2 March 2015

Principal’s News

Every Minute Counts

The first weeks of 2015 have been very busy with teachers and students getting off to a flying start. I have been impressed with the tone of the school and the desire of students to be learning. My clear message to all students is that every minute of their time at school is important and attending every day and being focussed on learning is what will ensure they are successful at school.

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.

Investiture of our Leaders

Our 2015 Captains, Prefects and other school leaders were formally recognised our Investiture Ceremonies on the 11th and 12th of February. For the first time we had 2 separate ceremonies, one for our junior school and one for our senior school. This allowed us to recognise the uniqueness of our junior school and with a total enrolment of almost 900, to fit all students into the hall.

Congratulations to our 2015 school leaders:

- **School Captains**: Shania Rhodes and Brandon Christensen.
- **Junior School Captains**: Camille Parbery and Marcos Gaudens-McMullin.
- **School Vice-Captains**: Tamera Buckingham and Logan Arnott.
- **Junior School Vice-Captains**: Michael Johnston and Kianna Paine.
- **Prefects**: Rabura Dawanincura, Nelson Gregory, Bethany Boland, Emily Steele, Ryley Sami, Bradley Sorensen, Ashleigh Allen, Samantha Bally.
- **House Captains**: ALPHA: Tenicia Creagh & Hayden Carthew-Zimmer; BETA: Kahli Heit & Jordy Hartley; GAMMA: Toni Miekle & Bailey Marsden; DELTA: Kacey Rickard & Ryan Wilson
- **Student Council Representatives**: Declan Windsor, Annalisa Rashad, Jai Regan, Kimberley Randall, Taylor Watts, Alexis Hull, Jack Van Der Lee, Madeline Pickett, Quinn Yates-Sclater, Bryce Stansfield, Shania Rhodes, Brandon Christensen, Tamera Buckingham & Logan Arnott
- **Gold Coast Junior Council Representatives**: Joshua Clements, Lauren Lawler, Natasha Zangari & Kira Moir.
Swimming carnival

Our swimming carnival, held on Friday the 13th, was an outstanding success. With 215 of our new Year 7 and 8 students adding to the atmosphere, it was a great day. Once again the feedback from members of the community and the staff, regarding our students at a public venue, was that they represented our school in an outstanding manner. The students enjoyed a day of competing and cheering.

Uniform

I am very pleased with the effort our students are making in wearing the uniform; wearing it correctly; and wearing it with pride. Already the commentary from our community is that we look smart and, as usual, our students are representing themselves and our school in a very positive way as they move through the community. Remember, if students cannot wear an item of the uniform on a particular day, they need to bring a note of explanation to Student Services before school.

Reminder - Insurance cover

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised the Department of Education and Training does not have accident insurance cover for students. If your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents. Student accident insurance pays some benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is up to all parents to decide what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child. Please contact your insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if you wish to take out student personal accident insurance cover for your child.

Regards,

Scott Ison
Principal

HOME ECONOMICS HAPPENINGS

We welcome our new year 7 and 8 students and hope that they enjoy their time in our subject. Year 7 students complete just one term in Home Economics - 5 weeks of Food Studies; 5 weeks of Textile Studies. Year 8 classes cover the same topics but have a 10 week period for each element. Students will have a Course Outline to show parents/caregivers. This will explain the items that students need to bring and when they need to bring them. Please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

It is exciting to be starting up our ‘Little Stars’ playgroup this year. Our year 12 Early Childhood class will prepare and implement fun activities for our new community based playgroup. It will run every Tuesday morning, commencing after Easter. If you are interested in putting your name down to join the playgroup, please call us on 5503 7846. Mrs April Maslen is the playgroup coordinator.

Hospitality classes last year raised considerable money through food sales and function work. This money has been used to provide new outdoor café furniture and industrial fans for our courtyard. This gives us a much smarter, versatile and cooler space to use. We look forward to showcasing the area at our first events – the junior and senior Investiture Ceremonies

Mrs Kym WHYTE
HoD Home Economics

ART ACTIVITIES

It is great to have Ms Henderson back on staff this year and nice to welcome Ms Dwyer to the Visual Arts faculty. Ms Negrepontis and Ms Martin are also taking Art classes. Photography teachers are planning some exciting workshops for classes - details will follow later. If anyone has unwanted Photography magazines at home, we would appreciate donations.

Ms Dwyer reports that Yr10 Studio Art portraiture work is producing some impressive results. We look forward to showing you some of this work in our next newsletter and in the Annual Showcase at the end of the year.

Staff are also keen to have student work on display in community venues – stay tuned for details.

