Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our second newsletter for this term which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to concentrate on My Big Picture Plan: Student Led Conferences 2015, Year 11 and 12 QCE Attainment, Year 10 into 11 subject selection and acknowledgement of the staff’s great work in providing extra opportunities for our students.

My Big Picture Plan: Student Led Conferences 2015:

Last Thursday the school held its second set of Student Led Conferences which again attracted a large number of parents and students. It was great to witness parents, students and teachers engaged in a conference led by a student reflecting on their performance in semester one and their academic goals for semester two. Whilst not every student in our school was able to participate in a conference with their parent, as part of their preparation for the Student Led Conferences, all students participated in a reflective and goal setting conversation with their RAS teacher. The combination of this conversation, ongoing monitoring from the RAS teacher and the setting of academic targets in all subjects should see all students focused on an academic target, with a plan and guidance from their teachers to achieve it.

Early feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive but feedback indicated that some parents wanted to access teaching staff for a more traditional parent-teacher interview. This is still part of the Student Led Conferences with teaching staff being sent a referral to contact parents where there is a specific subject concern. Parent teacher interviews however do not have to be restricted to a set time of the year. I would like to think that parent teacher interviews happen anytime across the school year and that every school day was a day for a possible parent teacher interview provided that the timing was convenient to both the teacher and parent. The Student Led Conferences are part of a bigger strategy to raise student aspiration, engage them in planning for their future and monitor their academic progress towards that goal through self-reported grades as well as plans to improve or maintain their performance. It is a holistic approach to reporting student academic progress with a view to the student’s future career pathway which incorporates the building of a strong partnership between parents, students, their RAS teacher and specific subject teachers through emails home, academic target setting, Student Led Conferences, RAS teacher monitoring and a parent teacher interview if required.

As with our first Led Student Led Conferences we will continue to seek feedback from parents and use this, along with other data, as well as the formation of a school community working party to review the conferences and make adjustments for 2016. I encourage you to respond to the survey and if you wish to be part of the school community working party please contact the school.
Year 11 and 12 QCE Attainment:

On recent assemblies I have had the opportunity to congratulate the Year 12’s on the great progress they are making as a year level towards the attainment of their QCE. On review of their academic performance data it was great to see the large number of classes that had achieved 100% of students achieving an A to C result or on track to achieve a vocational qualification. I also reminded them that while this was good we still had work to do and that they had to ensure that they kept working in the manner they had been so far this year. I have also had the same opportunity to speak with Year 11 students but with a slightly different message of encouragement asking them to work towards achieving in all classes, 95 to 100% of students achieving C or better, or on track to achieve a vocational qualification. While there were many stand-out individual performances but as a group there was plenty of room for improvement. I ask all Year 11 and 12 parents to work with your student to support them to work with their teachers to reach their academic goals.

Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection: Achieving a C standard in Mathematics and English.

Year 10 students are continuing to prepare for making their final decisions as to their pathway and subjects for next year. Both students and parents will participate in a Senior Education and Training Plan [SETP] interview where students will commit to their final decisions. Our SETP teachers will plan, prepare and conduct the interviews. All students have been told of the importance of achieving the prerequisites or required standards for entry into senior school subjects particularly the requirement to have achieved at least a C standard in English and Mathematics. Students who have not achieved this standard at this stage, have semester two to boost their performance. Both the English and Mathematics faculties will be working with students to provide as much support and additional assistance as possible to build student skills and knowledge so the expected standard can be reached. In discussion with Heads of Department while reviewing semester one academic performance data, it was found that many of the students who had not achieved a C standard had not submitted assessment and/or had a high level of absenteeism. While these factors would have been identified for all students during their StudentLed Conference preparation with their RAS teachers and by the student to parents during the conference, I ask that all parents with Year 10 students in this circumstance support their students to take the actions required to achieve the required standard of performance. I also welcome all parents to the SETP interviews and hope that your discussions with your student and their decision making are going well.

Opportunities for students.

