Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our third newsletter for this term which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on the Vocational Education Information Night, Term One Day of Excellence, North’s participation in the District Swimming Carnival and QCE Attainment.

Vocational Education Information Night

At least sixty year 11 and 12 parents and students took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about Vocational Education at North on Tuesday, February 25. The evening was organised by Fay Harvey our Vocational Education Head of Department and Kay Shelton our Community Industry Liaison Officer. The program included speakers from the Department of Training and Employment, Busy at Work, Mrael and the school. Information was provided on the current jobs market, how Vocational Education is offered at North, school based apprenticeships and advice on how to prepare your-self for employment. The key messages for students was the importance of having a positive attitude, a willingness to work hard and a realistic understanding of what tasks your chosen field of work would require of you. This was a helpful and informative evening with lots of positive feedback. We will be repeating this evening in term 3 in association with the Year 10 subject selection process. Congratulations to both Fay Harvey and Kay Shelton on a great evening.

Term One ‘Day of Excellence’

This week we conducted another ‘Day of Excellence’ as part of Leading Extension Academic Program. This involved students from Year 4 to 7 visiting our school and participating in academic extension activities with students engaging in challenging learning activities related to Science, History, Maths and English. Many of our staff contributed to the success of the day including Year 8 and 9 LEAP students. The day was a great success thanks to the enthusiasm of the visiting students, our staff and students as well as the great organization of Graham Quinn and Michelle Pole.
District Swimming Carnival

North again took a team of swimmers to the District Swimming Carnival which was held on Monday evening, March 3rd. While our list of achievements was small, our heart, effort and spirit were not. I felt very proud of a group of students who, faced with very talented competitors, got in and had a go. I thank all of them for being courageous and demonstrating that you don’t have to win to have fun. Thank to Mr Austin for his organization of the team and his total support and encouragement of every student who swam for the school. Thank you also to Sports and House Leaders for their assistance in organizing the team.

Queensland Certificate of Education [QCE] Attainment

In 2013 70% of our year 12 students achieved a QCE, which was a satisfactory outcome and an improvement on the 2012 result. In 2014 we are aiming to improve this outcome and have all of our students achieve a QCE. As a result of this, the school has in place a number of strategies to support our student’s attainment of a QCE which include: monitoring of student’s progress towards a QCE; identification, intervention and support for students at risk of not gaining a QCE; academic target setting; and whole of subject performance monitoring by our Heads of Department. Our students will need as much support as possible to reach the 100% QCE attainment target and I ask you to play a role in this support. You can assist by discussing with your student their academic targets for the semester, skills they need to maintain or improve, their progress towards those targets, attending parent teacher interviews, and ensuring regular school attendance. All of us working together, teacher, student and parent will help to ensure the best outcomes for your student.

In conclusion 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

Dental van visits year 8 students

The School Dental Van remains at North High School and is soon to be providing free dental examinations to students in year 8. Students will be 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. Please complete the consent forms in black ink and return as soon as possible. If you have any enquiries regarding treatment please phone 0408 772976. All emergencies phone 4150 2243. Usual hours of operation are 8am, to 4:30pm Monday and Wednesday; 8am to 3pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 7th March: Year 8 Immunisations
- 14th March: Year 10 Immunisations
- 2nd April: North High Walkathon
- 4th April: Last day of term 1
- 18th April: GOOD FRIDAY

Mark Winterbottom visits North High

Last year North High won a National Road Safety award. Students in year 10 in 2012 took part in a road safety program organised by the Police Service. Students were given opportunity to ride in driving school cars learning about road safety and road hazards.

As part of the award, Mark Winterbottom, champion racing car driver, visited our school on Thursday, 20th February. He spoke on our assembly and then spent time signing autographs and meeting with our sport leaders and students who took part in the program in 2012. We thank Mr Winterbottom for his visit.
2014 Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ Quest

On Wednesday, 26 February, Michael Boon, Connor Silcox, Brigid Holt and Amylee Murphy took part in the 2014 Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ Quest. After an initial interview in the morning, the students went on to present prepared 5 minute speeches to the judges as well as two 2 minute impromptu responses in the evening. This proved to be a challenging yet entertaining evening with impromptu topics such as “Would you go to Bali?” and “Does Facebook and Twitter help or hurt our happiness?” Michael Boon (representing Moore Park Lions) won the Overall Public Speaking Award with his entertaining prepared speech entitled “Breaking the odds”. Amylee Murphy won the Bundaberg North Lions Division after delivering a very emotive speech on animal cruelty. Michael and Amylee will now progress to the zone final to be held on Saturday, 8 March.

