“Precept upon precept”...

Building knowledge for the future...

Principal’s Report...

Welcome to our fifth and final newsletter for term four which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on the achievements for 2013 and festive season wishes.

2013 achievements

This has been a year of refreshing, renewing and revitalizing the school vision, values and beliefs, processes and structures. It has been a very busy year made even more challenging by the January flooding. Sadly many of our families are still recovering from those events with their lives still far from what they would consider normal. I hope that those families can soon have their lives restored and that they can enjoy some better times as a family. I am proud of how our school responded to these events and the role it has played helping the community to recover by providing a safe and predictable environment for our young people. Despite this setback however we set about our mission of renewal and positioning of the school to ensure its success in the next ten years. Specifically we have;

- Developed a new vision: “Outstanding Learners, Outstanding Achievements, Outstanding Futures”
- Clarified our values; “Respect, Responsibility, Safety”
- Identified and agreed on our beliefs
- Created a new behaviour support structure based on Junior and Senior teams with year level co-ordinators.
- Restructured the Heads of Department, creating new roles and consolidating the leadership of whole school programs.
- Begun the implementation of a consistent Teaching and Learning Framework, the Art and Science of Teaching.
- Implemented a Year 4 to 12 academic talent development program called Leading Extension Academic Program [LEAP].
- Developed and renewed the Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan and strategies for improvement.
- Consolidated the leadership of the Vocational Education Program and injected significant resources to strengthen our School to Industry programs.
- Developed a clear and consistent information and communication technology strategy.
- Implemented a rigorous monitoring of senior student’s progress towards the achievement of a QCE.
- Implemented a revised Senior Education and Training Plan program aim at assisting students to make more informed subject and pathway choices.
Reviewed and restructured the junior curriculum in preparation for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum and the addition of Year 7 in 2015.

These are just some of our achievements for 2013 and of course there were many facilities improvements and fantastic student successes. While the full impact of these changes was not experienced within this year, it is expected that the combination of these and further changes in 2014 will result in improved outcomes for all students. I am immensely thankful and appreciative of my staff, Heads of Department and Deputy Principals who have supported me and join me in this journey of improvement. They have worked extremely hard this year and have every right to enjoy a well-deserved summer break. I thank them for their interest in the success of your children and their dedication to always working in a highly professional manner.

**Best wishes for the festive season**

I want to take this opportunity to wish all families and students a safe and relaxing summer break and hope that you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I also want to thank you for your support of the school, your students and myself in my first year as Principal throughout the year. I have enjoyed the challenge, worked with a great team of teaching and support staff and met a wonderful bunch of young people, our students and you their parents. I am looking forward to 2014 when we can do this all again and produce great outcomes together with your students.

Finally, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education.

**A snapshot of 2013**

ROSS ROBERTSON  
PRINCIPAL


**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

13\(^{th}\) December  
Year 8 and 9 finish school for the year 

27\(^{th}\) January 2014  
Australia Day Public Holiday 

28\(^{th}\) January 2014  
First day back at school 

3\(^{rd}\) February 2014  
Yr 11 Tablet meeting – 6pm 

4\(^{th}\) February 2014  
Meet the teacher BBQ – 5pm 

6\(^{th}\) February 2014  
Yr 8 and new students – Photo Day 

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**‘Meet the teacher’ BBQ**

All parents are welcome to attend a free sausage sizzle on Tuesday, 4\(^{th}\) February 2014 at the North High School Hall from 5.00pm – 6.30pm. Students are welcome to accompany their parents. This is an informal gathering giving all parents the opportunity to meet our current teaching staff. Look out for the flyer in the end of year mail out to complete your RSVP, or phone the office on 4130 0222.

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**Year 8 Photos**

Year 8 students and any students who are new to the school will have their photo taken on Thursday, 6\(^{th}\) February 2014. Please ensure your students arrive at school wearing the correct uniform.

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**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.

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**Student Report Cards**

End of semester reports are included in this mail-out package, along with other useful information for 2014. Please contact the school office if your students report was not included in this envelope.

