Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014 and term one which highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on: student successes; getting our year started; recent parent communication; Meet the Teachers BBQ; getting involved in our P and C and the recently announced Great Results Guarantee.

Student Successes

Congratulations to Rachel Brigden our past School Captain and Senior DUX who achieved an OP1 successfully gaining entry into Medicine at Queensland University. This is a great outcome for Rachel, and myself and our staff wish her all the best in her future studies. Congratulations also to Lachlan Jensen and Matthew Wallis who both were selected into University programs run during the school holidays. Lachlan was selected along with 100 other students from Australian and New Zealand to participate in the National Computer Science School held at Sydney University. More details of Lachlan’s success can be found in this newsletter. Matthew was selected along with 20 others students from all of Australia to participate in the Aboriginal Summer School for Excellence in Technology and Science held at the University of Adelaide. Reports from the Summer School described Matthew as being one of the most outstanding students to participate in the school and Matthew being selected to represent the group in a final presentation. Well done to both Lachlan and Matthew.

Getting the Year Started

In addition to classroom learning all students have participated into two other activities aimed at ensuring that all students start the year on a solid foundation. Firstly all year levels have participated in year level days which have focused on delivering key messages related to each particular year level. The Year 8 and 9 day focused on teamwork, self-reliance and safety, Year 10 students thought about the future, Year 11’s were provided with information on succeeding in Senior and were motivated and inspired by guest speakers and our Year 12’s focused on getting the best out of Senior and Leadership. Secondly all students have participated in short 20 minute lessons which have taught our school expectations. Specifically the lessons have helped students to understand what our values of ‘Respect’, ‘Responsibility’ and ‘Safety’ look like, feel like and sound like in all school settings, classrooms and the school grounds. I thank all staff involved in the preparation, organization and presentation of these activities. I encourage you to talk to your students about these important messages.

School Priorities Letter

By now all families will have received a letter from me welcoming you to the new school year and setting out our priorities or improvement agenda for 2014. In that letter I also appealed for your assistance in helping to improve our
attendance rate. I ask you to ensure you have read the letter and have a close look at your student’s school attendance rate in comparison to the 95% attendance rate or, 10 days or less of absences benchmark.

Meet the Teachers BBQ

Once again our Meet the Teachers BBQ was held on Tuesday, February 4th with a large number of parents attending the evening. The evening provided an opportunity for parents to meet their student’s teacher and put a face to a name.

Petra Project

Included in this newsletter is an invitation from Shirley Johnson, Chair of the Petra Learning Commission inviting parents to attend a community consultation meeting. The Petra Project is a University Of Qld education project aimed at developing alternative measures of school performance and improving student outcomes. I encourage all parents to consider participating in this consultation meeting.

Get behind the P and C

I have written about our P and C a number of times and the benefits your involvement could bring to our school and your student’s education. Our P and C is in desperate need of new members and would welcome your participation.

Great Results Guarantee

The school as part of its improvement agenda has in place a number of strategies to improve the outcomes of students with some very specific literacy and numeracy strategies aimed at improving the performance of our students. These strategies include:

- Implementation of a common teaching and Learning Framework called the Art and Science of Teaching
- Detailed data analysis used to inform the teaching
- Academic Target setting for all students
- Ability groupings with differentiated teaching responding to the individual learning needs of students
- An intervention reading program
- Spot-Lit Program driven by data and addressing the literacy and numeracy needs of all Year 8, 9 and 10 students within all subjects
- FLI: An intervention Literacy and Numeracy Program with a dedicated time in the timetable addressing the specific needs of each year level

Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes. We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions like those outlined above to improve literacy and numeracy. You can read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee. If you have an idea on a way to support our students to learn more or if you would like to take part in the discussion please get in touch.

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
Welcome back to the 2014 school year.

I am writing this news item on behalf of the PETRA Research team. After my retirement from Bundaberg North State High School I have worked with the research team to set up a Learning Commission. A learning commission is a group of community members who are interested in schooling. It provides an opportunity for people to talk about schools and to think about how schools and communities can work together.

A lot of data, such as NAPLAN testing, OP results and certification of skills for working in industries such as hospitality and business, is already available about student results. Schools use tests and other data to measure and report on teaching and learning. The PETRA project takes these tests and data as just one kind of information about how well schools are working with and for their students and communities.

There are other factors about a school’s performance that are not so easy to find reliable information about. People who are involved with schools in the Bundaberg region can provide information about what they value about education and what they expect from schools. This will help provide a richer picture of what people expect from their schools.

Over the course of the year we have talked to a range of community people such as students, parents, employers, educators, school volunteers, community service workers and other concerned members of the community. All information given to the commission through these discussion sessions is anonymous. The research team compiles this information and provides reports and recommendations to Education Queensland. These reports will help shape how schools and teachers will judge how well they are meeting the needs and expectations of students, parents and the community.

