18 February 2014

Principal’s Report

Every Minute Counts

Welcome to the 2014 school year. The first weeks have been very busy with teachers and students starting the new year, getting classes underway and our other programs off to a flying start. Our enrolment numbers are slightly above the predicted numbers, with our Day 8 numbers being 853. Our Year 8 students have settled in well, thanks to the leadership of our Year 8 Coordinator Bruce McFarlane and the Deputy Principal for Year 8, Loreen Herlihy.

I have been impressed with the tone of the school and the desire of students to be learning.

My clear message to all students is that every minute of their time at school is important and attending every day and being focussed on learning is what will ensure they are successful at school.

High Expectations Process

We have high expectations of our students and we express this through our PRIDE values.

As a part of our ongoing program to improve student outcomes and to ensure our students can fully participate in the learning, we are focussing on students bringing the necessary equipment, along with completing all homework and classwork.

To support this focus we have implemented a new school-wide process:

- The first time a student fails to meet these expectations the Teacher will revisit expectations with the Student. On the second occasion that this happens, the student will be required to attend a lunchtime detention.
- If this behaviour then continues the Teacher will send a Text Message and issue another 10 minute detention. The Text Message to the parents is to make them aware that this is an ongoing problem and they will need to discuss this with their child. We do not expect parents to reply to the Text Message.
- Should there be a fourth instance of a student not bringing equipment or not completing homework or classwork, the Teacher will phone home to provide further details on the concern and to ask for parental support in rectifying this issue. The student will be referred to the relevant subject area Head of

Department for an interview and will be given a detention by this HOD.

- Should the behaviour re-occur within that school Term, the teacher will refer the student to the HOD for the second time. The HOD will set a 20 minute detention and phone home.
- Any further instances will be referred to the Deputy Principals and managed through the RTC points system.

Report Review

This year we have initiated a new process around goal setting, to support our drive on high expectations. In the first 2-3 weeks of every term we provide the students with the details of their latest report and guide them in reflecting on how they can improve. The students complete a goal setting activity and this then comes home for your perusal. For years 9 to 12, this occurred last week. The year 8 students will join this process after Term 1 report cards are issued.

Swimming carnival

Our swimming carnival, held on Thursday, was an outstanding success. With 600 students in attendance (that’s 70% of our school) the atmosphere was just amazing. Once again the feedback from members of the public regarding our students at a public venue was that they represented our school in an outstanding manner. The students enjoyed a day of competing and cheering.

Uniform

I am very pleased with the effort our students are making in wearing the uniform; wearing it correctly; and wearing it with pride. Already the commentary from our community is that we look smart and, as usual, our students are representing themselves and our school in a very positive way as they move through the community. Remember, if students cannot wear an item of the uniform on a particular day, they need to bring a note of explanation to the Rolls office before school.

Investiture of our Leaders

Our 2014 Captains, Prefects and other school leaders were formally recognised at the Investiture Ceremony on Wednesday 12 February.
Congratulations to our 2014 school leaders:

- **School Captains:** Kristin Van Der Lee & Zac Maher.
- **School Vice-Captains:** Georgia Handley & Alex Astorga.
- **Prefects:** Jessie Charter, Victoria Clements, Shami Davey, Krystal Hardke, Angel Nikijuluw, Kelsy Pointon, Breanna Ray & Claudia Trinder.
- **Beacon Student Ambassadors:** Moroni Black, Well Buentipo, Joshua Copeland, Shanae Cross, Isabel Cross, Thomas Csere, Zoe Daly, Shana Dyer, Matthew Gaudens-McMullin, Noah Grieve, Brittany Hampton, Sarah Lear, Alara Lolive, Alex Sitton, Luigi Tassone, Victoria Wickramsuriya & Zechariah Wood.
- **Student Council Representatives:** Jayden Logan, Taylor Watts, Alex Roser, Cameron See, Crystal Palliser, Quinn Yates-Sclater, Samantha Bally, Rabura Dawanincura, John Ocampo, Emily Steele, Zac Maher & Kristin Van Der Lee.
- **Gold Coast Junior Council Representatives:** Joshua Clements, Lauren Lawler, Shania Rhodes & Jessica Roe.

This year we introduced new school leader roles for the Junior School:

- **Junior School Captains:** Kirra Moir & Jade Searchfield.
- **Junior School Vice-Captains:** Kimalyse Barth & Natasha Zangari.
- **Junior Prefects:** Taylah Bovill, Natasha Burchell, Kimberly Gillmore, Kailana Gock, Ethan Johns, Alexandra Roser, Cameron See & Damon Shearer.

