3 March 2014

Principal’s Report

Swimming Carnival

Our school swimming carnival, held on Thursday 13 February, produced not only outstanding attendance and participation by our students, but also some amazing results. The Winning house was Beta on 1170 points, followed by Apha (1146), Gama (1041) and Delta (892).

Our swimming champions, recognised at our school assembly this week were:

- 13 Years: Kianna Paine and Mathew Clementts.
- 14 Years: Madeline Pickett and Sebastiano Tassone.
- 15 Years: Brielle Young and Lachlan Cullen-Chambers.
- 16 Years: Shania Paine and Gabriel Da Paz.
- Open: Pedro Da Paz and 3 girls in equal first - Jessie Charter, Georgia Handley and Kristin Van Der Lee.

The records broken on the day were:

- Backstroke - Girls 14 Yrs: Madeline Pickett (-5.56 sec)
- Breaststroke - Girls 14 Yrs: Madeline Pickett (-3.36 sec)
- Butterfly - Girls 14 Yrs: Madeline Pickett (-5.26 sec)
- Freestyle - Girls 14 Yrs: Madeline Pickett (-2.36 sec)
- Breaststroke - Girls Open: Chante Meighan (-0.54 sec)

Great Results Guarantee

An additional $131 million will be invested in Queensland’s 1233 state and Independent Public Schools in 2014 to improve student performance. High Schools will receive their current level of funding plus a share in $30 million to be distributed across all year levels, with a particular emphasis on the early years of high school. This additional funding will be particularly important for students entering high school with low levels of literacy and numeracy. The agreement outlines how a school will use the additional funding to improve student performance and schools will have the flexibility and autonomy to decide how the funding should be spent.

Our school has been finalising our Great Results Guarantee and we will be extending our work in the areas of Reading and Numeracy. Our focus for 2014 will be on 2 key groups of students - those with low levels of literacy and those who are capable of reaching the upper two bands in NAPLAN testing. I will share our guarantee with the school community once finalised via the school’s website.

Parental Involvement

Parental input into the school’s operations is greatly appreciated and there are a number of opportunities for parents to be involved with our school. Our first P & C meeting for the year was held on Tuesday February 11 in the Administration Conference Room. The P & C is an excellent avenue to contribute to the school and I strongly encourage all interested parents to attend – our next meeting is our AGM on Tuesday March 11. A special invitation goes out to our new Year 8 parents who we welcome into the Nerang State High School community. I also strongly encourage parents to contact the school if they have any concerns or queries. Early intervention with problems often leads to a speedy solution. Please feel free to contact staff members to clarify any information. The contact emails for all staff are located on our website at nerangshs.eq.edu.au/Ourschool/Ourstaff/Pages/Ourstaff.aspx

2015 Years 7 and 8 Information Evenings

Our school will be hosting two information sessions for Years 6 and 7 parents in relation to Years 7 and 8 in 2015. Our first evening will be held on Wednesday 14 May and will include presentations in relation to Junior Secondary at Nerang State High School, Excellence Programs and the enrolment process. A further information session will be on 16 September. Full details of these events will be provided closer to the date and through our local Primary Schools.

Assessment Schedules

Assessment Schedules were provided to students this week. These are individual for each student, showing the due dates for all assessment this semester. You will be able to work with your child in using this information to plan for assessment. Planning to complete assignments over a number of afternoons and weekends is imperative.

We ask that students use their Assessment Schedule to firstly record the due dates for each assessment item in their Student Diary. The next step is for students to then write into their diary the times they plan to use to prepare for the completion of each assessment item.
Students can plan for the workload relating to **tests** by writing revision times for each test. Students need to write revision on the night before the test. They then write in further revision times for 3 of the 5 nights prior to this date.

For **assignments**, students are to write the assignment name in their diary on each night that they will be working on it between the date given and the due date. In general, they need to build a minimum of 5 times when the assignment will be worked on.

Ask your child to show you that they have done this planning in their diary. Then take the Assessment Schedule and display in a prominent place, so you can consistently refer to it and give reminders about due dates for assignments and preparing for tests.

We cannot post the 880 individual Assessment Schedules on the school website, so the assessment program for each year level is provided in the Curriculum / Testing and assessment section of the school website. The Guide to Homework and Study is also available here.

**Next Step Survey**

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

**High Expectations Process**

I want to remind parents about our high expectations process that I covered in the last newsletter. In line with our PRIDE values, this year we are strengthening our focus on students bringing the necessary equipment, along with completing all homework and classwork, by introducing a clear process of consequences for students and communication of ongoing issues with parents.

The school-wide process is as follows:

- The first time a student fails to bring equipment or complete homework or complete classwork the Teacher will revisit the 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 there is an ongoing problem and that 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.

The dates for our sporting events this year are:

- 11th March Cluster Day 2
- 25th March Cluster Day 3
- 29th April Cluster Day 4
- 2nd May School Cross Country Carnival
- 5th May Wet Weather Day 1 (Monday)
- 20th May Cluster Day 5
- 26th May Wet Weather Day 2 (Monday)
- 2nd June Wet Weather Day 3 (Monday)
- 11th June X-Over Finals
- 18th June WW Day (X-Over Finals)
- 31st July Athletics field events (PE staff out all day)
- 1st Aug School Athletics Carnival

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)

**SCHOOLS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 2014**

Every year Nerang is invited to participate in the Schools Constitutional Convention with many other schools on the Gold Coast. The topic this year was a perspective on a possible Constitutional change required for amendment to include a Bill of Rights. There were some outstanding key speakers that provided the convention with many different proposals and arguments for the topic.
Year 10, 11 and 12 Visual Art Excursion to GOMA

As part of the authority art subject Visual Art, students are required to not only produce works of art based on a particular concept, but also critically analyse and appreciate artworks. On a visit to GOMA (Gallery of Modern Art) in Brisbane Year 10, 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to view the Cai-Guo-Qiang (pronounced tsai gwo-chang) exhibition. This major exhibition which features Qiang’s fascination with our relationships with the natural world, explores the relationship between people and nature.

