Principal’s Report...
Welcome to our first newsletter for Term 4 which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. I hope that all students and families had a safe and restful September vacation ready for a very busy final term of the year. In this article I want to concentrate on; Independent Public School Application, Bring Your Own Device progress, student attendance, Year 12 students remaining focused and an invitation to celebrate student achievement.

Independent Public School Application

In the last newsletter I wrote about North High considering whether to become an Independent Public School in 2017. An Independent Public School is a high potential school performing above like-schools with the capacity to be already or to be engaging in innovative practice that can lead to system wide change and improvement. In order to innovate and try new ways of working, Independent Public Schools are given additional support through advice, direct access to central office, a start-up grant and operational flexibility that includes human, physical and financial resource management while still being fully accountable to its community and Education Queensland. For more detail please use the link below to access the Independent Public Schools Policy Framework.

As part of the school’s consideration of this proposal there is a strong expectation that the school consults widely with all members of the school community seeking their endorsement of the application. As part of this consultation there will be more discussion of the proposal at a Public Meeting to be held at the school on Thursday, October 20th 2016 from 6.00 to 6.45pm in the School Hall. I welcome all parents to this meeting to hear about the proposal and to have your questions answered.

Bring Your Own Device 2016 progress.

At the start of 2016 the school introduced the Bring Your Own Device model for the provision of Information Communication Technology. We were motivated to do so for a number of reasons, firstly we are in the digital age where a lack of computer literacy places all people including our students at a disadvantage in terms of accessing information, engaging in our society, having the skills required for employment and the capacity to effectively participate in ongoing learning. Secondly, the resources available online to support teaching and learning are endless and without students having one to one access to a computer device the teaching and learning environment is restricted, limiting the academic growth of our students, and thirdly, governments are reducing their...
investment in computer technology in schools making it almost impossible for schools to provide the level of access to computer technology needed to ensure every student has access to a computer.

The school recognized that the needs of all families would be different when it came to engaging in the Bring Your Own Device program. In consideration of this the school has embarked on a two year phase in period with a number of alternative ways for students to access a computer device. This access includes parents purchasing a device for their student, hiring a device from the school, obtaining a device through the equity pool with participation approved by the Principal and a daily borrowing program. The expectation is that by 2018 as our existing desktop, laptops and tablets are taken out of use due to age and warranty expiry, there will only be three ways in which students can access a computer device which will include individual purchase, accessing the equity pool or making use of a few high end specialized computer labs for selected subjects. Throughout the year we have been excited by the way in which families have embraced this concept with almost 65% of families having purchased a device, 20% of families taking advantage of the hire program and the remainder of students using the daily hire or equity program. Given that this is our first year of this new approach to the provision of Information Technology the level of take up by students and families has been well beyond what was expected.

As part of the school’s preparation for this new approach to the provision of computer technology our staff have developed a Virtual Classrooms for at least one unit of study per subject per semester allowing students to access their learning 24 hours a day 7 days a week. As part of ensuring our school network can support this new approach we have improved our wireless capability, made an application to increase our bandwidth and are finalizing the purchase and installation of a technology solution that will allow safe student access to our network.

While we are still in a phase-in period with both students and staff adjusting to this new learning environment, a few issues have arisen preventing students from getting the full benefits of the program. The most significant of these are students failing to bring their device to school or making an effort to use the school’s daily borrow program to ensure they have a device. All students can expect to use their device in at least one lesson per day and without a device it becomes difficult for a student to fully engage in that lesson. In this period of adjustment it is important that students develop the attitude that their device is like their notebooks and pencil case and must be brought to school every day. I ask all parents to discuss with their students the expectation that they are to bring a device to all their classes.

Details on arrangements for 2017 will be provided in our next BYOD Newsletter to all parents, I encourage all parents to read this and to start making plans for how their student is going to engage in this program in 2017.

Successful students attend school regularly.

