Principal’s Report...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2015 which highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. I hope that you had a safe and relaxing festive season and that your students are refreshed and ready to tackle the year ahead. In this article I will focus on our history-making start to the year, our priorities for 2015, 2014 successes, student attendance, Meet the Teachers BBQ and getting involved in our P and C.

History making start to the year

History was made at North on our first day as we welcomed our first Year 7s to the school and a new cohort of Year 8s, making a third of our students new to the school. The transition to secondary for both groups of students has been seamless with most students settling quickly into their new learning environment. This has largely been due to our Year 7 and 8 teaching and leadership team who engaged in extensive planning in 2014 ensuring that the year began well for all our new students as well as the fantastic support we have received from parents.

In addition to our historic start, all students have participated in two other activities aimed at ensuring the all students start the year on a solid foundation. All year levels have participated in ‘year level days’ which have focused on delivering key messages related to each year level. The Year 7, 8 and 9 days focused on teamwork, self-reliance and safety, Year 10 students thought about their future, Year 11’s were provided with information on succeeding in Senior, and our Year 12’s focused on getting the best out of senior and leadership. All Year 10, 11 and 12 students were inspired and motivated by a presentation from the Motivational Media Team. Secondly all students have participated in short 20 minute lessons which taught the expectations at North High. Specifically the lessons have helped students to understand what our values of ‘Respect’, ‘Responsibility’ and ‘Safety’ look like, feel like and sound like in all school settings, classrooms and the school grounds. I thank all staff involved in the preparation, organization and presentation of these activities. I encourage you to talk to your students about these important messages.

2015 school priorities

Our vision is to create Outstanding Learners, Outstanding Achievements and Outstanding Futures for all students. Please refer to the attachment for details of the outcomes we are working hard to achieve with your students. At the Centre of these outcomes is boosting the number of students post Year 12 participating in trade level training, university study or equivalent.

Our 2015 school priorities are part of the schools strategic plan which is aimed at achieving the school vision and goals. These priorities are outlined below;

1. Improved student outcomes with a focus on:
   - Literacy and numeracy improvement
- Differentiation including setting and attainment of achievement targets
- Strengthening vocational education
- Continued implementation of Year 4 to 12 LEAP.
- Improved attainment of Queensland Certificate of Education
- QCS and OP performance improvement
- Implementation of an education and career planning framework
- Attendance improvement

2. Building teacher capacity through:
   - The development of a consistent Teaching and Learning Framework including teacher observation and feedback.
   - Implementation of revised Performance Development Plan for staff

3. Successful implementation of Year 7 in secondary school

**Student Attendance**

School attendance continues to be an issue of great concern to the school and one of the factors impacting on a large number of students’ academic success. In 2014 our average attendance rate fell well short of our 95% attendance rate target. An attendance rate of 95% (or 10 days of absence per year) is seen as being an optimal attendance rate to ensure that students have the best chance of achieving an academic performance that reflects their ability. Our aim is to improve student attendance to match a 95% attendance rate and as a response to this challenge the school implemented an Attendance Action Plan in 2014 and in 2015 will continue to implement that plan. As part of this plan I will be writing to all families, where students have an attendance rate of 85% or less, offering support and seeking their assistance in addressing this issue. I am also asking all families to ensure that school attendance is given very high priority with all absences being for medical reasons and highly important family business only. It is important to remember that every day counts towards each student enjoying success at school.

**2014 Year 12 Success**

Our 2014 Year 12 students produced some great results which have really set a challenge for our current Year 12 students to better this performance. I have provided below some details of their performance.

- **Queensland Certificate of Education [QCE]:** 2012: 64% attainment rate, 2013: 71% attainment rate, 2014 78% attainment rate.
- **Queensland Core Skills Test:** 86% of students who sat the achieved a C or better on the test.
- **Mathematics [Sound or better]:** 99% pass rate in with all students meeting the Numeracy standard for the QCE.
- **English and English Communication [Sound or better result]:** 96% pass rate in with all students meeting the numeracy standard for the QCE.

