17 February 2015

Principal’s News

Welcome

It has been a great start to our new school year as we welcomed our Year 7 and 8 cohorts to high school for the first time and our new students in years 9 to 12. I would like to take the opportunity to express a warm welcome to all our families starting with us this year, and hope that your children have settled into our great school and are engaging in the excellent programs we have here. We continue to drive home the importance of good values through our PRIDE acronym (Persistence, Resilience, Integrity, Diversity, Empathy) and our Pride Awards scheme has gotten bigger and better, with students being rewarded for demonstrated good values through canteen vouchers, prizes and movie afternoons.

This year we have grown by 140 on last year’s enrolments, to now have 990 students in attendance. This is 50 more students than expected, and with so many additional families choosing to make us their ‘school of choice’ we have taken on 7 additional teachers, coupled with changes in staffing to see us have, 16 new teachers at our school.

The first meeting of the P&C was earlier this week and the AGM will be on the 10th of March at 6.00pm in the Admin building. We are looking for someone to take on the role of Secretary or Treasurer, so if you are interested in either of these roles you won’t offend any of the incumbents by putting your hand up. Give Tracey Spiers (our President) a ring if you want to know more. More importantly, come along on the 10th and offer you services.

Drop-off and Pick-Up

Our ‘Bus-Bay’ area on Weedons Road is designed primarily for buses, and is not the best site for parents to drive in and collect their children in the afternoon. The best way to manage collecting your child by car is to have them walk a short distance to where you can access parking. The best options are to have them either crossing at the lights in front of the school and walking down Crusader Way or crossing Gilston Road (in the 40 km/hr zone) to walk through the park opposite our Gilston Rd gate onto Citrus Drive. There is a drop-off zone on the school side of Gilston Road, just past the gate, but as it is designated as a loading zone, it’s not suitable for parking in the afternoon to wait and pick up children.

Please do not use the drive-through lane in the ‘Bus-Bay’ to park and collect children … It’s dangerous, it’s illegal, it’s dangerous, it’s dangerous … we only get once chance with children … and we already know that they can be unpredictable, unwise and downright silly at times – don’t put them in the middle of all that traffic …. please.

Our New Support Structure

A reminder about the new roles in our school, in relation to wellbeing and behaviour management, where our personnel are aligned to the Junior School (Years 7, 8 & 9) and the Senior School (10, 11 & 12). Our Deans are responsible for dealing with issues related to student behaviour, uniform and other infractions of the school rules. The Deans work side-by-side with the Deputy Principals to give strong support for our teachers in the area of behaviour management. The Directors of RTC identify students whose conduct does not reflect our school values and expectations, and work closely with the Deans. The Deans are Mr McFarlane (Junior School) and Ms Clare (Senior School), working with the Directors, Mr Pow (Junior School) and Mrs Meyer (Senior School).

With regard to the Deputy Principals, we are continuing our highly successful model where they work closely with a year level and following them throughout their 6 years of high school. Mrs Berryman is aligned to the Years 8s, 10s and 12s, with Mrs Herlihy working with the 7s, 9s and 11s.

The Head of Department Junior Schooling (Mr Woolnough) and the Head of Department Senior Schooling (Mrs Teng) have the responsibility for developing the programs that ensure effective pastoral care and leadership development is being delivered, along with ensuring students understand our school values and expectations. They work closely with the Heads of Wellbeing, Mrs Condrin and Mrs Hayes. These 2 ladies, along with their team of Form teachers, nurture and encourage students through positive interactions and reinforcement of our school values and expectations. They also work with our Support Team - Guidance Officers, Chaplin, Nurse and Youth Support Coordinator.

Scott Ison
Principal
ENGLISH NEWS

We have just been advised of the exciting news that Matthew Gaudens-McMullin’s winning poem from the Poetry Object 2014, will be broadcast as part of a feature on The Red Room Company’s Poetry Object on the new Earshot program on ABC Radio National, at 11am on next Wed 18th February. You can listen to the broadcast via this link: http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/red-room-poetry-object-project/6063584 . Congratulation to Matthew on being a published poet.

Year 12 Leadership Camp Report

By School Captain, Shania Rhodes

Last week the Year 12’s took off on their leadership camp to Bornhoffen Leadership Excellence Centre. Our first day consisted of activities and games, both with the entire grade and also in smaller groups. All the activities let individuals step up and show leadership.

