Principal’s Report...

Welcome to our final newsletter for term four and 2015 which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article from me I want to focus on our achievements for 2015, staffing for 2016 and best wishes for the festive season ahead.

2015 achievements

At beginning of this year I wrote to parents detailing the school’s 2015 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: The introduction of a Master Teacher, continuation of our literacy and numeracy coaches and school success team, further development of literacy and numeracy warm-ups, improving the variety, collection and analysis of data including PAT Maths and Reading and the North Coast Diagnostics, working with cluster feeder schools through our Bridging the Gaps program to create a Prep to 12 approach to Literacy and Numeracy Development, introduction of a common approach to the teaching vocabulary and reading comprehension. This has resulted in improved NAPLAN results moving from 11 out of 15 measures being well below the nation’s performance to 11 out 15 measures being similar to the nation, across Year 7 and 9 including all students in the upper two bands across all measures and test elements [Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy].

Differentiation including setting and attaining of achievement targets: The Academic Target Setting Program was continued this year which again has assisted students to work at improving their academic performance with the support of their teachers. The program supports students to identify their strengths and weaknesses and helped teachers to meet the individual learning needs of students. Both students and parents continued to be highly supportive of the program which has contributed to a 99% pass rate in Year 12 Mathematics and a 99% pass rate in Year 12 English as well as a number of other remarkable Year 7 to 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 II in Public Safety Rural Fire Fighting, students accessing programs provided by East Coast TAFE, establishing partnerships with Blue Dog Training and Blueprint Training to deliver Certificate II in Hospitality and Engineering courses, students taking up school based traineeships and participating in work experience. 98% 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 through the Days of Excellence Program with high levels of praise from students, parents and feeder...
schools. The program has continued in the school with Year 10 being added and all students producing very good results. The program will continue into Year 11 and 12 with a focus on mentoring, coaching and aspiration building.

**Improved attainment of Queensland Certificate of Education:** Monitoring of students’ progress towards a QCE in Year 11 and 12 has been unrelenting during 2015 as we continued to make improvements to our monitoring and support program. This coupled with our target setting program, the introduction of the My Big Picture Plan; Career and Education Plan and Student Led Conferences, as well as the setting of high expectations for 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, with QCE attainment in 2014 improving to 78% but in 2015, 93.5% of students will achieve a QCE.

**QCS and OP performance improvement:** The OP Group has continued to work with students and faculties to support the improvement of our QCS and OP results this year. This group of interested teachers have mentored students and worked with their respective faculties to bring about improvement. 84% of students have achieved ‘C’ or better on the QCS test and many subject means are significantly better than previous years. We will have to wait till late December 2015 to find out the final outcomes but the early indications are extremely positive.

**Attendance improvement:** Our efforts to improve the attendance of students have been rewarded with a slight improvement in our attendance rates. In regards to attendance as a school community we still have a way to travel before we match the 95% benchmark. Together as a school community we will continue to work at this to ensure all students reach their full potential.

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 in 6 hours of professional learning focused on creating a common language, at least 10 hours of interacting on instruction in an Instructional Professional Learning Community, at least 2 hours of observing the teaching of other staff in instructional rounds and the majority of staff participating in classroom profiling reflecting on the observation and feedback provided on classroom management.

3. **Successful Implementation of Year 7 to Secondary:** Our year 7 program which made history this year, with 2015 being the first year Year 7 students were included in secondary schooling. Our Year 7 program has been a resounding success with both parents and students finding the program supportive and helpful. The Year 7 academic performance in semester two provides further evidence of the success of the program. Detailed below is a summary of the Year 7 results expressed as the average percentage of students who achieved a ‘C’ or better result across all Year 7 classes: **English:** 90%, **Geography:** 96%, **Health and Physical Education:** 93%, **Japanese:** 82%, **Mathematics:** 94%, **Science 95%**.

4. **Engagement of the community:** In 2015 all students completed a Career and Education Plan through the introduction of the My Big Picture Plan Program aimed at building student aspiration and parent participation in their student’s learning. This program also included students participating in reflection on their progress towards achieving their plan with their RAS Teacher as well as reporting their progress to parents through a Student Led Conference and setting goals for the next learning period. This new additional approach to how the school engages with its parents and community, resulted in between 350 and 400 Student Led Conferences being conducted on each of the two days they were held this year. In comparison to our traditional parent teacher interviews this was a 3 fold and more increase in parent participation which has also contributed to the great results our students have achieved this year.

Our vision is Outstanding Students, Outstanding Achievements and Outstanding Futures and I think we can now begin to describe our achievements as outstanding with less distance for the school to travel to achieve this vision.
compared to previous years. 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.

Staff departing North High and staffing for 2016:
There are a number of staff who will depart at the end of the year who are departing under a number of different circumstances.

Retiring: Cristina Moor, Ross Warburton, Mike Seary and Sue Firinne:
Congratulations to them on their dedicated service to the students of Queensland State Schools, between them they have contributed over a 100 combined years of their lives to making a difference in the lives of the students they have taught. This is a remarkable achievement, and something that is unique to all teachers including Cristina, Ross, Mike and Sue, is the role that they have played in shaping our future. Well done to you all and thank you for the hard work and commitment to North High, I wish them all the best in their next adventure and hope that they enjoy good health and happiness.

