Principal’s Report...

Welcome to our third newsletter for 2016 and the last for term one which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I will focus on the 2016 P&C Executive, Shave for a cure, primary school transition program, staff professional learning, our homework policy, student use of teacher feedback, Student Support team and Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ success.

2016 P&C Executive

The Annual General Meeting of the North High P&C Association was held last week with the following parents being elected to the P&C Executive:

President: Mark McKean
Secretary: Julie Schulte [Acting]
Treasurer: Matthew Batchelor
Vice President: Shelly Hansen.

Congratulations to these parents and a big thank you for being willing to volunteer to support the school. Now that we have an executive, it is time to look for other parents who are willing to volunteer their time to support the P&C. Your commitment can be as little as attending the monthly meetings now held at 6.00pm on the first Thursday of the month, to assist in decision making. The new executive will be excited to see you at our next meeting. Please refer to the information in this newsletter about future meetings.

Shave for a cure:

On Thursday, March 10th North High held a ‘Shave for a Cure’ day to raise money for cancer research and support of cancer sufferers. This event was a follow-on from our successful 2015 ‘Shave for a cure’ day in an attempt to make this day an annual event in our school calendar. Once again our Year 11 Student councillors supported by Mr Hogan made the day a reality. The day was a great success with Rick Hogan playing a lead role in the organization and management of the day with the support of the Year 11 Student Councillors. Their efforts were rewarded with large numbers of students and a few staff participating, supported by an enthusiastic and encouraging crowd of students. Lots of money was raised for cancer research as well as our school making a positive contribution to our community. This was a well-organized and managed event that both Rick Hogan and the students should be immensely proud of.

Congratulations to all staff and students who participated and especially those that were brave enough to take the shave or in Mr Hogan’s case, tough enough to endure some leg waxing.
Transition program:

In recent weeks our Primary School Transition Program for term 1 has been underway with visits to our feeder schools as well as West SS and Avoca SS. This program works with Year 4 students and above engaging them in curriculum related activities while strongly promoting our school. The program takes a large amount of preparation and implementation time with all schools acknowledging the quality of what is presented. A big thank you and congratulations to Belinda Arnold and her team consisting of Penny McKeown, Jo Stevens and Teressa Gibson for this great work.

Staff Professional Learning: Building quality in every classroom

North High continues to build the capacity of its teachers to ensure that all students have access to quality and effective teaching and learning environments. This term our staff have completed a two hour after school workshop focused on the teaching of reading comprehension, 7 Steps to Writing Success and Higher Order Thinking skills or RIGA. They have participated in one Instructional Professional Learning Community after school meeting and completed one instructional round focused on aspects of teaching the reading, writing and higher order thinking skills referred to above. In addition to this each faculty has been working more intensely on developing students specific reading and writing skills within the contexts of their subjects. The administration team as part of ensuring quality instruction in our school, has completed a round of “walk-throughs” for every teacher in the school. A “ walk-through” is a short classroom observation focused on a particular teaching practice, the focus this term was on classroom routines and procedures. In future newsletters I will continue to provide details on our ongoing job embedded professional learning program.

North High homework policy:

At the start of this year North High reviewed and re-wrote its homework policy as part of our ongoing work to boost student achievement. Over recent years there has been significant media discussion about the value and appropriateness of homework. Given the often eye grabbing headlines it would be easy for the general public to arrive at the conclusion that the setting of homework was not good practice for all students. This is however a simplistic interpretation of this conversation and the commentary of education experts. The issue is not that homework should be set or not but it is about what is appropriate to be set for students to complete as homework. The experts in general agree that homework should be meaningful and contribute to student learning and that doing a task unrelated to the current unit of study or that doing nothing is a waste of time. In framing our new policy this was very much at the forefront of the schools thinking, that homework should have a meaningful connection to the student’s current learning. Our homework policy which states that “homework can consist of any or all of the following”:

- Completion of set tasks practicing a skill e.g. a set maths problem
- The reading of information related to a specific class topic
- Reading a novel for English
- Reading over notes from the days lessons
- Completing assessment e.g. writing a rough draft and then responding to the feedback
- Preparing for assessment e.g. completing a revision sheet
- Finishing tasks from the day’s lesson
- Attending tutoring provided by the school
- Contacting teachers via email or at school to get help with schoolwork”

[For more details on this policy use the following link – Homework policy]
clearly demands a strong connection to the current learning of students and a meaningful purpose. Completing homework is an expectation of this school which forms part of our strategy to improve all student learning outcomes. Successful students complete homework and have a disciplined study and homework routine. I ask you to consider the quality of your student’s study and homework routine. Is it sufficient enough to support their learning success?

**Student use of teacher feedback:**

Teachers provide feedback to students often and in many ways. Sometimes this feedback is verbal but generally it is written feedback providing advice and support on ways for the student to boost their performance. Education experts rate effective student feedback as having a very great effect on student performance. Feedback is a critical component of the teaching and learning process that can have a powerful effect on the success of a student. When a student receives feedback it is highly important that the student responds to the feedback and makes the adjustments necessary based on the advice given by the teacher. I encourage you to discuss this with your student to ensure that they are heeding the advice of their teachers.

