Junior Secondary News

WELCOME TO TERM 4, and isn't it going to be a busy (but I’m sure rewarding) term. Before the September school holidays myself, and 11 junior secondary staff had the pleasure of accompanying 174 students on the Term 3 reward day which will be held on Thursday 15th September. The reward day was held on the Thursday of Week 10 and saw the students travel via bus charter to Event Cinemas Cairns City where they were viewed the new release movie “Peter’s Dragon”. After the students’ private viewing, they then travelled to Sugarworld parklands for a sausage sizzle lunch. Throughout the whole day, the students were an absolute pleasure following all instructions and using their manners. I could not have been prouder, so CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL! How you represented our school should be commended, as I have had positive feedback from the community.

There will be another Junior Secondary Reward Day during Week 10 of Term 4, seeing the invited students spending a relaxing day at Sugarworld. Remember, to be invited to attend the FINAL reward day for 2016, the students need to adhere to 3 criteria:

- Have all school fees up to date for 2016 or have a payment plan in place.
- Have 90% or better attendance for TERM 4 as of the start of Week 9, and
- Have no more than 3 oneSchool incidents.

I strongly encourage all students to strive to achieve the above criteria, I would like nothing better than to accompany ALL of GSHS students on the final Reward Day.

Lastly, before the term gets away from us, I would like all junior students to begin thinking about their final pieces of assessment of the year, and to put in 110% effort into making these the best assessment pieces that they have submitted for 2016.

Over the coming issues I will be including a page from the “Assignment and Research Skills Handbook” by Angie Wilcock. This Handbook is absolutely fabulous in breaking down the best assessment strategies and investigation skills needed in the different subjects. It is a great resource for students to use when attacking assignments this term and in the future.

Please be advised that on Thursday, 1st September, the Year 6 to Year 7 enrolment process commenced. Enrolment interviews for Term 4 will be conducted 5-7pm on Tuesday 11th, 18th & 25th October.

Please contact the Gordonvale State High School office to book on 4043 3222.

Science News

Throughout term 3, Summit students in grades 7, 8 and 9 participated in the Wonders of Science program, an opportunity for students to complete exciting and challenging inquiry-based STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) tasks. Year 7 studied how changing the launch angle affects the horizontal distance a rocket will travel, year 8 analysed how changing the salinity levels in soil affects plant growth and year 9 designed experiments to investigate energy transfer. The classes were visited by Young Science Ambassadors who worked with the students on their projects and provided suggestions regarding their final presentations. On the last day of term 3, 16 representative students across the 3 grades participated in the regional student conference held at James Cook University, to showcase their projects to other schools, visiting scientists and industry representatives.

To support our students’ improvement and achievement, we have high expectations. It is important to ensure that every child is attending school on time (8:30am) and arrive promptly to class every lesson, in order to provide them with the strongest foundation for success. If your child is absent from school, please ensure that you notify us on the Student Absence Line: 4043 3232 (voice) and 0429 605 902 (text).

Our school calendar highlights another busy term ahead. Year 12 students will complete their secondary schooling on November 18. It is crucial that all year 12 students attend school every day and complete all assessment. History shows that many year 12 students believe that term 4 does not impact on their level of achievement in each of the subjects they study nor to their overall position (OP). This is certainly a myth. If students do not sustain their work ethic and remain focused throughout the six weeks left of this term, they can seriously jeopardise their level of achievement in each of their subjects and exit at a far lower level or band than anticipated.

All students should know their relative placement on their subject’s achievement ladders. The ladders highlight the achievement level of students in relation to their peers from a very limited level of achievement band 1 to a very high level of achievement band 10.

Students who do not complete all course work, assessment work or who fail to attend may have their enrolment cancelled, even at this late stage in the school year.

Year 11 and 10 students will complete term 4 on November 25. Year 9, 8 and 7 students will complete the term on December 9.

Special welcome to the following new staff:

- Mr Lyle Fredericksen – Head of Department for Humanities and Business
- Ms Suzanne Smith – English/History teacher
- Ms Toni Huggins – English / History teacher and
- Mr David Wilson – English / History teacher

Disability Review and online survey has been extended

The Queensland Disability Review has been extended, giving parents, carers and students more time to have their say to ensure a world-class inclusive education is available to all students enrolled in Queensland state schools. The online survey (www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/disability/qld-disability-review.html) will now close on 14 October.

Did you know?

The laws in Queensland are changing and from 2017 it is compulsory for all children to undertake a full-time Prep Year, before they can begin Year 1. Find out more at the Education website (www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/fnschool/enrolling.html).

Attendance and Uniform

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Enrolment Interviews

Our enrolments and places for students in 2017 are in high demand. 2017, year 7 enrolment interviews continue this term on Tuesday evenings starting at 5:00pm. Please contact the main office to arrange an interview as soon as possible if enrolment is relevant to your family. If you know family or friends who are intending to enrol at Gordonvale SHS please encourage them to contact us for an interview booking time.
Mr Lyle Fredericksen - Acting HOD Humanities & Business

I have been teaching for 6 years and have spent the past 5 years at Trinity Bay SHS teaching Humanities and Business, working as a year level coordinator and Acting HOD. I currently play both cricket and soccer and have been coaching sporting teams the past 12 years, most recently the year 8 hockey, soccer and cricket teams at Trinity Bay SHS. The best thing about the recent holidays was climbing Walsh’s Pyramid and visiting Sydney with my wife, where I was fortunate enough to do a Sydney Harbour Bridge climb.

