6 August 2014

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

It was great to see recent publicity in the Gold Coast Bulletin regarding a group of senior students and their plans to build a classroom in Samoa. One of the students leading the project is Francesca Spear and when I asked her about her motivations regarding the project she stated that “we have been really touched by the plight of disadvantaged children in Samoa. There is such an urgent need now for this facility, particularly in a country that has been so hard hit by natural disasters in recent years. We have the opportunity to do something, and we hope the community – and particularly the business community – will come on board and help us get there sooner.”

Our school project is being backed by Surfers Paradise Rotary Club which has previously undertaken a similar project in Samoa. The club is a strong supporter of the Samoa Victim Support Group. The proposed school building will take six weeks to manufacture on the Gold Coast, from where it will be shipped to Samoa’s capital Apia.

It will then take just five days to be assembled by a team from Rotary, accompanied by a contingent of students and teachers from Helensvale High.

The total cost is expected to be $42,000 including shipping, and the students are hoping to raise up to $50,000 to assist with travel costs.

Jess Wagstaff is another Year 12 student who is leading the project. She stated that “This is not a great sum in the scheme of things to make a significant difference to the lives of Samoan children who have been denied an education for a host of reasons. We should all feel blessed in Australia to have the opportunity to learn and grow with hope for a prosperous future. We simply want the disadvantaged children of Samoa to at least have a fighting chance to make something of their lives.”

I am proud of our students who are leading this process and it is great to see the idea germinate from within the student community. It speaks volumes for the compassion and drive of young people who have taken on this cause at a time when they are preparing for their own futures. This generation of students really want to make a difference in this world and we hope the Gold Coast community and our business leaders can help them achieve their goal and to help fill a great need in this south pacific island community.

Our students are hoping to have the Samoan building completed by Easter next year. Anyone wishing to donate to the cause can do so by visiting the Helensvale Facebook page.

Schools National Tree Planting Day

Helensvale High Horticulture students had a chance to demonstrate their skills and knowledge towards a worthwhile cause for School’s National Tree Planting Day on Friday 25 July. Students were invited from Helensvale State Primary school to participate in the day’s events which were led by the senior Horticulture students. The sponsors of the day’s activities visited and got their hands dirty with assisting in creating improved green zones and natural corridors for our fauna.

The Horticulture students assisted in demonstrating tree planting and landscaping techniques to Helensvale Primary visitors who were very eager participants. The primary students were further taught and experienced the art of propagating some native shrubs in the Horticulture facilities. To the primary students delight they were then treated to picking and tasting some of the Horticulture students very own home grown strawberries. Their final delight was to experience some homemade hamburgers for lunch from our experienced and very hospitable Hospitality students. It was a tiring but rewarding day for all those who participated.

A special mention of our sponsors needs to be made which are Grand Motors Toyota who kindly donated $500 towards purchasing plants, mulch and water saving crystals. They further supplied the students with merchandise for the day’s activities such as shirts, hats and gardening gloves. Bunnings at Arundel drove into the school grounds with a Ute load of tools and plants to donate and use for the day. Coastal Nursery at Mudgeeraba and Barellan Nursery at Coomera donated more plants for the students to utilise for Tree Planting Day.

A special thanks to the Helensvale High year 12 Horticulture students for working so hard and making the day so rewarding. Thanks to Marnie Griffiths our SWeLL Librarian who captured photos for the day and posted them on Facebook. The final big thanks is to Jane Skelton our very hard working lab assistant.
who helped in organising the day and relates so well with all the students and keeps that very special eye on them.

**Steve Paech  
(Horticulture Coordinator)**

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**SWPLBS**

Have you ever considered one of the following:

- **Keeping the kids home to help with a shopping trip?**
- **Taken a family holiday mid-term, just because?**
- **Decided it wasn’t worth the bother to have one more argument about whether your son/daughter should take a day off school?**

“**Responsible, Respectful, Resilient.**”

If you ask any Helensvale High student about the key values that underpin our school, chances are they will tell you the three magic words. Many of them might even add the line, “it’s not okay to be away – because learning is our business.” This is not just a catchy slogan; it is the reasoning behind how important being resilient is to every person in our school community.

