10 September 2014

Principal’s Report

Teacher of the Year – Sue Bidinost

Sue Bidinost was announced as the Teacher of the Year at the 2014 Gold Coast State Secondary Teachers’ Gala Ball & Awards Ceremony on Saturday 23rd August. This is the 10th year of this celebration of public education on the Gold Coast and we are immensely proud to have the winning teacher at Nerang State High School.

Sue was selected by the judging panel for her work with our students who are characterised as ‘struggling readers’. Sue has been running our ‘Success Maker’ program for the past 8 years. This program currently services 77 struggling readers. Most students in this program have, on average, improved their reading age by two years in one year.

This year Sue has led a coalition of teachers and school administrators to introduce The “Nerang Reading Project” across Nerang State School and Nerang State High School. This program has the key focus of targeting those students who have very limited capability in reading. Sue sought out the best methodology, engaged with experts, successfully applied for grants to hire a coordinator, engaged a Partnership Broker and brought Griffith University on board.

The program has seen 78 volunteers from GCIT, Griffith University and Gold Coast Volunteering working in schools with our students. Griffith University conducted an impact study that showed students and teachers reporting high levels of engagement and support.

Sue has shown the quiet and ‘gritted-teeth’ determination that brings about outcomes. She rarely asks for much, and with that she produces results that change young people’s lives. She is without a doubt a worthy winner and someone Nerang State High School is very proud to call “one of our own.”

First Prize - SEP Eisteddfod 2014

On Thursday 21 August a small group of SEP students entered the annual Gold Coast Recreation and Sport Eisteddfod for students with special needs.

We enter this event every year, and this year seven of our students, ranging from years 9 to 12, participated in a comedy-drama performance of Hansel and Gretel. The student’s hard work in learning their lines and getting into character paid off with the announcement of Nerang State High School being awarded with first place! Well done to Mirian Freeman, Cassie Fletcher, Kaitlin Whye, Tache Ingram, Jackie Rogers, Rebecca Jones and Corbyn Godkin.

We also had three students enter a poetry performance titled ‘Kooky Characters’ and came away with first prize! Congratulations to Kaitlin Whye, Tache Ingram and Jackie Rogers.

Congratulations to all students and staff on another wonderful year of Eisteddfod. To all the staff who were involved, thank you for your ongoing support of our students. Your extra level of dedication with costume making, hair, make-up and dress rehearsals allowed our students to shine.

Schools Support Staff Recognition Week

1 - 5 September, 2014 was the week of recognition for School Support Staff. What our school support staff does, matters greatly. Without school support staff our students would not have a quality education. There would be no enrolments, no phones answered, no excursions, no play areas freshly mown and safe, things would stay broken, computers would no longer be networked, no science experiments would happen and literally no lights would be on if the bills weren’t paid.
School support staff are in many ways the unsung heroes of our school. To recognise the important work these people do, we held a morning tea, catered for by our Home Economics Department, on Friday 5 September. This coincided with our traditional day of recognition of the work of one group of our Support Staff, namely Teacher Aide Day.

**Flying Start – Junior Secondary School**

Next year there will be almost 100,000 students entering high schools across Queensland, with all secondary schools preparing to welcome both Year 7 and 8 students into their community. At Nerang State High School we’re expecting 280 Year 7 and 8 students in 2015. These students will become a part of our Junior Secondary years along with our current Year 8 students.

Junior Secondary is a phase of education designed to better support students in the early years of high school. Over the past two years we’ve been developing our Junior Secondary model, with full implementation to be completed next year when Year 7 joins high school. Some highlights of our Junior Secondary model include:

- Our Junior Secondary will provide challenging educational offerings that engage young adolescents, while giving them a sense of belonging and support through the changes they face.
- Junior Secondary students will be encouraged and supported to develop their own group identity within the wider high school.
- Teachers working with students in the Junior Secondary years will support these young teens through the crucial early high school years. Some teachers from local primary schools are moving to Junior Secondary at Nerang State High School, and existing secondary teachers are specialising in Junior Secondary.
- We will meet the social and emotional needs of our Junior Secondary students with a strong focus on pastoral care. We will provide specific programs to develop the skills our students will need as they enter high school and transition through the Junior Secondary school.