We have talked with many groups including students, teachers, employers and parents, but would really like to talk to more parents, carers or parent and citizens members. We understand how difficult it is for parents to get away from work and other commitments so are hoping a change of times and venue might enable some parents to come and talk to the commission members. We hope you can share your thoughts with us while enjoying some light refreshments. Sessions will be held at the Burnett Club (Quay Street). We will hold two sessions, each 45 minutes long, on Thursday February 27th at 7pm and Friday 28th at 2pm and will be limited to 20 participants. We hope that you will be able to attend one of these times.

If you would like to join us please register your participation by sending an email with the following text in the subject line – I wish to attend to attend PETRA community consultation meeting. Please also indicate your preferred day/time (Thursday 7pm or Friday 2pm). You can email me directly at sijohnso@bigpond.com or you can also telephone or email Sue Monk (0733656508, s.monk@uq.edu.au). Please take this opportunity to have your say about the education of your students in Bundaberg.

Shirley Johnson

More information about the PETRA project:

Shirley Johnson  
Commission Chair  
Email: sijohnso@bigpond.com  

Sue Monk  
Researcher PETRA Project  
School of Education, The University of Queensland  
Phone: 07 33657343  
Email: s.monk@uq.edu.au
DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>10th February</td>
<td>Yr 10 Big Day Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th February</td>
<td>Dental Van visits year 10 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th February</td>
<td>North High swimming carnival</td>
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<td>7th March</td>
<td>Year 8 Immunisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>Year 10 Immunisations</td>
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Dental van visits Year 10 students

On February 11th, the School Dental Van will be visiting North High School and providing free dental examinations to students in year 10. Students were given consent forms to sign and return. Consenting students will be seen on a non-appointment basis. If further treatment is required, a form outlining the free dental treatment will be sent home for a Parent/Guardian to give their consent.

Year 8 Photos

Year 8 students and any students who are new to the school had their photo taken on Thursday, 6th February 2014. The remainder of the school are scheduled to have their photos taken later in the year.

School Based Immunisation Programme

Free vaccinations for all Year 8 and Year 10 students will commence on Friday 7th March.

Year 8 students to protect against Varicella – Chicken Pox and Human Papillomavirus – HPV.

Year 10 students to protect against Diptheria, Tetanus and Pertussis – whooping cough (one vaccination). Male students in Year 10 HPV as part of a catch up programme (the girls were vaccinated in Year 8).

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained registered nurses from Ozcare.

Consent forms were sent home in the first week of school, if your child has not received or returned their forms please contact Robyn Kirby, School Based Youth Health Nurse.

For more information about diseases, vaccines or the vaccination programme call 13 Health (13 43 25 84) or visit www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation/sbvp/default.asp
National Computer Science School 2014

From the 4th to 13th January this year I had the pleasure of attending the National Computer Science School held at The University of Sydney. I was 1 of 100 students selected from Australia and New Zealand to spend 10 days boarding on campus. During this time I completed the first 13 weeks of a Computer Science Degree. This involved attending various lectures on computer programming, web design, robotics, and participating in various team challenges such as a decryption challenge. The site visits to Google, Atlassian and WiseTech Global were awesome. The costs associated with NCSS are heavily subsidised by these companies thus making the course affordable. It provided me with an insight into what is required to work in the IT industry and enhanced my problem solving skills. Industry representatives acted as mentors throughout the course and openly discussed their exciting careers. All students attended an individual mock job interview to learn what companies like Google look for when recruiting staff. Towards the end of the course, students were divided into groups and given the task to design and create a unique social media website within 36 hrs. This meant pulling an all-nighter with lots of pizza! My group created a site called “Pose” which can be viewed at: http://posechallenge.com. Users are required to upload photos of themselves posing making other users respond with their pose. From here, we implemented a voting system where the most popular poses are displayed on a leader board. It was a great learning experience where I made lots of new friends and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone interested in a career in IT.

Senior School News

The year 10, 11 and 12 students began the year well. Many students are wearing the new sports uniform and have made a positive start to the year.

All students will be taking part in year level days over the next few days. These will be run by our Year Level Coordinators and Senior Schooling HOD Mr Rob Schmidt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 12 Day</th>
<th>Tuesday 4th February</th>
<th>Mrs Thrupp – Yr 12 Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 Day</td>
<td>Thursday 6th February</td>
<td>Mr Moller – Yr 11 Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 Day</td>
<td>Monday 10th February</td>
<td>Mr Hogan – Yr 10 Coordinator</td>
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All students will receive a letter about their day of activities. The days will assist students in getting started for the year.

Robyn Kent
Senior School Deputy
**Year 12 Leadership Day!**

On Tuesday, 4th February, all Year 12 students participated in a Leadership Day organised by the Year 12 Level Coordinator, Mrs Thrupp, and the Senior Schooling HOD, Mr Schmidt.

Eleven of our student leaders also contributed greatly to the running of the day. They assisted in numerous ways and led activities with skill and enthusiasm. The behaviour and commitment of all year 12 students was of a very high standard and we look forward to a rewarding year with our seniors at North High.