We would like to thank the Bundaberg North Lions Club and the Moore Park Lions Club for the organisation of this event. We wish Michael Boon and Amylee Murphy the best of luck and congratulate all participants for the outstanding quality of the speeches delivered on the night. Mr Robertson, Miss Kent and myself thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Keri Jensen

Bundy North wins its first interschool chess tournament.

On Tuesday, 18th of February our school sent along two teams of students to compete in the term one Bundaberg interschool chess tournament held at Thabeban State School. All of our students played to the best of their ability and came away with first and third prizes for the inter high school section of the competition. Team one who took out the tournament by half a point from Kepnock SHS included Jye Sercombe Yr. 11, Jonathon Gillard Yr. 11, Lachlan Baildon Yr. 11 and Jack Clark-Hislop Yr. 9. The members of team two which finished third were Peter Johnstone Yr. 8 and Zennin Latimer Yr. 9. I was extremely proud of all of our competitors, their behaviour and enthusiasm was an example to all the other schools. The students were all very happy with their achievements and the medals and ribbons which they each received. Please see the photo of the winning team after they were presented with their winners medals. Please also take the time to read the article below which highlights the benefits of playing chess for our children. If you would like to read the detail of the article please feel free to contact Roger Kimber (Teacher & Chess Co-ordinator).

The Case for Chess as a tool to develop our children’s minds
**Abstract**

This article surveys educational and psychological studies to examine the benefits for children of studying and playing chess. These show that chess can:

- Raise intelligence quotient (IQ) scores
- Strengthen problem solving skills, teaching how to make difficult and abstract decisions independently
- Enhance reading, memory, language, and mathematical abilities
- Foster critical, creative, and original thinking
- Provide practice at making accurate and fast decisions under time pressure, a skill that can help improve exam scores at school
- Teach how to think logically and efficiently, learning to select the ‘best’ choice from a large number of options
- Challenge gifted children while potentially helping underachieving gifted students learn how to study and strive for excellence
- Demonstrate the importance of flexible planning, concentration, and the consequences of decisions
- Reach boys and girls regardless of their natural abilities or socio-economic backgrounds

**Given these educational benefits, the author concludes that chess is one of the most effective teaching tools to prepare children for a world increasingly swamped by information and ever tougher decisions.**

**About the Author**

Peter Dauvergne is a Canadian chess master (FIDE rating 2250) and until recently a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Sydney, Australia. He is the editor of the journal Global Environmental Politics (MIT Press) and the author of numerous books and articles on environmental management in the Asia-Pacific.

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**Young Achievers’ Program – University of Queensland**

On the 5th of February two students, Rachel Hill and Sophie Cross, participated in the year 11 UQ Young Achievers Program (UQYAP) residential camp. This camp included 102 students from high schools all over Queensland. It was here that we learnt new study techniques, what the rest of year 11 was supposedly going to be like, and most importantly we learnt what to expect of university life.

Upon our arrival we were greeted by a group of very enthusiastic mentors, who came to be some of our closest friends in the few days we were there. We were each given our own private rooms and then put into groups. The next few days were full of many fun activities, challenges and learning experiences.

To sum up our whole young achievers experience we would have to say that it was a very enlightening five days at the campus and that there were many tears shed as we left for the train to come home. We both look forward to next year’s camp where we can reunite with our mentors and the many new friends that we have made.
Swimming Carnival

The 2014 swim carnival proved to be a very successful event this year with one of the greatest turnouts of students in years. This year saw the introduction of a few new activities such as pool volleyball and water polo, which helped students escape from the busy swim carnival curriculum, with House points given for the victorious House teams. The pool had a strong vibe of enthusiasm and team spirit with each activity gaining House points towards victory. All Houses worked incredibly hard to participate in many events as possible. The water polo and the volleyball ran really well all day, many thanks to TJ Revelo and Justin Ryan our Sport Captains. Congratulations to the winning house, Walla with 883 points, Monduran close behind with 785, Mabbro with 697 and Tirroan with 601. A big ‘congratulations’ to all age champions: 13 years, Chad King and Holly Guidice. 14 years, Caleb Deller and Bianca Maultby. 15 years, Dylan Benson and Georgia Prichard. 16 years, Ben Edwards and Melody McNamara. 17 years, Blair Graves and Jamie Felstead. A very big thank you to all who came that day and participated, we wish those selected to represent us in the Bundaberg district all the best of luck.