Thank you and congratulations to the following staff for their commitment to students and the school community through the provision of additional opportunities for our students over the past few weeks;

Rob Thatcher, Keith Whalley, Nigel Shield, Robyn Kent, Mike Seary, Jo Stevens, Rick Hogan, Kerry Avery, Matt Sauer, Orinda Martin, Nathan Halford, and Deb Brocklehurst for their contribution to the Bundaberg District Athletics Carnival and or organization of our school team, as well as special recognition of Rob Thatcher who did an outstanding job as the convenor for this year’s carnival.

Rhonda Cutmore: for the coaching and support of our Maths teams who participated in the Bundaberg District QAMT Mathematics competition with one team achieving second place.

All teaching staff: for their work in preparing students for the Student Led Conferences and facilitation of those conferences. Three hundred students and their parents engaged with the school in a conversation about their child’s academic performance, significantly more parents compared to the parent and student engagement in our traditional parent teacher interviews.

Tracy Hall and Greg Whan: for their leadership and supervision of students on the Year 11 QUT Explore University trip. Students were appreciative of the possibilities this opened up for them beyond Year 12.
Rob Miller: for his leadership and supervision of students on the Year 12 Tertiary Trip. Students found the experience highly informative and helpful.

Deb Quivooy, Kris Johnson, Nigel Shield and Susie Mant: for the organization and implementation of the Year 11 Boys Betterman Program which is a social and emotional learning program.

In conclusion, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education. I look forward to working closely with you to produce the best outcomes for your child.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th Aug 2015</td>
<td>PTO online opens for SETP Interview bookings</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Aug 2015</td>
<td>Free dress day, theme yet to be confirmed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Aug 2015</td>
<td>SETP Interviews commence</td>
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<td>19th Aug 2015</td>
<td>Enrolment afternoon, Yr 6 into Yr 7 - 3:30pm in school hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Oct 2015</td>
<td>Presentation Night</td>
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<td>28th Oct 2015</td>
<td>Arts Night</td>
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Several options are available when you would like to make a payment to the school.

Direct Credit to
Bundaberg North State High School,
BSB: 064-403   Acct: 0090504, Reference: Student name or EQ ID number.

OR Credit card over the phone
OR BPAY (details on statement)
OR Centrepay (see Cashier in the office for details)

Payment plans may be discussed if other options are not possible.

Free dress day

The Student Council will be running their next ‘free dress day on Wednesday, 12th August. Money raised will go to 2 charity organisations of choice. Students will be notified about the theme for the day. Students are encouraged to wear free dress and bring a gold coin for donation. Students must still wear leather covered shoes and avoid skimpy, inappropriate clothing or clothing with offensive language or symbols. We thank participating students for their support in raising money for the Student Council projects.
Year 10 Subject Selection & SETP

Last week the Year 10 students completed a subject survey online to assist in determining which subjects students were interested in studying next year. From the survey results a Final Subject Selection form will be produced. It will be available online and issued to students on Tuesday, 11 August. Students will then have a week to make their subject choices for 2016 and complete their Senior Education Training Plan.

Students will also receive instructions to take home for parents to book a SETP interview to discuss subject selections. It is important that all Year 10 students and their parents attend a SETP interview.

We ask that parents book an interview using PTO online with their child’s SETP teacher where possible. If the SETP teacher is unavailable then the appointment may be with another SETP teacher or member of Administration. Please look for the PTO instruction document with your child’s EQ ID number which will be sent home with your student next week. This will assist you in booking your SETP interview.

SETP interviews will be held from 19-27 August.

Please ensure that students have met the pre-requisites for subjects before selecting them. Students who have not passed English and Maths in semester 1 will be contacted about planning to improve and achieve at least a “C” by the end of semester 2 before proceeding to Year 11.

The SETP interview is an important and essential step for all students proceeding into Year 11 and 12. Please make your booking once you receive your letter from your son/daughter on August 11.

Thanking you
Robyn Kent
Deputy Principal

PRESENTATION NIGHT

On October 20, we hold our Annual Presentation Parade and Presentation Night to celebrate the wide range of achievements gained by our students. We invite all parents to attend to share in the celebration of success.