**Supportive and approachable Student Services:**

Our Student Support program which includes our School Based Youth Health Nurse, Robyn Kirby, Chaplain, Lisa Crosbie, Guidance Officer, Rob Miller, Youth Support Co-Ordinator, Susie Mant, Year Level Co-ordinators and Junior and Senior Heads of Department do a great job supporting our students. They are all located in G block and very easy to access. Many students already use their services to assist them through difficult times and ensure they can achieve success at school. Anyone can use these services when students and or families need support to deal with any issue that may affect a student and their success at school. These services are confidential unless a student gives consent for their information to be shared or if they disclose they have been harmed or are at risk of being harmed in any way. All students can use these services even if they are the friend of someone who may be experiencing difficulties or engaging in an activity that they feel is not quite right and likely to be harmful to their friend. I encourage you to discuss this information with your student and support them if they need to access these services.

**Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ success.**

Congratulations to Blake Batchelor who has won the first two rounds of the Lions ‘Youth of the Year’ quest at both the club and district level. On Saturday, March 19th Blake will compete in the zone final and if Blake is successful he will then move onto the Regional final held in early April in Tannum Sands. I wish Blake all the success on the weekend and hope that he enjoys the experience, learns lots from it and as a bonus, he comes home a winner.

Finally 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.

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**Ross Robertson**  
**PRINCIPAL**
P&C Association

The P&C are an important part of the school, both now and moving forward, contributing to the future of the school. The P&C are actively looking for new and interested parents, carers and friends. Play a part in the future of the school and see how the students and the school can benefit.

Why be a member of the P&C?

We represent the voice of parents, carers and friends promoting community interest of educational matters, facilitating the development and further improvement of the school, and encouraging closer cooperation between the parents of students attending the school, other members of the community, staff and students of the school. The more input the more chance of benefits for all.

We are involved in a variety of school activities from school policies and finances, the provision of the tuckshop, school fundraising activities and having a say in other school functions.

What happens if there is no P&C?

If there is no P&C then the parents, carers and friends do not get a say as to how the school is run. This includes things such as school uniforms, school budgets and school policies.

The tuckshop is provided to the school and run by the P&C, if there is no P&C then the tuckshop will not run as it does now.

Last year the P&C donated over $10,000 towards different programs and facilities throughout the school, and parents would not have a say as to how the money is spent if there is no P&C.

I encourage you as a parent and member of the P&C association to get on board and come along to the P&C association meetings. It is just 1 ½ hours of your time once a month and that could make a real difference to the school as a whole. We would love to see some new faces attend our monthly meetings.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 14th April starting at 6.00pm. The meeting is held in G Block conference room.

Regards

Matthew Batchelor

Vice President, Bundaberg North SHS P&C Association
DATES TO REMEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18th March 2016</td>
<td>National day against violence and bullying</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March 2016</td>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th March 2016</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th, 11th &amp; 12th May 2016</td>
<td>NAPLAN – Year 7 and 9</td>
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Walkathon

Walkathon this year was a great turn out! The event took place on the 9th of March. It was great to see the students getting involved in the new obstacles on the course and getting into the army theme! We would like to thank all the students who helped raise money and donated to the student council. Also a big thank you to all the teachers who helped with the day.

Dream Big Project

On Friday, 26th of February 2016, The Dream Big Project held a ‘Dream Big Event’ to promote engineering to year 10 – 12 female students at CQ University Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Mackay campuses.

The Dream Big Project has a vision to connect with local schools, university campuses, industry representatives and professional bodies across Australia. The aim is to promote engineering to youth, raise an awareness of the career opportunities in engineering and ultimately inspire the next generation of engineers.

The Dream Big Project was a great opportunity to discover more about careers in engineering. Participants took part in various group activities such as robotics programming, building and testing trebuchets and working out the best design for a floating house based on circumstances in Cambodia.

“Guest speakers spoke about their journey through university and what being an engineer is all about. It was a very informative day that provided a clear explanation and understanding of engineering and various job prospects available in the profession”.

Christina Wright Y10 student
Blake progresses to the next round

Congratulations to Blake Batchelor in Year 11 who spoke successfully at the Zone 8 Lions *Youth of the Year* final on Saturday, 12th March at Kepnock State High School. Blake now progresses to the region 3 final of the Lions *Youth of the Year* Competition which is being held this coming Saturday, 19th March. Well done Blake on your wonderful achievement. We wish to acknowledge your outstanding efforts to date and wish you the best of luck for this coming Saturday.

Keri Jensen (Mrs)
LYY Co-ordinator

(Pictured congratulating Blake Batchelor are Principal Ross Robertson & LYY Representative Michael Brown)

Reading Eggs

*ABC Reading Eggs* was created by a highly experienced team of Australian school teachers, writers and developers to help children become fluent and proficient readers. The multi-award winning early learning resource supports your child’s learning to read journey with carefully designed online reading games and activities that are easy to follow, self-paced, and highly engaging for young learners.

As part of the year 7 Reading Program, the school has purchased the Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress programs. By now all students will have received a letter detailing log on details for them to access the program at home and consolidate learning that has occurred during class time. If you have not received a letter detailing log on details for your child, please feel free to contact the school.

