06 May 2014

Principal’s Report

Parent-Teacher Meetings

Congratulations to our parents. Our first Parent-Teacher Evening for the year was held on April 30 and we had a very strong turnout from our parents. This is a fantastic indicator of the importance our parents place on strong relationships between school and home. If you were unable to attend on the night and wish to contact your child’s teachers, please do not hesitate to do so. The best way to accomplish this is to email the teacher directly. The email addresses for all teachers are on the school website in the ‘Our Staff’ page, under the ‘Our School’ tab. This is the best way to organise a meeting. Just send an email with your child’s name, the topic of conversation and times that would suit you, and the teacher will get back to you with when they can meet. Our teachers would love to be able to meet with you having had the time to prepare samples of work, examples of support you can provide or additional resources to support your child.

Anzac Day 2014

I hope you had the opportunity last Friday, on the public holiday, to attend a dawn service or other commemorative event. On Wednesday April 23rd we held a special assembly to recognise the men and women who served in our defence forces and take a moment to reflect on what we all should be truly grateful for.

Our thanks to Warrant Officer Matthew Henderson from Canungra Barracks for his attendance on the morning and his address to our Assembly. Many people commented on the dignified way in which our students conducted themselves throughout this formal event. I am never surprised to hear praise for the way our students behave. It has become the norm that the way our students represent themselves and our school, it makes me proud to be the Principal of such a fine school.

My special thanks to our newly formed Drumline; their performance on the morning was outstanding. Congratulation to Mr Harawira on getting this project off to a flying start.

Discipline Audit

Just prior to the Easter break our school underwent a discipline audit.

Education Queensland believes that clear and consistent school discipline is an essential component of a high performing education system. Children and young people need self-discipline as part of their social development in order to achieve their academic and life goals. In 2013, the Queensland Government introduced comprehensive audit requirements for state schools in the area of discipline. To ensure that a consistent and evidence-based audit process across the state, the Discipline Audit Instrument was developed by the department and is firmly grounded in research. During 2013 and 2014, all Queensland state schools will be audited against five domains contained in the Discipline Audit Instrument.

The results of our Audit show that in all 5 domains we are a high performing school.

There were numerous commendations, including the way we implement our Responsible Thinking Process, the work of the Support Team, our strong focus on a positive learning culture built around high expectations, our core values of PRIDE and our support for students, to name a few.

The audit also provides recommendations for what additional actions we should be undertaking. The few recommendations we received in our audit were focussed on those processes we have already implemented that make us a high performing school.

Club 95

Just over 200 of our students were particularly pleased to be recognised for meeting our attendance target during Term 1. They received their invitation to a BBQ lunch with the Principal on the last day of term.

In our school, 95% attendance (with all absences explained and a no more than 3 days of lateness to school) will get you into ‘Club 95’. As a reward, students in ‘Club 95’ get to attend ‘Lunch with the Principal’ at the end of each term.
Our attendance rate for Term 1 this year was 90.0%, up from 87.6% in 2013. We are on the way to reaching our target of 95% attendance, which will mean we are better than the state average. We can be better than average on many fronts, and this is another one of them.

Research shows that higher student attendance is associated with higher student achievement. It seems obvious that your child will learn best when they are continuously in their classes having contact with the curriculum and the support that our teachers provide. As a parent, this is the easiest thing you can do to help your child be successful at school.

This is the list of hints I regularly give to ensure parents are getting children to school on-time and ready to learn:

- have a set time to go to bed and a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities to be completed each afternoon
- speak about school positively and convey the importance of getting the best education they can
- be firm, send your child to school every school-day, including their birthday and the last day of term.

**Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**

Late last year I wrote to parents about the implications of the commonwealth government’s National Secondary Schools Computer Fund (NSSCF) no longer continuing and the impact this would have on the provision of take-home laptops for our students. At the time, the advice from Education Queensland was that they would be supporting schools in introducing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) model. The concept was that schools will nominate the types of devices (a range of laptops or even tablets) that would most suit the programs they are running. Students would choose a device specific to their needs and the program of study they are undertaking, or may already own an appropriate device, which they would be able to use in the school after we have signed-off on its suitability.