### Upcoming Events

The first Cluster Sports Day is Tuesday 25 February. Students have selected and paid for their sport and teams will be finalised by Tuesday 18 February.

The dates for our sporting events this year are:

- 25th February: Cluster Day 1
- 11th March: Cluster Day 2
- 25th March: Cluster Day 3

School Photos will be taken on Thursday 20 Feb, and students must be dressed in the formal or sports uniform on the day of the photographs. Jumpers are not to be worn in the photograph. School rules regarding jewellery apply.

Our school calendar is on our website with all the major events for the year loaded into it. [https://nerangshs.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx](https://nerangshs.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx)

### Reminder - Insurance cover

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised the Department of Education and Training does not have accident insurance cover for students. If your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents. Student accident insurance pays some benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is up to all parents to decide what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child. Please contact your insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if you wish to take out student personal accident insurance cover for your child.

### P&C NEWS

#### Happy New School Year!

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to the school to all our new families.

Thank you to those new parents who were able to attend our morning tea and tour on the first day, I hope you found it helpful. If there are any parents who would like a tour of the school, please contact me.

The P&C are very happy and proud to see all the students wearing our new uniform. We think everyone looks very stylish and neat. I would just like to remind everyone that years 9, 10 and 12 were able to continue with the previous uniform and anyone who had uniforms from family members were not obligated to purchase a new uniform. We have found that a large number of students across all levels wanted to purchase the new style uniform anyway. This has left us a little short in some areas, however, orders are being placed and you will be notified when stock arrives.
I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big Thank You to our staff who manned the uniform shop in the 2 weeks prior to school returning. You did an amazing job under pressure, working 5-6 hours at a time with no break. The waiting lines were kept to a minimum and customers were served quickly and efficiently. Our Convenor, Mary, did an amazing job. Thank you ladies.

Thanks also to all the students and parents who were very patient and polite whilst waiting to be served. It was often hot and students can be a little slow and argumentative in trying things on! It was frustrating at times for us all, but we got there in the end. Thank you.

Please remember that if the uniform is not worn correctly, detentions will be issued.

**Dates to remember**

- **AGM** 11th March 6pm in the Admin Building, followed by the General Meeting.

Trivia Night – the P&C will be holding a Trivia Night on 21st March in the school hall. Tickets will be $10 each with tables of 8. Over 18’s only. Alcohol will be available for purchase, BYO nibbles. Strictly no BYO Alcohol. Minimum 100 raffle prizes to be won! More information will follow.

As always we may be contacted via email at pandc@nerangshs.eq.edu.au or my mobile is 0412267263.

Here’s to a great year ahead at Nerang State High School,

**Regards,**

**Tracey Spiers P&C President.**

**RTC News**

For those of you who are new to the school (and for those who would like a recap!) here is how the RTC works at Nerang State High School:

RTC stands for Responsible Thinking Classroom. It is a place students will be referred to if they are disrupting the learning process or they make a poor behavioural choice outside the classroom setting.

For today we will focus on the classroom. If a student is disrupting the learning process (eg. Calling out, talking, wandering around the room) a teacher will ask the student the RTC questions:

1. What are you doing?
2. What should you be doing?
3. What will happen if you continue this behaviour?

The first two questions are about asking the student to think about their behaviour. It gets the student to identify what they are doing wrong and what they should be doing instead. The answer to the third question is always, “I will go to the RTC”. This lets the student know what the consequence will be if they do not change their behaviour. The Responsible Thinking Process (RTP) is about choice. Students learn that they can choose their behaviour, but by doing so they are also choosing the consequence.

If a student is referred to the RTC from class the following will occur:

- The student will be required to fill in a Re-entry plan (these are now on Yellow A4 paper so much easier to spot in a school bag!)
- Once this is filled in the RTC Supervisor will discuss the student’s responses and get the student to identify what the better choice would have been and how the student can avoid making a poor choice in future.
- Depending on whether the incident was minor or major, a student will receive 1 or 2 points. RTC works on an 8 point scale – if a student reaches level 8 he/she will be suspended.
- The student then has to make time to see the referring teacher to negotiate the plan. Once the teacher is happy that the student understands the classroom expectations, he/she will sign the plan.
- The student needs to take the plan home to get a parent/guardian signature.
- Once a plan has been signed by all parties it is to be brought back to the RTC and a green slip will be issued. This allows the student to go back to class. If a student fails to negotiate with the teacher before the next lesson, he/she will spend the lesson in RTC and will go up another point for failing to comply with the correct procedure.

