



26 July 2013

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



### One Student, One Community, Many Futures

#### Independent Public Schools (IPS)

Our school is engaging in a consultation process regarding the submission of an EOI regarding becoming an IPS school in 2014.

All Queensland state schools, irrespective of size, geographical location or school type, can apply to become an *Independent Public School* in 2014.

Prior to submitting an EOI, schools are required to undertake consultation with their school communities. We have been involved in consultation with:

- Staff
- Parents, including the Parents & Citizens' Association
- The wider community including industry and community groups.

The *Independent Public Schools* initiative recognises the best decision-making, for the most part, occurs at a local level through direct response to local community needs and aspirations. It is designed to reduce red tape, giving schools more opportunities to achieve the best possible outcomes for their students and local communities.

In 2014, an additional 34 *Independent Public Schools* will have the opportunity to become an IPS which is aimed at:

- Increased innovation
- Stronger partnerships with industry and the community
- Further tailoring of local school programs.

All *Independent Public Schools* remain part of the strong state school system. They need to operate within the system enacting the same core values, beliefs and priorities.

I invite parents and carers to discuss the proposal for us to submit an EOI to become an Independent Public School at our IPS Q & A Forum on Monday 5th August at 5.30pm in our SWeLL (Library) space. Please RSVP to Natalie Balaz at [nbala6@eq.edu.au](mailto:nbala6@eq.edu.au) or call on 55 738555.

## Learning Progress

Shortly all parents and carers will be receiving a report card regarding semester 1 learning progress. 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 Semester 1.

We are providing parents and carers with an opportunity for a 15 minute interview with our teachers on Wednesday 7th August from 1.00pm to 7.30pm. A blue instruction sheet was provided with the report to guide how to book interviews and when the online booking (PTO) process opens.

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?

**Mark Blackshaw**  
**Executive Principal**

## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Dear Parents and Carers, you will soon be receiving your child's Semester One Report Card which will be posted on July 26. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Wednesday August 7 from 1.30pm until 7.30pm. The booking system will open at 6.00am on Monday 29 August and close at midnight on Sunday 4 August. You will be provided with information on how to access PTO on line and permission notices to return to PEP teachers in your Report Card Package. If you have changed your address and have not notified the school, please do so immediately so that you can receive the report card.

## School Wide Positive Learning Behaviour Support (SWPLBS).

At the end of last year, the staff agreed to review our Behaviour Management processes in the school and agreed to become a member of the growing number of Queensland schools who

are implementing the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support framework. As part of the *Helensvale Way* we have incorporated the importance of Learning Behaviours as part of this process.

Basically, the framework relies upon setting and communicating clear expectations, explicitly teaching the behaviours we want and setting up processes to reward and rectify student behaviours. It is ultimately about consistency, clarity and improving learning. As such, we have devised our Learning Values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. We have sought staff and student feedback and will present this information to the P & C Association. If you would like to share any feedback surrounding these values or the process, we welcome your input either through direct contact or email – 5573 8555 or admin@helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au

More information will be provided as the SWPBL Team, develop the process in the school.

**Cath Jeffrey**  
**Deputy Principal**

## SCHOOL TOURS – NEW ENROLMENTS

Are you considering enrolling a new student to our school? Tour our school with the Principal – Fridays at 10:30am. Please contact the office for bookings (5573 8555 or admin@helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au

## YEAR 8, 2014 ENROLMENT AND EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (ROUND 2) INFORMATION EVENING

If you are interested in enrolling your child into Y8, 2014, or you know of anyone wishing to enrol their child into Helensvale SHS, come along to our **Enrolment and Excellence Program Information evening on Tuesday 30 July 6.00pm – 7.00pm in the Student Activity Centre.**

- Meet Our Principal Mr Mark Blackshaw and Junior Deputy Principal Mrs Heidi Booth.
- Come along and tell us about your child and how we can work together to create a great high school experience in 2014.
- Enrolment application forms can be handed in on the night (subject to prior completion and required photocopied documents).
- Excellence Program applications forms will be available on the night.