School attendance in Queensland is compulsory for all students up to the completion of Year 10 or when the student turns 16. Students then are expected to participate in an eligible option of either fulltime schooling, participation in an apprenticeship or a Certificate III level qualification at TAFE or employment of 25 hours or more a week. It has been shown that regular student attendance at school helps to improve student performance. Did you know that?

- Strong links have been established between attendance and student achievement.
- Students not present in school are more likely to miss critical learning building blocks and are, as a result, less likely to feel a sense of mastery over the curriculum and their own learning.
- The recommended attendance range is between 95 and 100% which is equivalent of being absent for 10 days or less per year. Over a 12 year period a student who attends 92% [16 absent days or more] of the time will have lost almost 1 year of school contact.

I ask you to check your student’s attendance rate and if it is in excess of 10 days or more per year I encourage you to
contact the school so we can discuss with you ways to resolve this situation.

The countdown begins for Year 12 students:

Our Year 12 students are now entering their last term of formal schooling and I write to ensure that our students remain focused on completing remaining assessment and competencies for Vocational Qualifications. For some students a strong finish to their schooling can make the difference between getting a QCE and not getting one or achieving a few extra OP bands. This is a time for balance and to ensure that students do not become distracted by early celebrations of the completion of schooling. Student safety is a concern for all of us at any time but it is more so at this time of year. All too often at this time of the year we find reported in our media details of car accidents involving young people which serves as a timely reminder of the potential dangers faced by our students. I encourage you to discuss with your student the absolute need for the students to celebrate safely within the school expectations and the law as well remaining focused on achieving to their full potential.

Invitation to celebrate student achievement:

During the course of this term I hope you are able join us in celebrating student success at the Annual Presentation Parade and Night, the Senior School Graduation and the Junior School Certificate of Education presentation assembly. As a school we feel strongly that student achievement needs to be highly valued and recognized by the whole school community. Details of some of these events are provided this and future newsletters.

In conclusion please continue to contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your student’s education. Working together we can produce the best outcomes for your child.

Ross Robertson
Principal

If you wish to collect your student early from school, please advise the office prior to the time of departure. We will prepare a ‘leave request’ slip for your student so they can leave the classroom without interrupting other students who are working. Please also remind your student to sign out at the G Block Student Services Office. This process will ensure that classroom disruptions are kept to a minimum and you are not kept waiting as we locate your student. Many thanks

DATES TO REMEMBER:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th October 2016</td>
<td>Indigenous Dance Group opening the Crush Festival at Riverfeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th October 2016</td>
<td>Year 7 &amp; 8 Immunisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th October 2016</td>
<td>Student free day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th October 2016</td>
<td>Presentation Parade 8:50am and Presentation Night 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th October 2016</td>
<td>Public meeting re Independent Public Schools 6:00pm – 6:45pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th October 2016</td>
<td>Arts Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd November 2016</td>
<td>Year 6 into Year 7 enrolment day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Bundy Meets Riverfeast
From the classroom over North to the river over East, Bundaberg North State High School students are shining bright with their colourful murals to be displayed at Riverfeast this Friday night the 7th October.
As part of the school’s Certificate II in Visual Art, students have been working closely with the local business to create these public art works.
Petrina McDonald said the murals have been a great focus for the students and she is excited about taking their art out of the school environment. As well as a large, whole class mural, we also have another project completed by student Jessica Bujayer. Her fish shapes have been painted with scenes from Riverfeast, depicting the live music scene and river views.
The public art works will be installed at the Riverfeast venue ahead of Friday night’s Crush opening, kicking off at 4pm at 1A Scotland St, East Bundaberg. Entry is free. North High’s talented Indigenous Dance Group will also feature at the Crush Festival opening, performing the ‘welcome to country’ at 6pm.

Mathletics
This year the school has invested in the on-line interactive Maths program called Mathletics. This investment is to further engage students in Maths and involve parents in their child’s learning.

