Principal’s Report...

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016 and term one 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 2015 successes, welcoming our new staff for 2016, our Explicit Improvement Agenda for 2016, student attendance, My Big Picture Plan and Student Led Conferences, A Block redevelopment and getting involved in our P & C.

2015 Year 12 success

Our 2015 Year 12 students produced some great results which has really set a challenge for our current Year 12 students to match or better. 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, 2015 94% attainment rate

Overall Position [OP]: 2012: 74% of students below OP 15, 2013: 65% of students below OP15, 2014: 88% of students below OP15, 84% of students below OP 15.

Queensland Core Skills Test: 82% 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]: 99% pass rate in with all students meeting the numeracy standard for the QCE.

Well done 2015 seniors and congratulations to all our teachers for their great work in providing quality teaching to our students.

2016 Explicit Improvement Agenda

Our vision continues to be focused on creating Outstanding Learners, attaining Outstanding Achievements and achieving Outstanding Futures for all students with an absolute commitment to boosting the number of students post Year 12 participating in trade level training, university study or equivalent from the current 30%.

Our 2016 School Explicit Improvement Agenda is as outlined below:

• Reading: Improving reading comprehension with the introduction of the ‘Sheena Cameron Reading Strategies’ in all levels of English and a whole school focus on the Question Answer Response reading strategy.
• **Writing:** Improving the quality of student writing across the school with the introduction of new whole school consistent teaching and learning strategies which include: 7 Steps to writing success, a common correction system and a common system of student feedback related to writing.

• **Numeracy:** Improving the performance by students in the areas of Number and Problem Solving through the continued introduction of numeracy warm-ups and the use of the North Coast Numeracy Diagnostics to identify learning gaps.

Our success will be measured by 85% of students or better achieving ‘C’ results or better in all of their subjects as well as the achievement of a performance on NAPLAN that is similar to the nation or better.

In addition to these items we will continue to be focused on achieving a 92% attendance rate or better for all students, attaining a 94% QCE attainment rate or better, 85% of student or better achieving less than an OP 15 and increasing the percentage of students in a Certificate III or above, post school pathway.

**Big welcome to our new staff**

It gives me great pleasure to give a big North High welcome to our new staff for this year and to use this newsletter to introduce them to you. The new staff include; Mandy Lindsay- Student Support Service/ English, Katie O’Kelly- Year 7, Christine Denning-English/Social Science, Irene Wheeler-Science/ Mathematics, Sara Rogers- English, Nathan Williams-Japanese/ English/Social Science, Mark Lindsay- Acting Head of Department Mathematics, Deb Coates- English/ Social Science, Shelley Thornton- Acting Master Teacher and Amy Maidment- Home Economics. I wish them an easy settling period to our school and a successful 2016.

**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 student’s academic success. In 2015 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 reach a 92% attendance rate. I have written to all families regarding this issue seeking your support to help improve our attendance rate. In addition to this we will be writing to the families of students whose attendance in 2015 was 85% or less, offering support and seeking assistance in addressing this issue. For more details please see the [letters](#) that have been sent to you.

**My Big Picture Plan and Student Led Conferences**

Students and RAS teachers this week began preparing for our next round of student led conferences scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd. The student conferences are part of the school’s career and education planning and goal setting program called ‘My Big Picture Plan’. This program supports all students to develop a career and education plan facilitated by the students’ RAS teacher. The student led conference then provides an opportunity for the student, parent and RAS teacher to discuss the progress the student has made. They will talk about how they intend to use the next phase of learning to continue their progress towards achieving their goals. Please refer to the information about the student led conferences that follows in the newsletter and on our school website.

**‘A’ Block redevelopment**

If you have visited our school recently, you would have noticed the construction work occurring in ‘A’ block - our school office. The purpose of this construction is to update our office facilities to meet the needs of providing education in the 21st Century where there is a need to protect the privacy and confidentiality of our students and families, make use of a greater range of external support agencies, engage more with parents and conduct more collaborative meetings with staff to ensure our school functions effectively. The redevelopment of A Block includes the relocation and re-modelling of the school office, new parent and student foyers, a clear public entry point for parents,
additional interview rooms and a conference room, in an attempt to meet the needs outline above. Please refer to the additional information in this newsletter about this upgrade and how to access the new school office.

Get behind the P & C (Parents & Citizens committee).

I wrote about our P & 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 the month at 5pm in the School Conference Room with the first meeting being held tomorrow evening February 4th 2016. I look forward to welcoming many new parents to our first meeting of the year.