PLANETEERS NEWS

2014 has begun with some successful meetings. Both new and lasting members have come up with some great ideas for our activities this year. Last Wednesday, the North High Planeteers had their first fundraiser for the year - a bake sale. There were many delicious treats including cookies, cakes and brownies. The event ran over the space of both lunches and was a tremendous success. Many hungry students and teachers came to help us raise funds for the activities of the year. Our elected mascot, Owen, was disguised as a student for this event, and did a fantastic job of persuading the students to buy some morning tea. Overall, the bake sale was a success with the Planeteers raising $196. The Planeteers would like to thank everyone who supported the bake sale and hope to see you at other fundraising events that will be held later in the year.

This group of dedicated students worked so hard: they baked and presented their wares; they set up the tables; they actively sold to their peers; tidied up; and did it all again for second break. Well done team.

On Wednesday, March 19th our school will be hosting the Annual Reef Guardian Network Meeting. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will be conducting the meeting with Reef Guardian Schools from the surrounding area. It will be a great opportunity for schools to compare their activities, share their ideas and talk with community member Reef Guardian groups about what we can all do to help protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Eco-coz: The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) stretches 2,300 kilometres along the Queensland coast and includes over 2,900 reefs, and around 940 islands and cays. (wwf.org.au)
Senior School News

Year 11/12 Parents/Guardians & Students

Your son/daughter has been invited to be part of some local University of Southern Queensland research of which there are strictly limited positions.

Benefits for them: first to get:
1. Impressive study skills recommendations to improve academic results
2. High quality current careers information for tertiary, industry, apprenticeship, traineeships...
3. Where the jobs will be in the next 5 years
4. Information on scholarships and
5. Financial assistance

All they have to do:
1. Survey (March) plus entire project chance to win iTunes/mobile credit prizes or cash!
2. Survey (August) plus entire project chance to win iTunes/mobile credit prizes or cash!

What to do next: sign Consent form with your son/daughter:
1. Ask your son/daughter for the forms they were recently given, or
2. Get a USQ Research document from the school office

Then:
Return Consent form to office by the end of the week

The students in the Senior school have settled into their class work. Students have been asked to set achievement targets for each of their subjects in order to assist them in focussing their learning. The aim is for all students to receive a QCE when they leave year 12. On Tuesday, February 25, we saw over 60 students and parents attend a VET (Vocational Education and Training) information night. This evening was well received by those who attended. Many thanks to Kay Shelton and Fay Harvey for organising the evening.

Congratulations to the 4 senior students who participated in the Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ competition last week. Michael Boon, Amylee Murphy, Brigid Holt and Connor Silcox. All students were extremely well presented, spoke well and represented our school with pride.

At present our senior schooling HOD and year 12 coordinator are interviewing students who are at risk of not achieving a QCE by the end of the year. Identified students will be monitored over a period of 4 weeks to assist them in focussing on improving their effort and achievement in class. Later in the term, a similar process will occur with identified year 11 students who need to improve their effort and achievement in order to succeed in gaining their QCE.

Robyn Kent, Senior School Deputy

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

2014 Next Step Survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587

Tree of Life
Workshop for Children and Young People

The program assists participants in identifying their strengths, the challenges that children and young people may face in life, and how to deal with these challenges in healthier ways.

When: Wednesday April 30, 2014
(6 week duration)

Time: 3.30pm to 5.00pm

Contact: UnitingCare Community on 4153 8400 (Bookings essential)

Please find below a link to Asthma Foundation Queensland’s newsletter for schools for Term 1. I hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter and find it useful in helping you manage students with asthma.
P & C AGM & General Meeting
Thursday, 6th March, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!

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