21 May 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I spent time walking through the rooms where our Year 9 students were undertaking this year’s National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests and I must say that I was extremely proud of the efforts of these students. In every room, all students were trying their best and I am sure that you will join me in congratulating our students for their efforts. I cannot ask any more of our students than to do their best. Thanks also to you for ensuring that your children were ready and eager to go. We will now wait until September when the results of the tests will be made available.

A special thank you goes to the many Year 11 and 12 students who prepared breakfast for the Year 9 students on all three mornings of the test. It was great to see the support that these students provided to our Year 9 students.

Thank you to all parents who attended our parent/teacher interviews held on April 24. Your attendance is very important in reinforcing the importance of school, learning and the value of a good education for all students. It was also pleasing to see the largest turnout of parents in many years. I have heard only positive reports about the online booking procedures used this year. If you have any suggestions on how we can further improve the interview process, please let me know.

On Monday April 23, we held the school Anzac Day service and, once again, our Years 8, 11 and 12 students showed great pride and respect for all our service men and women who have been involved in international conflict defending the rights of all Australians. This year the school was well represented at the Caboolture Community Service with over 30 students taking part in the march. Two of our students, Aaron Young and Emily Chaplin, were also speakers in the community service. Thank you to all students involved.

The summer sporting season has just concluded and again this year we fielded teams in all sports in all age levels. Congratulations! This would not have been possible without the commitment of the students and the coaches. Selections for the winter season are now underway and I am sure that we will have another successful season. For parents of Year 11 and 12 students, the contracts for the summer sporting season have finished and new contracts will be negotiated once all the senior sporting teams are full. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of filling all our interschool teams again this season, especially in the Year 11 and 12 age groups. A special thank you goes to students who participate in both summer and winter sporting seasons.

Although it is only the middle of the term, important end of semester exams for our Year 11 and 12 students are on the horizon. The exam block for these year levels begins on June 12 and concludes on June 18. During this time, Year 11 and 12 students are only required at school for their exams.

As the cooler months approach, I remind parents and students of the school’s Dress Code Policy for the winter uniform. You can view the policy in the parent handbook, student diary and on our website. As Formal Mondays have commenced this term, the formal uniform must be worn every Monday until the end of Term 3. I have noticed that there are an increased number of students not wearing their formal uniforms on Mondays. If we are able to support you in having your child in the formal uniform, please let me know. Thank you for your continued support with regard to our uniform.

Other important upcoming events in the next couple of weeks include the school cross country on Tuesday, May 22 and, for Year 10 students, the BEACON ‘speed careering’ on Wednesday May 30. Please check the school calendar on our website for other important school events.

Finally, a reminder that our next Parents’ and Citizens’ Association meeting is on this Wednesday May 23 starting at 6.30pm. The early start should ensure that we are home in time to see Queensland again defeat New South Wales in the first State of Origin game of the year.

Best wishes,

Jim Box
Congratulations to our Year 9 students for completing the NAPLAN testing in week 5. The students treated the testing period very seriously and their behaviour was outstanding. Both the students and staff worked very hard on the preparation in the lead up to the tests and hopefully all of that hard work will be evident when the results are released in September.

We are now well into Term 2 with the end of Semester 1 fast approaching. Some of our Year 8 and 9 students have met with the Year Level Co-ordinators, Head of Middle School or Deputy Principal to discuss and set some learning goals in order to help improve their results. For those students achieving A’s and B’s for effort and behaviour, our first 2012 ‘A Level Trip’ will occur on Friday, 1st June. Permission letters will be distributed in the coming days. These forms will need to be returned promptly in order to secure a position on the trip.

There are a few excursions coming up for our Middle School students this term. Along with the ‘A Level Trip’, our Year 8 and Year 9 students will be given an opportunity to experience an ‘Explore Uni Day’ in weeks 9 and 10. The Year 8’s will be exploring QUT University on 19th June and our Year 9’s on 12th June. Again, permission forms will be distributed in the coming days. Please remember to return these promptly to the office.

With only a few weeks left of Semester 1, the end of semester report process will begin shortly. Please encourage your child to continue to try their hardest in all of their subjects, keep an eye on their assessment schedule and remind them to bring the correct equipment to school (including their diary).

Mrs Sarah Brady – A/HOD Middle Schooling.

