6 May 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

One Student, One Community, Many Futures

Personalised Learning

We have again worked hard this term with all our students as we strive to achieve our goal for every student to be connected to our school and to be engaged in a personal learning pathway. To achieve this we must cater to the individual learning needs of every student. At this school we believe that with positive and ongoing feedback and support every student can succeed and achieve to their potential.

I hope that many of you get the opportunity to come along to one of our Parent/Teacher nights over the next few weeks. Parents and carers are an essential part of the learning progress of every student. This is a great opportunity to hear first-hand about the learning progress of your child, our student.

Uniform update

Over the next week we hope to receive our last outstanding uniform item (male formal shorts). Thank you to all parents for their patience regarding this matter as we have worked through the many issues with our supplier. The feedback regarding the new school jumper has been really positive and we have large quantities in stock. We are also encouraging our students to purchase one of our three school hat varieties (bucket, peak or broad brim) to wear every day and during sport related activities.

GIPSA Sport

The ‘Greater Independent Public School Alliance’ (GIPSA) sport competition is progressing well despite the cancellation last week due to the weather. We have over 1400 students involved in the competition and the feedback from students who participated in week one was overwhelmingly positive. Our students enjoyed the more professional experience with the schools involved paying convenors and organising professional referees wherever possible. GIPSA is a ten week competition finishing in week 6 in Term 3.

NAPLAN

Our Year 7 and 9 students have been working earnestly in preparation for the upcoming NAPLAN tests. We hope the tests will provide some great feedback on how our students and school is progressing in terms of literacy and numeracy achievement. All parents have been sent emails and letters regarding NAPLAN arrangements. Please call Deputy Principal Heidi Booth if you have any queries.

Regards

Mark Blackshaw
Executive Principal

Year 12 UNITY DAY

Last Thursday, we had the Year 12 UNITY DAY. The purpose of the day was for students to reflect on their current goals and consider the actions required for them to achieve them. We were very fortunate to have two wonderful high-profile guest speakers in Eric Bailey, former NBL player and motivational speaker and Trevor Hendy former World Champion Ironman and motivational speaker.

Both of these speakers had similar messages in terms of self-belief. The key messages discussed on the day are outlined below for you to discuss with your student.

Eric Bailey

- Take the opportunities provided to you
- Seize the moment
- Give 100% and NEVER GIVE UP!!!!

Trevor Hendy

Life is whatever you want to make it!!!

- Every moment is a living moment
- Stuff happens!!! And when it does – that is your opportunity
- Find yourself – Know yourself – Trust yourself
Combined with team-building activities, information regarding TAFE courses and QCS team talk, the day was a success. Thanks to the year 12 students who participated and contributed positively to the day. I hope you are able to carry these messages with you through your Year 12 journey.

Nicole Brazeau  
HOD – Academic Performance

QCAA Community Representatives

To maintain the accountability, security and proper conduct of the QCS Test, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) appoints community members to complete duties on our behalf.

Helensvale State High School invites community members to apply for the positions of chief community representative and/or community representative at test centres.

On behalf of the QCAA, the chief supervisor of each test centre receives applications and selects an appropriate person for each available position at the test centre.

Please note: Nominees are required to have a personal email address. All communication from us will be emailed to them. If the applicant doesn’t have their own email address, they will not be suitable to nominate.

Any interested community members should collect an application form from the main office or contact Nicole for further information.

Nicole Brazeau  
HOD – Academic Performance

Parent Teacher Interviews Process

Dear Parents and Carers

Learning is a partnership between the student, parents and the school. Please take the time to discuss this report with your son or daughter as it provides up to date feedback on student achievement, effort, behaviour and homework for Term 1. Please also consider attending one or both of our parent teacher events to receive feedback first hand from our teachers. Interviews for students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be held on Monday 11th May in the Student Activity Centre (SAC) and the Performing Arts Complex (PAC) between 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Students in grades 7 and 8 will have their Student Improvement Conversations on Tuesday 19th May between 3.15 and 7.45pm in Discovery Place.

Our End Term 1 Report Card

This report is designed to give early feedback on learning achievement across the first ten weeks of this year. In some cases, this mark may represent the achievement as a result of only one or two assessment tasks completed in Term 1. This initial grade may change significantly across the year as we develop a more comprehensive picture of student abilities and progress.

The marks (A-E) represent the teacher ‘on-balance’/overall judgement of student achievement based on student work and assessment compared against the standards for that subject. Teachers also moderate (compare) samples of their students’ work with other teachers in their subject area to improve the consistency and fairness of ratings awarded to students.

We hope that the coming report card serves the basic purpose of giving students and parent/carers accurate, straight forward and timely information about student learning and achievement, behaviour, effort and homework at Helensvale State High.

