Welcome to our fourth newsletter for term four which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on: parent participation in decision making at North High; the last weeks of school for 2013; our priorities for 2014 and a farewell to our year 10 and 11 students for 2013.

Parents getting involved in student learning

I am very committed to boosting the level of parent participation in decision making at North High and hope to achieve a big advance on this in 2014. There are many ways to influence decision making at our school, but one way is through participation in our P and C. In our last newsletter I spoke of our small, but dedicated P and C requiring new members and new ideas for 2014. This is a forum where you can contribute to your student’s education and influence the direction of the school. Your participation is vital and I look forward to having your input into our school through the P and C in 2014.

Last 3 weeks for Year 8 and 9 students

As I write this newsletter our Year 8 and 9 students have less than 3 weeks remaining of the school year. I have spoken to students on recent year level assemblies about my expectations for the remainder of the school year. Students have been reminded of the need to complete all assessment to a level that reflects their capacity, maintain high standards of behaviour, attend school regularly, explain all absences and participate in all learning activities in a committed manner. The curriculum program will continue to the end of the year with students participating in a curriculum related alternative program in the last week of school. I encourage you to discuss this reminder with your student.

North High sets its priorities for 2014

In recent weeks the School has been working on the finalisation of its priorities for 2014 and the following has been agreed to as our direction for next year.

- Getting ready for secondary school with focus on increased market share of enrolments in Year 7 and 8
- Implement the Australian curriculum with a focus on Health and Physical Education
- Improved student outcomes with a focus on literacy and numeracy improvement, differentiation including setting and attaining targets and student feedback
- Strengthening vocational education programs including school industry partnerships
- Increased attainment of QCE with a focus on QCE monitoring
- QCS performance improvement
- Attendance improvement
- Building teachers capacity through the development of a consistent teaching and learning framework
- Implementation of a revised ‘developing performance plan’ for teaching staff and professional learning aligned to the strategic direction of the school.

In 2014 I will continue to report on the progress made on these priorities each term as I have done this year. In our last newsletter for this term and year, I will share with you our achievements for this period.

**School finishes for Year 10 and 11 students**

This Friday will be the last day of school for our Year 10 and 11 students and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment to our school, and to their study throughout the year. The year began in a very challenging way but as a collective group they have shown courage to overcome adversity and make the year very successful from a school perspective. I wish those students leaving us, all the best for the future and hope that you all achieve your dreams. For the students returning to North next year I look forward to working with you to achieve the best outcomes possible. Have a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and I also hope your vacation is safe and relaxing.

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.

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**Proud moments for our 2013 graduation class**

Ross Robertson  
**PRINCIPAL**
DATES TO REMEMBER:

3rd December       Orientation Day, Yr 7 into Yr 8
29th November      Year 10 and 11 finish school for the year
13th December      Year 8 and 9 finish school for the year

27th January 2014  Australia Day Public Holiday
28th January 2014  First day back at school

Year 12s graduate!

On Thursday, 14th November we farewelled our year 12 students. Even though we woke to rain on Thursday morning, the weather stayed fine for the Graduation Ceremony. The hall was filled with parents, families and friends, students and staff and everyone enjoyed watching our Year 12’s graduate. Mother nature was not so considerate later in the afternoon when our graduates arrived for the Prom. Only 10 excited couples had the pleasure of walking the red carpet before the rain came down. We quickly moved the arrival location to the front of the building and while it was disappointing that the students did not get to experience their ‘ideal arrival’, it did not dampen their spirits. Students arrived amazingly dressed, with every colour of the rainbow. When they entered the function room they were met with a fantastic sight of bright colours thanks to the very hard work of Ms Moroney, Mr and Mrs Spratling and Mrs Weller.
School wins drone

During term 3, Wide Bay TAFE ran a competition for schools, giving them an opportunity to win an AR Drone. The drone was a 4 rotar flying machine with 2 on-board cameras, ideal for recording and capturing a birds-eye view of buildings and events. To win you had to enter a photo, video or drawing of the mascot “Webber” and put it on FaceBook. The entry with the most likes was judged the winner. One of our students, Lachlan Jensen, entered a picture of Webber at a hairdresser. With the competition running over 1 month, our school ended up winning. Not only did we win the Bundaberg District competition but also the Wide Bay competition! For doing this Lachlan and the school both won themselves a drone. We will be using this in ICT next year. Well done Lachlan.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITY 2013