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

‘Geography Matters’ is a slogan we Geography teachers often use and this was no more apparent than on our field trip to inner Brisbane and the North Lakes Display Village.

The purpose of the field trip was to explore urban planning issues in Brisbane, many of which will impact on students as they consider the communities that they choose to live in when they leave school and the houses they plan to buy or rent. “Liveability” was our catch cry and our focus was fourfold:

1. Looking at planning decisions at South Bank that have made it the award winning destination that it is
2. Looking at urban renewal along the Brisbane River via our river cruise
3. Looking at how sustainability and liveability is achieved through good planning in major residential developments like that at North Lakes
4. Evaluating the functionality, liveability and energy efficiency of a number of display homes.

During the field trip, students also developed skills associated with teamwork, map reading and observation, planning, collecting and organising data and photos in the field as well as decision making. Such skills clearly have relevance well beyond the classroom.

What sort of a day was it? Did students enjoy it? You bet! I’ll let them speak for themselves.

- ‘Fun and informative.’ (Indigo)
- ‘The day was amazing (as expected)…couldn’t pick a bad part of the day.’ (Liam)
- ‘Loved the independent work in the city; loved having almost the whole boat to ourselves; would do the whole trip again, happily.’ (Jayde-elle)
- ‘The perfect amount of freedom and the river cruise was great.’ (Catherine)
- ‘A fun and fantastic day.’ (Mel)
- ‘Amazing views from the boat.’ (Emily)
- ‘The day was lots of fun and the boat trip was eye-opening and very scenic.’ (Jordan F)
- ‘The houses were exceptional.’ (Raileigh)
- ‘Great day in the city and lots of fun at North Lakes too.’ (Amy)

Many thanks must go to a number of people for making our day a success:

2. Natasha Mulcahy and Ricky Stainkey from Stockland
3. The team at the North Lakes Sales and Information Centre
4. The sales representatives from the wide range of
builders whose display homes we entered.

Next semester we’re off to Coolum and Noosa National Park to visit some spectacular coastal environments.

*Ian Boxall – Teacher/Librarian*

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**SOCIAL SCIENCE AND BUSINESS – NEVER A QUIET MOMENT**

What a busy time we’ve had this term in the Social Science & Business faculty.

In the first week of Term 2, six Year 12 BCT students participated in the ‘QUT Student Business Competition’ at the QUT Caboolture campus. Our team competed against teams from other schools to develop a Business Plan on the day and present the concept to a panel of judges. Kaitlin Michie, Carlo Alora, Sky Proctor, Kayla Paroz, Charlotte Lilia and Tenayha Miano are to be congratulated on the calibre of their business acumen. Thanks also to Mrs Strahan for coordinating our Business team. Well done.

Earlier this term, the Year 11 Geography students explored the various urban transports in Brisbane city travelling by foot, bus, and city cat. Last week, the Year 12 Geography students spent 3 days at the Bunya Mountains. The camp was very successful but a bit on the cool side! Thank you to Mrs Levings-Levitt and Mr Boxall for running the Year 12 Geography camp.

To help celebrate State Education Week, we have invited 54 of our high-flying Year 8 to 10 ICT students to undertake the Australian Computer Skills Competition on Tuesday 22 May in the hall. We wish them all well.

This term, students have the opportunity to experience history in a ‘hands-on’ way. On Friday evening 25 May, the History faculty will be taking 64 history students to the ‘Mummy Exhibition’ at the Queensland Museum, Southbank. There, the students will come face to face with Egypt’s past. This extraordinary exhibition features the story of Nesperennub, an Egyptian priest whose mummy has remained untouched for almost 3000 years. This is a wonderful opportunity for students of Ancient History to study Ancient Egypt first hand and gain knowledge and understanding of this important find.

On Tuesday, 29 May we will be holding a Legal Studies Breakfast Forum where students will hear from a Community Panel about their involvement in the planning and implementation of youth programs within the Caboolture region. This will be held during a buffet style breakfast. Entry is $5-/student for this exciting legal forum.

Congratulations also to Year 12 Ancient History student, Shannon Bradley who was selected as one of 10 students from around Queensland to participate in the ‘Young Historians’ Workshop’ at the State Library last week. Well done Shannon. This is an impressive achievement.

The next few weeks will be a time when many assignments will come due. It’s important for students to stay organised and take the opportunity to show draft work to teachers for feedback as they prepare their final submissions.

