Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter for term three and this newsletter again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article from me I want to focus on the Success Schools project, dealing with student conflict, our NAPLAN performance, supporting student safety, academic successes and the future development of the school’s information and communication technology [ICT] resources.

Success Schools project

The school is continuing to implement the Success Schools project which is aimed at improving the literacy and numeracy performance of our students. The focus of the project is very much centred on the development of teacher capacity so that they become highly skilled teachers of literacy and numeracy related to their subject areas. Included in this skill is the management of the learning environment and in an effort to ensure that our learning environments are consistently effective, our Heads of Department and Instructional Leaders have completed three days of classroom profile training. Classroom Profiling is a confidential, non-judgemental coaching process that individually enables a teacher to reflect on effective learning and teaching strategies they employ. As Classroom Profilers our Heads of Department and Instructional Leaders will become skilled observers and feedback providers of and for our teaching staff. The aim of this is ensure consistency across all classrooms and achieve better outcomes for your students.

Dealing with student conflict

In previous newsletters I have made comment about how our school manages conflicts between students and I want to take this opportunity to re-visit this. If a student is being made to feel uncomfortable by another, or a conflict has developed between students, we expect that a student in this situation will seek the support of an adult (Teacher, Year Level Co-Ordinator, School Chaplain, School Based Youth Nurse, School Based Police-Officer, Guidance Officer, Deputy Principal, Principal etc.) to help resolve the conflict. We do not accept students taking things into their own hands in an attempt to resolve the conflict as this, in our experience, leads to a negative outcome. I ask for your support in discussing this with your students and that you read the School’s Harassment and Bullying Policy for your information. We want your students to be able to learn in a respectful and safe learning environment.

NAPLAN performance

Shortly, parents of Year 9 students will be receiving NAPLAN reports which will detail the performance of individual students in this year’s NAPLAN. The school performance on NAPLAN is a mixed but positive result. Provided below is a table that details the school performance. The stand-out result is our performance in numeracy, grammar and punctuation which matched or exceeded the National Minimum Standards but we still have a way to travel with our mean score. The results in Reading, Writing and Spelling are not where we want them but closer analysis of the results
indicates there has been a general gain similar to like schools from the student’s Year 7 performance compared to Year 9. It also indicates that the strategies we are implementing which include focused literacy and numeracy lessons, SpotLit, the Success School’s project, teacher capacity building, target setting and our intervention reading program are having a positive impact on student performance.

### 2014 North Bundaberg SHS Year 9 NAPLAN Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Strand</th>
<th>Mean Scale Score NBSHS</th>
<th>Mean Scale Score National</th>
<th>% Above National Minimum Standard NBSHS</th>
<th>% Above National Minimum Standard National</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>85.2 [State: 86.3]</td>
<td>91.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>74.8 [State: 71.7]</td>
<td>81.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>83.6 [State: 86.3]</td>
<td>89.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar and Punctuation</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>89.1 [State: 82.4]</td>
<td>89.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>97.6 [State: 93.0]</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Supporting student safety

I take my responsibility for ensuring student safety very seriously and as a result of this the school has some strong expectations about students remaining in the school grounds once they arrive at school. On a recent assembly I have reminded students of this expectation particularly in regards to visiting local shops before, during and after school. Students who come to school by bus or get dropped off at school by parents are expected to enter the school grounds and remain in the school grounds until the end of the school day. Students who walk to school and a local shop is not part of that journey, should walk directly to school and remain in the school grounds till the end of the school day. For students who travel to school and a local shop is part of the journey, it is quite appropriate for those students to visit the shop and continue their journey to school. During the school day students with permission can leave the school grounds under parent supervision but no student is permitted to leave the school and visit a local shop. After school it is quite acceptable for students to visit shops but we would encourage that this is with parent permission and that students while in school uniform act in a polite and courteous manner. Students who catch a school bus should remain at school under staff supervision until the arrival of their bus. While this tends to be an issue for a small number of students it is important I share with you our expectations regarding this issue and my desire that your student can learn in a safe and responsible learning environment. I also seek your support in this issue and encourage you to discuss it with your student.

### Academic successes

Congratulations to Graham Quinn, Belinda Arnold, Sharon Kidman and Rhonda Cutmore and our students who have had some recent success in two academic competitions. Firstly a number of Year 9 student teams participated in the Opti-Minds competition achieving a number of second places. All the teams were supported by Graham Quinn, Sharon Kidman and Belinda Arnold in preparation for and participation in the competition. Secondly our Year 8 Maths Team Challenge Team was placed third in the Regional Maths Team Challenge which was a great result for our students. This
team was also supported by Rhonda Cutmore in preparation for and participation in the competition. Well done to our teachers and students on their efforts and results. Please refer to the articles in this newsletter about these successes.

