**Principal’s Report…**

Welcome to our final newsletter for term four and 2014 which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on our achievements for 2014 and pass on best wishes for the festive season ahead.

**2014 achievements**

At the beginning of this year I wrote to parents detailing the school’s 2014 priorities. I now want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our achievements in regards to these priorities. For each priority I will provide details of the actions we have taken and the successes we have achieved.

1. **Improved student outcomes with a focus on:**

   **Literacy and Numeracy Improvement:** The actions taken to improve student’s literacy and numeracy skills have included: Revision and redevelopment of our *Focused Literacy and Numeracy Improvement program* and Spot Lit, creation of Literacy and Numeracy Coaches, participation in the regions Success School Program, development of faculty literacy mentors and faculty literacy plans. This has resulted in improved NAPLAN results with Year 9 students achieving 97% above national minimum standards for numeracy which was 3 % above the nation’s performance as well as significant improvements being made in all areas of literacy.

   **Differentiation including setting and attaining of achievement targets:** A new *Academic Target Setting Program* was implemented this year which assisted students to work at improving their academic performance with the support of their teachers. The program also assisted students to identify their strengths and weaknesses and helped teachers to meet the individual learning needs of students. A review of this program at the end of semester one indicted that it was highly supported by both students and parents. This program has contributed to a 99% pass rate in Year 12 Mathematics and a 96.4% pass rate in Year 12 English as well as a number of other remarkable Year 12 performances.

   **Strengthening vocational education:** Our desire to increase the range of vocational opportunities for our students was achieved through: the introduction of the Certificate I in Construction course; students accessing programs provided by TAFE; and students taking up school-based traineeships and participating in work experience. 91% of our Year 12 students will complete Year 12 with some type of qualification.

   **Continued implementation of Year 4 to 12 LEAP:** The LEAP program has been offered every term to students in our feeder schools with high levels of praise from students, parents and feeder schools. The program has continued in the school with year 9 being added with all students producing very good results.

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**P & C Meeting** Thursday 5th February, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Improved attainment of ‘Queensland Certificate of Education’: Monitoring of students’ progress towards a QCE in Year 11 and 12 has been unrelenting during 2014. This coupled with our target setting program and the setting of high expectations of students in regards to academic performance and behaviour, has resulted in ongoing improvement in the attainment of QCE’s. In 2012 64% of students attained a QCE. In 2014 79% of Year 12 students will achieve a QCE.

QCS and OP performance improvement: An OP group was formed this year to work with students and faculties to support the improvement of our OP results. This group of interested teachers have mentored students and worked with their respective faculties to bring about improvement. 88% of students achieved ‘C’ or better on the QCS test which is an improvement on previous years. We will have to wait till January 2015 for the final outcomes but the early indications are positive.

Attendance improvement: Despite our efforts to improve the attendance of students our attendance rates have not improved in any notable way. Clearly, improved attendance will have an impact on all student outcomes and the school will continue to work at improving our attendance rate so that it matches the 95% benchmark.

2. Building teacher capacity through:

The development of a consistent Teaching and Learning Framework: Throughout the year our staff have continued to develop and implement the Art and Science of Teaching which has seen staff participate 6 hours of professional learning focused on creating a common language, 15 hours of interacting on instruction in an Instructional Professional Learning Community and 3 hours of observing the teaching of other staff.

3. Getting ready for secondary school with focus on increased market share of enrolments: Our Year 7 program has been developed in response to the learning needs of our students which includes flexibility, creating positive relationships and a strong focus on literacy and numeracy improvement. Our Year 7 teaching team has completed at least 6 days of planning in preparation for the arrival of year 7’s.

4. Implement the Australian curriculum: History, English, Maths, Science: The school has continued to implement the Australian curriculum making ongoing adjustments to meet the learning needs of our students.

Our vision is Outstanding Learners, Outstanding Achievements, Outstanding Futures and I think our results whilst not yet outstanding, are heading in the right direction for the school to achieve this vision. I thank our staff who have worked hard to make many changes and motivate students to achieve to their potential and I congratulate our students who have achieved success this year as a result of these changes.

Safe holidays:

I hope all students and their families have a safe and relaxing summer vacation. This is an exciting time of the year and sometimes a sense of safety for some students can be the last thing on their minds. I do not want to take away the excitement of the occasion but I do want all our students back to school, healthy, relaxed and ready to meet the challenges of 2015 head on.

Finally, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education. I wish to also thank the school community for its ongoing support of the school and its efforts to produce the best for you and your students. I have enjoyed working with you this year and look for forward to 2015 with great excitement. My wish is that our school community has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all in 2015.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<td>12th December</td>
<td>Final day for year 8 and 9 students</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th January 2015</td>
<td>Australia Day public holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th January 2015</td>
<td>School commences for 2015</td>
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<td>9th February 2015</td>
<td>Meet the teachers BBQ</td>
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Notice from Stewart and Sons buses.

Stewart and Sons Buses would like to advise that the bus number 21 will no longer pick up outside North Bundaberg State High School. Bus number 22 will now pick up at North High to take students to Tantitha and Moore Park areas at 3:20 – 3:23pm. If you require any further information please contact Stewart and Sons Buses on 4153 2646 or visit www.stewarts-coaches.com.au

Report cards

North High report cards for all year levels will be mailed out by 19th December. Included in the mail out will be other important information you will find useful. Please ensure we have your correct mailing address so you will receive your students information.