The second day was full of excitement and exhaustion. During the day we partook in activities lead by the Bornhoffen staff, these included: creeking, raft building, abseiling, canoeing and low ropes. After dinner we were joined by Mr Ison and it was time to elect our House Captains, our candidates had to do a speech in front of the grade and an interview with Mr Ison. After this it was time for the annual Red Faces (not so talented) Talent Show, which was a very eventful night with performances including dancing, rapping and makeup application.

Our last day was all about house spirit. The House Captains were announced, and then it was right into WAR CRIES. We split off into our houses and worked together to create some amazing war cries, which were presented at out swimming carnival on Friday.

This camp was full of memories which will last a lifetime. Special thanks to all the teachers who came on camp with us and to Mrs Hayes who as camp coordinator made this whole trip possible.

FREE FAMILY INFORMATION EVENING
FOR Nerang State High School
STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2015

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered with all state and territory Departments of Education around Australia and with the Ministry of Education in NZ. We are the first and only secondary exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System) and we ensure the highest standards of care and support to our participants.

We would like to invite your students and families to a FREE Information Evening on the Gold Coast, on Thursday, 19th February. The session is being held at the Southport Community Centre, 6 Lawson Street and starts at 7:00pm.

Students can find out more about our exchange programs to over 25 countries, listen to former exchange students share their experience and learn about our scholarships and discounts on offer in 2014.

“You come back a different person, with so much more confidence & you feel that you can conquer the world” Jessica, Semester Program to Italy

We would appreciate if you could please mention our upcoming information session in your newsletter. You can copy the below text or download our PDF notice from here.

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING ON THE GOLD COAST

Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Thursday, 19th February - 7.00pm
Southport Community Centre
6 Lawson Street
SOUTHPORT
Visit www.studentexchange.org.au
or call 1300 135 331 for more information

My Name is Suzie Koenig ‘Nurse Suzie’ and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse allocated to Nerang State High School every Thursday and Friday.

I am located in the Resource Centre / Library.

My role in the school includes working with young people, school staff and parents to:

- Promote health and well-being,
- Create a supportive, healthy school environment
- Connect people with other support services.

I am a Queensland Health employee and a Clinical Nurse which means all persons accessing my service for health information and advice have the right to do so confidentially under the Health Act. This means that unless a student is at risk of harm or willingly agrees, I must keep the content of their consultation private as well as the fact they are accessing a health service. I always encourage and assist young people with strategies to talk with the significant adults/parents in their lives about their health and other important issues.

Parents and Teachers (and students themselves) can refer students to my service which is voluntary for young people to attend. If a young person refuses to see me I must respect their choice.
I am also available to staff to access for health information confidentially.

I am available to assist in connecting young people and their families to other services related to health.

The Youth Health Nurse can provide health and wellbeing information on a variety of topics and provide up to date information from Qld Health on such issues as Puberty, Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs, Sexual Health, healthy growth and development, exercise and healthy eating, hygiene, feeling unhappy or stressed, self-harm, grief and loss and other mental health issues.

Ongoing, Therapeutic Counselling is not part of my role and I refer these clients onto specialists in this area.

I work full time Monday to Friday so I am available on my work phone 0800hrs – 1600hrs (NB my work mobile phone is switched off outside of the aforementioned times).

Suzie’s Work Mobile: 0432 005 262
Work email: susan.koenig@health.qld.gov.au

Bookroom Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
8.30am - 12.00pm
12.30pm - 2.00pm

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
2015 1st instalment of school fees are now overdue. This payments must be paid prior to the acceptance of monies for other school activities eg: sport, excursions and camps.

If you have any questions please contact the finance office on 5503 7804

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: Heather Donnan 5503 7804

NERANG BMX COME & TRY DAY
Sunday February 22nd from 12-3pm
Cnr of Mortensen Road & Cayuga Street Nerang
Bring your bike, helmet, gloves and long pants.
Contact: Debbie 0438 253247 / Rheanon 0401 810 780
This day is free and first 25 to register on the day will receive a free BMX bag of goodies!

UNWANTED BOOKS
Books, books, glorious books! This year at Nerang State High, we want all students to rediscover the pleasure of reading but we need your help. If you have any funny, exciting or inspiring books that you no longer need, we would love to have them. Please bring along your disused and unwanted books and deposit them in the Book Box located in the library. Please contact Ms Mandy Robbins on 0755273604 for more details.