Well done 2014 seniors and congratulations to all our teachers for your great work in providing quality teaching to our students.

**Meet the Teachers BBQ**

Once again our Meet the Teachers BBQ will be held on Monday, February 9th from 5.00 to 6.30pm in the school hall. This evening provides an opportunity for parents to meet their student’s teacher and put a face to a name. I look forward to meeting you.
Get behind the P and C

I wrote about our P and C a number of times last year and the benefits your involvement could bring to our school and your student’s education. Our P and C is in desperate need of new members and would welcome your participation. It meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5pm in the school conference room.

In conclusion, please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education as together we can produce the best outcomes for your student.
North High P & C

Hi to all parents. I am asking for your support in 2015. 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 the 5th of February. The P & C needs interested and capable people to attend regularly and fulfil crucial Executive roles. 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. The Annual meeting will be held on March 5th at the same time and venue. The tuckshop urgently needs volunteers to both prepare and serve food, in accordance with current healthy guidelines. You can attend once a week or once a month; hours are flexible to suit your availability and we welcome men and women. Please consider seriously your involvement in your child’s school. Without volunteers, paid staff will be required which reduces the funding available to the school.

I look forward to welcoming new members and volunteers.

Roger Burtt - President

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6th February 2015</td>
<td>Year 11 day</td>
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<td>9th February 2015</td>
<td>Meet the teachers BBQ 5pm</td>
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<td>12th February 2015</td>
<td>Yr 8 Medieval day</td>
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<td>13th February 2015</td>
<td>Yr 8 and 10 Vaccination consent forms must be returned to school</td>
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<td>26th February 2015</td>
<td>School photo day – all year levels</td>
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Don’t forget to inform the office of any changes to your contact details. Please call the school office on 4130 0222.

Callum wins an Australia Day award.

Congratulations to Callum Colasimone, our 2014 School Captain who was honoured with the Young Citizen Spirit Award at the Bundaberg Regional Australia Day awards ceremony held at the Civic Centre over the Australia Day weekend. We are extremely proud of Callum and his accomplishments and wish him well as he embarks on his new career in the Defence Forces. Congratulations Callum.
Year 10 Big Day Out

Year 10 Big Day Out began last Friday after lunch when the Year 10s joined the other senior cohorts in the Hall for a media event. The aim of this presentation was to motivate and encourage young people to make careful decisions and strive to be the best they can possibly be.

The following Monday, Year 10 students came together again for a day of activities:

- Mr Miller, the Guidance Officer, encouraged students to look at ‘The Big Picture’. Students were asked to reflect on their successes, areas for improvement and their dreams and aspirations. In the year to come, students will be setting goals and looking at ways to effectively achieve them.
- Students were challenged to meet other students they did not know well. Students were encouraged to feel a sense of belonging to this amazing Year 10 group. We even sang a song about it!
- Mrs Thrupp clearly outlined expectations of Year 10 students and emphasised that this first year of senior schooling is a very important foundation for future success.
- Ideas of leadership and never giving up were also on the agenda as told through some video clips.
- Police Officers Emily and Mark ran a session with students emphasising the need to be safe when using technology. Students learnt that once a photo is uploaded, it remains on the net forever.
- Year 12 leaders joined the day and assisted Year 10s to write a letter to their Year 12 selves. These letters will be returned at the start of 2017. The senior leaders also led the singing! Thanks Year 12!
- Teamwork was on the agenda when small groups of students were challenged to build a tower from only newspaper and masking tape – a tower that was strong enough to support a full bucket of water! Thanks Chappy Lisa for leading this activity.

It was a hot and busy day, but Year 10s left with lots of food for thought.
**Year 12 Leaders**

On the Australia Day weekend, nine of our Year 12 leaders attended a combined schools leadership camp called ‘Run to the Roar’. Students gained skills in public speaking, team work, leadership and had the opportunity to meet other school leaders. It was a great way to start the year and we look forward to our new leaders putting their new found skills and knowledge into practice as they step into their leadership roles this year.

