Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our final newsletter for term four and 2016 which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article from me I want to focus on our achievements for 2016, the outcome the school’s Independent Public School application and best wishes for the festive season ahead.

2016 Achievements

At beginning of this year I wrote to parents detailing the school’s 2016 priorities. I now want to take this opportunity to highlight some of our achievements in regards to these priorities.

Improved student outcomes with a focus on:

**Literacy and numeracy improvement:** The actions taken to improve students’ literacy and numeracy skills have included: the continued impact of our Master Teacher; continuation of our literacy and numeracy coaches, together with the school success team; further development of literacy and numeracy warm-ups; improving the variety, collection and analysis of data (PAT Maths, reading and the North Coast Diagnostics); working with our cluster feeder schools through our ‘Bridging the Gaps’ program working towards creating a Prep to 12 approach to literacy and numeracy development; the continued introduction of a common approach to the teaching vocabulary and reading comprehension. This has resulted in improved NAPLAN results, with 21 out of the 30 NAPLAN measures being similar to the nation’s performance across Year 7 and 9. These results include all students in the upper two bands across all measures in all test elements [Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy].

**Differentiation including setting and attaining of achievement targets:** The Academic Target Setting Program has continued this year which has again 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 helps 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 the ongoing improvement of the school’s A to C data which has moved from 69% in Semester One 2013, to 83% in Semester One 2016.

**Strengthening vocational education:** Our desire to increase the range of vocational opportunities for our students was achieved through increased student participation in the Allev8 and Gener8 programs, students accessing programs provided by East Coast TAFE, maintaining our 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 with 98% of our Year 12 students completing 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 11 being added 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 again unrelenting during 2016 as we continued to strengthen our monitoring and support program. This coupled with our target setting program, the continued 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 2015 being 94% of students and again in 2016 QCE attainment will be in the 90% range.

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. We will have to wait until late December 2016 for 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. Clearly 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.

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 with a focus on developing the higher order thinking skills of our students which has seen staff participate 6 hours of professional learning focused on creating a common language, at least 8 hours of interacting on instruction in an Instructional Professional Learning Community, and at least 2 hours of observing the teaching of other staff in instructional rounds. In addition to this the majority of staff have participated in classroom profiling an observation and feedback process focused on classroom management.

We have again moved closer to our vision of Outstanding Students, Outstanding Achievements and Outstanding Futures which has been the result of our highly committed and dedicated staff. I thank them for their hard work, willingness to change their practices to get better outcomes and their motivation of students to achieve to their potential.

Independent Public School Application:

As you would be aware earlier this term the school applied to become an Independent Public School in 2017 and it is with great excitement that I announce to you our school’s success in achieving Independent Public School status. As an Independent Public School we will have a positive role as a catalyst for system-wide change that leads to improved services and learning outcomes for all state school students. We will partner with the school community to create and pursue a shared strategic direction that focuses on student well-being and improved student outcomes. While we will be afforded some operational flexibility to test new ways of working, we are expected to be fully accountable to our community and the Department and share innovative practice that lifts the performance of not only our own school but also supports positive change across the entire state schooling system. This success is yet another indication of the strong performance of our school and system endorsement of our capacity to enact innovative and effective improvement strategies that benefit our students.
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 2017 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 2017 with great excitement. My wish is that our school community has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

See you all in 2017.

Ross Robertson
Principal

Lost Property - We currently have a lot of lost property in Student Services. Please have your student collect any of their belongings before the end of the school year. Any items remaining after 9th December will be donated to charity.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6th December 2016</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting, 6pm at North High</td>
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<td>9th December 2016</td>
<td>Last day of term 4.</td>
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<td>23rd January 2017</td>
<td>First day of term 1, 2017</td>
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<td>26th January 2017</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st January 2017</td>
<td>‘Meet the Teachers’ BBQ</td>
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<td>7th February 2017</td>
<td>Big Day Out</td>
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To keep you in the loop....

To keep up to date with important information, dates, events, news and alerts, download the Q Schools app here. It is easy to download, convenient and keeps you up to date.

Download the app by clicking on the icon located on our website.

In 2017, North High will start using Q Parents – an online tool which gives you access to your students timetable, assessment schedule, report cards and also allows you to make payments, monitor absences and engage more closely with the school. Look in our newsletter, on facebook and on our website for information in 2017.

