Principal’s Report…

Welcome to our second newsletter for term four which again highlights the extensive learning opportunities provided by North High. In this article I want to focus on Presentation Night, Year 12 students last few weeks of schooling, welcoming our new school captains and school attendance.

North Bundaberg State High School celebrates student achievement.

I hope you were able to join with us last Tuesday night at the Annual Presentation Night to celebrate the academic, cultural and sporting achievements of our students. The feedback from the school community has been overwhelmingly positive with community members expressing high levels of satisfaction and praise for the organization of the evening, student entertainment and achievements. The success of the evening would not have been possible without the support of our great staff. Many staff contributed to the success of the night but the work of Robyn Kent and Trish Sellers was quite outstanding and without their commitment to quality we would not have enjoyed as much success. Congratulations to all staff and students for your contribution to what was a night to be remembered and a further thank you to the many community sponsors who provide generous support for our many awards.

I have included here an extract from my report, which details our progress towards a learning turn around:

“Now to our progress - Effective teaching or instruction is very much about the quality of the teaching and learning that occurs in our school, quality that is dependent upon the capacity of our staff. Since 2013 the school has been working at establishing a professional learning model that builds staff capacity and is characterized by job embedded learning, ongoing as a part of routine work practice, team based action research, learning by doing, sustained commitment to a limited set of focused initiatives, learning collectively by working together and assessing the impact of teaching on the basis of evidence of improved student learning. Our progress towards this model is evident by:

- Every staff member now being part of an Instructional Professional Learning Community. Led by an Instructional leader which meets regularly to discuss effective instruction.
- Every staff member participating in observational rounds where a team of three teachers visit another teacher’s classroom and observe the lesson with the focus being on what the observers observed and reflected on related to their own teaching rather than judging the performance of their colleague.
- Engagement in classroom profiling where a teacher’s classroom management practices are observed by a classroom profiler with the teacher participating in reflective feedback.
- The ongoing development of our faculties as Data Professional Learning Communities based on 3 big ideas with teachers focused on learning rather than teaching, working collaboratively on matters related to learning and holding itself accountable for the kinds of results that fuel continual improvement.
Every staff member participating in class target attainment review discussions with their Head of Department which enable reflection on the effectiveness of teaching using the notion that successful student outcomes are the only measure of effective teaching.

Furthermore our teachers’ participation in this job embedded, learning will see them complete in excess of 30 hours of professional development focused on student learning, which is a significant commitment to our student’s success.

Our growing use and analysis of NAPLAN data, other measures of literacy and numeracy skills and short cycle data as well as the continuous monitoring of Year 11 and 12 students progress towards the attainment of the Queensland Certificate of Education provide measurement of student progress and identify gaps in student knowledge. With this knowledge our teachers have been able to develop strategies that target these gaps and support individual students to achieve to their potential. Strategies like our ‘Bridging the Gaps’ program aimed at improving the literacy and numeracy skills of our students driven by our Success Team and implemented across our school by all staff or our ‘Senior Overall Achievement Review’ program otherwise known as SOAR aimed at supporting our seniors to achieve a Queensland Certificate of Education or QCE. This measurement and targeted response to the data has led to significant improvements in our school’s performance in NAPLAN and QCE attainment. A performance improvement that seen our NAPLAN performance move from 11 out of the 15 measures being well below the nation’s performance in 2014 to 11 out of the 15 measures being similar to the nation’s performance in 2015 in both year 7 and 9. Similarly our QCE performance has moved from 64% of year 12 students attaining a QCE in 2012 to 78% attainment in 2014, with this year’s performance on track to exceed our 90% target.

The introduction of our ‘Career and Education Planning’ program, “My Big Picture Plan” and Student Led Conferences is aimed at growing student aspirations, engaging parents to lift student aspirations and increase the number of students in a post school Certificate 3 or above pathway. The program has all Year 7 to 12 students developing a Career and Education Plan supported by their RAS teacher and then participating in Student Led Conference with their parents where the student reports on their progress towards the achievement of their plan in their last learning phase and setting themselves learning and achievement goals for the next phase of learning. This program which is supported by the research of John Hattie an education writer and researcher, who identifies self-reported student grades as having the most impact on improving student academic results, has resulted in higher levels of parent engagement in student learning and is helping to lift student aspirations. The school has facilitated two sets of these conferences this year with more than 350 student conferences being conducted each time. A great response considering that 90% of parents on average were either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of the conferences and in the past our traditional parent teacher interviews at best have only seen 110 parents participating. In 2016 we intend to continue this program with some adjustments and believe that its full impact will not be totally realized until it is completely embedded in our practices.”