**ICT resources development**

The provision of ICT resources in school is a challenging question due to the costs involved, limited school resources and the ever changing nature of ICT devices. The school is beginning to discuss what our ICT learning environment will look like in the future and how we would resource it. At the moment the school enjoys a ratio of 1 ICT device to almost every student in the school through either our take home program, trolleys of laptops or access to computer rooms along with a number of other ICT devices like digital cameras and data loggers. The value of our ICT resources in dollar terms is many hundreds of thousands of dollars and replacement of these resources with devices that are up to date and modern is an ongoing costly exercise. There are many options before us as to how the school and its community continues to ensure students are able to learn in a digitally rich 21st Century learning environments and these options will form part of our discussions. We will also be seeking your input into this conversation through surveys and public forums as well as inviting interested parents to join the ICT working party. If you are interested in being part of our discussion please contact the school so you can be provided with more details.

**QCS test**

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who on Wednesday afternoon completed the final multi-choice paper of the four test papers that make up the QCS test. It was great to talk to students during the test who demonstrated confidence and a level preparedness and skill to tackle the demands of the test. Thank you to all those teachers led by Rob Schmidt who contributed to the student’s preparation for the test. I look forward to the results in November.

In conclusion please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education. Working together we can 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 Thursday, 4th September. 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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>15th – 17th Sept</td>
<td>Wide Bay Track and Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Sept</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Oct</td>
<td>Labour Day public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Oct</td>
<td>First day of Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Oct</td>
<td>Spring Carnival Arts Night at school hall</td>
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From time to time students come to the sick bay as they are too unwell to remain in the classroom. If after a short period in our sick bay, they are still unwell they may need to be picked up and taken home. Please ensure that on your student’s record, you have listed at least one person we can contact to come and pick your student up.

Senior News

QCS Exams

This week the Year 12s have completed the QCS test (Queensland Core Skills). All students who are O.P. eligible have been preparing for the QCS test throughout the year. Students have QCS preparation lessons once a week and have opportunity to practice completing QCS sample tests.

We wish all the Year 12s who completed the test this week all the best and hope that their result will assist them in receiving an O.P. score that allows them entry into their chosen university course.

P & C Meeting

Thursday 4th September, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Subject Selections

This week all Year 8 & 9 have been given a Subject Selection booklet and Subject Selection form. Students have also been spoken to about the elective subjects available for choice. Students are encouraged to ask teachers for more information about subjects.

Students should make their subject choices by Monday and bring back their form ready to hand in after they have made their subject selection on line. Please do not hesitate to call the office if you have any queries.

Year 9 for 2015 Subject Selection booklet
Year 10 for 2015 Subject Selection booklet

Robyn Kent
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Opti-MINDS Sustainability Challenge 2014

Opti-MINDS has been running across Queensland now for 20 ‘unashamedly excellent’ years. The Opti-MINDS Sustainability Challenge is an inclusive team challenge, which empowers participants to Think, Create and Communicate… Teams enter the challenge and are required to solve a Long Term Challenge in six weeks. On Challenge day the teams also have ten minutes to provide a response to a Spontaneous Challenge. Teams are awarded points for creativity, sustainable thinking and use of resources, teamwork and the dramatic presentation of the solution to the challenge. The challenge solution is presented in 3m x 3m performance area, using a dramatic presentation with a ten minute time limit, in front of 3 judges and an audience.

The teams can enter in three categories for the Long Term Challenge; Science/Engineering, Language/Literature and Social Science. This year we had one team enter in each challenge category. The 'Launch Lads' in science/engineering had to become the Topi-Topi tribe and design and build a space elevator to launch three 95g tins of tuna into 'space'. The 'Knowbodies' entered the social science challenge of 'Imagi-Nation' where they had to write and perform a ten minute presentation of what society would be like if there was no culture, religion, wars, conflict and different identities; as in John Lennon's song 'Imagine'. Finally the 'Aussie Anthropologists' entered the language/literature challenge and had to write an Aussie children's story for a new generation in 'Treely-Ruly-Ozzie". This story had to include a character from 'The Magic Pudding', 'Snugglepot and Cuddlepie' or 'The Muddle-headed Wombat' and then be acted out in a dramatic performance.