Our Parent Teacher Interviews

We are providing parents and carers of students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 with an opportunity for a 10 minute interview with our teachers on Monday 11th May in the Student Activity Centre (SAC) and the Performing Arts Complex (PAC) between 3.30pm and 7.30pm.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will have their Student Improvement Conversations on Tuesday 19th May between 3.15 and 7.45pm in Discovery Place.

Instructions on how to book interviews are at the bottom of this letter.

We encourage you to attend the interview with your son or daughter. Below is an example of the questions that you can ask our teachers:

Eric Bailey  
Trevor Hendy

Team building activities

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We encourage you to attend the interview with your son or daughter. Below is an example of the questions that you can ask our teachers:
• At what achievement level is my son/daughter at and how does this compare to the rest of the class and year level?
• What does my son/daughter need to do to improve his or her grade?
• What is my son/daughter good at and what do they need to work on?
• How does my son/daughter behave in class and how can they change any behaviour to improve learning?
• What can I do as a parent to help my son/daughter achieve in this subject?

For Parent/Teacher Interviews we are again using the internet-based booking system “Parent Teacher On-Line” (PTO). Using this system you will be able to book the interview times that suit you best from any internet-connected computer. If you do not have internet access, please contact the school on 5573 8555 for assistance.

Bookings will open on Thursday 30th April from 6.00pm and will close on Thursday 7th May at 9:00am, 2015 for students in grade 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Bookings will open for students in grades 7 and 8 on Monday 11th May from 6.00pm and will close on Friday 15th May at 9.00am, 2015.

Please access the system as follows:
• Go to the school’s home page www.helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au
• Click the PTO icon as shown here …
• Click “Register for Use” (not Login)
• Immediately after you have registered, an automatic email will be sent to your nominated email address containing your password
• Login to PTO using the details provided in the email

Due to security and privacy requirements of Education Queensland, we are not permitted to load parent and student names into PTO without first obtaining individual consent from parents. PTO allows this consent to be obtained as a part of the login process. Please follow these steps to log in to PTO and make your interview bookings:
• After you have received your login details, click “Login” on the PTO login screen and enter your surname and PIN as shown in the email.
• Enter the Education Queensland ID (EQ ID) number of the student for whom you wish to book interviews. EQ ID’s have ten numbers followed by one letter. You can enter more than one EQ ID if you have multiple students at the school. The EQ ID is on the students ID card underneath the barcode, and has also been printed on their reporting envelope.
• Enter the name of the students for each EQ ID entered. This will help you when making bookings and will also help teachers to know who they are having the interview with.

• After you have entered your student’s EQ ID you can proceed to make bookings as instructed on the screen.
• You will only see time slots which are available at the time you are using the system. As time slots are booked for teachers, those timeslots are no longer displayed as available. PTO prevents double-booking of teachers or parents/guardians for any given student. You will be able to liaise with the teacher direct to make an appointment for further discussion if necessary.
• When you have made all the bookings you require, you can print a report of your bookings in time order. You can log in and change bookings any time up to Thursday May 7th 2015 for students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 and Friday May 15th 2015 for grades 7 and 8
• Other parents may be making bookings at the same time that you are using the system. It is possible, though unlikely, that a timeslot is displayed to you as available, but is then booked by another parent shortly afterwards. If you then attempt to book this timeslot it will not be available and a message will be displayed to indicate this.
• A school map is available on the PTO website; accessible via the school’s home page www.helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au.
• If you encounter any problems using PTO please notify the school office, preferably via email at admin@helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au

Industry Pathways
Welcome Karissa Benson

The Industry Pathways Team has a new assistant. Karissa Benson is an intern working in the office of Nicola Brandis (HOD Industry Pathways) and Paulina Ford (Industry Liaison Officer). I asked Karissa to tell you what she has been up to this fortnight.

Hi my name is Karissa Benson and since starting in my new workplace at the start of Term 2, I have been made very welcome into the Industry Pathways team at Helensvale State High School. One of the first projects I have been working on is the Year 11 Recruitment Drive. I have been interviewing the Non-OP students to see how we can help them in relation to their career options and how we can assist them while they are at school. This has been a great opportunity to learn my way around the school, the computers, and also meeting the students I will be working with this year. I have also started contacting our 2014 Graduates to see what they are doing in regards to work and study. I look forward to working within the Industry Pathways Team and developing my skills in this field. Keep an eye out for future developments.
TAFE Queensland Gold Coast Mid-Year intake – for Year IP (industry Pathways) students only:

TAFE QLD Gold Coast Schools Programs allow you to fast track your career by completing a Certificate or Diploma level qualification and gaining points towards your Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Enhance employment opportunities by gaining hands-on, practical experience through a TAFE Queensland Gold Coast’s Schools Program. These courses are hosted at Ashmore, Coomera Riviera or Southport Campuses. (* VETIS Funded)

- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation *
- Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation * - Female Cohort
- Certificate II in Electrotechnology (Career Start) *
- Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (Boating Focus) *
- Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (Metal Focus) *
- Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (Metal Focus) - Female Cohort
- Certificate II in Marine Mechanical Technology *
- Certificate I in Plumbing Services *
- Certificate II in Hairdressing - $2,945
- Certificate II in Retail Makeup and Skin Care - $2,619

For more information regarding VETIS funding, length of courses, venues etc, please contact Paulina Ford pford2@eq.edu.au or 55738545. Applications close 5pm Friday 29th May 2015. You will then be emailed with instructions on how to secure your place.

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SATS)

Keep up to date with the latest vacancies for SATS via parent and student emails, year parades and our NEW SATS Vacancy Board – outside SM02 - there are new positions every week. If you would like to discuss other opportunities in regards to School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeships, Work Experience or External Course – please make an appointment and I am happy to talk to you and your parent about options.

Paulina Ford pford2@eq.edu.au 55738545

Year 10 Work Experience

All Year 10 students are doing Work Experience between the 31st August to the 4th September 2015. Students must FIND THEIR OWN PLACEMENT.

Students will receive a Work Experience Pack from their Futures teacher on Friday 15th May. The pack includes the following forms:

• Student Letter
• Parent Letter
• Form A – student checklist
• Insurance Information for Parents
• Form D – employer WHS checklist
• Letter for employer
• Insurance form for employer
• Form B – student placement form
• Form C – student code of conduct
• Form E – work experience agreement

If your student is away when these are handed out please have them collect it from their Futures teacher. The forms are due back to their Futures teachers on 31st July 2015.

Thank you

Nicola Brandis - HOD Industry Pathways

Immunisation Week 2015 - April 24 – April 30

This year’s campaign focuses on closing the immunisation gap and reaching equity in immunization levels as outlined in the World Health Organisations’ (WHO) Global Vaccine Action Plan, which is a framework to prevent millions of deaths by 2020 through universal access to vaccines for people in all communities.

Key facts:

• Immunization prevents illness, disability and death from vaccine-preventable diseases including cervical cancer, diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis, pneumonia, polio, rotavirus diarrhoea, rubella and tetanus.

But an estimated 21.8 million infants worldwide are still missing out on basic vaccines. According to the most recent WHO estimate, 1.5 million children die every year of diseases that could be prevented by existing vaccines. In 2013, nearly 22 million infants missed out on the essential diphtheria,-tetanus,-pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine (DTP), many of them living in the world’s poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Do your part to close the immunisation gap and ensure you and your family members are up to date with their immunisation needs. Remember vaccinations are required throughout life not just in childhood. Immunisation against communicable diseases helps protect the more vulnerable members of our community who for various reasons cannot be vaccinated, such as new born babies. You can check your vaccination HALO by going online to the Better Health Channel Website (Link below). You can use this quick checklist to find out what immunisations you may need depending on your Health, Age, Lifestyle and Occupation (HALO).
When you complete this checklist you will see the list of immunisations you may need to consider to protect your health. Print it off and take it with you when you next visit your doctor or immunisation provider. Alternatively just make an appointment and discuss your family’s vaccination requirements with your doctor.

References:
http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs378/en/

Joy Xavier - School Nurse

2015 ANZAC Day Essay Competition - Winner from Helensvale State High School

We were thrilled to learn that, for the second year in a row, one of our talented students, Isabella Howells, had won the ANZAC Day Essay Competition, in the Junior Secondary Division (Years 7-9).

The competition was sponsored by the Member for Coomera, Michael Crandon MP and the North Gold Coast RSL Sub Branch who selected Isabella’s essay as the winner from all of the Northern Gold Coast State and Private schools who had entered the competition.

Isabella was then asked to recite her essay at the Dawn Service, where thousands of people were in attendance, at the new Helensvale cenotaph. This must have been a daunting task for the Year 7 student, taking the microphone, in front of such a big crowd on this special centenary year. We are truly proud of you, Isabella and the other twenty-five students from the Year 7, 8 and 9 EXCITE English classes who participated in the competition, writing about either ‘The significance of ANZAC Day’ or ‘My ANZAC Day Hero’.