The countdown begins for Year 12 students.

Our Year 12 students are now entering the last few weeks 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. 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 also 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.
2016 School Captains:

At our Presentation Night last week our new school captains were announced. On the one hand this was very exciting but on the other hand concerning because we had to choose only two leaders out of a group of Year 11 nominees of whom any one would be very capable leaders. Fortunately all of these students will take up other leadership positions in 2016 and as result the school and our students will benefit from what I am predicting will be their very positive and constructive contribution to our school. Congratulations however to Georgia Prichard and Angus Ethell who will be our 2016 School Captains and I take this opportunity to wish them well in their new roles in which I am certain they will exceed the expectations of the school community.

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 three 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 in the same year and in the future.
- 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% attendance rate 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.

Our attendance rate trend for all year levels at this stage of the year:

- Year 7: 89.77%, Year 8:90.5%, Year 9:88.8%, Year 10:84.17%, Year 11: 88.75%  Year 12:91.08.

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.

Finally 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.

Ross Robertson  
PRINCIPAL

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>28th October 2015</td>
<td>Arts Night 6.30-9pm Hall</td>
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<td>19th November 2015</td>
<td>Year 12 Graduation and PROM</td>
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<td>20th November 2015</td>
<td>Year 12 Non Compulsory Final Day</td>
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<td>27th November 2015</td>
<td>Year 11 &amp; 10 students Final Day</td>
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<td>9th December 2015</td>
<td>Year 6 to 7 Transition Day</td>
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<td>11th December 2015</td>
<td>Final Day of 2015</td>
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Presentation Parade and Night Ceremonies

On Tuesday, 20th October we held our Annual Presentation ceremonies. In the morning we recognized our “Platinum Reach for the Sky” Award winners and our certificate level winners for service, culture and sport.

At Presentation Night students were recognized for gaining Top 10% in their class, Top of Subject and Half & Full Colour achievements in academic, service, culture and sporting endeavours. Special and major awards were also presented. I would like to congratulate all students who received an award and thank them for their commitment to striving for excellence. We thank our many sponsors for their generous donations towards our awards. A special thank you to all the students and staff who helped behind the scenes, with entertainment and presenting. Everyone worked extremely well together making this year’s Presentation ceremonies a great success.

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

Marks Street, Bundaberg Q 4670    Phone (07) 41300222    Fax (07) 41525213
principal@bundnortshs.eq.edu.au    www.bundnortshs.eq.edu.au
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Subject Selections
During weeks 2 & 3 of this term, year 7, 8 & 9 students took part in selecting their subjects for 2016. If any student was absent for the online selection process they should go to the office to see Miss Kent.

Year 12 Prom
The year 12 Graduation day is fast approaching. We will hold our graduation ceremony on Thursday, 19th November 8.50-10.00am in our Hall. The senior prom will be held at the Brothers’ Club on 19th November – arrivals will be from 5.00-6.30pm. Parents, families and friends are invited to view the arrivals at the back of the Brothers’ Club from 5.00pm. Year 12 students will be given information this week to take home giving more details about the Prom. Please do not hesitate to call Mrs Spratling, Ms Moroney or Miss Kent if you require more specific information about the Prom.

MOOT TRIAL – Crown v Jasmine Eve
This week the Year 11 Legal Studies class enthusiastically conducted their first moot court case. The students were all allocated various roles such as barristers, judge, coroner, jury members, bailiff and assorted witnesses etc.
Jasmine (aka Vicky Hilton) was on trial for the manslaughter of Year 12 School Captain and star student Lucas who had jumped 18 storeys to his death after ingesting very dangerous levels of methamphetamines during schoolies week. It was alleged that these pills had been provided by Jasmine who had obtained them from a “Toolie” she had met on the Gold Coast and who was now nowhere to be found. Alcohol had also played a big role in the unfortunate tragedy.
After some serious cross examination and closing remarks by the defence and prosecution the jury delivered a verdict of NOT GUILTY.
This was a great opportunity for the students to not only have some fun but to give them a practical insight into our trial system. Adequate and well thought out preparation is the key to a successful Moot and the students had put a lot of time into this. Congratulations Year 11 Legal Studies. We are all looking forward to our next Trial in the last week of school.

Keri Jensen (Mrs)
Legal Studies Teacher
BETTER BUDDIES ANTI-BULLYING T-SHIRTS

Year 11 students Kiralee Randle and Angus Ethell, members of our Better Buddies Anti-Bullying Committee have been hard at work designing a T-shirt for our students and staff to wear on designated days throughout the school year. (Please see the attached diagram. The writing however will appear on the back of the shirts).