We are currently enrolling new students for Y8, 2014 for students living in our boundary catchment area. We ask that the enrolment forms are completed as soon as possible to guarantee enrolment for next year. For further information please contact our Administration Office on 5573 8555 or email: admin@helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au or visit our website www.helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au

## WIN ONE OF TWO \$500 BANK ACCOUNTS AT BENDIGO BANK HELENSVALE

Bendigo Bank has kindly sponsored the **Tony Lynch Memorial US Academic Study Tour** by donating 2, \$500 bank accounts which are to be raffled in conjunction with the P & C Association.



Tickets are available from the Bendigo Bank Helensvale and the Helensvale SHS P & C Uniform Shop at a cost of \$2 for one ticket or 3 for \$5. All tickets have two chances of winning a \$500 bank account.

Students attending the Study Tour will also have tickets available for purchase and will be canvassing the school.

Study Tour organisers wish to sincerely thank Bendigo Bank Helensvale branch, for their support of this exceptional opportunity for our students.

## HELENSVALE HOME WORLD SUPPORTS US SCIENCE STUDY TOUR TO NASA

19 Students from Helensvale State High School will be attending the first of what is hoped to be a bi-annual science study tour to the US.



**homeWORLD**

The **Tony Lynch Memorial Academic USA Study Tour** will take students to facilities only available in the US such as NASA and the Smithsonian Institute, where they will undertake specialised study programs.

Helensvale Home World upon hearing about the tour came forward with a donation for what is considered to be a leading educational opportunity that state schools often do not have because of the prohibitive costs involved.

Community partnerships are vital to ensuring programs such as this continue and organisers of the Helensvale State High School study tour have high praise and thanks for Helensvale Home World's support as "they clearly see the immense benefit to our students and are actually helping to get us there."

Organisers of the tour thank Helensvale Home World for their donation and would encourage people to consider shopping at the location to help promote and strengthen community ties.

## JOIN THE CHALLENGE! ANDERSENS SUPPORTS USA SCIENCE TOUR



Brian Cooper CEO of Andersen's, has offered our school a Challenge – we need to get **1000** likes and hits on the **High School Challenge icon** which can be found on the **Andersen's Facebook Page**. The challenge started on the 15 July and runs

until the 31st August, 2013. We would like to thank **Andersens** for this challenge and look forward to meeting our target with the support of the school community. **Please check out the snapshot of the 'icon' above that you need to click on after you have clicked 'like' and then join the challenge by entering some details and the name of the school. Your details are for the challenge only!** Don't forget to also 'like' the Andersens Facebook page! <https://www.facebook.com/AndersensFlooring>

## QCS PROGRAM

### Year 12

The QCS (Queensland Core Skills) Tests will be held on the **3rd and 4th of September. ALL Year 12 students who are OP-eligible must sit the test to receive an OP.** The students have worked extremely hard on developing their skills for the QCS and we are continuing to support their progress with QCS preparation lessons during PEP, as well as, QCS Masterclasses. **The dates for the Masterclasses this term are: 24th of July, 31st of July and the 21st of August.** We will also be running some QCS Fundamentals workshops for those students who are still struggling with the style of testing, as a mode of support.

Students intending to go on to further study next year have already had an information session from Bond and Griffith Universities and they will have Southern Cross University speaking to them in Week 4. These sessions are designed to assist students in making decisions about the courses they may like to go on to study.

### Year 11

Following reporting, the Year 11 students will be allocated into a PEP class based on whether or not they are sitting the QCS Test. In Week 4 those who are OP-eligible or Personalised and Industry students who wish to sit the test will commence QCS preparation.

Students will be involved in initial practice tests in Week 9 following the Year 12 students completing the real tests. This will familiarise students with the format and expectations of the test and also provide information about their abilities to assist in designing a preparation course that suits their cohort.

## GREAT TEACHERS = GREAT RESULTS

*Great teachers = Great results* is the Queensland Government's five-year, \$537 million action plan to make our state's education system even better.

It will:

- Support teachers with mentoring, training and resources
- Reward outstanding teachers with career opportunities and scholarships
- Strengthen state school discipline
- Allow schools to have more say in how they are run because each school community knows what's best for Queensland kids.