With the Year 12’s graduating and the Year 10 and 11 students in their final couple of weeks, our attention now focuses on the last two weeks of school for the Year 8 and 9 students. On Monday to Friday of week 9 – (2nd to 6th December) students will be completing their formalised assessment tasks and finishing their assigned coursework in English, Mathematics, Science and their elective subjects. During this week all outstanding text books and materials booked out from Reprographics during the year may be returned.

From Monday, 9th December to Friday, 13th December, students will then take part in a special program which builds on the main Education Queensland themes of healthy and active living as well as numeracy and literacy and critical thinking that have been stressed during 2013. Some of the activities will include sun safety and resuscitation with swimming; a maths Olympics, visualising and verbalising; and designing, building and testing rockets. It is expected that all students will participate in these activities.

To aid in the organisation of these activities, there will be some changes in the school timetable. Starting and finishing times are as usual but during the day students will have just one main break from 11:30am to 12:30pm. They will also be divided up into special classes for this final week of activities. All pupils will be advised in assemblies of any special clothing or material requirements that will be needed for any sessions - however they should all come to school in the final week with pens, pencils, a calculator and a notebook.

If parents have any questions regarding the program they are welcome to contact me on 41300222.

D. Austin
Head of Department - Mathematics
Program Coordinator

Careers Roadshow

On Tuesday, 29th October, all year 9 students were treated to the careers Roadshow, organised by the University of Southern Queensland. Representatives from the Australian Defence Forces, Wide Bay TAFE, Busy at Work and University of Southern Queensland spoke to the students and answered lots of questions. The presentations were well received by the students and the information provided will be a good starting point for the development of the students’ Senior Education and Training Plan, which will begin in year 10.
Have your say: Review of senior assessment and OP processes – newsletter

The department has engaged the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to conduct an independent review of Queensland’s senior assessment, reporting and Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance processes. As part of the consultation process for the review, ACER has developed an online survey to capture the views of all Queenslanders on this important issue.

The survey is on the ACER website and consists of 21 simple questions on key aspects of our current senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements. All teachers, students and parents are encouraged to have their say and complete the survey. It is available from: http://www.acer.edu.au/queenslandreview

Flood Relief Concert

A group of musicians from Brisbane are kindly donating their time and talents to put on a Flood Relief concert for our School. They would like to donate money to our Music department.

This is a wonderful and generous offer.

If you are in Brisbane on December 20th and would like to attend the concert, the details are on the flyer attached.

Many thanks go to the musicians and organisers of the concert.

Robyn Kent
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

おめでとうございます

Congratulations to Angus Ethell for winning yet another award for Japanese! Recently Angus received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Brisbane School of Distance Education, where he has been enrolled this year to study year 9 Japanese (Continuing). His hard work, independence and enthusiasm in approaching his studies has reaped great rewards.

Well done, Angus!
A BIG Volunteer THANK YOU for 2013

We are blessed with a small but extremely hardworking and reliable team of volunteers at North High. We have just celebrated the remarkable achievement of two of our Volunteers reaching TEN years of volunteer service each. WOW! Congratulations Susan Ide and Noelene Baxter. Susan has volunteered in Canteen, Classrooms and Library and Noelene has volunteered all those years in the Canteen. Both ladies have also held executive positions on the P&C making huge contributions to the efficient running of it over several years.

Roger Burtt, the President of the P&C has also reached an amazing 16 years volunteering in the canteen. Janice Dixon is twelve months off her ten years service achievement in the canteen. Our six year volunteers are Noel Collin who assists the Groundsman, Laura Dingle as a Classroom Tutor and Debra Sheehan has assisted in the Classroom as well as Canteen.

Janelle Robertson and Keith Sinclair have enthusiastically been here for five years. So between our TWENTY ACTIVE volunteers they have volunteered at this school for a HUGE 90 YEARS.

