18 March 2014

Principal’s Report

P&C AGM

At the AGM this week we saw the executive re-elected to their positions: Tracey Spiers - President, Leanne Barnes – Secretary, Kathy Hillery – Treasurer, Samantha Duncan - – Vice-President. Their re-election comes as no surprise, as this represents the confidence that the P&C members have in the hard work they continually put into our school. My thanks to these fantastic ladies who have put their hand up to continue in their executive roles on our P&C, and also my thanks to those parents who take the time to come to our meetings each month.

Club 95

Higher student attendance is associated with higher student achievement and our target for attendance is 95%. This expectation of students having less than 5% absenteeism, equates to no more than 2½ days of absence each term. Students with 95% attendance are recognised each term and join the ranks of ‘Club 95’. To be in ‘Club 95’, students also need to have any absences explained and a no more than 3 days of lateness to school. As a reward, our ‘Club 95’ members will get to attend ‘Lunch with the Principal’ at the end of each term.

Encourage your child to make sure they are organised around being on time to school and that you are following up on providing the school with a reason for absence, by replying to the text message or sending a note into school. Please remember that your response needs to include a reason for the absence to allow us to determine if the absence is legitimate and meets the requirements to be authorised.

Shoes

The past policy on the sport shoe was that it could be black or predominately white. The current policy in our prospectus states only a predominately white sports shoe is acceptable. Due to some level of communicance in the early part of the year, some parents were left the impression that the old policy was still in force. Given this situation the P&C has decided to revert to the previous policy of sport shoes being black or predominately white for 2014.

As always, the correct formal footwear for Nerang State High School is black, enclosed, lace up shoes (fully enclosed toe, sides & heel, sides below ankle, upper with a tongue). These must be worn with the day uniform. They may be of sports style.

Reports emailed

At the end of this term we will be emailing the Progress Report Cards to parents. If we don’t have an email address, the report will be printed and posted. Please ensure we have your current email address to receive the report via this process. Our advice for parents is to add OneSchool.application@dete.qld.gov.au to your list of safe senders to ensure your student report card is not sent to the Junk folder. Please also note that we have been working over this term on changing our Interim Progress Report. We recognise that the Achievement grade and the descriptors for Effort and Behaviour provide the details on the student’s current performance, so our comments will be 1 or 2 sentences that communicate what students need to do to improve. We are working toward having report cards that are easier to read and have a sole focus on how students can improve. We have been in ongoing consultation with the P&C and their feedback on the draft model is very positive.

Bullying... No Way! Day

Our school is taking part in the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on Friday 21 March. On top of our ongoing messages to students around behaving responsibly and safely every day, in Period 3 our Year 8, 9 & 10 students will be involved in an assembly where we will have a Guest Speaker. Students in Years 8 to 10 are allowed to wear an orange shirt and their sports shorts to show their support for the day.

The big messages you can convey at home are that children who engage in behaviours where they tease, imitate, make fun of, repeatedly exclude or ignore others, or they say things that offend, humiliate or intimidate are behaving as bullies. Remind them that most bullying involves making hurtful statements or telling lies in an online environment. Also, please reinforce that standing by and allowing it to happen, is in fact participating in bullying yourself.

The Bullying. No way! website has information for parents and students about how we can all help create a supportive school environment free from bullying and harassment. http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/

Sport Dates

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)
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

YEAR 12 PRESENTATION – FAMILY LAW

Thank you to Kathy Atkins for making a presentation to our Year 12 Legal Studies Students on the topic “Family Law”. Kathy provided very valuable information on a range of legal issues that impact on the topic of Family Law. The students were able to engage in a good discussion with Kathy and this provided them with a very positive learning environment. Many of the issues discussed, students should be able to apply to their assignment. Kathy voluntarily gives up her time to share her expertise with us. She is a practising lawyer and an associate of Bond University. Kathy’s constant support is very much appreciated by the students and me.

M Harburg
Senior Business/Legal Studies Teacher
2014

‘Meeting In The Middle’

Our Youth Support Co-ordinator, Tony Roberts, will be facilitating the ‘Meeting In The Middle’ program in school term two for nominated students in year levels 8, 9 and 10.

‘Meeting In The Middle’ is a conflict resolution program that supports young people to learn coping strategies by improving communication skills and understanding how and why conflict occurs. The program provides the opportunity to:

- learn the steps of conflict resolution and understand how body language plays a large role.
- learn the principles of mediation and know who is in their support network.

It has been designed using a strengths based approach. It is not designed to be used as therapeutic counselling sessions. This approach aims to acknowledge and increase the participant’s knowledge, skill and self-awareness.

This group work program will run for approximately eight sessions and the start date of program is Thursday, 1st May. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the Youth Support Co-ordinator, Tony Roberts.

Trivia Night

Hi everyone,

Just a reminder to book your tables for Trivia Night if you haven’t already.

We have had P&C members working really hard on the questions, sourcing over 100 raffle prizes and organising the night. Prizes include accommodation, hampers, bbq, vouchers, wine, camera gift vouchers and much more.

Tables of 8 at $10 per head pre paid by Thursday 20th March. Tickets are $12 each on the night.

Please book and pay by cash/ EFTPOS or direct deposit- details at the uniform shop or contact me.

This is our only fundraising event so PLEASE support us as we support the school.

Strictly NO BYO alcohol, it will be available at very reasonable prices from the bar. Soft drinks available, tea and coffee provided. BYO nibbles.

Please contact me for more information.

Thanks for your support, see you there!

Tracey Spiers- 0412 267 263
P&C Association President

Bookroom Hours

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

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
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

Payment of 2nd instalment of Resource Scheme and Laptop Program is due on 21st March, 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

Youth Off the Streets Scholarship Program

(Closing 4 April)

Nominations are now open for disadvantaged young people between the ages of 16 & 21. Nominees must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia and the young person nominated must have a clear need for financial assistance.

Nominations for the Youth Off The Streets Scholarship Program are not restricted to a specific study or training path. Nominations are invited from young people with genuine talent, ability and determination in any education or training course, including (but not limited to): academic skills; visual or performing arts; sport; trade skills; and music. The wide-ranging vocational goals pursued by the scholarship recipients will encourage other disadvantaged young people to follow their dreams.

Scholarship funds can be used to pay for educational course fees and also for support costs such as equipment, uniform, textbooks and stationery to ensure that the scholarship recipients have every possible opportunity to reach their goals.

In 2014 we are pleased to announce that over twenty young people from throughout Australia will be provided with scholarships of $6,000 each. Check out the link below for further info. Nominations close on 4 April.