The plan will lift standards of teaching and give schools more flexibility to get on with the job with a range of research-based initiatives to help your child get a great education, no matter where you live.

There will be new ways of measuring and rewarding high performances among our teachers, as well as strengthened discipline and streamlined processes for suspensions and exclusions.

Find out more about the plan: <http://qld.gov.au/greatteachers>

## MY GIRRAGUNDJI

As part of our NAIDOC celebration at the school we took a group of 40 students to see *My Girragundji*. This play focused on: A young boy feels lost, scared and alone. Stuck – somewhere between childhood and adolescence. Lost – between his family's traditional culture and the world of his schoolmates. Scared – of the school bully, crocodiles and of the Hairyman, the bad spirit that appears in his house in the dark of the night.

Until.... One day, a bright green treefrog hops onto his shoulder and into his life and slowly, his murky thoughts turn into feelings of courage, hope and confidence. Through this unexpected friendship, the boy discovers the brightness and joy inside his own spirit.

Based on the multi-award winning book, *My Girragundji* is an insight into the awkwardness and challenges of growing up – through the eyes of a young Aboriginal boy. The result is a story that is both moving and tremendously funny. This production lights up the stage with magic, dance and a bold theatrically to create an unforgettable experience.

What the students said:

"It was funny". "The play was very well done and entertaining". "It was well executed – my favourite part was the mosquitoes". "I liked that they could do many characters".

*My Girragundji* was a very entertaining performance that filled the audience with laughter and happiness from start to finish.

Helensvale SHS will be holding our NAIDOC celebrations on the 6 August, with an assembly, parent morning tea and special workshops after which the assembly will be for the senior school on the 9 August.

**Jenny McConnell**

**Head of Department, Learning Engagement**

## NETBALL - AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND and NEW ZEALAND

On Monday the 15th and Tuesday the 16th of July, Helensvale SHS had the privilege of hosting two netball teams from England and New Zealand. On Monday, our netball excellence teams had considerable wins over the Royal Grammar School Worcester with our B team winning 69-14 and our A team winning 57-17. The RGS players were highly impressed with the skill level of Helensvale's netballers and despite their considerable loss, said that they enjoyed the experience immensely.

On Tuesday our girls then faced Napier SHS from New Zealand. The girls used these games as valuable preparation for the upcoming Vicki Wilson Cup. Our A team were successful in both games, defeating Napier's A team 26-18 and their B team 27-15. Unfortunately, though, our B team lost both games going down 37-31 to Napier's B team and 33-16 to their A team. Regardless of the outcome, both days were a memorable experience for our netball girls as they were provided with an exciting and rare opportunity to play teams from other countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students who volunteered their time to umpire and score the games, as these games wouldn't go ahead without you. Also, on behalf of all the players and coaches I would like to thank Mrs Mona Williams, our sports teacher aide, for putting on a lovely afternoon tea and lunch for our visiting teams. Finally, best of luck to our netball teams in the Vicki Wilson Cup which is coming up shortly on Monday the 22nd of July.

**Miss Gartrell**



*Renise Woolsey – shooting against the England girls. It looks like Mr Blackshaw wants to get in on the action too!*



*Rebecca Anderson and Jessie O'Rourke facing tough competition against the New Zealand girls.*

**FUTURE SCIENTISTS – GRIFFITH BIOLOGY PARTICIPANTS**

Year 11 and year 12 Biology students recently spent a day at Griffith University completing lab activities. These activities involved observing plant and animal slides, testing bacteria for gram positive and gram negative reactions and osmosis experiments. The students carried out their lab work with absolute professionalism and received complements on their team work and behaviour from the Griffith University staff.

The year 11 students were: Cheyanne Hunt, Madison Clements, Yaren Bakir, Kelsie Hilton, Jacyntha Horrobin, Rochelle Helman, Kain Houghton, Kimberley Griffin, Liam Baclig, Taylah Nicholson, Dayna Tunley and Laura White.

The Year 12 students involved were: Ashara Moore, Tracie Cheng and Richelle Reid

Successful students in this program get automatic entry into one of many different courses after year 12. All the students above have made an excellent start.