Last round of interview for SETP students

It was the final week of interviews as part of the SETP program for year 10's on the 15th of November, during Period 3. In class, students have been practicing job interview tips and skills with each other so as to gain confidence in their abilities and be prepared for the face to face interviews in a formal setting. North Bundaberg State High School would like to thank all the local business and leadership people have offered their time to help and give advice to students including; Friendlies Society Private Hospital, Bundaberg Regional Council, Energise You, IMPACT and CQU. The experience was a positive one with very supportive people, who may open avenues into their or other known businesses in the local area.

"I have a wide variety of ideas for the future and what I could be" - Liam Johnson

Visit from CQU

Year 7 classes had the pleasure of welcoming back CQUiversity representatives this Term. The first lesson focus was on exploring cultural, family, personal and school values through interactive learning activities. The second lesson topics included resilience and positivity. Students discussed and planned ways to deal with obstacles and challenges. Thank you CQU for your career lessons and we look forward to working with you next year.

"I learnt that I have a lot of different values about myself which I didn't know about", Riley Dingle.

"It was fun and we learnt about the values of other people and discussed personal feelings and what we valued. I learnt a heap ", Jan Calusinski.
RAS class in the Christmas spirit

Walla JC RAS class with their very proud teacher Ms Hall surrounding their donations for the 2016 Mayor’s Christmas Appeal. Gladly accepted and congratulated by Councillor Helen Blackburn and Wayne Heidrich (Bundaberg Regional Council). What a wonderful effort by this class (and Ms Rayner’s senior RAS class as well!)
A Christmas/New Year Road Safety message from your Wide Bay Burnett District police

It won’t be long until you have a rest from the routine school drop-offs and pick-ups for the year.

At this time of year we also know how excited children are preparing for end-of-school year celebrations and their concentration may wander away from road safety.

We’d like to remind you about road safety around schools and ask you to revisit this with your children again at the start of the 2017 school year.

Adopt a Cops visit schools at various times and encourage everyone to use the safe environments provided to help keep the flow of traffic moving.

The children pictured above can teach everyone some safety tips:

- Designate the rear door closest to the kerb to be a safety door for children to enter or exit.
- Use the drop-off and pick-up zones like a quiet, moving taxi rank.
- Learn to recognise your vehicle and to get in and out quickly and safely when the vehicle has pulled into the signed area.

Parking safety around schools is what the majority of parents and carers do, although if you’re rushed and not focused, you may find you have parked contrary to road markings or signage.

This behaviour may result in a traffic crash, reduced visibility for other road users and cause traffic congestion.

We also need to remember that children are unpredictable and may not understand the dangers associated with roads and vehicles.

The yellow line pictured in the next column is an area NOT to park or stop.

Failing to obey this can result in a $48 Traffic Infringement Notice for Stop contrary to continuous yellow edge line.

The sign below says it all – NO stopping.

Failure to obey this can result in a $48 Traffic Infringement Notice for Stop contrary to ‘NO STOPPING’ sign.

Some additional tips from our colleagues at Transport and Main Roads are:

- Remember to say goodbye to your children on the school side of the road – never get them to cross the road alone to their school entrance.
- Walk across the road and meet your children after school – never call out to them from the other side.
- Always single park.

For more information please visit https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/safetyrules/schools/.

Be observant of school zone speeds and times when travelling as a parent, carer or general motorist.

Why not see if there’s a difference between this sign and the one at your school.

Police officers will be highly visible in and around school zones, especially at the commencement of the school year, and ask community members to be on their best driving behaviour to ensure all students and teachers get to their playgrounds and classrooms safely.

Remember to say “Hi” to your school crossing supervisor when they are there to assist you cross the road safely to and from school.

Policelink

Many families are now using mobile electronic devices and we know technology is continuously improving. As a result, you can now contact police via Policelink on 131 444.

Policelink is the easy and convenient option for community members to take an active role in improving frontline policing response times and enhanced client service by using the Policelink service or reporting matters online.

For example, if a community member chooses to report their stolen power tools from the back of their ute via Policelink, online or via the Policelink App instead of an officer attending the scene, this will directly enhance community safety through time being reinvested into other operational priorities.

You can contact Policelink by:
- Phoning 131 444.
- Using the Policelink Smartphone Application to make an online report.
- Visiting policelink.qld.gov.au to access online reporting, fill in the form and hit submit. It’s that easy!
- Online reporting can also be accessed via the Queensland Police Website at www.police.qld.gov.au.

Photos and videos can also be uploaded to include in reports, as well as a number of reporting options including:
- noisy party reporting
- ‘track-my-criminal’
- stolen property updates
- hooning
- wilful damage
- taxi fare evasion
- graffiti and
- withdrawal of complaint forms.

The Policelink number to remember for non-urgent police contact is 131 444.