They recently attended a Thank you Luncheon held in their honour which was catered by our Year 12 Hospitality students instructed by Ms Fay Harvey and Mrs Kelly Austin. The theme was Super Foods for Super People.

Staff and students would like to extend sincere thanks to our volunteers for the amazing job they do during the year, giving time and expertise so willingly and enthusiastically.

We are always looking for assistance in the canteen and classrooms. If you would like to volunteer for 2014 please contact Kay Shelton on 4130 0280. Kay is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 2.00pm.

Enjoying your home garden but want MORE?

Perhaps you might consider helping with the grounds at school. There is a wide variety of options - spraying, pruning, and general maintenance of the garden beds – all outdoors in the fresh air. One of our school dads, Noel Collin, helps out three days a week and has made an excellent improvement to the beauty of the school gardens. You may have noticed his efforts with the new flagpole and encircling flowerbed. Noel doesn’t do quotes but he does do gardens very well. Our groundsmen Neil Studholme finds Noel a great help.

If you are interested in volunteering at school there are many options – gardening is just one of them. We also have people helping at the tuckshop, library, home ec and manual arts classes, with some people coming for an hour while others attend several times a week.

You are welcome to contact me for further details –
Katrine Rayner 41300311  krayn24@eq.edu.au

P & C Meeting
Thursday, 5th December, starting from 5.00pm in the school administration building. All welcome!
The Tom Quinn Community Centre

Are you thinking of re-entering the workplace? Do you have time to spare while the kids are at school? Would you like to increase your knowledge, skills and confidence while obtaining an accredited qualification? If you are not receiving Centrelink benefits and do not have a certificate III or higher qualification you may be eligible to join our LINKS program offering accredited training and support with no cost to you.

Courses on offer include:
- Cert III in Hospitality, Retail, and Business Operations
- Cert II in Furniture Making, Horticulture, and Construction
- Cert I in Furnishing, Hospitality, Conservation and Land Management
- Responsible Service of Alcohol
- Barista
- Construction White Card
- Chemical Operations Certificate

If you would like to know more or register your interest phone The Tom Quinn Community Centre and speak to Mandy or Shendal on 4153557 or 0419 157 295.
Tips for parents to prevent cyber-bullying

Kids socialise very differently these days. A lot of it takes place on the internet, a world that can be very hard to monitor as a parent. Due to the remote nature of the internet, it may be less obvious that your child is being subjected to cyber-bullying, so be sure to watch for symptoms and talk to your child if you have any concerns. Cyber-bullying involves the use of email, chat-room or social media site messaging on the internet, and text, picture and or video messaging on mobile phones. Unfortunately, it means victims can be bullied even when they're not at school, leaving children very few places to hide. Often, children may be scared to confide in their parents regarding cyberbullying, worried they'll have their computer rights restricted, or their mobile taken away.

Symptoms can include:
- Excessive computer use
- Troubled sleep or nightmares
- Depression
- Anti-social behaviour
- Anxiety after using the computer
- Not answering their mobile phone or checking messages

Tips for talking to your child about cyber-bullying:
- Educate your child about cyber-bullying and reinforce which types of online behaviour are acceptable, and which are not
- Advise them only to give their mobile number and personal email to friends
- Enforce time-off from the computer or their mobile phone if cyber-bullied
- Do not open emails from cyber-bullies or respond to bullies on Facebook or SMS
- Encourage them only to talk to people they've met in person
- Block the bullies from their Facebook account

What to do next:
- Move your family computer to a public place so you can monitor the times they're online, and their anxiety levels
- Contact the police if the messages are threatening

In the event your child has been a victim of cyber-bullying, parents can seek assistance from:

Parentline QLD - 1300 30 1300

Young people are encouraged to call Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800. Information on cyber-bullying is available from the Guidance Officer or online from www.kidshelp.com.au

For more information, contact the Guidance Officer, Rob Miller.

Remember to check out our website at www.bundnortshs.eq.edu.au for information about our school, important dates, enrolment information and of course our fortnightly newsletters.