In order to facilitate the introduction of BYOD, Education Queensland is building the software for our school Server to allow non-departmental devices to connect into our school network and internet. The Project team was due to deploy this in Term 1. This development process has been slowed by the need to provide a solution that caters to the wide variety of devices that schools throughout Queensland may wish to deploy. The latest advice is that it now may not be available until late this year or even not until next year.

In a bid to get our students access to technology for their learning, we are looking at developing our own solution that allows a limited range of devices (eg Windows laptops only, not tablets or apple devices) to be able to connect into our school server. This will take some weeks and may still result in us finding that we cannot start to have a BYOD program without the Education Queensland software. If we can begin early we will advise you of this as soon as we know the directions we can go in.

Of course, we will continue to provide access to devices via the NSSCF computers in our Take-Home Laptop program (available to Year 10-12), until this fleet is no longer operational. Our model of equitable access in the immediate future would look to encompass the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Option B</th>
<th>Option C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BYOD</td>
<td>Take-Home Program</td>
<td>Day-Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student/Parent can afford a suitable device</td>
<td>Student/Parent can pay to access the Take-Home Laptop Scheme</td>
<td>Student whose parents cannot provide a suitable device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student has a suitable device</td>
<td>Student has a take home school owned device</td>
<td>A school device is provided on a class-by-class basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regards,**

Scott Ison

The dates for our sporting events this year are:

- 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

**Year 8 MEDIEVAL MAYHEM**

Year 8 History classes spent term 1 learning about the Medieval period. To celebrate their learning, an end of term activity was held at lunchtime on April 1st. Students were treated to medieval gruel, games, music and crafts. Students could also take ‘selfies’ in Medieval settings including the stocks! On display were Medieval Mayhem entries from over 50 year 8 students. These ranged from weapon replicas, castles, houses, posters, drawings and heraldry. These entries were made by students in their own time. A $50 prize was won by Michael
Hanson (8B) with a fabulous trebuchet; a $20 prize was won by Nathan Cowan (8E) with impressive shield and swords; a $10 prize was won by Owen Crombie (8F) with a family coat of arms display. It was lovely to see family getting involved and helping students with their entries. Congratulations on all entries. Although the entire department smelt of cooked cabbage, a most enjoyable time was had by all. Our next history unit explores the ‘discovery’ of South America. Your students will have some interesting stories to tell you!

**P&C NEWS**

Hello everyone,

Welcome back to Term 2.

The P&C held a Trivia Night at the end of last term which was a huge success. We raised almost $4000 on the night. A big Thank you goes out to Samantha Duncan, Ann Cleal and Trish Trinder, our Volunteers who organised over 100 prizes for the raffles, lucky squares, games and decorations.

Special Thanks to Frank Milburn as our quizmaster. Frank spent months sourcing questions and reading lots of Trivia. He also spent some time with Jake Stirling setting up the flow and presentation of the questions. Thank you so much Frank and Jake.

Thanks also to our extra helpers on the night Leanne Barnes, Jo McGivern, Jo Fae, Cheryl Santo, Selina Gayfer and Mr. Ison who did a fantastic job as MC and Judge along with Ann.

We had many businesses and supporters who donated prizes for the night. A full list will be published in the newsletter shortly and I ask that you try to support them as they have supported the school.

The P&C had set aside the 3rd May for our next Art and Craft market. Unfortunately, we need to postpone this event as we have some insurance issues. We hope to hold it again soon. If you have any queries regarding this please contact me.

**Dates to remember**

- **Saturday 31st of May** Big Family Funanza at Country Paradise Parklands. See flyer below. Our students will be performing and the P&C will have a tent. Please come say Hi!

