Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our last Newsletter for term two and this newsletter again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on: the school’s progress on its improvement agenda; student attendance; and My Big Picture Plan, Student Led Conferences.

Improvement agenda progress
At the beginning of semester one I wrote to all parents outlining our school priorities or improvement agenda for 2015. In this newsletter I want to provide some details on our progress on this agenda which I have outlined below:

1. Improved student outcomes:
   • **Literacy and numeracy improvement:** The school has continued to implement strategies to strengthen all students’ literacy and numeracy skills. These have included: the employment of a master teacher who is driving major aspects of this program; the inclusion of literacy and numeracy warm ups into Year 7, 8 and 9 English and Maths lessons; the development of a whole of school reading comprehension teaching strategy called Question, Answer Relationship and the development of a whole school academic vocabulary teaching strategy.
   • **QCS and QCE attainment improvement:** The school has continued to implement our Senior Outcomes Achievement Review program which includes close monitoring of Year 11 and 12 student’s progress to the achievement of a QCE. This has resulted in a higher level of student commitment to learning and desire to perform to their best. Our OP action group has actively worked with all OP eligible students in a mentoring role encouraging students to maintain or improve their performance.
   • **Strengthening vocational education:** Large numbers of students have taken advantage of the many vocational opportunities available to them. These have included TAFE programs, School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships, work experience and Certificate II in Public Safety Fire Fighting.
   • **Implementation of an education and career planning framework:** The school implemented the My Big Picture Education and Career Planning Framework which has seen all students develop a career and education Plan which incorporates academic targets. In addition to this, as part of this program, students, parents and staff participated in the first round of Student Led Conferences, which saw 400 students and their parents participate in a conference led by the student reflecting on their learning.
   • **Attendance improvement:** We have continued to implement a number of proactive and reactive strategies, some of which include; identifying at-risk students and communicating directly with their parents; teachers keeping parents informed of class activities and student successes; developing individual support for at-risk students, with...
programs to assist them to attend school or engage in an alternative learning program. In addition to this we have re-directed our staffing resources to create a full time attendance officer position. All of these strategies have seen some improvement in student attendance but unfortunately the trend is still below our target of 95% or better.

- **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 Two and Three linked to the schools literacy and numeracy strategies: What will I do to help students practice and deepen their understanding of new knowledge?
  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. 30% of staff have participated in classroom profiling (a classroom observation and feedback process related to management of students and the learning environment).

- **Successful implementation of Year 7 in secondary school:** The year 7 program has begun well with parents expressing high levels of satisfaction with staff, communication home and the positive impact the program is having on student learning.

**Student attendance**

I have commented about student attendance rates in a number of newsletters this year. I have indicated that our target for attendance was to achieve a 95% attendance rate as this was seen as the benchmark to ensure student success. The table below shows the current attendance trends for each year and as you will see they are not trending towards our target, but in general if this maintained student attendance rates for 2015 will be better than 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Average rate of attendance[approx %]</th>
<th>Average number of days absent[approx]</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>90.37</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>91.30</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>89.76</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>85.94</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>88.42</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>91.25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89.53</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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While these are averages with students attending at rates higher and lower than these rates, it is of great concern that a significant 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 full potential and achieve a sustainable future and if we work together we can achieve these outcomes.
My Big Picture Plan: Student Led Conferences

The first round of our Student Led Conferences were held in May generating a great response from parents and students. The conferences resulted in almost 400% improvement in parent participation compared to the response we usually receive for our Parent/ Teacher Interviews, with 400 students participating in the conferences.

83.8% of parents who responded to a survey on the conferences agreed that the Student Led Conferences were valuable and informative and 82.4 % of parents felt they had a better understanding of their student’s effort, skills and behaviour with 94.3 % of students writing smart goals that will help them. From teacher perspective, 100% of staff found the conferences to be a valuable tool to interact positively with parents. With this strong endorsement of the conferences and feedback on ways to improve them, we will be holding a second round of Student Led Conferences on Thursday, July 30 from 11.00am to 7.00pm.

Further details about the My Big Picture Plan can be found on our website and I encourage you to review the material there to gain a detailed understanding of the purpose of this program and its various elements. The student led conferences take the place of our parent teacher interviews and take a holistic view of a student’s performance, how this has contributed to the achievement of their Big Picture Plan or Career and Education plan, and what is required in their next phase of learning to maintain their learning journey towards the achievement of their plan.

The concept of a Student Led Conference is in line with the school strategic plan which has one of its objective being the development of a self-reflective student learning culture. End-semester reports for all students will be issued at this conference or after the conference if students do not attend.

It is our expectation that this round of student led conferences will again attract increased numbers of parents which will require more time for the completion of the conferences. In order to provide this additional time, the school day on Thursday, July 30 2015 will be altered. The school day will run from 11.00am to 7.00pm and students will only be expected to attend the student led conference. Students will also not be required to wear school uniform for their attendance at the conference. The school will not be closed but will be working in a different manner in the interest of achieving the best outcomes for all students.