Attendance is linked to individual students’ academic success – a point readily backed up by statistics as well as common sense. Our students understand the importance of being at school and in the classroom, but sometimes need a little help.

Being a parent of a student with irregular attendance can seem one of the greatest tests of resilience there is. Constantly battling to get your teenager out of bed and onto a school bus, deciding whether a headache is really severe enough to justify a day off school, having one more argument about wagging school to visit the shops … these test a parent’s resilience like few things can.

One thing that all parents share is that commitment to wanting the best for our children. If statistics tell us that success is reliant on the more time students are present in their classes and the less days they are absent from school, it is clear that in many cases the well-being of our students depends on the resilience of their parents.

We can describe resilience as a gift, a talent, or a dream, but above all it is important – because “it’s not OK to be away.”

**Writers Day of Excellence**

On Wednesday 23 July we held our 2nd Annual Writer’s Day of Excellence in SWeLL. Primary and Secondary schools from the Gold Coast region were invited to attend a day to improve their writing skills. Three published author/illustrators: Martin Chatterton, James Foley and Christine Bongers were invited to attend and speak to our students for the day. We had over 600 students take advantage of the opportunity to listen to these author/illustrators, including students from Clover Hill SS, Coomera SS, and Pimpama SS.

All of year 8 students were afforded the opportunity to listen to Martin’s stories and watch him transform classmates into fictional creatures. From the excited sounds coming from the room, all enjoyed the experience.

James Foley spoke to a select number of students interested in writing and illustrating, showing them some tricks and skills that he employs in his work. Christine Bongers spent the day with 30 HSHS students who have a real passion for writing, endeavouring to complete a short story. Below is an account by one of the students who attended Christine Bongers writer’s workshop.

Christine taught me new and wonderful skills for writing short stories. She shared personal experiences and insights of her life, in which she used to improve upon her stories. One thing she said that I found very interesting was

“Never start a story with the weather because it is not important, unless it’s a cyclone, but it still doesn’t matter. The weather always comes after the news, and that is the important information, so that is where it belongs.”

She pointed out to us that the story should start right where the action is, to capture the reader to read more. What’s more helpful in writing the story was “get to know the main character and then the story will be easy to write.”

*This Day didn’t just help me write stories, but also skills to help me in English!* 
-Laura Guy, 10.
Visual Art Day Camp Take 2

On Saturday the 26th of July saw the second workshop with 75 Art excellence students across years 8 to 10 participating in a full day of exciting and engaging workshops led by industry professionals. Students had the opportunity to select a workshop from Mixed Media, Installation, Drawing and Wearable Art giving students the chance to expand their skills while further developing and refining their art practice. The Visual Art department strives for excellence by extending skills and understandings of various art practices whilst building relationships with practicing artists, peers and parents. Futuristic costumes, artist’s books, impasto paintings and creative spaces are just some of the outcomes from the extremely successful day. Both parents and students alike thoroughly enjoyed the day and are excited to put their new skills and knowledge into classroom practice.

Bonita Winters and the Visual Art staff would like to say a huge thank you to the following parents who supported the workshops by giving their time, effort and enthusiasm in supporting the excellence day camps: Bonita Cooper, Karen Wong, Rachelle Armstrong, Barbarta Andrasz, Sharyn Jacob, Sarah Robinson and Lisa Millard. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Woolworth’s at Oxenford for supplying delicious fruit and Superbutcher Oxenford for supplying the sausages for the students BBQ lunch. Our final thank you goes out to the parents of our excellence students who continually support our students in both their classroom practices but also the extracurricular activities.