Mrs Kym WHYTE
HoD Home Economics

P&C and Community News

Hello everyone,

Welcome to Nerang State High School for 2015! Especially to our new year 7 & 8 students and their families. You have chosen a great school with a great community and I hope you enjoy the experience! This is my 11th year at Nerang High and even though my children are long gone I am just as passionate and supportive of the school as I was when my eldest arrived. So, let’s start the year shall we……..
Uniform News

The P&C has been working hard since early New Year to ensure the Uniform shop was well stocked and we had staff on hand to help with sizing and purchases. We are very happy that waiting times were either non-existent or very short and we appreciate all the lovely comments we received regarding our staff and the uniform in general. Thank you to all our staff and our volunteers, Sue and Leanne, for their contribution during this busy time.

We are so proud and pleased to see all students now in the new uniform. Please remember the sports uniform is only to be worn on sports or HPE days. Those families who may have old grey and burgundy uniforms still at home are urged to drop them into the uniform shop or office to be packed up and donated to underprivileged children in schools in Uganda. We hope to ship them in March.

Canteen News

I would just like to remind parents that Nerang State High School Canteen closely follows the Healthy Choices guidelines in our menu. We have eliminated all “red” items and are striving to provide a very healthy, interesting and appealing range of menu items for the students to enjoy. The menu is on the website for you to peruse at your convenience and a hard copy is available at the canteen. It is updated often and there is a summer and winter menu and meal deal specials are advertised in the daily notices. We are a self-serve canteen, however, we encourage students to place orders in advance with our staff, if they wish to do so. We take cash or EFTPOS. We always welcome volunteers, so please contact Julie Shaw, our Canteen Convenor (5503 7857), if you wish to help out.

Community News

You may have noticed that there is some work going on between F block and the hall. The P&C committed $60,000 to build this multipurpose shelter mid last year. We are pleased it is almost complete and look forward to seeing the students and school community using the space.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who have paid the voluntary Parent Contribution. Payment of this $30 contribution per family enables us to fund facility improvements without running annoying chocolate drives and spell-a-thons. If you have not already done so, please consider paying this to the office as soon as convenient so we can continue to improve and provide facilities and programs that benefit all. If every family paid just $30 we would have over $15,000 annually for improvements. Please give it some thought, thank you.

We are also very happy to announce our application for funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to upgrade our outdoor Basketball courts has been successful. We were given $33,000 for the resurfacing of these courts.

Save the Date! Our famous Trivia Night has been scheduled for Friday 29th May 2015. We will have at least 100 prizes on our raffle table and I have already secured some accommodation to auction on the night. Please pencil this in your calendar and start getting a team together! If there are any families who have businesses/ services/ vouchers/unwanted Christmas gifts they can donate as prizes, we would be very grateful! I am happy to collect from you or drop into the uniform shop or canteen.

Our first P&C meeting is on 10th February at 7pm in the admin block. Park and enter from the visitor’s car park, Gate B. Everyone is welcome, always. The P&C committee, parents and community members and Mr Ison are always in attendance. Please feel free to contact the P&C at any time via email pandc@nerangshs.eq.edu.au or I am always available on my mobile 0412 267 263 to answer any queries or concerns. Our AGM is 10th March at 6pm.

I am so looking forward to helping settle our new students and their families into Nerang State High School and to meeting lots of parents and community members. I hope to meet you soon, Cheers,

Tracey Spiers
P&C President
0412 267 263

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 (I have a dedicated entry doorway on the canteen side of the building).

My extension Number at school is 844.

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 am also available to staff to access for health information confidentially.

The Youth Health Nurse can provide health and well being information on a variety of topics and provide up to date information from Qld Health on such issues as 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.

My particular interests and background includes Infectious diseases, biology, HIV medicine, gender
diversity and questioning sexuality, effects of bullying/ anti bullying strategies and mental health promotion.

I am able to assist in the classroom with a bit of notice and have some PowerPoint presentations on many health related topics (a sample):

- Role of the School Based Youth Health Nurse
- Anger
- Breast and Testicular self-examinations
- Bullying
- Contraception
- Depression
- Effects on the brain from drugs and alcohol
- How to be responsibly assertive
- Mental Health and wellness
- Puberty, Safer Sex and Sexuality
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Testicular Trauma
- Viruses and Bacteria (Pathogenic)
- And a few more…

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 J
Work email: skoen8@eq.edu.au
Or susan.koenig@health.qld.gov.au

Should you wish Nurse Suzie to visit a class in the last weeks of term on a Thursday or Friday I am very open to this. Perhaps a Nurse Question box could be a good way to 1. screen questions and 2. guide a Health Related talk with your students

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.

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

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.