



## HELENSVALE STATE HIGH enewsletter

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16 May 2024

**Our School Values –  
I am RESPECTFUL  
I am RESPONSIBLE  
I am RESILIENT**

Click here for more information and to see the event calendar

<https://helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx>

## From the Principal

Dear Helensvale State High School Community

### **H-Factor: Showcasing our very talented students and staff**

The very popular H-Factor is happening again this

year. The Student Council H-Factor Events Committee has asked me to include the following promotion in my newsletter article.

'Get ready to be dazzled and amazed! Presenting the most awaited event of the year: H-Factor! Join us on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October for an unforgettable show filled with jaw-dropping performances, incredible displays of skill, and boundless creativity. From mesmerizing musical acts to awe-inspiring dance routines and many more talented acts, this is your chance to show off your talent alongside the brightest stars of our community and shine on stage. Mark your calendars and prepare to be captivated! Don't miss out on the magic – sign up to audition and '

### **Recognising our dedicated staff**

Each year the Gold Coast Secondary Principals Alliance, comprising 16 state high schools from across the Gold Coast, host the Education Ball, where staff are formally recognised and celebrated for their significant contributions to our school communities. Each school nominates staff within various categories. Nominees from Helensvale State High School are:

Mrs MacGibbon has been at Helensvale State High School for over 21 years, and is a Teacher Aide supporting our students with disabilities in classrooms, in particular, in hospitality.



Mrs MacGibbon was nominated for the Educational Support award, for her commitment to providing quality service to staff, students and parents/carers. Mrs MacGibbon's capacity to establish and maintain quality relationships within the community and her significant contribution to other aspects of school life are just a few of the reasons why Mrs MacGibbon has been nominated for this award.

Miss Guymer has been at Helensvale State High School for over 7 years as an expert maths teacher and is currently our Year 7 Response to Intervention Teacher, providing additional support for students and staff in their classes.



Miss Guymer has been nominated for the Excellence in Secondary Teaching award due to her outstanding planning, preparation and delivery of highly effective teaching and learning programs ensuring every student reaches their potential. Miss Guymer is highly regarded in our school community for her significant contributions to the establishment and maintenance of a positive and supportive school environment.

Mrs Scott has been at Helensvale State High School for over 7 years and is the Head of Department of our Year 10 Learning Community and English Teacher. Mrs Scott has been nominated for the Excellence in Secondary Leadership Award for which she is very deserving.



Mrs Scott has shown outstanding leadership through implementing highly effective teaching and learning programs, ensuring our staff are equipped with a toolkit of strategies to differentiate for our 'One Student' within their classroom.

We wish all three nominees the best. Whether they win the Award or not, Helensvale State High School is the ultimate winner, having such wonderful staff members.

## Learning Community Naming Themes

On 26 February of this year I wrote a letter to all parents, with the following content:

*'This year our school has introduced Year Level Learning Communities, as an interim way of working, whilst we undergo consultation with students, staff, families and members of our community as to what the best Learning Community structure for our school might look like to further progress our improvement agenda.*

*You are invited to participate in a breakfast forum to provide feedback and discuss how we can further create a supportive learning environment where students can succeed and staff and families feel a real sense of belonging and connection to our school. Specifically, we seek your feedback regarding the structure, functions and naming of our Learning Communities, comparing benefits and challenges of various models and considering actions and strategies we could implement to benefit our entire school community'.*

I want to take this opportunity to take stock of where we are at with this process and to remind ourselves of the improvement journey thus far.

There has been thorough consultation with all key stakeholder groups to date. As part of the process, we held a parent forum on 7 March, which all parents were invited to attend. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend and provide feedback.

There is a bigger picture to Learning Communities, extending beyond a traditional house structure. The Learning Community structure has the opportunity to create a sense of belonging for all of our students, whether their passion is sport, arts, entrepreneurship, leadership, academia etc. Through consultation it has been identified that the naming of our Learning Communities should have

a broader focus so every student can relate to whatever the names and eventual story telling will be. The intent is to connect our school community beyond the sports events, bringing to life connections with all school events, positive behaviours, academic achievement – everything is a connection to a ‘house’ (Learning Community).