Pending retirement: Gillian Colasimone:
Gillian will take leave for semester one 2016 and is considering retirement. Firstly I wish her well with her considerations and secondly, knowing that these considerations are likely to end in retirement I congratulate her on the commitment and dedication she has shown to the students at North High and State Schools. Gillian has had an association with this school almost since it opened in 1974 and has continued to evolve and grow as a teacher and leader over the years. I thank her for her willingness to embrace new ideas and lead their implementation, her contribution to this school has been enormous and will be a big gap to fill.

Transfers: Fran Brown:
Congratulations to Fran on her appointment to Tullawong State High School, I hope that this move is all that she hopes it to be. I wish her all the best for the future and thank Fran for the work she has done in this school. Fran’s work in Special Education and Learning Support has made a difference to many students and their families lives. Thank you Fran.

Julie Hanak: Congratulations to Julie on her appointment to Maroondan State School. I thank Julie for her work in our Year 7 LEAP program this year and her contribution to the success of the Year 7 program. I wish Julie all the best with her move to the new school in 2016. Thank you Julie.

Finishing contracts: Matt Sauer, Cindy Wilson, Stacey Cowan, Shanna Wright, Karina Errington and Mike Tanner:
Thank you to these staff who have been with us for all or most of this year. They have helped in making this year one of the most successful the school has experienced, I thank them for all their great work this year and wish them all the best in their future teaching careers.

Staffing for 2016: Most of the staff above will be replaced by the following teachers who we will welcome to the school in 2016: Mandy Lindsay [learning Support], Katie O’Kelly, [ year 7], Christine Denning[ English/ History], Irene Wheeler[ Science Maths], Sarah Rogers[ English], Debbie Coates[ English/ Humanities], Shelley Cross [Master Teacher] and Mark Lindsay [Acting HOD Mathematics].

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 in 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 2016 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 your 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 2016 with great excitement. My wish is that our school community has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all in 2016.

Ross Robertson
PRINCIPAL
DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<td>11th December 2015</td>
<td>Final day of 2015</td>
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<td>26th January 2016</td>
<td>Australia Day public holiday</td>
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<td>27th January 2016</td>
<td>First day back to school for 2016</td>
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<td>4th February 2016</td>
<td>Big Day Out – Year 7, 8 and 9</td>
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<td>9th February 2016</td>
<td>Meet the teacher BBQ</td>
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<td>12th February 2016</td>
<td>Swimming carnival</td>
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<td>23rd February 2016</td>
<td>Student Led Conference – whole school</td>
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Invoices for Big Day Out excursions in 2016 will be mailed home. Parents are encouraged to pay using the direct debit ( ) or B-Pay.

BYOx update

An option under the Bring Your Own device scheme is for students to access a school tablet under the take home program. The limited tablets available are first offered to Year 11 and 12 students, and then any remaining tablets will be available to years 7 -10, on the basis of the receipt of the agreement form and payment by 5/2/2016. Updated details are available on the school website BYOD section.

SAM SMITH CONCERT TICKETS WINNER!!

Congratulations to Tanika Jones in Year 8 who was the winner of our Sam Smith competition. We had over 15 great entries but Tanika’s entry as to ‘why she wanted to see Sam Smith’ was outstanding. These tickets were very kindly donated by Councillor Vince Habermann and included 2 adult tickets valued at over $170. Thanks go to Vince Habermann for his donation and we hope Tanika and her family enjoy the concert.

Teresa Gibson
Year 8 Year Level Coordinator

Councillor Vince Habermann presenting Tanika Jones with her winning Sam Smith concert tickets
BILLY BLOODDROP COMES TO NORTH HIGH

Recently we were very lucky to have a visit from Billy Blood drop here at the school. Billy was here to thank all of our students, parents and staff who have donated blood throughout the year on behalf of North High. Your efforts are truly appreciated and don’t go unnoticed. Well done! He also met and presented our new Year 12 Blood Ambassadors Mikayla Haupt and Sina Silleman with a badge. Congratulations to these two students on their new roles. Here are some of the many photos taken on the day.

Keri Jensen
Blood Donation Co-ordinator
Congratulations Blake

Big congratulations to Blake Saffy in Year 8 who has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence and a fantastic new Asus tablet from Queensland Computers as part of their 2015 Community Chest Benefit Program. Blake has excelled in the area of Information and Communication Technology at North this year, achieving outstanding results in areas of programming, animation and game coding. Blake will use his new tablet in our BYOx program rolling out in 2016. We wish Blake lots of productive hours with his new technology and would like to extend our thanks to Queensland Computers for their ongoing support of our students and their families.

Penny McKeown
Acting HOD eLearning & Business

Art Winner

Congratulations to Kurt Batchelor, who is in Year 10 at North High, for his prize winning entry in the ‘Emerge’ art exhibition. Kurt received 3rd Prize for his work Hardship.

A big thankyou to our award sponsors Art Plus for the generosity of the beautiful art supplies they have donated for the prizes.