHS Mean</th>
<th>Like Schools Mean</th>
<th>State Schools Mean</th>
<th>National Mean</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>516</td>
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<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
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<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>545</td>
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<td>584</td>
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Finally, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education as together we can produce the best outcomes for your student.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL
Presentation Night - 2013

Our Annual Presentation Night was held on Tuesday, 22\textsuperscript{nd} October. Congratulations to all the award winners and thank you to the many staff and students who helped out with backstage, sound and lighting, presenting awards, canteen, ushering and the many jobs required to put on a ceremony like this. Thank you to our Indigenous Dance Group, Strings Orchestra, Concert Band, Vocal Group, Junior Dance Group and Year 12 dancers for performing so well. Well done to our Year 11 and 12 students who hosted the evening – you did a wonderful job. Thank you to all of our sponsors for your generous donations.

We are very proud of the wonderful achievements made by our students. Congratulations!
Year 8 and 9 students

Shortly, our Year 8 and 9 students will be asked to make subject choices for 2014. Year 8 students will be given the opportunity to select 4 x 1 semester electives along with studying English, Maths, Science, History and HPE.

Year 9 students will be given the opportunity to select 2 x 1 year electives along with studying English, Maths, Science, History HPE and SETP (Senior Education Training Plan).

Information and details about the subject selection process will be issued to students in the next 2 weeks.

Robyn Kent
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

MATHS MEDAL WINNERS

Each year, Mr David Austin our Maths Head of Department and his wife kindly donate Maths medals to award our most outstanding maths students in each year level on Presentation Night.

This year our winners were;
Year 8   Kaitlin Crook
Year 9   Angus Ethell
Year 10  Nick Quinn
Year 11  Connor Silcox
Year 12  Rachel Brigden

Congratulations to all these students and thank you Mr and Mrs Austin.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<td>30th Oct</td>
<td>Arts Night</td>
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<td>4th Nov</td>
<td>Year 10 Immunisations</td>
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<td>14th Nov</td>
<td>Year 12 Graduation</td>
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<td>15th Nov</td>
<td>Year 12 last day of school</td>
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<td>29th Nov</td>
<td>Year 10/11 last day of school</td>
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<td>3rd Dec</td>
<td>Orientation Day – Year 7 into Year 8</td>
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P & C Meeting

Thursday, 7th November, starting from 5.00pm in the school administration building. All are welcome!
Indigenous Dancers perform at Relay for Life

Our talented group of Indigenous dancers were invited to perform at the opening of ‘Relay for Life’ – held at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct. The students did an excellent job performing in front of a large crowd of participants in this year’s ‘Relay for Life’.

Congratulations to our students!

STUDENT ACHIEVES ‘DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD’

Congratulations to Year 12 student Jamie Selten who has achieved the Gold Award level of the ‘Duke of Edinburgh Award’. Jamie has been working on achieving this level through his long term commitment to Army Cadets. Jamie will travel to Brisbane to receive his award from Parliament House. Congratulations Jamie.

Exams Approaching

The year is fast coming to an end for our Year 12s. They will complete final assessment in the next two weeks and we wish them well. There will be no exam block for Year 11 and 12 students this term. Students will not have any time away from school as exams will be in their normal class time but we are organising to ensure the Year 12s have no more than 2 exams in one day. Students should check with their individual teachers about final assessment dates. All assessment must be completed before graduating.

Year 12 clearance forms

All Year 12’s have been given a ‘Clearance Form’ to complete before they graduate on Thursday, 14th November. Students must have all fees paid, all absences explained, all assessment complete and have returned textbooks, borrowed equipment and returned their laptop. Students must have these attended to before being able to attend the Senior Formal and Graduation.

P & C Meeting

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Media Trip

It has been a busy month for media with both the Year 9 trip to ‘Movie World’ and the Year 10 trip to Melbourne. In the second last week of term our Year 9 Media students teamed up with Year 10 Drama to go to Movie World for the day. The students participated in a character workshop that looked at make-up and impromptu acting and the 4D animation...plus a heap of rides. Then in the last week of the holidays our year 10 Media students went down to Melbourne to visit the ACMI. They shot short films and infotainment programs, visited a music video exhibit and had loads of photography opportunities. They even participated in some cross-curricular destinations like Sovereign Hill and the MCG. All the students involved in both excursions showed outstanding behaviour and engagement in all activities. Thank you to the parents of the students who went to Melbourne for attending the parent night on the 29th of October, giving us the opportunity to show the things we did on the trip.

BROTHERS ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB INC

Brothers Aston Villa is currently recruiting for the ladies 1ST Division Football team (soccer) for 2014 season – we are also seeking a goalkeeper for this team. We are also recruiting for U16 girls. If you are interested or wish to know more contact the coach Wayne Holzberger by email wlc@bigpond.com or by phone: 0427776227.