Year 10 Career Development and Senior School Planning

During term 3 Year 10 students will undertake a range of learning experiences in developing a better understanding of themselves, their interests and skills and, their preferences in regards to their futures. In their Futures classes students will navigate various career software programs, receive information about senior schooling requirements (QCE), explore career and subject selection options, plan their senior studies (SETP) and, complete a week of work experience. A subject selection evening is planned in August to outline senior schooling subjects and pathways for students and parents. Finally, at the end of this term, students will sit a short interview along with their parents and senior school staff member, outlining their senior school pathway and subject selections for their senior schooling. This is an exciting and sometimes confronting time for young people and their families. Often, clashing views or plans are proposed or young people are uncertain about what they want to do. The best way to prepare for the upcoming decisions ahead, is to begin to talk about all the options now and understand today’s young people are likely to change career many times in their lifetimes. We recommend a backup plan (or several) and encourage students to make decisions based upon their passion and/or interests, their skills and strengths and to consider labour market growth areas. In today’s competitive and ever changing labour market young people require adequate qualifications and skills. Fortunately, today, there are a number of ways to get where you want to go.

Senior Schooling Team

From the Business Department

2014 Northern Collegiate Australian Business Week (Week 10, Term 2)

During the last week of Term 2 Helensvale State High was involved in the very successful Australian Business Week event within our Northern Collegiate!

Australian Business Week, also known as ABW, involved a total of 130 Year 11 students from Upper Coomera State College, Helensvale State High, Coombabah State High and Pacific Pines State High School.

With over $25,000 worth in sponsorship, 135 students, and over 20 full time staff from the four partnering schools, ABW triumphed! The opening began with students meeting their teams for the first time, an excursion to Griffith University and concluding with a Trade Show at Helensvale SHS and a Gala Dinner at Bond University.

During the week, ABW students ran a manufacturing business via a computer simulation (a newly introduced system for 2014), created a new innovative environmentally friendly product, created a video advertisement, webpage, and trade display and company report around their new product. All students embraced this challenge.

Some products that were designed included:

- A ‘SmartSwitch’ (that allows you to control your power at home remotely via a mobile app)
- A ‘DeckHeads’ Skateboard (made from eco-friendly and sustainable bamboo); and
- A ‘Solart Mobile Phone Case’ (that includes solar panels that will charge your mobile phone)

Plus many more awesome ideas!

With such a large and successful event, there are many people who contributed their time and expertise with their teams in the competition. A special thanks must go to the Helensvale State High School teachers consisting of Sue Hobbin, Mel Atwood, Tara Byrne, Hayden Volzke and Lisa Campbell who co-ordinated the event. In addition a special mention goes to the winning team, sponsored by QTMB and the Business Mentor Shannon D’Costa and Teacher Mentor Louise Dodds. Sarah Board, Sam Bristow, Danielle Van Blerk and Ananda Sewram were the Helensvale team members who worked tirelessly for the duration of the week to lead their team as the Grand Champions. There were many winning categories which were recognised at The Gala Dinner.
Also, a thank you to our support staff for their behind the scenes work in preparation for the event and a particular mention to Chloe Gamman for the professionalism she displayed while assisting in the overall preparation of the Australian Business Week.

Our Platinum Sponsors, Eco Energy Group Ltd and Mr Stuart Robert (Federal Member for Fadden) and School Sponsor Club Helensvale, also need to be acknowledged for their sponsorship of ABW. I would also like to acknowledge the team sponsors who again came on board giving their expertise and financial support. Without the continued support and value from the businesses we would not have been able to run such a valuable learning experience for our Year 11 students.

Looking forward to 2015 Australian Business Week!!

_Lisa Campbell_   
_HOD Business / ABW School Co-ordinator_

**Year 12 Movie World Dance Film Day**

On Wednesday 30th July, Ms Murray and Mrs Riches took 18 energised Year 12 Dance SAS students to Movie World as a part of their “Film Clip” assessment. Student started their day with dramatic audition workshop to get us inspired and as questions about the Performing Arts Industry before we set off filming dance sequences around the theme park. The students were seen as celebrities and were asked to be photographed with many of the international visitors. After a busy and complex day of dancing and filming, the students hit the rides for an hour. This great experience was captured by two amazing Year 11 Film students, Mira Gietzel and Ashleigh Neil. Their expertise made for a quick and effective shoot. The students dance film clip work will air at the annual “ENCORE” dance night which takes place on Friday 10th of October.