- Mathletics is highly engaging and supports the curriculum work your child is doing in class as it is aligned to the Australian curriculum. Being on-line Mathletics is accessible anywhere at any time via an electronic device connected to the internet, and includes an off-line mode. Mathletics has been independently verified to improve student result through regular usage. As a parent you are able to track your child’s progress and even assign them activities through the parent/ family console. One of the great features of Mathletics is the instant feedback students obtain whilst doing the activities and once access by parents you are able to set up a free weekly report to be emailed to you on your child’s progress.
- To create a parent account all that is needed is to sign up with your email address and your child’s Mathletics details that have been provided to them by their teachers.
Exciting Times Ahead For Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow!!!

Recently our school successfully applied for funding worth $16600 under a state government initiative called Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow. The aim of this program is to incubate the next generation of information technology entrepreneurs by providing students with opportunities to build entrepreneurial skills through real world experiences. Entrepreneurial skills are essential to drive innovation, productivity, global awareness and develop an appreciation of cultural and social diversity. This program has a distinct focus on the creation of digital solutions that include coding and robotics.

Our project involves us building upon the already strong Better Buddies and Peer Mediation programs that are run by the school. These programs promote our school values of respect, responsibility and safety and assists in creating a school environment that is positive, caring, safe and friendly.

As part of their coding and robotics courses the ICT classes from grades 8 to 10 will be developing a number of resources to reinforce the anti-bullying message to students. Some of these activities include:

- Making an anti-bullying game using code where important messages are passed on to students as they play the game. We hope that we can publish some of these games on the web.
- Making a website using HTML and JavaScript to provide important information on Better Buddies and Peer Mediation and on issues to do with bullying.
- Programming our school Lego robots to make an anti-bullying video.
- Holding a competition for students to write a storyline for our movie.
- Using a 3D printer to make props for the movie and parts for our robots. Also to make products which may be sold to raise money for our project.

With the money we will be able to buy:
- Lego robotics kits and activity packs
- A 3D printer
- A programmable robotic arm
- Online coding training packages
- Professional development for staff
- A variety of other resources to help implement our coding and robotic programs across the school

The Business classes will be helping to promote our products and eventually it is anticipated that other subject areas will also contribute to our project.

If you would like to find out more about the exciting opportunities that ICT is providing, please come and see or phone me.

Grant Newell
ICT Teacher
Indigenous trip

We, the members of the Indigenous Dance Group, Tamika Morrice, Nakita Geiszler, Robbie McCormack, Callum Monagle and myself, Dakota Cogzell went to Brisbane on August 12th-13th with Mrs Long and Miss Kent as our supervisors. While there, we attended opening night of the Bangarra dance performance ‘Our’. The Bangarra dancers where inspirational and we learnt some great new moves. The trip to see them perform was very worthwhile and we had fun watching them as they are so talented.

Before we left Brisbane on Saturday, we went to GOMA (the Gallery of Modern Art) where we saw some wonderful Indigenous art work and got a lot of good photos. As we had some time to spare we went to the South Bank markets, saw Dragon-boat racing, played with the baby animals at the petting zoo and took some more photos.

I hope others can enjoy this experience in the future as much as we enjoyed going to Brisbane to watch the Bangarra Dancers, it was so worth it.

Dakota Cogzell (Year 11)
Celebrating Student Success

On Tuesday, 18th October we will be holding our Presentation Parade 8.50-10.00am and Presentation Night 7.00pm. Students will be acknowledged for academic, sport, cultural and service achievement. Students will be notified if they have been successful in receiving an award and at which ceremony they will be participating in.

All parents and families are invited to attend our Presentation ceremonies to help celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students this year.