For interested parents, the Australian Curriculum: History is available for viewing at [http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au). We are currently trialling the new curriculum with Year 8 history classes and will implement for Year 9 and 10 in 2013.

*Dr Glenn Davies – HOD - Social Science & Business*

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**AGRICULTURE EXCURSION TO GYMPIE–MURGON REGION**

*By Taylor Bye and Dillon Inch*

In Term 1, the Year 11 & 12 Rural Operations and Agricultural Science classes went on an excursion to many different farms in the Gympie – Murgon Region. On the way, heavy rain was encountered and Gympie was cut off by flooding. We backtracked through Caboolture, up the inland highway through Yarraman to Murgon, with the journey taking a little longer to complete.

Some of the farms that we went to were piggeries, chicken farm, dairy farm, wineries, olive farm, The Ginger Factory, Queensland Dairy Museum, The Nutworks, Nolan’s Feedlot at Cinnibar and the Saleyards at Murgon. With the sales being cancelled for the day due to trucks being cut off by rain, we all had a good look around the saleyards and saw cattle being dipped when someone turned up to pick up their stock that had been left there due to not having tick clearance. The camp went for 3 days and 2 nights. We stayed at Ironbark Ridge overnight and the area was a bit cold. We learnt many different things to do with farming and took away a lot of new thoughts from this camp.
Cattle Showing at Marburg Show. Junior and Senior Cattle teams participated at the Marburg Show in spite of the rain. It rained heavily overnight and it was wet underfoot the next day however most of the exhibitors had still turned up. The students and cattle achieved to a very high standard. The team collected Junior and Senior Bull Championship ribbons and also took out Grand Champion Braford Bull for the day. Well done to Dylan Hosking and Toni Poole who were the leaders of these winning animals. The female animals won Reserve Junior and Senior Female Champions and also managed to win Reserve Grand Champion Female. Thanks go to Allison Gordon the leader of the Reserve Grand Champion. Thanks must also go to the students who assist in caring for and feeding these animals every school day, particularly John Dern, Allison Gordon and Ashleigh Tyler.

Looking forward to see how we go at Esk Show soon!

At the Farm. Crops and forage crops have been planted for the students to gain competencies. Nuts are also being harvested and some maintenance work is being carried out by students as we head into winter. Students have been pulling engines apart in Year 9 Rural Operations and Year 11 and 12 students have been growing pumpkins, analysing soil reports and carrying out plant experiments.

Mrs Pedwell - HOD Agriculture and Senior Schooling

‘BOATS, CAMPS AND BARBED WIRE FENCES’

FORCED MIGRATION & THE LAW CONFERENCE

Four of our hard-working Year 11 Legal Studies students; Ben Lindsay, Tyler Moss, Reggie Ailoilo and Ainsley Heath accompanied Mrs Lepper to the ‘Boats, Camps and Barbed Wire Fences - Forced Migration and the Law Conference’ held at the University of Queensland, St Lucia on 13th April. Their involvement was all the more noteworthy as students gave up the last day of their school holiday to immerse themselves in Australia’s current policies regarding Refugees, Asylum Seekers and International Humanitarian Law.

Leading legal guest speakers, including the National Red Cross legal officer and Federal Humanitarian advisors, guided students through complex national and international policies. Students also had the opportunity to participate in role play scenarios, defence strategies and ethical analysis of ‘Rules of Engagement’ in armed conflict.

The event afforded students with valuable networking skills and ‘first-hand’ experience of refugee stories told through visual art works, poetry readings and musical performances. The event culminated in an ABC Radio National live broadcast.

Mrs Lepper – Business Teacher

NEW DIMENSION

Teaching and learning have been given a major (read $40 000 plus) boost this year with projectors and sound systems now in just about all teaching areas. This is a great time saver whilst boosting learning opportunities. Some rooms have had an extra boost with their projectors providing an interactive dimension. Teachers can make their desktops interactive or use the screen as a whiteboard. Either way, they can annotate the board and also save what they’ve done for future reference - a great asset for revisiting what’s been covered or providing work to students who’ve been away. The students love getting involved and ‘making their mark’ as well. These projectors are a great contribution to our efforts to improve the way we teach and learn while adding a cool, fun factor.

TAIWANESE STUDY TOUR

This year our school is hosting a study tour of Taiwanese students. The students will arrive on Tuesday 10th July, 2012 and depart on Sunday 29th July, 2012. The group comprises of approx. 20+ students both male and female, aged 15 - 16 years.