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**Free vaccinations for Year 8 and Year 10 students**

The School Immunisation Program provides free vaccinations for all Year 8 and Year 10 students.

The students have been given information packs including consent forms. Read the information, then complete and sign the consent form and return it to the school office by 13 February 2015.

Year 8 students are offered protection against chicken pox (also known as varicella), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

For full protection against HPV, there are three doses of vaccine spread throughout the year.

Year 10 students are offered the vaccine against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

Round 1 - Monday 16th March (Year 8 HPV1/DTPA1)
Round 1 - Monday 23rd March (Year 10 DTPA1)
Round 2 - Tuesday 9th June (Year 8 HPV2/VZV1)
Round 3 - Friday 23rd October (Year 8 HPV3)

Make sure you note these in your diary. Encourage your child to have breakfast on the morning of vaccination.

**Please sign and return Immunisation Program consent forms!**

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**School Uniforms**

Shawline Embroidery will have North High formal uniforms available from mid February. Please order these directly from Shawline if required by contacting Shawline on 4152 8139.

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**P & C Meeting**

Thursday 5th February, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Year 12 day

Last Friday was all about Year 12. North High students in their final year had their own special day. In session one, students received valuable information to help them maximise their potential and performance for the up-and-coming year. Session two was a team building exercise lead by the school Chaplain, Lisa Crosbie where students had to build a tower that would support a bucket of water using only newspaper and one roll of masking tape. It was a great activity and there were some very creative solutions. In the final session of the day students experienced a visual presentation from the Motivational Media Company entitled 'Jigsaw'. In short it was about how each aspect of our life contributes to the full picture and how we need to carefully decide which ones will add to the result we want and which ones will lead to results that will disappoint. Students were also treated to some food and light refreshments for morning tea and lunch courtesy of the school. It was a great day and all students actively participated.

Year 12 YLC Phil Moller

Meet the teachers BBQ

All parents are welcome to attend a free sausage sizzle on Monday, 9th February, at North Bundaberg State High School in the Hall from 5.00pm – 6.30pm. Students are welcome to accompany their parents. This is an informal gathering giving all parents the opportunity to meet our current teaching staff.

It may be helpful to bring a list of your student’s teachers or a copy of their timetable, as you may wish to meet these teachers specifically.

Instrumental music

Last week we had our sign-on for our Instrumental Music Program. Any students still interested in playing string, woodwind, brass or percussion instruments should either collect a form from the office or see our Instrumental Music teachers Ms Christensen, or Mr Brown. String players will have lessons on Wednesdays and Woodwind/Brass/Percussion on Thursday and Friday. All students are welcome to attend.
Senior School News

Welcome back to our returning Year 10, 11 and 12 students and a special welcome to our newly enrolled senior students. 2015 is shaping up to be a promising year where students will be spending time making plans for their future and setting realistic goals to achieve. This year we will develop “My Big Picture” plans with all students, and students will be setting goals and targets and having conversations with their teachers about their plans. Our focus for Senior students is to achieve 95+% attendance (that is 10 days or less absent in the year), to gain a QCE by the end of year 12 and to achieve a ‘C’ or better in classroom achievement, effort and behaviour. Students will be regularly monitored by their RAS teacher, classroom teachers and the Senior Head of Department and Deputy.

Parents play an integral part in student success at school and we ask for your support in helping your student achieve to the best of their ability and attend every day. Our Senior students will participate in a ‘Leadership Day’ either in the first or second week of school. These days will be organised by the Year Level Coordinator and Senior Schooling HOD – Mr Schmidt.

Robyn Kent
Senior Deputy Principal

Our school photos will be taken on the 26th February 2015

For the convenience of our school community advancedlife have now introduced Online Ordering. School photos can now be ordered and paid for using a secure online Web Portal. Please note: Photos can still be purchased using an envelope.

The preference of our school is that Orders and Payments be made through the Web Portal as this reduces the administration and associated order issues related to the return of cash & envelopes on photo day.