The P&C was lucky enough to get a huge amount of support for our recent Trivia Night. Over the next couple of newsletters I will list these local businesses and ask that you keep their support in mind in case you need their services. Perhaps you can support them in return.

**A very big Thank you to**

- Jetts Fitness Nerang A special offer is also listed below
- Jane Doogan LJ Hooker Nerang $300 donation
- Officeworks camera and shredder
- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Family pass
- Ashmore Palms Holiday Village Several Accommodation vouchers
- Intercontinental Hotels Accommodation at Sanctuary Cove
- Masters Nerang $100 hamper
- Doug Hull Real Estate Winners table Prizes- 8 bottles wine
- Coles Nerang - both stores Gift cards
- Nerang RSL Shirt and gift card
- Event Cinemas Southport Gold class passes
- Dan Murphy’s $30 Card

More supporters will be listed in our next newsletter. Thank you so much to all who helped.

**Newsletter Guidance Corner**

**YEAR 10**

This term in CARE lessons Year 10 students are starting to look at careers. They will be using the JOBS GUIDE book and accessing websites to help them work out what career pathway they want to follow. Guest speakers from University, TAFE and Apprentice and Traineeship centres will be coming to speak to them later in the term. This career preparation is an important link to Term 3 where students will need to select their subjects for year 11 and 12. Certain subjects are used as pre-requisites to gain entry into University and TAFE courses. In Term 3, July 30th, we will be holding a Careers Expo and a year 10 Parent/Student information night about the steps into year 11 and 12. Please mark this night in your diary, 5.30 to 7.30pm.

**YEAR 12 and Year 11**

Year 12 and Year 11 students have been given the opportunity to attend the largest Careers Expo on the Gold coast on Thursday 8th of May from 9am to 11.30am. The expo will have over 120 displays from Universities, TAFE, Apprenticeship and Traineeship centres. Students who are unable to attend can attend the expo for FREE with their parents/guardians after school as the expo is open until 7pm. The expo is held at the Royal Pines Resort Carrara.

It is time for Year 12 students to think seriously about their future plans and career pathways! Year 12 students will receive their QTAC book in June. The QTAC book outlines the courses available at all Queensland Universities and Diploma level courses at TAFE. Students can apply up to 6 courses. Students are guided through how to use the book and are supported in applying to Universities and TAFE. Term 3 is a very busy time for year 12’s completing this process. Applications close towards the end of September.

**We invite you to attend our upcoming Information Evening**

**Pathways to Medicine**

If you’re interested in studying Medicine at Griffith, our information evenings provide a great opportunity to learn about the admissions criteria and selection processes.
Brisbane - South Bank campus
Tuesday 20th of May
Ian Hanger Recital Hall - Queensland Conservatorium, South Bank

Gold Coast - Gold Coast campus
Wednesday 21st of May
Griffith Health Centre (G40), Cnr Olsen Avenue and Parklands Drive, Gold Coast campus

The evenings will be separated into two sessions:

Session 1 - Pathways to Medicine for graduates (5.30 – 6.30 pm)
This session is designed for students who have completed or are in the process of completing an undergraduate degree.

- An overview of Griffith’s Medical Program by the School of Medicine
- A presentation on the university’s admissions process, including information about GAMSAT, from our Medical Selections Officer

Session 2 - Pathways into Medicine (7.00 – 8.00 pm)
This session is designed for high school students and students planning to commence an undergraduate degree.

- An overview of Griffith’s medicine program
- Information about the key undergraduate programs and pathways available that will prepare you for entry into medicine.

PLEASE Register on the GRIFFITH website

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
Second instalment of school fees are now 6 weeks overdue. Payment of outstanding fees must be paid prior to the acceptance of monies for other school activities eg: sport, excursions and camps.

FINANCE WINDOW
OPEN MONDAY WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

Remember Internet Payments can be made 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

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

RESOURCES 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