Please feel free to talk to our HOD of Junior Secondary, Aaron Woolnough, or the Administration staff if you have any questions about welcoming Year 7 and 8 students to Junior Secondary at our school. We’re here to help.

**Guidance Corner**

Suzy Riley – Guidance Officer
Contact Details: Phone: 55037888
Days Available: Monday-Thursday

**QTAC:** This term the year 12 students have been very busy applying to QTAC for University and TAFE Diploma courses. QTAC applications close on the 30th September to avoid paying a late fee.

**TAFE:** Direct Entry Application Forms for the Gold Coast
TAFE Diploma courses **CLOSE** this Friday 12th September. Please have your application to Mrs Riley by **Thursday the 11th September**. Alternatively you can deliver your application yourself to TAFE on the 12th September.

**Griffith University:** Guaranteed Admissions application must be submitted to Griffith University by September 19th. Applications need to be submitted online by the 15th September to allow the Principal/Guidance Officer to complete the school section for Griffith University.

**Griffith University:** Griffith Connect Academic Bursary Scheme: The Principal nominates three high achieving students (OP1-6 or equivalent) who are completing Year 12 in 2014 at a Griffith Connect Valued Partner School to apply for an Academic Excellence Bursary. The Griffith Connect Academic Excellence Bursary Scheme will be awarded to one of these students and is valued at $3000. STUDENTS interested in applying for this award MUST see Mrs Riley ASAP for an application form.

**Southern Cross University:** Direct Entry STAR Scheme applications close on the 10th September. Students are to apply online ASAP.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Most scholarships close towards the end of November. Students can apply online to scholarships through the university websites. There are a range of scholarships available from Academia, Sports and Equity scholarships for students who receive Youth Allowance. Please take the time to look into the scholarships available.

**Nurse News**

Suzy Koenig – Youth Health Nurse
Contact Details: Phone: 55037844
Days Available: Thursday and Friday

**How to Talk to Your Teen**

There are some simple tips that may improve communication between young people and parents. Adolescents may develop ideas, values and beliefs that are different to those of their parents. They may want more independence than their parents are willing to give. Accept that adolescents may have a different view of the world and respect their opinions.

It’s a delicate time – if not every parent’s worst nightmare – when a child enters puberty.

Not only are their bodies changing physically, but hormones are raging and bad moods are in full swing. Katie Couric spoke with Dr. Barbara Greenberg, parenting expert and clinical psychologist, all about how parents can talk with their teens, and finally get some answers. Every parent wants to know
what is going on inside their teenager’s head, and while the normal instinct is to give them the third degree about their day, Dr. Greenberg strongly encourages us not to interrogate temperamental teens.

Avoid direct, general questions like, “How was your day?” or “How was the date?” Teens will respond more positively to indirect questions like “How was the movie?” because they aren’t ready to give you a whole bunch of information at once. Listening is an important part of any conversation, and interrupting your child may not get you much response.

Most adolescents are discovering who they are and how they fit into society. While it might seem that their eyes are loaded with laser beams and you are their next target, they are also under a lot of pressure, both socially and academically. Let them vent; this is their way of telling you about their day.

Even though the idea isn’t “cool,” research has found that about 80% of teens admire and want to spend time with their parents. Teens really love their parents! Shocking, but believe it. They are struggling between wanting that precious independence and holding onto mum and dad.

Show your kids at an early age that it’s okay to talk about anything at home. Topics like drugs, sex and alcohol can be scary for both parties to discuss, but having these conversations has been proven to help teens maintain a healthy lifestyle.

It is totally possible to maintain a strong relationship with your teen! Just remember to stay calm, listen to what they have to say, and don’t take that groan when you ask about their homework too personally.

References:

http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2013/02/21/how-to-talk-to-your-teen/


Youth Yak

Tony Roberts –Youth Support Coordinator
Contact Details: Phone: 07 5503 7888 Fax: 07 5503 7800 Email: arobeh409@eq.edu.au
Days Available: Tuesday to Friday.

The excursion on 22 August to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for the students involved in the Junior SHED program was a great success with students completing the course in the rain. Well done boys; sorry to see the Chaplain get wet.

The Seasons For Growth program is finishing at the end of term with a graduation and the students are doing well, considering that the students have exams over the next couple of weeks.