To place your order visit www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code- XRE VMX 8E2. A full set of instructions on how to order can be found on the back of the order flyer. The order code can also be found printed on the envelopes supplied by advancedlife. Please be aware that-

1. Sibling/Family Photos may be ordered online or via envelope. To ensure a smoothly run photography day, Online Orders for Sibling/Family Photos will be cut off 48hrs before our photography day to allow a list of students that require Sibling/Family photographs taken to be compiled. Sibling Photos can still be ordered after the Online cut off date by collecting an envelope from the office in the usual way and returning the envelope on photo day with payment enclosed.

2. All Online Orders should be placed on or before our day of photography. Please Note: Once orders are closed a LATE FEE will apply.

All Online Orders placed through the Web Portal will be returned to school for collection.
**GenR8 Project**

**Invitation to Attend**
**Bundaberg Information Night**

**What is the GenR8 project?**
This project is designed for Year 12 students who would like to learn more about and experience first-hand, working in the world of transport and logistics. This addition to the school curriculum includes a 20 week structured work placement program within a transport, logistics and supply chain business.

**Benefits of GenR8**
GenR8 is an award winning program fully supported by the Queensland Trucking Association.

- 20 days work experience with an employer
- Gain essential employability skills within a real workplace, have a better understanding of workplace environment, expectations and the industry
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification
- Opportunity to gain 4 credit points towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

**Come and hear what exciting opportunities are available for Year 12 students through this education, training and employment focussed project.**

**When**
Tuesday 17th February 2015
6:00pm - 7:30pm
**Where**
Bundaberg State High School - School Hall
37A Maryborough Street, Bundaberg

Light refreshments will be provided.

If you are interested please see Mrs Harvey before 10th February.

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**SAFER INTERNET DAY 2015**

Tuesday 10 February is Safer Internet Day. The theme this year is “Let’s create a better internet together”. To highlight the importance of this day, Council are running 2 competitions for children and young people across the region.

If you’re 12 years and under we have a colouring in competition for you. You could win books on how to stay safe online.

If you are over 12 years of age we ask you to tell us: How do you think we can create a better internet together? You could win one of 3 iTunes or Google Play vouchers.

You can enter by:
- email: youth@bundaberg.qld.gov.au
- Use our qr code from our poster or from below
- From this link
- Send a written response to SID comp, PO Box 3130, BUNDABERG QLD 4670

All entries will close Friday 13 February, with winners announced and contacted on Wednesday 18 February 2015.

Here are some websites that can provide you with information about staying safe online:

- Cybersmart
- Raising Children Network
- Stay Smart Online
Medieval Morning Rapidly Approaches for Our Year 8s

Following the success of last year’s day of medieval activities, our fun exploration of the Middle Ages will be held on Thursday, 12th Feb. There is a costume and joke competition to enter if you wish. Activities on the day include designing shields, jousting, archery of a sort, and for any villains - perhaps a short stay in the stocks. With the hot weather, it could almost be a reward to be hit by the water balls.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Be Active, Be Alive!

Are you ready to Be Active? Why not try Council’s FREE physical activity program Be Active, Be Alive! (BABA), offered from 2nd February over 8 weeks. There’s over 120 exercise sessions to suit every person and every fitness level & it’s all totally free. No sign up, just attend when you can.

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to become more active, join one of the friendly BABA Fitness Instructors and try out a new activity or enjoy meeting new people while having fun exercising! Access the program online to find an activity scheduled at a park or pool near you http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/files/brc_baba_2015_program.pdf or call Bundaberg Regional Council today on 1300 883 699. Programs are also available at any Council Service Centre or from Coral Coast Pharmacies.

Be Active, Be Alive! is an initiative of Bundaberg Regional Council.

ADDITIONAL 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 2,000 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:

Bundaberg RSL – 17 Quey Street, Bundaberg
Tuesday 10th February at 6.00pm
To book your seat call 07 5459 8700 or email defencejobsmaroochydore@dfr.com.au

P & C Meeting
Thursday 5th February, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!