We are not devaluing our current houses, named after some of our alumni that went on to become sporting greats - Pearson, Stosur, Thompson, Shelley, Armitage, Osborne. Where possible, we have been in touch with these people as we value their connection to the school which we want so very much to continue, through various other means eg ambassadors for our sporting events, the naming of perpetual sporting trophies etc.

Throughout the extensive consultation key stakeholders enthusiastically engaged in being a part of re-imagining what our naming themes may be. The school’s working party has reviewed all feedback received from staff, students and parents thus far. The working party is now at the stage of presenting various naming themes to the staff and students for a vote. Hopefully by the beginning of Term 3 I will be able to share with you our new house / Learning Community names and structure for 2025.

*Yours truly*

**Karen Lindsay**

**Executive Principal**

**Helensvale State High School**

## KIDS and bats don't mix!



Bats and flying foxes play a key role in the ecosystem and are protected in Australia. They are sometimes found lying on the ground or hanging low in trees, and may carry germs that can make you very sick, especially if they bite or scratch you.

### What should you do if you come across a bat?

- **Do not touch a bat** – even if it looks hurt! Sometimes bats might look dead but are still alive, so never touch any bats.
- Move away from the bat so you don't frighten it.
- Tell your parents, a teacher or another adult so they can get help for the bat by calling: **Bats Queensland 0447 222 889**.



### What to do if you get bitten or scratched by a bat:

- It is very important to tell your parents, a teacher or an adult. You will not get in trouble.
- An adult can help you wash the area with soap and running water. This should be done for at least 15 minutes.
- You will need to see a doctor, who will treat you to stop the germs making you sick.
- You or your doctor will need to contact the Gold Coast Public Health Unit for treatment. ☎ (07) 5667 3200 (Monday-Friday)

For after-hours assistance contact ☎ 13 HEALTH (13 4 3 25 84)  
**NO TOUCH, NO RISK**

<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/10/australian-bat-hyavirus>



## Vicki Wilson Netball Competition

It's been a long time between State Finals...but we are proud to report that our Senior Vicki Wilson team have won their Gold Coast Sector. Which means they have made the State Finals for the first time in 4 years. The girls were undefeated all day and now progress to the Finals Series in August... so proud of you all..

Stay tuned for more photos and updates of our other 4 teams who were also amazing.



to immerse themselves in Queensland's cultural and political heritage. They actively debated the enactment of a bill and witnessed firsthand the proceedings of Question Time as Members of Parliament deliberated important political issues. Definitely a day to remember!



## Year 11 Ancient History

### 'Live @ the Library' in the classroom

A truly helpful resource! Recently, our Year 11 Ancient History students participated in an online workshop run by the QLD State Library around effective research. Jack Millar, from QSL, walked the students through the library website, as well as equipped each one with a set of highly valuable skills to make the research process more effective and faster. Something they will be able to utilise now, as well as in their future in higher education. Happy 'highly effective' hunting kids!

*Ms Tomana*



## Legal Studies

Year 12 Legal Studies students visited Parliament House

## Yr 7 Lunchtime Opportunities

Student Versus Teacher Football World Cup is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of May during lunch 1. All students are welcome to sign up and participate in the epic battle of teacher V Student! Please encourage your child to come and sign up at the Year 7 Learning Community.

Student Versus Teacher Netball extravaganza is on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of July during lunch 1. All students are welcome to sign up and participate in the epic battle of teacher V Student! Please encourage your child to come and sign up at the Year 7 Learning Community.

## Titan's Cup Netball

Helensvale State High School claimed the Coomera crown at the Titans schools competition, winning the inaugural Open Girls competition at the venue.

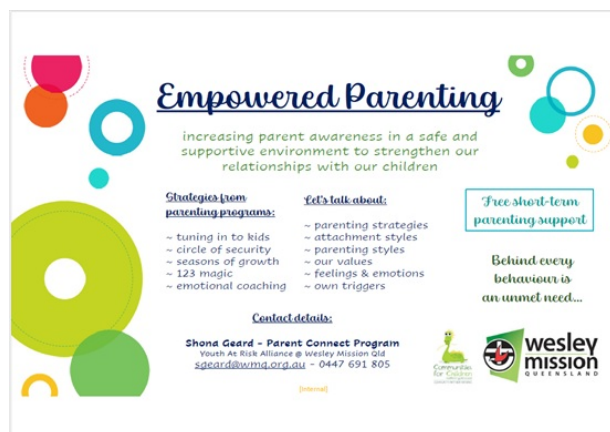
In what has been a hugely successful launch week for the Titans competition, Helensvale joined a number

of schools in playing the Coomera competition after a full Carrara competition earlier in the week.