Awards will be given for Academic, Cultural, Sport and School Service. Some major awards are by nomination and students will be asked shortly to nominate for awards such as –
- Mayors Medal
- Best All Rounder
- Citizenship Award
- Senior Cultural Award
- Gold Award

More information will follow as the Presentation Night approaches.

Thanking you
Robyn Kent
Deputy Principal
Year 10 Subject Selection and Career Planning.

Useful Websites.

Currently our year 10s are making some important decisions about their future careers. SETP lessons that occur every Tuesday are designed to help students with this future planning. Despite this advice, a number of students are still uncertain about what future pathway will suit them. For 14 and 15 year olds, this is quite normal. Below are a number of websites that have lots of current information, career quizzes etc, that parents and students may find useful in helping them towards making good career decisions. Please see the Guidance Officer if you wish to receive individual career advice.

To view My Future – My Career Profile
http://myfuture.edu.au/mycareerprofile

To view Job Outlook – Career Quiz

To view Career One – Personality Test

To view What career is right for me
http://www.whatcareerisrightforme.com/

TAFE QLD – Careers and TAFE
http://tafeqld.edu.au/?script_name=careers&tafe=14

Japanese skills - 日本語スキル

Last Thursday was the District Japanese Speech and Literary Contest, where kids from around the district got to show off their Japanese skills. North High had four entrants, with Emily Hess in grade 7 and Lara Benecke in grade 8 doing a fantastic job representing our school in the speech component. Despite not placing, both students presented well thought out and practiced speeches. Carissa Barden and Holly Muller in grade 7 entered two creative 3D models into the literary component with Holly’s tori gate winning the year 7/8 division. Well done to all our entrants!
Three great days  Explore Uni Trip  QUT  Three great days

Who: Sixteen Year 11 students, Ms Hall and Mr Whan.

Left: Bundaberg, Friday morning 8am on the bus.

To: Caboolture QUT campus.

Experiences: Cool, current QUT students spoke to us about the different faculties and what to expect.

Then: Bus to YMCA Camp Warrawee, Petrie with lots and lots of other students! Dinner, then a talent quest.

Next morning: Bus to Kelvin Grove Campus of QUT. Wander through the Kelvin Grove markets.

Later that day: More exploration of faculties, our first sit in a university lecture theatre, lots of cool activities! Health, Education, Creative Industries, Science, Law and Justice, Engineering...

Saturday night: MOVIE!

Sunday morning: To Gardens Point campus for the QUT Open Day. Thousands of students and parents, all deciding what to study.

Unexpected experience: Getting lost on the way back to Warrawee. An hour and a half trip instead of 40 mins!

Left Warrawee: 2:30pm Sunday afternoon.

I didn’t know what I wanted to do … now I’ve got a couple of ideas!

My Mum & Dad aren’t that rich but they told us about lots of financial help we can get!

I’m so excited to start Uni. It’s going to be so much fun!

The trip was free!

FREE!
Keeping Them in School
Facilitated by Amie Joseph – Family and Relationship Educator, Centacare
Program aimed at parents of children who are at risk of disengaging from mainstream education. An exploration of why young people disengage and how to get them excited about learning again.

This 2 hour workshop covers:
• The daily attendance struggle
• What’s behind the behaviours?
• Who can help?
• Options and Pathways

When: Wednesday 26th August 2015
Times: Morning session: Starts at 8.45am and finishes at 10.45am OR
Evening session: Starts at 5.00pm and finishes at 7.00pm
Location: Bundaberg North High School
Cost: $5 donation for Centacare
To register for either session please phone the school office on: 4130 0222

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Bundaberg Surf Lifesaving Club Nipper and Cadet Sign On Day

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015; 9am to 11am
SEPTEMBER 13, 2015; 11.00am to 1.30pm
Where: Bundaberg Swim Academy, Fitzgerald Street Bundaberg
New members welcome and encouraged. Ages from 5 years and up
Fun, Family and Friends! Be involved with our small, family orientated club.
Would like more information then please email: admin@bundabergslsc.com.au or follow us on facebook: Bundaberg Surf Lifesaving Club
Further details on our website: www.bundabergslsc.com.au
Accepting ‘Get Started Grants Vouchers’