We are currently seeking host families to look after these students during their stay. Having these students as part of your family for this time is a truly great and rewarding experience.
This has been the case with many of our host families who have welcomed our study tour students into their homes. Friendships have been forged which will last a lifetime.

If you are interested in hosting a Taiwanese student, please call Leanne Long – Study Tour Co-ordinator, at the school on 5498 0111 to register your interest.

INFLUENZA (THE FLU)

Some useful information for our school community at the beginning of the flu season

Influenza or ‘the flu’ is a highly contagious disease caused by infection from influenza type A or B (or rarely C) virus. These viruses infect the upper airways and lungs but can also affect other parts of the body. In Australia, outbreaks of influenza of varying severity occur every year usually between May and September.

Symptoms: Symptoms usually appear one to three days after being infected. A person can spread influenza to others a day or two before they become unwell and up to five days after they have become unwell for adults and even longer for young children. The symptoms of influenza can include: fever, dry cough, muscle and joint pain, tiredness/extreme exhaustion, headache, sore throat and stuffy nose. Most people recover within a week, although a cough and tiredness may persist.

Transmission: The virus that causes influenza is mainly spread from person to person by virus-containing droplets produced during coughing or sneezing. The droplets can be spread up to a metre through the air and enter the body through the nose and mouth. A person can also catch influenza if they shake hands with an infected person or touch a contaminated surface such as a door knob or telephone, and then touch their nose or mouth.

Treatment: Many people treat ‘the flu’ by simply resting in bed, drinking plenty of fluids, and taking over-the-counter medication that helps relieve the symptoms. In the past few years, new antiviral medications have been developed to treat influenza. These medications reduce the length of time symptoms last and help people return to their daily routines earlier. These medications are most effective if they are started within 48 hours of influenza symptoms appearing.

Health Outcome: Most people recover from influenza within a week, although a cough and tiredness may persist. Influenza can sometimes lead to severe complications such as pneumonia. Young children, elderly people and those with certain chronic illnesses are more likely to develop complications.

To avoid becoming ill with influenza, the best way to protect yourself and others is to:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand gel
- Wash your hands prior to touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with disposable tissues which should be disposed of immediately, consult your doctor if you have a cough and high fever
- Don’t share items such as cigarettes, glasses or cups, lipstick, toys or anything which could be contaminated with infected secretions
- Maintain at least one metre distance from people who have flu-like symptoms such as coughing or sneezing

Vaccination: Under the National Immunisation Program, influenza vaccine is funded for the following groups:

- Persons aged 65 years and over
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over
- Pregnant women at any stage during pregnancy
- Individuals at six months of age or older with conditions predisposing them to severe influenza
- Heart disease
- Chronic lung conditions including severe asthma requiring frequent hospital visits
- Chronic neurological conditions including multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries
- Chronic illnesses requiring regular medical follow up including diabetes, kidney failure and blood diseases
- Weakened immune system including HIV infection, cancer and chronic steroid use
- Children aged six months to 10 years on long term aspirin therapy

Help and Assistance: For further information, please contact your local doctor, community health centre, Moreton Bay Public Health Unit ph: 3142 1800 or phone 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Stay safe, Marie Pritchard- School Based Youth Health Nurse

USC PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Get your questions about uni answered at the USC Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 30 May.

5.15pm - Optional campus tour with a USC student
6–8pm - Information session
Lecture Theatre 7, University of the Sunshine Coast, Sippy Downs

To register your attendance or for more information, visit www.usc.edu.au/info or phone 5456 5000.

KANGAROO BUS LINES
SCHOOL SERVICE CHANGE

Kangaroo Bus Lines has relocated to their new facility at 2 Motorway Dr, Burpengary. There is a requirement for changes to some School Services operated by Kangaroo Bus Lines which take effect today, 21st May, 2012.

For more information, visit www.kangaroobuslines.com.au and go to the school run icon or contact their office on 1300 287 525.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Hi to all. With winter coming on, we will be adding some new items to our menu. Chicken & Gravy Rolls, Hot Chocolate, Savoury Mince Rolls and whatever else sounds interesting.

Happy Birthday to Lauris, Paul & Robyn and congratulations to Pat & Yvonne, who have won prizes for April. Thanks to all volunteers for your continued help.

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