Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our last newsletter for term two, this newsletter again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on the school’s progress in its improvement agenda, student attendance, the school’s participation in the North Coast Region’s Success Schools Program, and a farewell to Pam Galea.

Improvement Agenda Progress

At the beginning of semester one I wrote to all parents outlining our school priorities, or improvement agenda, for 2014. In this newsletter I want to provide some details on our progress on this agenda, these changes are outlined below;

• **Literacy and numeracy improvement**: Our data analysis process has improved to allow our programs to have a clearer focus on the gaps in student’s literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge. This has led to the implementation of a revised Spot Literacy and Numeracy program (Spot Lit) and a revision of our Focused Literacy and Numeracy Program (FLI). We have also created Literacy and Numeracy Coach positions to support staff capacity building, and developed a toolkit of resources to support literacy and numeracy teaching.

• **Behaviour improvement**: The school has developed a revised Responsible Behaviour Plan, implemented a Behaviour Expectations Matrix and introduced RAS Behaviour Expectation Lessons. Staff have participated in professional learning related to managing student behaviour. Analysis of student behaviour data has enabled the school to respond in a consistent way to inappropriate behaviour trends and our year level behaviour teams have continued to consolidate their roles and practice.

• **QCS and QCE attainment improvement**: An Academic Target Setting Program has been implemented for all students in all subjects. The school has developed and implemented a Senior Outcomes Achievement Review (SOAR) policy which is a set of processes that monitor senior school student’s attendance, behaviour, effort in study, academic performance and progress towards a QCE. An OP improvement group has also been established to investigate and implement strategies to support our OP performance including mentoring OP eligible students.

• **Responsive curriculum**: Refinement of our year 7 curriculum for 2015 has continued with the input of our feeder schools and in response to student data. Our feeder school transition program has continued with a focus on science delivered by our year 7 co-ordinator and junior school team. We have continued to develop our days of excellence programs with Northern Alliance Action Plan.

• **Attendance improvement**: We have implemented a number of proactive and reactive strategies some of which have included identifying at-risk students and communicating directly with their parents, teachers
keeping parents informed of class activities and student successes and developing individual support programs to assist students to attend school.

- **Improving teacher capacity:** The school has continued to implement its school wide teaching and learning framework based on the ‘Art and Science of Teaching’ which has included:
  
  1. Professional learning by staff in Design question 2: What will I do to help students practice and deepen their understanding of new knowledge? Design question 6: What will I do to establish or maintain classroom rules and procedures? Design question 7: What will I do to recognise and acknowledge adherence and lack of adherence to classroom rules and procedures?
  2. Continued interaction between staff on instruction in Professional Learning Communities.
  3. All staff participating in instructional rounds where they observed the teaching of other staff and shared feedback.
  4. The creating of an ASOT coach.

**Student attendance**

I wrote to all parents at the beginning of the year regarding the school’s concern with student attendance rates. In that letter I indicated that our target for attendance was to achieve a 95% attendance rate as this was seen as the benchmark to ensure student success. Provided here are the current attendance trends for each year level and as you will see they are not trending towards our target.

While these are averages with students attending at rates higher and lower than these rates, it is of great concern that a large proportion of our students are falling well below a rate of attendance necessary to support student success. I encourage you to review your student’s attendance rate and address the issues that are preventing your student from achieving a 95% attendance rate or better. If you need assistance with this please contact the school. I want your students to reach their potential and achieve a sustainable future and if we work together we can achieve these outcomes.

**Success School**

North Bundaberg State High School has been invited to become a Success School which is a program organized by the North Coast Education, Queensland Region aimed at achieving improved literacy and numeracy outcomes for our school. This program will provide significant resources to help deepen and strengthen the school’s current improvement strategies and add to the resources that the school has already directed to literacy and numeracy improvement. The resources provided to the school will include a staffing allocation to employ a school based literacy coach which will give the school the equivalent of a full time coach, access to; a literacy expert, a numeracy expert, a student behaviour expert and an Art and Science of Teaching instructional leader as well as significant financial assistance to support the release of staff to participate in professional learning. This is great news for your students as this program will contribute significantly to their success through the building of teacher capacity.

**Farewell Pam Galea**

This week will be the last Pam works for Education Queensland as she commences retirement at the end of the week. Pam was appointed to Bundaberg North SHS in 1990 and has provided over 24 years’ service to this school community as a Home Economics teacher. She has worked for Education Queensland 35 years - what a commitment to public education. In this time she has influenced the lives of thousands of students, many of whom would still be using the skills and knowledge she taught them in Home Economics, today.
In the short time I have known Pam, I have not only found her to be an excellent teacher but I have also grown to understand the significant contribution she has made to the professionalism of other staff and the school, through the example she sets for others and extensive development and implementation of high quality curriculum programs. She has witnessed many changes to education but has always remained committed to making a difference in the lives of all the students she has taught. I wish Pam well in her retirement and hope that the next stage of her life is full of health and happiness and she gets time to do the things she enjoys doing.