In conclusion, please contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education and I wish all students and families the best for 2016 with a confidence that together we will produce the best outcomes for your student.

Ross Robertson  
PRINCIPAL

Office renovations

Over the summer holidays renovations to the Administration building have been undertaken. The redevelopment of the building has provided for a clearer and more accessible parent and visitor entry, along with changes to the student entry. The upgrade of the Administration building is part of the change made to the delivery of student services, including moving first aid and student passes to G Block.

For general enquiries, student payments and enrolment enquiries, parents should access the Administration building through the parent/visitor entry that is on the Hall side of the Administration building. This entry can be accessed directly from the front of the school. Parents are encouraged to make use of the parking on the road at the front of the school.

Parents coming to pick students up early or from sick bay, are requested to go to the student services room in G Block, which can also be accessed directly from the front of the school.

The renovations have created some minor disruptions to the provision of services and we appreciate your patience during this time.

Big Day Out – Thursday, 4th February has been cancelled

Unfortunately due to unstable weather which has been forecast for the coming week, our Big Day Out Excursions planned for Thursday the 4th of February have all been cancelled. We will have a normal school day.

Any money that has been paid for Big Day Out Excursions will now be applied to existing amounts outstanding for student accounts or held for future costs.

School Immunisation Program

The School Immunisation Program plays an important role in protecting our community from vaccine preventable diseases. In 2016, the program will offer vaccinations to all Year 7 and 8 students. Queensland's School Immunisation Program (SIP) provides parents with the opportunity to have their high school student/s vaccinated for free through their school. The vaccinations are coordinated and administered by Queensland Health at North High on March 7th.

Please check your student’s bag for their vaccination forms. It is important that these forms come back to the school as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Belinda Arnold, Acting Head of Junior Schooling, on barno32@eq.edu.au or (07) 41300271.
DATES TO REMEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th February 2016</td>
<td>Big Day Out – CANCELLED</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th February 2016</td>
<td>Leadership badge ceremony 10:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th February 2016</td>
<td>PTO opens for bookings</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th February 2016</td>
<td>School swimming carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th February 2016</td>
<td>Immunisation forms must be returned</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd February 2016</td>
<td>Student Led Conference – whole school</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th February 2016</td>
<td>School photo day – all students</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th March 2016</td>
<td>Immunisation day</td>
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Reminder of process when students are unwell at school
When students feel unwell at school, there is a process in place which all students should follow to ensure they are safe and receive the necessary care. The student should go to Sick Bay. The Admin Officer on duty in the Sick Bay will then contact the guardian if necessary whilst providing first aid. Students should NOT contact parents on mobiles and make their own arrangements.

School Photos
School photos will be taken on Thursday, 25th February. All year 7 – 10 students will have their photo taken in their sports uniform (ie polo shirt and shorts). Year 11 and 12 students will have their photo taken in their formal uniform. Please read the instructions below regarding ordering your students photos as payment is made through Advanced Life photography, NOT through the school office.

Our school photos will be taken on the 25th February 2016.

For the convenience of our school community, school photos can be ordered and paid for online using a secure online platform. Orders placed online DO NOT require an envelope, cash/cheques or paperwork returned to school.

Envelope Orders: photos can also be purchased in the traditional manner using an envelope, with cash/cheque enclosed.

The preference of our school is that orders and payments be made online, as this reduces the administration and associated security 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 REZ]. This code can also be found printed on your envelope. Please be aware that:

1. Sibling/Family Photos can be ordered online or via envelope. To ensure a smoothly run photo day, online orders for Sibling/Family Photos will be cut off at 12.00 a.m. the night before our photo day to allow a list of students that require Sibling/Family Photos taken to be compiled. Sibling photos can still be ordered after the online cut-off date by collecting an envelope from the office and returning the envelope on photo day with your payment enclosed.
2. All online orders should be placed on or before our day of photography.
3. The online code above may also be used to order sports and other group photos.

All orders placed online will be delivered to the school for collection Thursday 4th February, starting from 5.00pm. All welcome!
Leadership Badge Ceremony

On Tuesday, February 9th at 10:45am we will conduct our Annual Leadership Badge Ceremony to present badges to our Senior Student Council representatives and Year 12 students. Parents are invited to attend.

On Friday, 29th our newly formed Senior Student Council met to begin planning for the year. We look forward to working with the Student Council members.

Senior Leadership Team: Miss Kent, Mr Schmidt, Mr Shield, Mrs Thrupp and Ms Coulton.