The school will continue to utilize the PTO Parent Teacher online booking for parents to book an appointment for their Student Led Conference. More information is provided in this newsletter regarding the booking of appointments through PTO Online.

Finally, 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 semester one and hope that you have a restful and safe winter break. I also look forward to working closely with you in term three to produce the best outcomes for your child.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL
School Opinion Survey

The annual *School Opinion Survey* will be conducted between 29 June and 31 July 2015. All families, school staff and a random sample of students will be invited to participate. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve.

Access details for the *Parent/Caregiver Survey* will be sent home with students on the first week of term 3.

Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online any time until 31st July.

Survey queries or requests for translations can be directed to Robyn Kent on telephone 4130 0222 or email principal@bundnortshs.eq.edu.au

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25th June 2015</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival (events at school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th June 2015</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival for whole school at Bundy Athletics ground.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th June 2015</td>
<td>Last day of term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th June 2015</td>
<td>School opinion survey opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th July 2015</td>
<td>First day of term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th July 2015</td>
<td>North High Trivia Night – 6:30pm at the school hall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st July 2015</td>
<td>Subject selection evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st July 2015</td>
<td>School opinion survey closes</td>
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</tbody>
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**SICK STUDENTS**

While your student is at school, it is important for us to be sure that they are safe and well.

If your student is unwell and wants to go home, they should come to the **SICK BAY** first. Office staff will administer any first aid treatment that is required and call you if necessary to pick them up.

They cannot be signed out as sick unless they are in the sick bay.

**NORTH BUNDABERG STATE HIGH SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT**

On Friday evening, 17th July, NBSHS will be holding a Trivia Night in our school hall.

The evening will commence at 6.30pm. Cost per person is $5.

(Maximum of 6 people per team – booking form below)

A light supper will be provided on the night and a continuous raffle held.

All proceeds raised with go towards our fundraising for our 5, Year 12 teams participating in Relay for Life in August this year. Bookings can be made by phoning the school office on 41300222

We look forward to seeing you all there for a fun night.

Keri Jensen

Relay for Life Co-ordinator

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**P & C Meeting**

Thursday 16th July, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Free Dress Day

The Student Council ran their Term 2 Free Dress Day on June 17th with a “State of Origin” Theme. Thank you to all those who participated. Money raised goes towards the major expenditure projects for Student Council.

Athletics carnival - 26th June

The Athletics competition is spread over 2 days. On Thursday 25th June a selection of events will be run at school for those students who nominate. On Friday 26th, all students will travel to the Athletics grounds by bus and participate in the day. This year there is a “Superhero” Theme. The house captains are dressed and ready to lead their houses to victory.

Good luck to all.

Student Led Conference booking – Parent Teacher Online

Student Led Conferences will be held at school on Thursday, 30th July. You may book your conference on-line with your students RAS teacher using the same method we have used in the past. More information on how to book will be sent home with your student. PTO Online will open for bookings on Thursday 16th July.

Year 9 student Corey Hanks is the winner of the Bundaberg Regional Council’s competition to create a new slogan for Monty the turtle, the eldest member of Council’s Waste and Recycling turtle family and green waste mascot.

Waste and Recycling portfolio spokesperson Cr Vince Habermann said the competition aimed to promote the reduction of organic waste ending up in landfill through the use of worm farming or composting.

The competition received a great response from residents across the Bundaberg region, attracting plenty of thoughtful entries. “But of course there can only be one winner and that was Corey Hanks as the author of the winning slogan – Compost today, for a better tomorrow,” Cr Habermann said.

P & C Meeting

Thursday 16th July, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
GYG COMES TO NORTH HIGH

On Friday, 12th June the Year 11 BCT Class was treated to a visit from the owners of the new Guzman Y Gomes store which recently opened its doors in Bundaberg. The students are currently working on an assignment/oral presentation which requires them to market a new business in Bundaberg via three Social Media platforms. This lesson enabled the students to learn exactly how the GYG Franchise Model operates and hear about the procedures/costs necessary to set up a business of this type. Students will be able to apply “real life” practice learnt today into their assessment. We all enjoyed learning about a new franchise and were VERY excited to receive some of the corn chips and salsa dip that Shay and Warwick Jones kindly brought along to share.

Keri Jensen
Year 11 BCT Teacher

Shar & Warwick Jones, Owners, GYG

BCT Students Chelsea Walker, Samantha Fincher, Kira Messenger and Natalie Curtis learn about GYG franchise. Olivia Talan samples GYG.
BUNDABERG RADIOLOGY HEAD OF THE RIVER REGATTA
NORTH BRINGS HOME MEDALS!