If your child is ever referred to the RTC, you will receive a text message to inform you of this visit. Your child will have been given a form that requires your signature. If your child manages to stay out of RTC for a full week – he/she will go down a point.

Support is offered at various levels in RTC and you will be contacted if your child’s levels are escalating. RTC is about supporting the student, not punishing them. So if you do receive a call from me – please keep in mind that my goal is to work with you in helping your child make better choices. I’m certainly not calling to give you a hard time or to point fingers! Working together is definitely the key if change is to be successful.

If you ever have any inquiries about your child’s RTC referrals or are concerned about his/her behaviour, please contact me on 5503 7854 or email me on ameye5@eq.edu.au.

One final thing – RTC tends to do a lot of its communication by phone or SMS, so please ensure you keep your contact details up to date.

**Angela Meyer**  
**RTC Coordinator**

**PRIDE – What’s it all about?**

Has your child come home with and shown you a PRIDE slip? Have you received a text message about your child receiving PRIDE points? Have you been wondering what this is all about?
Well, let me get you up to speed.
PRIDE is about our school’s values. We want students to have PRIDE in themselves, PRIDE in their work, PRIDE in their school and PRIDE in their community. PRIDE also stands for:

- Persistence
- Resilience
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Empathy

These are values that we believe will help prepare our students for their future.

In order to encourage students to show their Nerang PRIDE we have introduced PRIDE Points for Term 1. This is a whole school positive rewards incentive program. Every time students take PRIDE in themselves, their work, their school or their community or they demonstrate one of the key values (see the list above), they will be issued with a PRIDE Point. A SINGLE PRIDE Point is all it takes to go into the fortnightly random draw for a MOVIE TICKET. Each Year Level has their own fortnightly draw.

BUT that’s not all! The Top 5 students from each Year Level will receive an invitation to the PRIDE Café where they will be treated to a delicious FREE lunch! In order to be in the Top 5 a student has to have accumulated the most PRIDE points during the Term.

So if your child is in Year 8 or 9 – check his or her diary daily to see if they have been issued with a PRIDE slip (or slips!). If your child is in 10,11 or 12, you may receive a text message informing you of PRIDE points that have been issued for a particular subject.

If you have any questions about PRIDE, please feel free to contact me either by phone on 5503 7854 or email me at ameye5@eq.edu.au

Angela Meyer
RTC Coordinator

The Finance Window is open to accept payments on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only from 8.00am to 2.00pm. Finance will not accept payments from students during class time. Students are to make their payments before school or during the two lunch breaks.

Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque, Eftpos or via the Internet. Internet payments can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The school bank details are:

BSB: 064 451
Account: 10003546
Account Name: Nerang State High School

Please ensure the correct Student ID number (which is on student statements and timetable) is used if paying via the Internet so the payment is processed against the correct student.

Remember to make any Internet payments for excursions and camps 2 days prior to the due date to allow for the processing of the payment.

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME FEES

Term 1 fees are now overdue. Payment of outstanding fees must be paid prior to the acceptance of monies for other school activities eg: sport, excursions and camps.

TRANSLINK

On Monday 20 January 2014, an improved public transport network was rolled out across the Gold Coast region as part of TransLink’s South East Queensland (SEQ) Bus Network Review.

New train timetables were also introduced on the Gold Coast line to improve the frequency and efficiency of the City network including improved connections to buses. Changes to the public transport network now provide the Gold Coast community with simple, direct and frequent services connecting to key centres and train stations throughout the Gold Coast.

It is important to note that these changes affect urban bus routes operating on the Gold Coast. School services, operated by Surfside Buslines still service local schools. Information on school service timetables and routes can be accessed online at www.surfside.com.au and parents can also plan their children’s journeys using the TransLink journey planner, by simply visiting www.translink.com.au ensuring they select ‘More options’ then check the ‘School’ checkbox when searching.
Please note - students from both Clearwater and Nerang West who previously caught the 3.55pm service on urban bus route 21, will now be able to catch school bus route 3015 travelling at approximately 3.53pm from Nerang Bus Interchange.

If I can provide you with any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Sophie McGuirk  
Stakeholder Manager  
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