**Fiona MacRae**  
**Head of Department, Science**

**FUTURE FOOTBALL STAR**

Congratulations to Jodie Burchell who was selected and recently played for the QLD U13's girls' football team at the National Championships at Coffs Harbour.

Jodie played extremely well in defence and even received Man of the Match for one of her games. Jodie who moved to Australia last year from England played for Chelsea FC back in her native England, so is no stranger to the game of football.

The QLD team came overall 4th out of 12 in the league. Well done to all the girls but especially Helensvale's Jodie – we are all very proud of you! Hopefully we will see you playing for the Matildas one day Jodie!



*Jodie in action on the football field*

**THANK YOU!!!**

On behalf of the Helensvale Community Leadership Group, we would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who donated to our Winter Warmth campaign last term. With your help, we were able to donate 3 massive boxes of warm clothing and blankets to the Salvation Army to help the homeless of the Gold Coast. Our next campaign will be raising funds to provide Christmas food baskets to disadvantaged locals, again working in conjunction with the Salvation Army. Watch this space for how you can assist us with this worthy cause!

**HELENSVALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GIVE UP TO FIGHT HUNGER IN MALAWI**

Students from Helensvale High School will join together to support World Vision's 40 Hour Famine. The students' hope to raise \$2000 this year for the 40 Hour Famine and welcome support from the community.

If you would like to donate, you can do so via BPAY, Biller Code: 199745, Reference: 20130005216.

Started by World Vision, the 40 Hour Famine is one of Australia's biggest youth events, raising community awareness and much needed funds to help fight global hunger. This year it is expected that around 300,000 young people from all over Australia will participate.

From 16 to 18 August participants will give up something important to them for 40 hours to raise awareness and funds to fight global hunger.

**For further information please contact:** Robyn Stoner on (07) 5573-8555 or rston34@eq.edu.au

## THE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDE PROGRAM

The Mental Health First Aide program is designed for adults assisting adolescents. Who better than to share this with than parents and carers. The program is a 14 hour course that covers; mental health in Australian youth, adolescent development, depression in young people, anxiety, eating disorders, psychosis and substance misuse in young people. We are so lucky to have been able to offer this program to two groups of parents and carers at the school. Those who attended will be well positioned to assist young people they come in contact with. As a school we are grateful to Pam Day who is the District Ed LinQ Co-ordinator, Gold Coast Child and Youth Mental Health Service for making this possible. Parents who attended were very impressed with the course

**Jenny Mc Connell**



*Pam Day and parents attending the Mental Health First Aide Program*

## BECOME A WEP EXCHANGE STUDENT - IT'S AN ADVENTURE!

Imagine swapping that boring old muesli bar for a croissant, and your stuffy school bus for a bike ride through the French countryside! As a WEP exchange student you can choose from over 20 countries to live and study for a summer, semester or even a year!

Zoe about her semester-long WEP exchange program to the USA:

"The best decision I ever made. I had the most incredible time in the US. I made so many amazing friends that I will never forget. I matured more as a person and an individual and feel more prepared for the 'adult world'. I'd recommend this to anyone who has ever wanted to do an exchange. I had the best time of my life."

Get started today to plan the experience of your lifetime! Request an information pack, including WEP's FREE application form.

Visit: [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au)

Call: 1300 884 733 (for the cost of a local call)

Email: [info@wep.org.au](mailto:info@wep.org.au)

## DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH!

Realise that adolescents are not just a smaller version of adults. The adolescent brain is in transition. It differs neuro-chemically and anatomically from an adult brain.

- Remember that adolescents' frontal lobes are 'closed for construction'. Expecting teenagers to show a lot of forethought, planning, consideration and impulse control is like expecting a goldfish to recite Shakespeare.
- The brain is re-structuring to become more efficient. Therefore we need to capitalise on this re-structuring. Help them to develop the habits and routines that allow them to work smarter not harder.
- Parents need to be their teenage children's frontal lobes. Asking an adolescent to do a lot of forward planning is like asking a dog to study physics. This is also the reason why too much freedom too soon does not seem to help too many young people.
- Last but not least, never underestimate your power. Adolescents need someone around them — an adult who has more options than they do. Someone who they may battle with, but someone who ultimately they imitate and emulate, and believe it or not, that someone is you.