On Challenge day our three teams performed their solutions extremely well and did themselves and our school proud. The 'Aussie Anthropologists' and 'The Knowbodies' both performed exceptionally well and received a 2nd place and an 'Honours' certificate in their categories.

The Teams:
Launch Lads – Corey Hanks, Thomas Quinn, David Scott, Liam Wenborn, Ben White.
Aussie Anthropologists – Sophie Parkinson, Emma Rosenblatt, Ebony Stoll, Amber Tobin, Samantha Trew.
The ‘Aussie Anthropologists’ after performing their challenge response.

The ‘Launch Lads’ during their performance.

The ‘Knowbodies’ rehearsing before their presentation
Bundaberg North SHS Students believe in making a change and now have been given that chance after receiving a $5000 grant.

A group of Year 11 students are currently taking part in the University of Southern Queensland’s Young Leaders Program called Change Makers. The key goal of Change Makers is to give young people a chance to bring about real change in the community they care about.

Students first attended The USQ Change Makers’ Forum which involved keynote speakers from UN Youth Queensland, networking activities and leadership skills development.

Students then had to lead or join a project and write a submission to gain funding. Once their submission was accepted they were then required to pitch their project before a panel of community and business leaders as the final step in the funding application process.

The grant will be used in conjunction with the Planeteers to build a rainforest memorial for indigenous and non-indigenous fallen soldiers and will also be used as a place of reflection and time out for students.

Congratulations to all those involved.

Phil Moller- Year 11 Coordinator

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO THE NORTH HIGH SPRING CARNIVAL ARTS NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR, WITH PRICES BELOW. COME ALONG TO THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL AND ENJOY A SHOWCASE OF TALENT FROM OUR STUDENTS.

ADULTS - $5.00
STUDENTS - $2.00
UNDER SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ARE FREE
InDigeNoUs ExcursIon

On Friday, 22nd of August, 5 Indigenous students accompanied by Ms Kent and Mrs Long made their way down to Brisbane to see the “Patyegarang”, an Indigenous dance production at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (Qpac). Everyone was excited to see the artistic Aboriginal dancing. The trip down was mainly spent playing assorted games such as ‘I spy’ to keep ourselves occupied which kept us from annoying the teachers. After a 5 hour car ride we arrived at our hotel. We stayed in an apartment overlooking the city. Later that evening we headed over to Brisbane’s Qpac to see the long awaited Indigenous dance performance. We were then seated in the 1st and 2nd rows and as we sat there, the theatre went dark and the Aboriginal music then began to play and the audience went silent. We watched as the dancers made their way out on to the stage expressing the connection between their people and nature through their animalistic dance moves. The show features a very intricate story which served as a history lesson, beautifully performed by the remarkable dancers who managed to mix both Aboriginal and contemporary dancing styles together. The music, dancing and acting all made for a perfect show which was impossible to take your eyes off. It was an experience we will never forget. The next day we started off with a big breakfast just around the corner from our hotel. Afterwards we went back to our rooms where we packed our belongings and crammed back into the car. Before we headed back to Bundaberg we stopped off at the Queensland Museum. Here we saw fossils of dinosaurs, Australian wildlife and more importantly Aboriginal artefacts. It was very interesting to see how our ancestors used their surroundings to their advantage. Many stories were also on display showing the history of Aboriginal culture and how it has been affected in recent years. Overall this trip was an excellent learning curve and an unforgettable experience. Finally I would like to thank Ms Kent and Mrs Long for dedicating their time to take us to this event. I as one, really enjoyed every second of it.

Matthew Wallis, Indigenous Ambassador

P & C Meeting Thursday 4th September, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
YEAR 8 QAMT MATHS CHALLENGE ACHIEVEMENT

North Bundaberg State High School is once again proud to acknowledge the success of the Year 8 students who competed in the Bundaberg District QAMT Maths competition held at Bundaberg State High school on 4th August. North entered 2 teams who achieved a 2nd and 5th place overall in the district. The second placed team consisted of Rick Wirth, Peter Johnston and Ashley Rowland. This team was changed slightly for the next round Nathan Van Rooijen coming in for Rick Wirth.

The Regional final was held last week on the 27th August. The team again performed very well achieving a 3rd place with only 3 points separating them from the first place team. Special thanks also go to the Year 8 Leap teacher and School Numeracy coach - Mrs Cutmore, for her work in teaching these students.

D. Austin
HOD Mathematics

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

HAVE FUN, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER CULTURE!

Volunteer to host an international high school student arriving into Australia in February 2015, and you’ll be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan and USA. They will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!