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Bring Your Own Device Options - North Bundaberg SHS

Thank you to all the families who have actively engaged in purchasing a Bring Your Own device for their student. We have been busy connecting devices to the School Network and students are working on line in their classrooms.

If your student does not have a device there are 3 options for you to consider.

1. Students purchase their own device to meet school specifications/recommendations
2. Take Home Program (Yr 7 - 12)- Students rent a school tablet for the year - applications close Friday 5th of February (link to application)
3. Equity Program - Parents apply to the principal (link to application)

Reminder
Any students in Year 7 to 12 who are wanting to apply for the school "Take Home Program" please submit your application form to the office before Friday 5th of February.

Please ensure that as part of the using devices (own or school) the agreements from the BYOx Scheme and Policy Handbook, Student ICT and internet acceptable use agreement form, and the BYOx Student Participation and Connectivity Request Form MUST be filled out and returned.

We would really appreciate if you could choose one of the options before Friday 5th of February to ensure every student in our school is included and engaged in our eLearning program. For more information, visit our school website.

Thanking you,

Michelle Pole
Deputy Principal
On Tuesday, 23rd February (week 5, term 1), North High will again be holding student-led conferences. This is an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to reflect on successes, identify areas for improvement, articulate aspirations, and make concrete plans to achieve goals. On this day, the school’s opening hours will be from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm, to ensure parents and carers with work commitments can attend. There will be no regular classes and no supervision provided. Parents and carers are asked to make an appointment using the PTO online tool (on the school’s website), which will be open from Monday, 8th February. The conference will take place at the nominated time with your student’s Relationships and Self (RAS) teacher.

Why attend a student-led conference?

- In contrast to traditional parent-teacher interviews, the student-led conference places responsibility for reporting success, identifying improvements required and setting educational goals on the students. This is vital in fostering a student’s sense of ownership over their educational outcomes.
- The process has real-world relevance. Setting goals, reflecting on performance and making plans for improvement are common practices in many industries today.
- The process encourages students to talk about the positive things, things they are proud of, as well as things they would like to improve.

In addition to the conferences, the day will also feature workshops and sessions delivered by specialist school staff. Sessions include:

- QCE and OP information
- University pathways
- Tips for parents of teens and tweens
- BYOD and virtual classrooms
- Relationship and anti-bullying programs
- Brain Health

These sessions will occur multiple times during the day/ evening, so that conferences can be booked around any that you are interested in attending. The sessions/workshops do not require booking, and a complete list with times will be published this week.

Details:
Date: Tuesday, 23rd February
Time: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm
Location: North Bundaberg SHS
WELL OUR LEARN TO ROW CAMP IS FOR YOU!

Rowing an extra curricula summer sport offered at North Bundaberg High and is a unique sport that is coordinated differently to other school sport. Rowing is complex and requires a lot of attention at the beginner stages. Typically, a learn to row program run for 6 weeks, however we are condensing this into a 2 day camp. Details below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>All new rowers (Yr 7 – 12) &amp; their families</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHERE</td>
<td>Bundaberg Rowing Club Bucca Facility (directions below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHEN</td>
<td>Saturday 20th February 2pm – Sunday 21st February 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>COST</td>
<td>$40 per person (covers meals &amp; dorm accommodation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRING</td>
<td>Sporting attire (&amp; shoes), sun safety attire, water bottles, sleeping equipment (don’t forget your pillow), torch, 2 x towels (just in case you fall in), personal items (PJ’s, toiletries, etc), any preferred snacks</td>
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</table>
| WHAT TO EXPECT | o Meet & train with experienced rowers, coaches & parents  
|              | o Land & water sessions including use of rowing machines & a range of rowing boats  
|              | o Basic meals & snacks – BBQ style meals & fruit etc snacks  
|              | o Night campfire & entertainment/games  
|              | o And frustration as learning to row can be daunting, but once you get it – it is like riding a bike |

After the camp if you have enjoyed the experience, we will encourage you to join the North High Rowing Team. More details to come.