Favourite books: Dan Brown novels and the Hunger Games trilogy

Favourite team: Manly Sea Eagles, Richmond Tigers

Favourite music: The Killers, Vance Joy

Favourite food: Pork ribs, chocolate and mangoes

Hobbies: Bushwalks and fishing.

My mission statement as a teacher: I became a teacher to make a difference. I enjoy helping people get great satisfaction with helping people achieve their “light bulb moments” and reach their goals.

I am extremely excited to have joined the Gordonvale SHS HumBus department and am looking forward to getting to know students, staff and the wider community.

Leadership

Currently our Head of Department of Senior Schooling and Student Welfare and are instigating the student leadership process for 2017. Interested students are required to complete an application and present their speech to their peers. Students will vote for those they wish to undertake the leadership roles. Staff are involved through having the opportunity to vote for students they believe best fit the positions. Following both the voting processes, students are interviewed by a panel of staff who combine all the selection information and the thoughtful students are then offered their positions. The announcement of leaders for 2017 will be made at our School’s Presentation Evening, scheduled for Tuesday 15th November. Students from other year levels will soon begin to consider their representatives for the 2017 Student Council.

Thank you to all students who have accepted the challenge to become involved in our school’s decision making process.

School Fees

It is important that parents and carers finalise all outstanding school fees. Resource scheme (hire) statements are regularly mailed to parents’ carer’s home address. The resource scheme is an option that parents and carers can access in order that their children are provided with the tests, handouts and computer online time necessary for effective learning. The cost to be part of the scheme is far less than if text books, photocopying paper and internet access had to be purchased by parents and carers.

Parents and carers can phone the school at any time to speak to our office staff about payment of school fees.

New report on Queensland state schools now available

Did you know that all Queensland state schools are reviewed by the Department of Education and Training every four years?

The reviews are undertaken by the department’s School Improvement Unit (SIU) and are a great way for schools to get quality, independent feedback on what they’re doing well and where they can improve.

The SIU recently published its first annual report, which is a comprehensive analysis of the 369 school reviews it conducted last year.

The report found that Queensland state schools are doing some great work, including the commitment of staff, positive learning environments, care and concern for students, and a strong focus on improving literacy and numeracy achievement.

A short animated video highlighting the key findings from the report is available online. To watch the video or to read the report, visit the School Reviews website (www.schoolreviews.eq.edu.au).

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Keys to a ‘Healthy’ Mental Health

1. Take Responsibility We are responsible for our own life and everything in it, including our happiness. We shouldn’t blame our parents, childhood, society, others or life events. It is a choice in how we respond to a situation

2. Be Flexible in your Thinking Beware of absolutist, “all or nothing,” “black and white,” rigid thinking, with an over-emphasis on the words, ‘should’, ‘must’ ‘ought’ and ‘can’t’. To try to lessen our thinking, look at alternative views, try to avoid perfectionism. Look outside the box.

3. Confront rather than avoid problems & frustrations Treat problems as challenges which can be useful in helping us to build up resilience and experience. Expect change and challenge and for life to be unfair at times.

4. Look after your own needs. Be assertive in identifying and meeting our own needs, whether it be for food, exercise, relaxation, pleasure, work, laughter, or love. We all need to have good self-care skills.

5. Express yourself. Express positive feelings of love, joy and excitement, but also negative feelings of anger, sadness and disappointment. Always be willing to ‘talk about things’, try not to ‘bottle things up’ or avoid issues. Express feelings appropriately and at the right time.

6. Strive for Work/Life Balance. Feel in control of our life by making active choices and decisions about how we spend our time. Try to fill our lives with a balance of work and play, time alone and with people, and also some physical and mental activity.

7. Develop & maintain relationships. Value and nurture friendships. Try to develop a network of social support and conflicting relationships, as they act as an insulator against stress. Accept others for how they are, rather than trying to change them.

These are just suggestions on how we can healthily assist our Mental Health.

However sometimes things may more serious and become out of control, so if you have any concerns regarding your own, or other’s mental health please contact:

1. If an emergency 000. The ambulance and police officers are fully trained to assist. Remember your First Aid DRABC - Danger, Response, Assessment, Basic Life Support, Call.

2. Not as urgent is controllable/ calm: • Your local GP • School Based Youth Health nurse • Hospital

3. Useful websites and phone numbers
   - Lifeline 131 114 (24 hr)
   - Parentline 1300303100 (8am-10pm)
   - Kids helpline 1800551800 (24hr)
   - Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
   - Reachout and alternate Fridays. The ambulance and police officers are fully trained to assist. Remember your First Aid DRABC - Danger, Response, Assessment, Basic Life Support, Call.
   - Headspace Cairns ph. 40413780

Year 12 QCS Tests

During the first week of school holidays Ms Olivia Lo Schiavo (Teacher, Maths department), Mrs Jessica Williams (Teacher, Humanities and Business department) and Ms Janet Van Rijssen (HOD, English department) travelled to Brisbane to mark Year 12 QCS tests.

They were a part of a team of 500 markers who came together to mark the approximately 28 000 tests from across Queensland. They participated in training on Saturday morning, then marked test papers until Wednesday and Thursday. All three teachers were asked to return after primary marking to partake in referee marking, which is a third marking of those test papers that had discrepancies between first and secondary marking.

Overall they found the experience invaluable and look forward to the opportunity of joining in the rewarding process again next year.