Mrs Shelley Thornton
2016 CROSS COUNTRY REPORT

The 2016 North Cross Country was held on the morning of Wednesday, 9th March. 122 runners took to the course which ran around the perimeter of our ovals and neighbouring vacant blocks. Despite the warm weather some great times were recorded, with the winning 6km event finishing in 25mins.

The house points and Age Champion results are below. As you can see they were very close! Congratulations Age Champs! We are hoping most of the runners take up the challenge and run for the school at the district inter-school events. These events are both FREE and FUN! The team relay is at St Lukes – Wednesday, 20/4 and the individual race at Gin Gin 27/4. A bus will be provided for the Gin Gin event only.

HOUSE RESULTS

1ST WALLA 266
2nd TIRROAN 262
3rd MABBRO 213
4TH MONDURAN 197

AGE CHAMPIONS

BOYS
12YRS Alex Wondrock
13YRS Brent Deighton
14YRS Daniel Chapman
15YRS Trent Potter
16YRS Luke Laven
OPENS William Spokes

GIRLS

12YRS Amber Blanch
13YRS Riley Dingle
14YRS Georgia Haupt
15YRS Kira Lloyd Jones
16YRS Sarah Korn
OPENS Hope King

Message from the Dept of Transport and Main Roads

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) will soon be conducting minor pedestrian upgrade works on Bundaberg-Gin Gin Road near Bundaberg North State Primary School.

The project involves replacing asbestos electrical pits that have reached end of life, the installation of pedestrian fencing and footpath improvements.

Work is expected to commence in the coming days and will continue through to early April 2016, weather permitting.

To mitigate the impact on school traffic, TMR’s contractor City to Coast Constructions, will complete the majority of the work during the school holidays and under traffic management.

Motorists can anticipate minor delays as a result of changed traffic conditions including reduced speed limits and temporary lane closures. Work will be conducted from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 6am and 6pm.

If you would like further information about the project, please email bundaberg.office@tmr.qld.gov.au or phone the communications team in Bundaberg on 1300 728 390* (*check with your service provider for call costs) during business hours.

Kind Regards,

Shae Crawford
for Scott Whitaker
District Director
Wide Bay / Burnett District | Bundaberg Office
Program Delivery & Operations | Department of Transport and Main Roads
**Friends for Life**

*A program for Children 8 to 12 years*

Friends for Life is a strength based program to assist children aged 8 to 12 years to deal with worrying or frightening situations such as giving a talk at school or being scared of the dark.

We all have frightening or worrying situations, no matter what our age.

This program teaches an awareness of our own responses and how to cope with them. We introduce problem solving skills to make a difference.

This is an 8 week after school program.

This program has been developed through extensive research from the Griffith University and each child receives their own workbook and other resources as part of the course.

Parent interviews are required with the facilitator prior to commencement.

**Registrations close – 28th April 2016**

**Starts:** Wednesday, 4 May 2016

(8 weeks duration)

**Where:** UnitingCare Community

3a River Terrace, Millbank

**Phs:** (07) 4153 0400 (Bookings essential)

**Time:** 3.30pm to 5.00pm

**Cost:** $40.00 per child (incl. afternoon tea & workbook)

If you require any further information or would like to register, please call UnitingCare Community between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Friends for Life is delivered by the Supporting Children after Separation Program (SCaSP).

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**ATW ‘Eagles’ AFL Club**

Clayton Road, Thabeban (behind Softball Club)

**Looking for new members for the 2016 Season starting April**

- **Under 9, 11, 13 (mixed)**
  - Training Tuesdays 5.00 – 6.00pm
  - Games - Friday nights

- **Under 15, 17 (males only)** - Training
  - Tuesdays/Thursdays 5.00 – 6.30pm
  - Games - Saturdays

- Affordable Registration; Accredited Coaches, Friendly & Family-Orientated Club – All Welcome

- For more information please contact Kim Trotter – 0407039877 or kimmitee68@gmail.com

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**P & C Meeting**

Thursday 14th April, starting from 6.00pm. All welcome!
Get Microsoft Office 2016 free of charge

Did you know your child can get Microsoft Office 2016 free of charge, just for being a student at [school name]? All you need is your child’s school email address to sign in.

To help prepare your child for success this academic year, the Department of Education and Training has teamed up with Microsoft to provide free Office 2016 to every Queensland state school student. With Office 2016, your child will have access to the latest version of Word for writing, Excel for spreadsheets, PowerPoint for presentations, OneNote for organisation and notetaking, and much more.

You can install a complete version of the latest Microsoft Office on up to five compatible PCs and Macs, five tablets and five smartphones. Your Office subscription lasts for as long as your child is a state school student.

Ask your child to follow these simple steps to get Office:

- For PC and Mac, visit portal.office.com, login using your school email address, click through to install and follow the onscreen process.
- For tablets and smartphones, download from your app store and sign in with your school email address.

Visit www.education.qld.gov.au/office2016 for instructions on how to download and install Office 2016 to your personal home computers. If you have any trouble, contact [insert local MIS administrator contact details].