These shirts are an initiative suggested by the students on the Anti-Bullying committee to promote our strong stance. Whilst it is not compulsory, students are being encouraged to order a shirt in their house colour. Eg. Tirroan (Blue), Walla (Yellow), Mabbro (Red) and Monduran (Green). Students may wish to wear these shirts to attract extra points for their sporting houses on athletics days and/or at the annual swimming carnival. Each year in March our school participates in the National Day of Action against Violence and Bullying and we would be encouraging the students to wear this shirt annually on this day to once again show support. T-shirts may be worn on Student free dress days and on selected school days approved by Administration.

The cost of the shirts is $10 and money can be paid at the school office. Students are able to order a shirt by placing their name and size required on the order form in their RAS roll during RAS lessons over the next few weeks. We will be placing our first order in a month’s time so that students will have the shirts for 2016. Our next order will not be until 2016. Shirts are on display during lunch hours at present to assist students and staff with sizing. Sizes available are X-Small, Small, Medium, Large, X Large, 2X Large, 3X Large and 5X Large. These shirts can also be viewed in D Block staffroom or at the office if required. Please phone Mrs Keri Jensen on 41300239 if you require any further information. The sizing does appear to be generous.

On another note, congratulations must go to Simran Prasad in Year 7 who recently won the Anti-Bullying Poster Competition conducted by the committee. Simran received a $50 Sanity voucher for her great poster. Well done Simran!

Mrs Jensen, Mrs Colasimone & the Year 11/12 Better Buddies Anti-Bullying Committee

JUNIOR & SENIOR RAS TRIVIA CHALLENGE

At the end of Term 4, all the RAS classes participated in our annual Trivia Challenge. RAS classes worked together to answer a range of question including geography, music, current news and sporting questions. The Senior RAS classes even had to name the teacher’s from their baby photos with the Juniors RAS classes having to identify famous landmarks, food and celebrities. There was a very close result with only half a mark difference between first and second places.

The overall winners were:

SENIOR WALLA I (Mr Thatcher/Mr Danziger RAS Class)
JUNIOR MABBRO A (Mr Quinn’s RAS Class)

Kiama Theuernkauf-Smith WALSI RAS Captain (Middle)
Paris Eggmolesse (Right) & Ebony Deller (Left) MABJA RAS Captains
COMMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™
PARENT COURSE

Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems
A three-session program for parents and carers at

NORTH BUNDABERG STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Dates/times: THURSDAYS 12/11, 19/11 & 26/11/2015 9am – 12noon

Lexer:

✔ Some common ground shared by parents & reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
✔ New understandings of adolescence
✔ A three-option model & flow chart for decision-making
✔ Self-checking: First – for parents
✔ Building a relationship with your teenager & making the best of your non-ideal conversations with them
✔ Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can’t ignore

FREE PROGRAM.
Course handbook provided. Catering provided by the school.
RSVP: Please register to participate by contacting the school office before 5/11/2015.

What parents have said,:-
A local mum and dad mentioned their son’s progress in a situation where a child was experimenting with alcohol and getting into trouble, both parents felt a holistic program such as this will help their son.
A local 9 year old was pleased with the support offered when troubled with family & social issues.

What’s running it?
The presenters for this course are Debbie Quivvy and Betty Wina (Bundaberg District Behaviour Support Teachers) who have training and experience running Parentlink’s Engaging Adolescents program.

For more information contact:
Debbie Quivvy (c/- North Bundaberg SHS 41300222)

Food For Farmers

We need your help, to make our farmers Christmas special this year. We are collecting food, Christmas presents and gift cards, on behalf of the Drought Angles. All items collected will be transported to Chinchilla, where our Angels will sort it and deliver to the families doing it tough after 4 years of drought.

We have drop off locations around Bundaberg, also one of our lovely helpers would be happy to collect.

✔ Christmas food and groceries (no perishables) nuts, chips, lollies, pretzels, Christmas cake or pudding, soft drinks, custard, jelly etc.
✔ Toys and books, board games, etc.
✔ Personal items, perfume, deodorant, powder, creams, etc.
✔ Male and female adult present items.
✔ Gift cards, cash donations are welcome.

We are happy to use your donation to buy items they need. ALL DONATIONS CLOSE 29/11/15.
Please contact us on our Facebook page Food For Farmers, for drop off locations or to arrange pickups.

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