Subject Selections for Yr 11 2017

Thank you to the many of year 10 students who attended their child’s SETP interview before the holidays. All Year 10 students should have now selected their Year 11 subjects and will be working on ensuring they meet the prerequisites for their choices. Subject selections will be confirmed at the end of the year once reporting has been completed. Students who have not gained a “C” level or above in Maths and English will be required to return to school in Week 9 to complete further assessment to receive a “C” level and meet prerequisites for their subject choices.

Year 7,8 and 9 Students

All year 7, 8 and 9 students will soon be making subject choices for their electives for 2017. Students will have access to a Subject Selection Booklet with details about the electives.

- Year 7 students will select 4 electives (1 term each)
- Year 8 students will select 4 electives (2 electives per semester)
- Year 9 students will select 2 electives for semester 1 and then next year will select 4 pre senior subject for Semester 2

Please stay tuned for more details about the process. Students should start asking their teachers about the 2017 subjects.

Canteen reno set to sizzle !!!

It was exciting news this week to learn that the P&C Association has been successful in the latest round of Community Benefit Funds. This means that the canteen can have much needed renovations and becoming self-serve for students. If Jacky could do cartwheels she would!!!!

Jacky Burtt is ready to help with the renovations
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™
FREE PARENT COURSE

Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems:
A three-session program for parents and carers at
NORTH BUNDABERG STATE HIGH SCHOOL
CHOOSE EITHER:

MONDAYS - 24 & 31/10 & 7/11/16 (9am – 12noon)
OR WEDNESDAYS - 26/10, 2 & 9/11/16 (6pm – 9pm)

FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL PARENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THIS COURSE RECENTLY AT NORTH BUNDABERG SHS:

“…wish this program was available or I was aware of this 10 years ago…”
“Thank you for presenting this course in such a way that we felt safe, that the problems we face are normal and surmountable.”
“The course put things into perspective ...I enjoyed the course and talking to other parents. The course co-ordinators made the sessions interactive and informative.”
“More parents should be doing this course – I should have done it sooner.”
“Time very well spent….3 nights was the perfect commitment.”
“I have learnt some new skills to put in place to help me with my children.”
“I can honestly say I learned a lot.”
“I think this is useful for all parents to learn...Great workshop.”
“Enjoyable learning without getting bogged down. The course kept moving forward.”
“...The course was indeed very helpful and made sense in a practical way, very user friendly strategies...I found the experience extremely valuable for my family and already I have proudly used the PASTA strategies to have some tough conversations. They weren’t “tough” conversations when we were calm and prepared. I was so amazed. (so was my husband)...”

✓ Some common ground shared by parents & reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
✓ Building a relationship with your teenager & making the best of your non-crisis conversations with them
✓ Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can’t ignore

FREE: Course handbook for all participants. Catering is provided by the school. Run by Parentshop® licensed practitioner.

Presenters: Debbie Quivooy (Bundaberg District Behaviour Support Teacher, Northern Alliance cluster), Cheryl Pankratz (Early Years Behaviour Support Teacher & MYCP Facilitator, Engaging Early Learners Service) & Betty Farrell (Positive Behaviour for Learning Schools Coordinator, North Coast Region)

RSVP: Please register to participate by contacting the school (41300222) by Friday 14/10/2016.

P & C Meeting Thursday 3rd November 2016, starting from 6.00pm. All welcome!
P & C Meeting

Thursday 3rd November 2016, starting from 6.00pm. All welcome!
Junior Spring Cup  
Starts 7th Oct 2016  
Bundaberg in UNION 

Come and “TRY”  
Rugby Union / Touch / Sevens  

ALL WELCOME  
Girls and Boys — U6s to U18s  
Every Friday  
Play Friday night only, have your weekends free!  
ATW Sports Complex  
Corner Thabeban and Richie St, Bundaberg  

Contact Club President | Jeff Messitt  
0459 203 596 | jeff.messitt@gmail.com  
Rugby, the game played in heaven ...  

Food and drinks available  
All ages play every Friday night  

P & C Meeting  
Thursday 3rd November 2016, starting from 6.00pm. All welcome!