Term 4 will have some exciting group work programs that include the ‘Horses Helping Kids’ that will involve a small group of students.

Here is some information you might wish to pass on to any interested parties about the ‘Help Horses Help Kids' crowdfunding quest that is being launched at www.HelpHorsesHelpKids.com. It ends on 22nd October.

Deadly News

Kyla O’Connor – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support Coordinator
Contact Details: Phone: 55037828 Email: mocon124@eq.edu.au
Days Available: Monday – Friday

In the coming weeks, a number of our Year 10 Deadly Choices participants will be visiting the Kalwun Health Clinic through our Deadly Choices program. The aim of this excursion is to complete our Health Checks – particularly important for anyone that identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Throughout our program, we have been learning of the effects of chronic disease and substance misuse, and the importance of the Health Checks. Keep an eye out for permission forms for this ‘deadly’ excursion!

Behaviour Bulletin

Angela Meyer – RTC and PRIDE Coordinator
Contact Details: Phone: 55037854 Email: ameye5@eq.edu.au
Days Available: Mon/Wed/Fri

PRIDE Points is coming to an end for this term. Certificates will be given out to students who have shown great PRIDE in themselves and their school.

The final random prize draw winners for this term are:

- Amy Cleworth 8A
- Michelle Griffiths 9C
- Lexi Ferguson 10B
- Lexie Cleeal 11D
- Kurtis Martin 12O

These students will receive a movie pass – great for using during the upcoming school holidays!

Our Top 5 students in each year Level will be invited to dine at PRIDE Café on Tuesday 16th September. They will be treated to a sit down, 2 course meal.

Our Top 20 students in each year Level will receive a special certificate, as will the Top student from each Form class.

It is wonderful to see so many of our students being recognised on a daily basis for their wonderful contributions to our great school. Nerang State High School certainly has a lot to be proud of.

Chappie Chat

Chris Perry – School Chaplain
Contact Details: Phone: 5503 7809
Days Available: Wednesday-Friday

The role of a Chaplain is to take care of the Pastoral needs within the school. The majority of the Chaplain’s day is spent in the school grounds interacting with students and building relationships.

The Chaplain is available to students and families for all Pastoral needs. These include:

- grief and loss
- family conflict
- depression
Students can make appointments to see the Chaplain via the referral forms in Student Services.

**MARKET DAY**

On Friday 15th August our senior SEP Work Readiness students set up a “Market Day” fundraiser to benefit the Animal Welfare League.

Students visited local businesses for donations and our thanks go to: Woolworths, P&P meats and The Gourmet Grocers for their very generous donations; from the My Centre our thanks go to Next Newsagent and Hair and Beauty and to Coles at Nerang Fair for their gift card donation. The generosity of these local businesses in supporting our venture helped make this day the success it was.

Students also prepared posters, completed written work and promoted this day to make it as much a success as possible. Stalls were set up and decorated with banners and balloons and our SEP area was a very inviting place to be.

On the day, activities involved a sausage sizzle, cake stall, movie with popcorn, a target practice and ping pong challenge to name but a few. The aroma of sausages and onions with delicious cupcakes for dessert proved to be a winning combination with staff and students.

A great many of our students took part in these activities and are looking forward to our next “Market Day” in 2015. My congratulations go to those students that put in all of this effort. The amount raised from these activities was: $561.65.

*Linda Neal*
SEP Teacher

**Year 11 Catering – Seniors Week Lunch**

On Tuesday the 26th of August, the Year 11 Hospitality class cooked a delicious lunch for a group of senior citizens from Earle Haven, to celebrate Senior’s week. The menu comprised of Chicken Pie or Pasta Bake served with salad and crusty bread for the main and Strawberry Whip and Lemon Cheesecake Parfait for dessert. To help celebrate this occasion students from the Student Council joined the seniors and spent time chatting about how times have changed in Nerang. We enjoyed cooking and serving the food to our guests who really appreciated our invitation.
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**

All 2014 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.

**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*

**Child & Adolescent Oral Health Service**

**Gold Coast Hospital & Health Service**

Students in grades (8,9,10) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home. Dental appointments will be made at William Duncan SS. Parking is on Alexander Drive. Please do not park inside school gates.

If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above or are new to the school and did not receive an examination card and would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850. Monday to Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.