Mrs Pip Crone
Competition Co-ordinator

STUDY TOUR HOMESTAY FAMILIES REQUIRED

Helensvale SHS International Department is seeking good quality homestay families for an upcoming study tour group arriving in July from Taiwan. The students arrive Saturday 11 July and leave on Monday morning 27 July (16 nights). Host families will be asked to host 2 students either male or female and will be subsidised per night per student. You will need to supply 3 nutritious meals per day, 2 beds, transport to and from school and spend family time on weekends. For further information please contact Narelle Gibson on 55738587 (please leave a message if unanswered) or email ngibs12@eq.edu.au

HOMESTAY FOR LONG TERM STUDENTS

We have students arriving Term 3 from a number of different countries and periods ranging from 3 months to 3 years. We need homestay for these students. Homestay responsibilities include:

- Student to have own bedroom
- 3 nutritious meals per day
- Be included in family outings
- Student welfare

Families will receive a fortnightly payment per student.

If you are interested in hosting for Study Tours or Long Term students please contact Narelle Gibson, International Student Coordinator on 55738587 or email ngibs12@eq.edu.au

THREE MONTHS UNTIL SHOWTIME!

It is a mere three months until Helensvale State High School students take the stage at the Gold Coast Arts Centre to showcase their production ‘Oliver’. It is always an exceptionally busy time preparing for a musical production and we are thrilled to welcome some new students and staff to our team. With Friday afternoon sport having commenced we are excited to have Mrs Macaulay and Mrs McErlean join us in leading a group of student sewers to assist us in costume production. Mr Karsten, our long standing set designer has also been busy working with students on a Friday afternoon as they work at making props and other set elements for our production.

On a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon our dancers, singers, actors and musicians have continued demonstrating commitment and enthusiasm at rehearsals and indeed they are looking great and sounding sensational. Putting together a production of this size is no easy feat – it takes hours and hours every week – in and behind the scenes to ensure the production lives up to the Helensvale standard.

Sunday rehearsals are due to start up in June and we look forward to being able to use this time to put the show together as a whole.

Helensvale State High’s musical will be staged on 21st and 22nd July 2015 at the Arts Centre – Gold Coast. Tickets will be on sale at the end of May.

Michelle Phelan
Musical Producer

Costumes for School Musical ‘Oliver’

Can you SEW?

As the day for our Musical Opening performance draws near we are in need of any parents or community members that can assist in the sewing of costumes.

If you are able to help out please contact Bonita Winters on bwint19@eq.edu.au or call 5573 8555.

Thank you


References:
Drama Festival preparation begins!

Each year Helensvale participates in the Gold Coast Secondary Schools Drama Festival. This year we once again will see our proud school take the stage in all three categories – Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Mr Edwards and Mrs Phelan will direct the senior production, Ms Wilson has commenced her work with the Intermediate group and Mrs Phelan’s Year 7 and 8 Drama Excellence class will enter the competition as a class.

Recently Mrs Phelan’s 7/8 Drama Excellence class commenced workshopping their production for the 2015 Drama Festival. This year we have been granted special permission from well-known author and illustrator Shaun Tan, to utilise his most recent visual story ‘The Rules of Summer’ as stimulus to create our performance. The Year 7/8 students have been exploring the story in class and have been actively involved in examining themes of rules, rule makers, sibling rivalry and what it means to be a child. The students have been keen to contribute their ideas with the work being student devised. The festival is due to take place in the first three weeks of August and we look forward to hearing more from our more senior casts as their rehearsals commence in the near future.

Michelle Phelan
Year 7/8 Drama Excellence Teacher

Caitlin Grigg – Year 11 student

Caitlin Grigg a Year 11 student at Helensvale SHS recently competed in the national series for BMX and finished an impressive 5th place overall. She also went on to the BMX Australian National Titles. Below is a picture of her with 2 Australian plates for 20’ 6th in Australia and her cruiser 3rd in Australia. Well done Caitlin!!!!

Ks4Kids

Ks4Kids is a Fun Walk raising funds for school chaplaincy. School chaplaincy exists to support all students, staff and their families. Our School Chaplain, Long Bradley has been a part of Helensvale High for 15 years. Long is employed by an external agency which relies on Federal funding, the support of the school, the school P&C, local churches and individual donors. He works very closely with other support staff - Guidance Officers, School Nurse, Student Liaison Officer, Indigenous Student Support Officer and others to provide a safe and nurturing environment to facilitate students core business of learning. Long has worked with children and youth since the 80s. He supports students one-to-one, as well as in groups through various programs.

All information on how to register to walk or donate for Ks4Kids is available at www.ks4kids.org.au. Once on the site, go to Participants and Teams and search for Helensvale State High School and join in to make a difference for our students.

The Super Early Bird Entry Fee of $5 (for students) and $15 (non students) has been extended to Monday 27th April. You can choose to walk 3.5, 10, 20 or 30km. There are various prizes to be won.

If you would like to know more about chaplaincy or Ks4Kids, please contact Long at school or via email at lbrad49@eq.edu.au.

Thank you.