Helensvale SHS defeated Marsden SHS 32-15 in the grand final, with both schools putting in impressive performances throughout the day.

[Click here for more information](#)

## From the Guidance Department



**Empowered Parenting**

increasing parent awareness in a safe and supportive environment to strengthen our relationships with our children

**Strategies from parenting programs:**

- tuning in to kids
- circle of security
- seasons of growth
- 123 magic
- emotional coaching

**Let's talk about:**

- parenting strategies
- attachment styles
- parenting styles
- our values
- feelings & emotions
- own triggers

**Free short-term parenting support**

Behind every behaviour is an unmet need...

**Contact details:**

Shona Geard - Parent Connect Program  
Youth At Risk Alliance @ Wesley Mission Qld  
sgeard@wrmq.org.au ~ 0447 691 805

**wesley mission GREENLAND**

## Link and Launch



Our Grade 12's from 2023 will be celebrating their 6 months' post school milestone in a couple of weeks!

If you are a *parent, guardian or carer* of one of these graduates and you feel that they need additional support to navigate employment, training or study options – help is here with the Link and Launch program

If you are one of those *graduates* reading this right now, you would know that you can engage with Elaine to talk through any challenges or roadblocks you may be facing. You could be feeling that your GAP year expectations have fallen short? You may be feeling isolated and unsure about your next step?

It's as easy as a text, email or phone call to connect with Elaine.

We can meet off-site for a chat, a re-think and a confidential conversation at no cost to you whatever!

### Link and Launch Support can include:

- Career Planning & Assessment
- Tailored Resume & Cover Letters
- Understanding of the ATS program in the job searching process
- Job Applications
- Alternatives to internet job applications
- Interview Preparation
- Uni applications
- Apprenticeships & Traineeships
- Employment Full or Part Time
- Free TAFE for Under 25's
- Community referrals
- SQW/Job Ready Programs
- Labour market research
- Wellness
- S.M.A.R.T Goal setting
- Career mentoring



Call or text Elaine on 0401 127 905  
Email: [ebran61@eq.edu.au](mailto:ebran61@eq.edu.au)  
<http://www.qld.gov.au/linkandlaunch>

## Cyberbullying Help

### What would you do if your child was being cyberbullied?

According to research by the [eSafety Commissioner](#), 1 in 5 young people experience cyberbullying and online abuse and 55% seek help from their parents/carers.

Our free training is available online and has been designed to be completed on a range of internet ready devices, including smart phones.

[Click here to visit the Cyber Bullying webpage](https://parentline.com.au/cyberbullying)  
<https://parentline.com.au/cyberbullying>

## Support Staff

As part of our Learning and Well-being framework, we have created a Well-being Hub for students and parents, which can be accessed through the Helensvale State High School webpage. The hub includes links to other websites and apps which can help to support student well-being, as well as provide information on career pathways. To access these 'well-being hubs' click on the icons below or go to the HSHS website from the link below. scroll down the page and click on the relevant icon.

[Click here for more information](https://helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au/)

<https://helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au/>



Student Well-being Hub



Parent Well-being Hub

## Acknowledgment of Country

Helensvale State High School as **one community**, acknowledges the Kombumerri Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our school is built. We respect their long history, ancestry and culture. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging for they carry the memories and traditions of past times.

We would also like to extend our acknowledgment to other First Nations Peoples: those hailing from the Torres Strait Islands and those belonging to other Aboriginal Language Groups.

We acknowledge the strength and **resilience** of Kombumerri peoples. We **respect** their enduring connection to the local wetlands and the cultural **responsibility** they uphold to preserve wildlife. Together, we go forward, learning in the spirit of these values.