Read more at <http://www.andrewfuller.com.au/free/DontWasteYourBreath.pdf>

## Diet

Our year 9 cohort are currently studying a unit in PEP that covers their mental and physical health. This has raised awareness of what we see students eating and drinking before school; packets of chips, cans of coke....A good breakfast is essential for students to learn.

"Eating a balanced healthy diet makes an enormous difference to performance at school. Diet also dramatically influences our mood and energy levels.

Our brains run on water, glucose and oxygen. Drink about eight glasses of water each day (soft drinks don't count).

Eat several smaller meals each day rather than a few big feed ups. High protein – lower carbohydrate meals build concentration. Eat turkey, fish, nuts, and yoghurt.

Carbohydrates with a high glycaemic index (refined sugars, refined grains ) are fast release carbohydrates that tell the body to load up with glucose – in the short term they cause feelings of calmness but later on the sugar surges becomes sugar crashes. Teachers often comment on the relationship between behavioural problems and inattention in school and either the absence of breakfast or a very sugary one."

**Andrew Fuller - Psychologist**

## OXENFORD AND COOMERA COMMUNITY CENTRE FREE BABYSITTING SERVICE

Oxenford and Coomera Community Centre are providing a free Babysitting Service beginning Thursday 1st August. They are funded to support families with children, 0-12 years (however the Babysitting is targeted towards age 11-17 year olds who may be responsible for young children.) This is a free program and afternoon tea will be provided. See the flyer provided for further details.

## FREE AFTER SCHOOL DROP OFF FOR YOUTHS

We have a FREE after school drop in for youths aged between 12-17 years at Runaway Bay Youth Centre located at 379 Oxley Drive, Runaway Bay. For further information see the flyer attached.

## GET STARTED VOUCHERS TO HELP KIDS GET IN THE GAME

Parents and carers can apply to receive vouchers worth up to \$150 to pay children's membership fees at registered sport or recreation clubs, when round two of the Get Started program opens on 15 July.

Children whose parents or carers hold a health care or pension concession card automatically qualify for the program while other children need two referral agents, who can be teachers, to support their application.

Get Started is part of the Queensland Government's Get in the Game initiative to support grassroots sport and recreation

## PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

When it comes to parent involvement and its powerful influence, the knowledge base is broad and clear. The challenge comes in transforming knowledge into practice, and practice into results.

- When parents are involved, students achieve more regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background or the parents' education level.
- The more extensive the parent involvement, the higher the student achievement.
- When parents are involved in their students' education, those students have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and complete homework more consistently.
- When parents are involved, students exhibit more positive attitudes and behaviour.
- Students whose parents are involved in their lives have higher graduation rates and greater enrolment rates in post-secondary education.
- Different types of parent/family involvement produce different gains. To have long lasting gains for students, parent involvement activities must be well planned, inclusive, and comprehensive.

- Educators hold higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with the teacher. They also hold higher opinions of those parents.
- In programs that are designed to involve parents in full partnerships, student achievement for disadvantaged children not only improves; it can reach levels that are standard for middle-class children. In addition, the children who are farthest behind make the greatest gains.
- Children from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to do better when parents and professionals collaborate to bridge the gap between the culture at home and the learning institution.
- Student behaviours, such as alcohol use, violence, and antisocial behaviour decrease as parent involvement increases.
- Students are more likely to fall behind in academic performance if their parents do not participate in school events, develop a working relationship with their child's educators, or keep up with what is happening in their child's school.
- The benefits of involving parents are not confined to the early years; there are significant gains at all ages and grade levels.
- School students whose parents remain involved, make better transitions, maintain the quality of their work, and develop realistic plans for their future. Students whose parents are not involved, on the other hand, are more likely to drop out of school. The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to (1) create a home environment that encourages learning; (2) communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers; and (3) become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.

***The evidence is now beyond dispute. When parents are involved in their children's education at home their children do better in school.***