**Senior Subject Selection Evening - 13th August 2014**

- Year 9 into Year 10 2015 information talk 5.30pm to 6.00pm (SAC)
- Year 10 into Year 11 2015 information talk 6.00pm to 6.30pm (SAC)
- Display booths in Performing Arts Centre from 5.30pm
- Information talks for Year 11, 2015 students regarding Diploma in Business and Diploma in Events in Music Room at 5.30pm (presentation by Careers Australia)

**State school students do better at University Article Exert by Barbara Preston**

State school graduates do better at university than private school graduates with the same end-of-school tertiary entrance score. That’s the clear finding in a number of Australian studies since the 1980s and British studies since the 1990s (references available from link below). The Australian research compared academic results at the end of first year at particular universities for cohorts whose entry was based on tertiary entrance scores for the previous year in the same state. The British study tracked all students who completed the end-of-school A-levels and went directly on to complete a full-time four-year degree course. The differences between graduates of state and private schools were substantial (though less pronounced among those who did very well at university). The Australian research found that, on average, graduates of state schools received the same marks at the end of first-year University as graduates of private schools that had tertiary entrance scores around three to six points higher.

The general finding is that graduates of non-elite and co-educational schools do better at university than graduates of socially and academically elite and single-sex schools who achieved the same tertiary entrance score.

Please search the details below for the full article

Premier’s ANZAC Prize 2015

Have you ever been able to pinpoint a moment that changed your life forever?

Are you interested in embarking on an epic mission to the battlefields of the Western Front and Gallipoli?

Are you a current Year 10 or 11 student?

Do you have an interest in Australian history?

Are you curious about your world and have a passion for travel?

Do you feel a connection to Australia’s military involvement at Gallipoli?

Then you should apply to win a place on a study tour to visit Gallipoli and the Western Front. If you are interested then check out the website and see Mr Breen in NSR1 or Mrs Seed in SSR2 for more details and help with your application.

CLICK ON THE LINK TO SEE FURTHER INFORMATION.

Annual Track and Field Carnival

On Thursday the 31st of July, Helensvale State High had their annual Track and Field Carnival. This year our theme was 80’s where both students and teachers got involved and dressed up in exceptional 80’s style. We also had a very special performance by our super Track and Field athletes turn dancers…. The Jitterbugs (led by Mrs Costan). The Jitterbugs performed on both the senior and junior parades as well as for the opening ceremony of the carnival. Their presentation provided immense enthusiasm for the start of a fantastic day. Throughout the day we had many activities for all to get involved in, including the track and field events, novelty events and laser tag. Students were also able to watch the live school band, have photos in the awesome photo booth, and buy snow cones, fairy floss and ice creams. It was a very exciting yet busy day for athletes and students participating. It was without a doubt an amazing carnival! We hit record attendance numbers and had a number of student athletes break records. We hope to bring a bigger and better carnival to the school next year. Thank you to Sharon Skennar and Nicole Turgeon for all of their constant support and organisation of this marvellous event. We also need to thank the teachers for officiating at the events and of course the parents who popped in to check out the vibe and watch their super talented children. Congratulations to the MAGNIFICANT MAGPIES on our win!!! Best of luck to all of the ‘Vale’ athletes who will be competing at districts.

Written by Tahlia Camilleri (Year 11 Magpies Leader)

New Operating Hours for Uniform Shop

Last term we trialled new operating hours in our schools Uniform Shop. Following community feedback and will now trial a new set of hours for this term.

Commencing 4th August the Uniform Shops new operating hours will be Monday- Thursday 8.00am to 12.00noon.

WEP Student Exchange program

Click below for further information on this program.

August is Dental Health Awareness Month

Dental Health Month aims to raise public awareness as around ¼ of Australians have untreated dental decay and only 39% of Australian adults visit the dentist for a yearly check-up. As most dental diseases are completely preventable, we need to focus on early intervention and prevention to keep enjoying good oral health.

Let’s keep our teeth for life, and help our children do the same!

Read more at www.dentalhealthweek.com.au

Gold Coast Child and Adolescent Oral Health Service

In the case of a dental emergency, telephone the Oral Health Client Service Centre 1300 300 850 Monday to Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm excluding public holidays.