Thank you Pam for what you have done for North, the students you have taught and the staff who have had the privilege to work with you. Best wishes and good luck.

In conclusion, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education. I also wish to thank the school community for your ongoing support throughout term two and I look forward to working closely with you in term three to produce the best outcomes for your child.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL

North High P & C
Hi to all parents. Your P & C association has operated since the establishment of this great school. We act at a level between the parents and the school, to hear what is going on, have an input to many decisions and events that occur throughout the school year, and to provide items for the students and staff that are not part of the school budget. This is why the Tuckshop operates, as well as providing healthy food for your child's hungry stomach. Currently we need new members to operate efficiently. There are just a handful of dedicated parents and other interested persons, left to run the P & C and make decisions that ultimately affect you. Please seriously consider regularly attending the meetings, which are held at the school on the first Thursday of every month at 5 pm; the next is on the 10th of July. Without your help, the future of the P & C is questionable, and its demise would be of serious consequence to you and your children. Please make an effort to be part of this important committee. If there are enough of you interested, but find the current meeting time inconvenient or impossible, it can be changed to 7 pm. Contact the office to indicate your interest.

Roger Burtt - President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>26th June</td>
<td>North High inter-house sports carnival</td>
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<td>27th June</td>
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<td>14th July</td>
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<td>16th July</td>
<td>Free dress day – Relay for Life</td>
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<td>18th July</td>
<td>Report Cards posted home (please ensure we have your correct postal details)</td>
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<td>21st July</td>
<td>PTO (Parent teacher online) opens for bookings</td>
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<td>22nd July</td>
<td>Subject Selection Evening – Yr 10</td>
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<td>28th July</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews – School hall 3:30pm</td>
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<td>29th July</td>
<td>Whole school photos</td>
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Year 10 Business Ventures

This term Mrs Jensen’s Year 10 Business class conducted Business Ventures. The students formed various business which consisted of “Tie Dye Super Socks”, “KKBTJ’S Double Choc” and “The Band Brigade” selling crazy loom bracelets. The groups were required to come up with a great idea, work collaboratively as a team to market their product, and package it successfully with the ultimate goal of making a profit. All groups recorded a small profit and I would particularly like to thank the many staff and students that supported the students throughout this unit.

Keri Jensen (Mrs)
Year 10 Business Teacher
THE PRODIGIES TAKE 2nd PLACE!

On Friday, 30th May Amy Wilson, Connor Silcox, Kahli Bourne and Chloe Thomson all boarded a plane set to compete in the finals of the BlueShift Business Case Competition held at QUT in Brisbane. Their brief was to come up with an innovative way to convince the “under 30 year old” demographic to purchase their copy of “The Courier Mail” and “The Sunday Mail” electronically. This was not an easy task! Our group were given one week to prepare their idea which had to be delivered via a powerpoint presentation with the requirement that all team members speak. The students worked solidly over the week we had to prepare meeting several times outside of school hours, including giving up their Show holiday.

Saturday, 31st May was show day and it became very clear that our students had produced something totally different from the other finalists. The students created and designed a unique card called the “In the Know” card which could be purchased in supermarkets and newsagencies as a convenient way for the consumer to purchase an electronic copy of the newspaper or use as a “gift card”. The students conducted extensive research in order to produce the card and their marketing methods were exceptional. “The Prodigies” presented their 15 minute presentation to 3 judges and afterwards were shortlisted making it to the final four. After an impromptu 4 minute “elevator pitch” to a further 3 judges, our team were announced in 2nd place, narrowly defeated by the prestigious Sheldon College. The students received some wonderful prizes which included prize money to keep for themselves and had the privilege of receiving a guided tour of the university.

We would like to thank JRT Industries who printed the “In the Know” cards for us free of charge. The judges were most surprised to receive a professionally produced card that had a QR code that actually worked. We are also appreciative of the sponsorship provided by ULTON which enabled the students to travel and stay in Brisbane. Mrs Norris and myself were proud to accompany and mentor these students throughout the competition. Well done to “The Prodigies” on their outstanding efforts!

Mrs Keri Jensen
BCT Teacher

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:
If you have school fees outstanding, we would really appreciate your payment. You can pay at the office by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, or direct credit to our bank account. Please give us a call on 4130 0222 if you prefer to pay by credit card.

P & C Meeting Thursday 7th August, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Unveiling – REACT Youth Project

On Friday, 6 June, a ceremony was held to ‘unveil’ a tile mural on the outside wall of G Block. We at North Bundaberg State High School became interested in being a part of a project, Bundaberg Regional Council’s Re Activate Create Trigger Youth Project because we wanted to emphasise the connections we do have at this school with our community and our feeder primary schools.

Orinda Martin, our wonderful art teacher became involved and further input came from our other wonderful Art teachers, Petrina McDonald and Faye Liddell. Believe me, it is always a pleasure to see these vibrant and creative minds working together - playing, parrying and pushing creative boundaries.