Using a variety of symbols, narratives and traditions was well as a range of materials in his practice, Qiang creates large installations depicting life like animals placed in amazing environments.

The year 10 and 11 students were asked as part of their written task to critique the artworks of Cai-Guo-Qiang, as well as other artworks featured in the gallery, whilst the year 12 students were asked to analyze and interpret Qiang’s installations. The Visual Art students enjoyed their visit to the gallery as they gained a true appreciation for the visual arts.

Cia-Guo-Qiang’s exhibition is featured at the Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) until the 11th May.

Mrs.Carrassa
Visual Art Teacher

Breaking Down PRIDE

This newsletter I would like to focus on something that will encourage the development of both Persistence and Resilience in your children – failure. Yes, you read that correctly – FAILURE. Now let me just clarify exactly what I mean by that. When children fail, they are faced with two options: give up OR try again (Persistence). Giving up is the easy option. It requires no effort and provides no challenge. It is the option generally taken up by children who have not developed resilience – the ability to bounce back in the face of adversity.

As a parent I can understand the desire to want to help your child to succeed, however we need to ensure that it is through our child’s efforts, and not our own, that they have succeeded. It can also be heartbreaking when our child gets upset and feels that they are not up for the challenge. Often we want to step in and make the problem “disappear” so they can once again be happy – but at what cost? My own mother used to do most of my art homework for me in Grade 8. I thought our weekly tasks were too time consuming. She loved drawing, especially portraits so was happy to do the homework for me so that I would stop stressing. Now all I can draw are stick figures. Thanks Mum.

Author Robert A Heinlein warned, “Do not handicap your children by making their lives easy.” How many of you still do all the cooking, cleaning and shopping for your teenage children? I know of one mother who is still doing the laundry for her son who is in his mid 30’s. He brings it round stays for dinner and returns the next day to collect it, and stays for dinner again (and sometimes requests take home meals!). Is this the future you want?

So to avoid such tragic scenarios, I suggest you take a little bit of time to read the article below authored by Joshua Raymond of Rochester SAGE, RochesterSAGE.org entitled “I Want my Kids to Fail”.

“I want my kids to fail. That probably isn’t at the top of your list for your kids, but it should be. Failure is one of the most important experiences they will ever have. The road to success is paved with failure because failure teaches us how to succeed.

I want my kids to fail. It is only when they fail that they have the opportunity to pick themselves back up. It is only when they fail that they learn to work hard. It is only when they fail that they learn what doesn’t work. It is only when they fail that they learn that sometimes people need help. It is only when they fail that they learn empathy for others struggling. It is only when they fail that they learn life is not always fair. It is only when they fail that they understand what being human is.

I want my kids to fail, but not to the point where they can’t emotionally continue. Right now I am here to help provide a pep talk, spend time working with them to succeed, and tell them I believe they can succeed if they continue to try. But I will not always be able to be there, so this motivation needs to become internalised so that they succeed even if no one else believes in them.

I want my kids to fail, but not to the point where they cannot afford to feed, shelter and clothe themselves. While they are under my care is a time when the consequences of failure are
not threatening to their health and welfare. This is the time to learn through failure how to succeed.

I want my kids to fail in the classroom. This is true education! I don’t want them to believe that success is easy, but when a child is bright enough to learn with minimal effort and is rewarded with A’s for that, they come to believe that hard work isn’t needed for success. I want them to struggle, to not always succeed on the first try – or the twentieth, to learn that asking for help is not a sign of weakness or lack of intelligence, and to see that success is often a long process.

I want my kids to fail – and you should want yours to also. If your children are struggling, help them learn to succeed. Don’t make success easy for them, but teach them the skills they need to succeed. If your children are not struggling at times in school, ask why not. Ask for curriculum that challenges them and makes them work for their grades. Learning to fail is one of the most important skills they will ever learn.

I want my kids to fail. It is how they will learn to succeed."

I hope this have given you something to think about. I know it made me stop and analyse what I do at home with my children.

Angela Meyer
RTC Coordinator

Bookroom Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8:30 - 12.00
12:30 - 2.00

Suzie Koenig
School Based Youth Health Nurse
Gold Coast HHS
Mon - Fri. 0800hrs - 1600hrs
(Mon Tues Keebra Park SHS, Thurs Fri Nerang SHS)
Work Mobile: 0432 005 262

RESOURCE CENTRE HOURS
Open daily – from 8am-8.45am
Open Morning Tea – 10.15am – 10.45am
Open – Lunchtime 1.15pm – 1.45pm.

LIBRARY TEACHER AIDE MRS MARILYN RIVETT

FINANCE NEWS

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

First Instalment of school 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.

Payment Options are available, including Centrepay. Please direct any queries to our Finance Officer: Ms Lowe on 5503 7804

Martin College Gold Coast Campus Open Day

Students interested in studying in the heart of the Gold Coast? Come and see our Gold Coast Martin College campus situated in the heart of the shopping district of Surfers Paradise, and only 200 metres from the beach at our Open Day on Saturday 8th March 2014.

Date: Saturday 8th March
Time: 10am to 12:30pm
Venue: Gold Coast Campus - Level 5, 38 Cavill Avenue, Surfers Paradise
Who: Anyone looking to get into the Event, Travel, Business, Marketing, Management, Design or IT industries
RSVP: Registration is essential. For more information and to register visit our website at martincollege.edu.au