$\text{\$ MONEY TO THE OFFICE \$}$  
\text{PERMISSION FORMS TO MRS GIBSON IN G BLOCK STAFFROOM  
\$\text{\$ MONEY & FORMS DUE WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY \$}$}

Any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Rowing Coordinator - Teressa Gibson in G Block Staffroom or on 41 300 270 or ttibb3@eq.edu.au

DIRECTIONS TO BUCCA ROWING COURSE

From North High  
Follow Bundaberg-GinGin Rd  
Turn right onto Bundaberg Lowmead Rd (a.k.a. Rosedale Rd)  
Left onto Bucca Road (Green Sign ‘Bucca’)  
Follow for awhile then right onto Bucca Crossing Rd (Blue Sign ‘Rowing Course’)  
Left after the railway lines onto Longs Rd (Blue Sign ‘Rowing Course’)  
Follow over the hill then veer to the right and parking available opposite the shed

?? INTERESTED IN ROWING ??
Medieval Mania

Ever wanted to be a knight?

Or maybe a princess with a steeple hat and long flowing robes?

Our Year 8 Humanities students will have their chance for medieval fame on Thursday 11th February when they participate in a series of activities based on Medieval Europe, the topic of our first history unit. There will be jousting, medieval games, heraldry…. and of course the stocks to rest your head in for a while

Special events on the day are the medieval costume (extra points given to homemade/recycled clothing) and the Jester joke competition. Jokes of course need to relate to the Medieval World such as

Do you know what Medieval Europe was famous for?
Its knight life!
It’s a day of fun learning.

Katrine Rayner – Humanities HOD

Hacking Health

School Based Youth Health Nurse
Robyn Kirby

Are you interested in wellbeing of your child, their brain function, concentration, energy, emotions and physical health? Then you must be interested in their nutrition!

Did you know that an Australian study showed that young people got 40 percent of their calories from junk food? That is astounding!

Every young person wants to feel good, to manage at school, to get the most out of life. Food and quality nutrition can dramatically improve how your adolescent manages life.

Here are four key foundations for nourishment:

1. **Real food.** As close to nature as possible. Best way to judge? Real food doesn’t usually have a label. Start crowding in so much real food that your family doesn’t search for packaged cereals (often very high in sugar, salt), processed muesli bars (also high in sugar), juices (high sugar and no fibre), chips and biscuits (high in salt and sugar).

2. **Vegetables.** Lots of vegetables of every colour. If your child doesn’t like cooked vegies, raw is good. Use raw vegies to dip into hummus, stir fry, bake, steam and BBQ. They are full of nutrition, fibre, vitamins, minerals and enzymes. Your daily dose of antioxidants!

3. **Some grains.** The important thing here is unprocessed. Highly processed grains have a low nutrient density. So to make your grains count, use brown rice, legumes, quinoa, millet and buckwheat.

4. **Good fats.** Fat feeds our brain and provides a feeling of fullness. Choose from olive oil, walnut oil, linseeds, salmon, trout, olives, seeds and nuts. Other fats include butter, nut butters, coconut oil and coconut milk and cheese.

A good way to keep an eye on your family’s nutrition is to eat together…Try new foods and new ways of preparing…Engage your adolescent to be your kitchen hand (eating the raw chopped veggies is definitely allowed!)…Talk about nutrition…Look up articles on the net…Read interesting articles aloud to the family…Become a nutrition hacker!
Chinese New Year Celebrations – Saturday, February 13

If the kids are leaving your house looking more like a jungle than a sanctuary, bring them along to the Chinese New Year Celebrations where their monkey business can be put to good use! The celebrations, being held in the Bundaberg CBD from 3pm to 9pm on Saturday, February 13, will feature a range of free children’s activities to welcome in the Year of the Monkey including face painting, jianzi Chinese featherball workshops hosted by Bundaberg Regional Galleries, monkey-themed craft activities and storytelling hosted by Bundaberg Regional Libraries and an interactive Chinese animal zodiac trail. For $5, children can also take part in lantern-making workshops and help to illuminate the night as they join in on the lantern parade at 8pm which will also feature giant lanterns. The evening’s grand finale will be a fireworks display which is sure to delight onlookers. For more information head to bundaberg.qld.gov.au or call 1300 883 699.

Brothers Netball Club

Do you want to play netball in 2016? Why not come & play for Brothers Netball Club - ‘The family club’!

We have teams for players from 11 years up at any skill level from beginners to experienced.

Sign on will be held on Saturday 13th February 10:00am-12:00pm

Kid’s Room, Brothers Sports Club, Takalvan Street, Bundaberg (at the back of the club, near the football fields & netball courts)

For further information:
Contact: Jodie Brooks, Registrar (0432) 121 791
Website: www.brothersbundaberg.qld.netball.com.au
Facebook: Brothers Netball Club Bundaberg
Email: brothersnetballclub@gmail.com