The Art teachers decided to work with the Year 11 and 12 Creative Arts students with their young, creative minds and incorporate creating a mural of tiles into their curriculum. This mural’s purpose was to highlight the connections we have.

It was at this time that we had the ceremony at school to remember our community elder, Burnie Johnson. Joan Peat, Burnie’s partner, spoke at this memorial service. The students were moved by Joan’s words and her reference to the tree that Burnie felt was such a great symbol. They wanted to incorporate that concept into the mural. We thank Joan for allowing us to use her words which so inspired the students and have reproduced them on the plaque accompanying the mural. We were pleased that a number of Burnie’s family and friends were present at our unveiling ceremony.

We contacted feeder schools and Mrs Martin and Ms Linn Walker from Oakwood State School collaborated to include Linn’s students’ ideas and their work into the design. It has been a fabulous connection. On the unveiling day, the Oakwood students took part in a stencilling workshop conducted by our art teachers with help from senior Creative Arts students which enabled them to create art pieces in the same way the tiles for the murals were created.

We are grateful to Ms Walker and Mr Troy Wolski, the Oakwood Principal, for allowing their students to be a part of this project.

The project evolved. The students have created a vibrant work which does glow with the life and vitality of all those creative minds and the memory of Burnie who was such an important part of our school community.

We are grateful for the continued support we at North High receive from the Bundaberg Regional Council not only for this project but in many other ways. Andrea Bax, the BRC Youth Project Officer, is a wonderful ambassador and has been a regular visitor who helps us to support Bundaberg youth. Councillors Vince Habermann, Lyn Forgan, David Batt, Judy Peters and Wayne Honor all attended the unveiling.

Thank you to our groundsman, Neil Studholme, who, just by coincidence has been a tiler in a past life and, with the help of Certificate Construction students, Dave Orpin and Noel Collin put the mural together.

Thank you to Jacky Burtt in the tuckshop for providing the afternoon tea.

There are so many people who continue to support our students in so many ways and it is such a pleasure to be involved with such a vibrant community.

Lastly, thank you to the wonderful students who have been involved and brought this concept to life.

Mrs Gillian Colasimone
Head of Department Junior School

P & C Meeting Thursday 7th August, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Parent teacher interviews

Parent teacher interviews will be held on Monday, 28th July in the North High School Hall. Interviews will commence at 3:30pm and continue through to 5:30pm. Each interview will be 10 minutes in length. We will be using the PTO online booking system again this year. Further details, including your students EQ ID number, will be contained in a letter along with your students' report cards which you should receive after the holidays. You can log on through the Bundaberg North State High School website at http://www.bundnortshs.eq.edu.au/ and click on the PTO symbol to book your appointments. The system will be open for bookings from Monday, 21st July. If you do not have internet access at home you may call the school office after 21st July, on 4130 0222 for assistance.

RELAY FOR LIFE 2014

North Bundaberg State High School has 3 teams of eager Year 12 students participating in Relay for Life this year, on the weekend of 16th August. Our teams have been busy fundraising by holding a movie night and pie drive. A big THANK-YOU must go to the parents and staff who have generously supported us with our fundraising so far.

On Wednesday, 16th July, first week back after the school holidays, North Bundaberg State High School will be holding a free dress day. Students who wish to wear free dress on this day are asked to do so in exchange for a gold coin donation. Participating students and staff are asked to wear their Relay for Life Team Shirts on this day. All money raised by the school will go directly to the Cancer Council.

Keri Jensen (Mrs)
Relay for Life Co-ordinator

GEOGRAPHY REPORT FIELD TRIP

At 10am on the Monday, 26th of May, the year 11 and 12 Geography class went on a report field trip to Baldwin Swamp. The day was filled with many activities such as listening and taking notes from the guest speakers: Guest speakers at this time included Nick Maclean, from the Bundaberg Regional Council and Don Lynch, who is a part of the environment team at Baldwin Swamp. We learned about the biodiversity in the area and took water testing samples to help the students with their Term 2 report assignments.

Written by Beck Brough, Year 12

School Photos

School photos will be taken on Tuesday, 29th July. Senior students should wear their formal uniform. Junior students should wear their sports uniform shirt and black shorts. Please look for your students MSP envelope in schoolbags before the end of term.

P & C Meeting Thursday 7th August, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
RAISING TEENS IN THE TECHNOLOGY GENERATION

ARE YOU THE PARENT OF AN 11-18 YEAR OLD?
Help us understand the effect of technology on families!
Take our anonymous 30-minute survey.

You will answer questions about technology, your teenager’s behaviour, their relationship with you and your parenting.
You can also ask your teenager to take part in a similar anonymous survey.
The research is completely voluntary and confidential.

To complete the survey, go to: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/parentteensurvey/.
For more information, contact the research team on parentingteens@uq.edu.au.

NEW STUDY!