2015 Booklists

Booklists for 2015 will be included in the mail out with your student’s report cards. If you require additional booklists, they can be downloaded at https://bundnortshs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Booklists/Pages/Booklists.aspx

Centrepay

If you would like to pay school fees using ‘Centrepay’, it is not necessary for you to visit the Centrelink office in town. Here in the office at North High, we can do it all for you. Complete the form you will receive with your student’s report card and return to our Cashier who will make all of the arrangements on your behalf.
Final week of school for 2014

The last week of school was filled with interest, excitement and activity for the 150 year 8 and year 9 students who participated in the special “end of year program” at North. Some of the varied activities included a math’s Olympics where students participated in a round-robin series of mathematics tasks to acquire points and challenge for a first, second and third prize. Another activity involved art and design of cards from the Arts Department while the Science department was more “slimy” in having the students manufacture green goo. The English department delved into the analysis of films while the P.E. department engaged the students in a swim and sun-safety program. Despite the weather being hot and humid, students were brilliantly behaved and engaged in all activities with enthusiasm. It was a great way to finish the 2014 school year.

D. Austin.
Activity Coordinator.
Farewell longstanding staff members

This week we farewell 3 teachers who have given over 30 years combined service to North High.

Cathy Purcell is retiring and we wish her well and thank her for her 20 years of service to teaching Mathematics.

David Austin is transferring to Bundaberg State High School. Mr Austin has been at North High for 16 years and in that time became our Maths Head of Department. We wish him all the best at his new school and thank him for his excellent leadership and management of the Maths faculty.

Matt Boag is transferring to the Gold Coast. He has been at North for 8 years. We wish him and his family well as they make the move down South.
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

School Holiday Clinic –
Bundaberg Tennis Academy coaches Murray Whitbread and Kevin Banner will be conducting a School Holiday "Get Active" Clinic in conjunction with Bundaberg Junior Tennis Assoc. Inc and the Dept. of Sport & Recreation at Rotary Park Tennis Complex, 69b George St, South Bundaberg, from Mon.19th-Wed 21st of January 2015. Players from age 5-12. Beginners and Intermediate Beginners, 8-9am and 8-10am. Ages 13 and up, 3-5pm
Check out our Facebook page “Bundaberg & District Junior Tennis Association. Bookings are Essential. Contact Kevin 4152 0753 / 0409 520 753 or Murray 0407 639 824.

ADF CAREERS INFORMATION SESSION
Australia’s Navy, Army and Air Force can give you experiences money can’t buy – a career that not only improves you personally, but means doing something worthwhile for your country. There really is something for almost everyone – from fully paid university degrees and graduate entry schemes, rewarding trade and technical careers, exciting combat roles, through to support and administration positions. With more than 200 jobs on offer, with a multitude of entry avenues, there has never been a better time to find out more.

For more information on the careers within the Australian Defence Force attend an information session in your area:
Brothers Sports Club – 130 Takalvan Street, Bundaberg West
Monday 15th December at 6.00pm
To book your seat call 07 5459 8700 or email defence/jobsmaroochydore@dfr.com.au

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FREE Active Kids School Holiday activities

Kids Bootcamp!
Wednesday, 17 December from 3pm to 3.45pm
Run by YMCA Fun Fit Coaches! Fun athletic games and activities, a fun bootcamp just for kids!
Run at Alexandra Park for one session only during the school holidays. No bookings needed just turn up and join in.

Kids Martial Arts!
Friday, 9 January 2015 from 9am to 9.45am
Run by Rhee Taekwon-Do Bundaberg! Fun and inspiring self defence class, just for kids!
Run at Alexandra Park for one session only during the school holidays. No bookings needed just turn up and join in.

Hip Hop Dancing!
Learn the basics of hip-hop dancing and have fun with Tami from Unique Dance Studios. Suitable for 6 – 12 year olds.
Run at the Family Day Care Office, 14 Fitzgerald Street. Limited spaces so booking are essential. Phone 41529233 to secure your spot.

All activities are free and open to everyone in the community. Full program is available online at www.familydaycarebundaberg.com.au.

Funded by the Medibank Community Fund in partnership with Bundaberg Baptist Family Day Care Scheme.

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Marks Street, Bundaberg Q 4670 Phone (07) 41300222 Fax (07) 41525213 the.principal@bundnortshs.eq.edu.au
www.bundnortshs.eq.edu.au

Your safety

With the upcoming school holidays, Queensland Rail is urging families and students to be Railsmart by following these simple rules at level crossings and around rail property:

- Pay attention to signs and signals
- Never enter a level crossing if the red lights are flashing and pedestrian gates/boom gates are closed.
- Always look for the second train
- Keep yourself and your mates safe by not taking shortcuts and unnecessary risks around tracks
- Avoid the distractions of headphones and mobile phones

Trains can weigh upwards of 10,000 tonnes and take 2 kms to stop.

Disobeying level crossing signals or trespassing on railway property is not only dangerous, but illegal and could result in prosecution.

Queensland Rail is encouraging parents and schools to discuss this important safety information with their students and children, empowering them to be Railsmart.

Further information and activities for teachers and students can be found at railway.com.au/railsafe or bearesafeside.com.au.