Throughout Tuesday, students were involved in leadership activities and given valuable information on OPs, QCE, Target Setting and VET. As well, they worked on creating a Year 12 pledge which will be taken by all Year 12 students when they receive their senior badges in a ceremony which will take place on Wednesday, 12th February at 10am – 11am in our school hall. Year 12 parents are very welcome to attend.

Thank you to Mrs Thrupp and Mr Schmidt, to presenters Mrs Norris and Mr Miller, to chaplains Lisa and Kellie and to the Year 12 leaders for conducting a very valuable day for our Seniors.

Robyn Kent – Senior School Deputy

**North High swimming carnival – Friday Feb 14th.**

The annual North High swimming carnival is on Friday, 14th February 2014. Please note that this is a NORMAL SCHOOL DAY and all students are required to attend, even if they are not intending to participate. Students should arrive at school as normal, where RAS roles will be marked before students are bussed to the Norville Pool. Senior students who drive to school will be required to leave their cars parked at school and will also be bussed to and from the venue. Students should not go straight to the pool as they will be marked ‘absent’. Events commence at 9:10am and conclude at 2:40pm. Although shade & sunscreen will be provided, we strongly encourage students to bring a broad brimmed hat, long sleeve and or collared shirt and plenty of water. The canteen at Norville Pool will operate on that day. We welcome parents and families.
Lots of opportunities to volunteer

Here at North there are a variety of ways in which our parents and wider community members may participate in improving our students' learning environment. Volunteers assist in –

- Practical subjects such as Home Ec and Manual Arts
- Providing support in general classrooms for individual assistance to students
- Tuckshop
- Library
- Grounds
- Reprographics (photocopying)
- Breakfast club on Weds mornings (7.30-9am)

Whether you are available one morning every week or once a month, we appreciate the difference that volunteers make to our school. You will need a blue card which can be organised for you through the school for no charge.

For further information –
Contact Kay Shelton, Community Liaison Officer on Mon, Weds, Thurs 8.30-2pm on 41300222
or Katrine Rayner SOSE /LOTE HOD/Parent and Community Engagement on 4130 0311 or krayn24@eq.edu.au

Meet the teachers

On Tuesday, February 4th, we held a sausage sizzle for parents to meet with our teaching staff. Thank you to those who attended and we hope that you enjoyed meeting and talking with your child’s teachers.

Canoeing classes need volunteers.

We have several canoeing classes who would like a volunteer to go with them for their class canoeing activities at Burnett Downs. Would you like to be of assistance any of the following times?

- Friday 7th Feb 11.40 – 3.00
- Thursday 13th Feb 10.05 – 11.45 then 1.10 – 3.00
- Thursday 20th Feb 10.05 – 11.45
- Friday 21st Feb 11.40 – 3.00
- Friday 28th Feb 11.40 – 3.00
- Friday 7th March 11.40 – 3.00
- Thursday 13th March 10.05 – 11.45 then 1.10 – 3.00
- Friday 14th March 11.40 – 3.00
- Friday 28th March 11.40 – 3.00

If you can assist please phone Kay Shelton 4130 0280
The Oakwood/Moorlands Annual School Bus Meeting will be held at Oakwood State School on February 12th at 6:30pm. Parents and Guardians of the students using this service are welcome to attend.

**Information Session**

**Parenting Teenagers**

*Aimed to assist parents balance their time, promote good communication and provide strategies to deal with concerns and risky behaviors’ in their teenagers.*

**When:** Tuesday 25th February, 5 to 6.30pm  
**Where:** 14 Tantitha Street, Bundaberg  
**Cost:** $10 per person  

Please book in by calling 1300 364 277  
Confirmation of bookings will be Thursday 20th February.

**AIR LEAGUE**

Are you looking for a fun and challenging youth group for your child? Then the Australian Air League may be for you. We are a uniformed aviation-based, youth organisation for boys and girls from 8 to 18 years. We provide leadership, team building, self-reliance and other life skills. The cadets learn to make models, fly remote controlled planes and even get a chance to fly in gliders and powered aircraft. We also do a lot of camping where we learn about bush skills and navigation. The Air League is a great place to make new friends, whilst encouraging interest in aviation as a hobby or career. We meet every Friday night, term times 6.30pm-9.00pm at the Big Blue building, 1 Kendalls Rd Bundaberg. The first 3 nights are free. For more information please call: 41597489. Please leave a message and we will call you back or visit our web site at www.airleague.com.au

**P & C AGM & General Meeting**  
Thursday, 6th March, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Family grumpy, no clean clothes, out of milk and tripping over the dog!

Does this sound like your typical morning?
Want to change to a calmer start to the day?
Met your morning deadlines everyday?
Would you like to make appointments on time?

Join us for an entertaining and informative seminar that will provide you with the starting blocks for your morning routine.

Date: Friday 7th February 2014
Time: 10:00am until 12:00pm
Booking essential
Bring: Notebook, pen and your story
Venue: Neighbourhood Centre
111 Targo Street, Bundaberg
Price: Gold Coin Donation

P & C AGM & General Meeting Thursday, 6th March, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!