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**P & C Meeting**  
Thursday, 6\(^{th}\) February, starting from 5.00pm in the school administration building. All welcome!
End of year activities

The year 8 and 9 students have been working together on an alternate program in the last week of school. Over the week students participated in a wide range of activities across all subject areas.
PLANETEERS NEWS

Our second year of existence has quietly motored away with the Planetees’ commitment to raising awareness of the importance of caring for the environment, especially the school environment. As is usual, it is beneficial to begin with projects ‘at home’ and that is why we have tried to focus on things at school as much as elsewhere.

The Trash Bash once a term has continued with the more sustainable introduction of buckets and tongs to use instead of plastic bags. The buckets and tongs were bought by the school and the student council. A big thank you to them. The points gained in the Trash Bash, 2 points for every bucket filled, will be added to the annual number of collected points for each house. This term’s Trash Bash achieved a tie between Monduran, Mabbro and Walla with 26 bucketful’s of trash.

Our Planetees have done a great job with presenting the Big Picture in Big RAS all year. These students have honed their presentation skills and basically run the program themselves. Next year there will be a new Big Picture to present in Big RAS.

North Bundaberg State High School was officially welcomed as a Reef Guardian School this term, when Janet Barrett, from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority handed over the Reef Guardian School sign, now on our fence, and talked to the students about the importance of the health of the Great Barrier Reef, and what we could do to protect it. Many of the projects that we work on from school can have a positive impact on the Great Barrier Reef.

The following week, Chris Heckathorn, from James Cook University, gave a presentation about the uniqueness of the Great Barrier Reef, the importance of being a Reef Guardian School, and the necessity for students to understand how critical their actions can be, to the health of the environment and the reef.

As part of our alternative program for the last week of term, the English department has been viewing *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss as an example of how language can influence society into action. After watching the animated film and reading the story, every student will pot a seedling rainforest tree, donated by Sue and Rick Firinne. These will be grown till they are ready for planting in the school.

The Planetees have sent 10 packages of old mobile phones, to support the Mountain Gorillas of the Congo. As coltan is a valuable mineral used in the manufacture of some mobile phones, recycling old phones means that the coltan can be reused, which in turn will reduce the need to mine it from the mountain gorilla’s forest home. The Humane Society International organisation raises funds from recycling old mobiles to support anti-poaching patrols in the Congo.

Thank you to the Manual Arts faculty for encouraging some students, from Mr Whan’s woodwork class, to make nest boxes for flood affected wildlife, for the RSPCA. These nest-boxes have been given to the RSPCA who will locate them in specific areas for our wildlife to live in.

From the Planetees, have a great Christmas break, and celebrate sustainably.
Keeping your kids safe online this holiday season

Between the last minute shopping rush and the impending arrival of family and friends, you’ve got enough on your plate this holiday season without worrying about what your kids are up to online.

You can’t keep your eye on them 24/7, but there are some steps you can take to ensure your kids safe online when you’re not around. Telstra brings you some tips when putting that tablet under the tree:

1. Talk with your kids about their digital lives. Create conversations and stay involved
2. Ask your children how they use technology and try it for yourself – try playing a game or uploading a video together
3. Explain the rules of responsible device ownership
4. Protect personal information – teach your children how to turn on privacy settings
5. Encourage children to ‘think before they click’, to think about content and the consequences of posting it
6. Be an offline supporter. Encourage kids to have some screen-free time each day and turn off devices at bedtime
7. Teach kids to treat others the same way they’d like to be treated online and be zero-tolerant to rude or mean online behaviour
8. Make the most of parental controls on devices
9. Let your children know you’re always there for them – assure them that their internet privileges won’t be taken away if they are exposed to content that makes them feel uncomfortable or concerned
10. Don’t just talk about the right thing to do; be a role model with your own digital habits

Above all, have a fun and safe holiday season!

For more information about keeping the family safe online visit: telstra.com.au/cyber-safety

Get your own cyber safety kit:

With Christmas stockings tipped to be brimming with technology this year, Telstra is reminding people to include cyber safety tips as stocking stuffers to ensure technology gifts are being used safely and sensibly – by young and old.

The Cyber Safety kits, available free from Telstra’s website, aim to teach children and parents, teens and grandparents (both the cyber savvy and new learners) how to avoid common pitfalls online, including identity fraud, shopping scams and cyber bullying.

Visit Telstra's cyber safety page to download the kits: www.telstra.com.au/cyber-safety

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.