The local rowing season has come to an end, as the final Bundaberg Radiology Head of the River Regatta was held on Sunday 14th June. An awesome day was had by all with North rowers taking away medals in 9 of the 40 events. Outstanding results included:

Gold   Yr 8 Boys Quad  Thomas Walker, Nathan Richardson, Ben Maddy, Georgia Haupt & Lara Benecke (cox)
Gold   U/13 Girls Single  Simran Prasad
Silver  Yr 7 Girls Quad   Alice Wake, Jamima Stephenson, Simran Prasad, Jemima Pacey & Jessica Laven (cox)
Silver  U/13 Girls Single  Alice Wake
Silver  U/14 Girls Single  Georgia Haupt
Bronze Yr 11 Boys Double  Jake Thomson & Luke Laven
Bronze Yr 8 Girls Quad   Georgia Haupt, Lara Benecke, Jessica Laven, Simran Prasad & Jamima Stephenson (cox)
Bronze U/14 Boys Single  Nathan Richardson
Bronze Open Boys 8        Lachlan Jensen, Cooper Habermann, Hayden Churchill, Cooper Roll, William Robertson & Tim Gillard (cox)  (composite with Gin Gin)

This is the first time in many many years that North has achieved great success at a Head of River Regatta. It was great to see both the new junior, and experienced senior rowers achieve well-deserved places.

As this is the end of the season, I would like to congratulate all the rowers on their outstanding commitment to their sport and a huge THANK-YOU again to the parents and coaches that assisted the rowers and myself throughout the season. Thanks

Coordinator/Coach Mrs Teressa Gibson

2015 North High Rowing Team
Future Pathways & Subject Selection Evening

For all Year 10 students and parents.

All students and parents of Year 10 should attend the “Future pathways and subject selection” evening.

When: Tuesday 21st July, 2015
Where: BNSHS Assembly Hall
Time: 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Students wishing to return to Year 11 in 2016 should attend the information evening with their parents. There will be information, tours of facilities and workshops available.

6:00 – 6:30pm: View displays in the hall
6:30 – 7:00pm: Subject selection information
7:00 – 8:15pm: Tour of facilities
               OP information
               Vocation Education info (VET)
8:15 – 8:30pm: Close of evening and draw prize
Dear parents/carers,

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

All Australian schools participate in this annual data collection.

The data provided to the Australian Government is aggregated data only. Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you are aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

Ross Robertson
Principal
SCHOOL HOLIDAY INSTAGRAM CHALLENGE

ENTRIES: 27 JUNE TO 12 JULY 2015

Bundaberg Regional Galleries & Moncrieff Entertainment Centre are challenging school kids in the region to get creative and showcase the Bundaberg Region like never before!

Categories:
- Prep to Grade 3
- Grade 4 to Grade 6
- Grade 7 to Grade 9

WIN
DOUBLE MOVIE PASS

More information contact BRAG: (07) 4130 4750

1. Take THE MOST CREATIVE PHOTO you can of something that means ‘Bundaberg Region’ to you

2. Post it to Instagram with the hashtag #BRAGgingaboutbundaberg

3. Be chosen by our judges as the top photo in your category and win a double movie pass to the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre

WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED 15 JULY

Conditions: Can enter as many times as you like. Parents/Guardians are responsible Instagram posts. Family Friendly content only.
Helping teenagers become resilient and deal with stress appropriately

Definition: ‘Resilience – the ability to cope in times of stress or hardship.’

As parents we work to equip our teenagers with the tools they need to solve their own problems, to respond to difficulties, to feel good about themselves and others, and to perceive the future in a hopeful and confident manner.

It would be great if all children arrived with a Do it Yourself Manual but here are some ideas to help your teenager become resilient.

Brooks and Goldstein talks of 10 key principles for resilience
• Be empathetic – teach understanding of how another person might feel, recognize your own feelings
• Communicate and listen effectively – and respond to what your teenager is saying. Try not to be too judgmental.
• Love your teenager in ways that make them feel special and appreciated – let them know you love them unconditionally. It is vitally important that there is someone in a teenager’s life that will always be there for them.
• Accept your teenager for who they are and help them to set reasonable goals – goals for today, and goals for the future. It’s good to work towards something.
• Help them experience success in whatever they show competence in.
• Focus on positives, reword negative talk – sometimes the positive may be hard to see, but it’s there. Always end a conversation with something positive.
• Help them to understand that ‘mistakes’ are just things yet to be learnt
• Develop responsibility, compassion and social awareness by providing opportunities where you teenager can contribute or give back to others.
• Teach your teenager to solve their own problems and make appropriate decisions (What’s the problem? What are the choices? Which is the best choice? Try it. If it doesn’t work review your choices.) This also helps them to take responsibility for their actions.
• Discipline in a way that promotes self-discipline and self-worth. Punishment is one form of discipline and often a least effective form as it teaches the teenager what not to do rather than what to do, and can often build resentment. It is difficult to teach your teenager a better way to behave when you yourself are angry and upset. So staying calm, and negotiating rules and consequences with your teenager, will often work best.

In following these principles we will contribute to helping our children be resilient, to be emotionally healthy, equipped to successfully confront challenges, and bounce back from setbacks.

Adapted from ‘Raising Resilient Children’ by R.Brooks and S. Goldstein

Other information that is relevant to this topic can be found at the following websites.

http://au.reachout.com/wellbeing/mental-fitness


For more information, contact the School’s Guidance Officer
Rob Miller.