9 December 2015

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

The end of the year is fast approaching and last Friday we farewell our Year 10 and 11 students after our Principal’s Awards Ceremony in period 1. It was great to see so many students receive their awards in recognition of their hard work and commitment for Semester 2. The Principal’s Award Ceremony for Year 7, 8 & 9 will be held on Friday 4 December. We look forward to welcoming parents and friends from our school community to celebrate their son/daughter’s achievements.

In approaching the end of the school year it is certainly time to reflect on some of the highlights of the year and one of the most significant events was the transition of our Year 7 students. Students have made an excellent transition from primary school and have been supported by many staff including our Junior Secondary HOD – Mr Woolnough, Junior Deans – Jamie Quinn & Olivia Gollan, Assistant Junior Dean – David Binrose and Head of Wellbeing – Kerri-ann Condrin. Our Year 7 teachers who transitioned to the secondary setting have also been an asset to our school community – Mandy Aubrey, Sharon Fujie, Steven Gasson & Juliet Grace. They have had to absorb a lot of information, adjust to the many different procedures and practices of a secondary school and have done a fabulous job.

Our support team continue to work closely with students to get the very best from their education and we are very focused on engaging students every lesson, every day. A new addition to our staff next year is Brad Dixon who will take on the role as Acting Head of Department – Student Engagement. We look forward to welcoming Brad to Nerang State High School in 2016.

Our recent BYOD information evening was well attended and we look forward to students bringing their own device so that they can engage in their learning with access to the internet and to school servers.

All remaining students will finish the school year on Friday 11 December and are expected to attend every lesson, every day. In the last week of school students will be participating in a range of literacy and numeracy activities as well as those students with their BYOD will be preparing their laptop for the New Year.

Start-up Arrangements for 2016

The new school year commences with Year 7, 8 and 11 starting on Wednesday 27 January and the whole school in attendance on Thursday 28 January. Monday 25 January is a student free day and Tuesday is Australia Day Public Holiday. The school administration reopens on Monday 18 January.

From Monday 18 January to Saturday 23 January the Uniform Shop will be open from 8.00 am - 12.00 noon. For the first week of school (Tuesday 25 – Wednesday 27 January), opening hours will be 8.00 am - 12.00 noon, (Thursday 28 January - Friday 29 January) opening hours will be 8.00am -11.00am and then the Uniform Shop will revert to standard operating hours, 8.15 am - 11.15 am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Reminders regarding Uniform:

- students will need to be in full uniform from their first day
- current year 9 students, going into 10, are in the senior uniform

Term Dates 2016

Easter Holidays: Friday 25 March to Sunday 10 April
Winter Holidays: Saturday 25 June to Sunday 11 July
Spring Holidays: Saturday 17 September to Monday 3 October
Summer Holidays: Saturday 9 December to Sunday 22 January

Last Day Year 12: 18 November 2016
Last Day Year 10 & 11: 25 November 2016

School Watch – keep an eye on our school these holidays - 13 17 88

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number – 13 17 88. The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our schools. Keep the number handy and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

I wish you all a happy and safe holidays.
Warm regards,

Loreen Herlihy
Acting Principal

BYOD 2016.

Why is having a device important? BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) means that students are able to bring personally owned devices to school for the purpose of learning. They are able to access the internet (via the Department of Education secure portal) and are able to access the school servers and printers. To ensure this access, students must have a device that meets the parameters specified by the school. We are committed to continuing to move students and staff forward in a contemporary learning environment. We will be continuing the journey we began in 2014, and our BYOD model for 2016 gives parents and students greater choice in device, functionality and budget.

It is also important to remember that our Take-home laptops will go into their 5th year of service next year and they will have no coverage for repairs due to accidents, wear and tear or breakages, and there will be a limited number available for hire. We aim to be a school where education ceases to be in a traditional classroom setting and harnesses the power of digital tools to make learning an individual and creative experience. Our team of dedicated teachers are busy exploring new ways to harness technology to shift curriculum into the 21st century. By opting into our BYOD program, rather than the laptop hire scheme, you will find that you will have more choice in the style of device, a current generation device, and a device which is free of the school ‘software image’ and therefore will generally operate faster.

What sort of device? The minimum requirements of a BYO device for Nerang State High School is that it must have Windows 8 or 10 (Windows is the only Operating System supported by our network - Android devices and Apple devices cannot connect), have an anti-virus program installed and must be able to install Microsoft Office (provided free to our students). The recommended absolute minimum Hard Drive size is 64GB - This mostly used up by Windows and Microsoft Office and leaves about 15 Gb for personal storage. At least one USB port or SD/Micro SD card slot should be considered to allow additional storage.

All of these details, plus examples of devices in the $400-500 range, along with “Mid-range” ($500-800) and “Top end” ($800 plus) devices, are in the BYOD Guide Nov 2015, available from our website. The examples in this guide are just some of the types of devices from what is currently available on the market. You may consider different styles of devices to those we have indicated, such as ‘mobile devices’, smart phones and tablets. Before committing any device, check that it meets our minimum requirements.

2015 Formal

As 2015 is rapidly disappearing before our eyes, does anyone else feel that it was only January a few weeks ago? It has been a big end to this year, especially for our graduating year 12 class; with of course the formal being the grand finale to their 12 years of schooling.

This year our formal returned to Arundel Hills Country Club and the night was a massive success. Arrivals began at 5:30pm with students being greeted by so many of their friends, past students and most importantly their families. We had the classic cars and newer, much louder cars, cars that had crazy hydraulics, fire trucks and plenty of motor bikes. The arrivals of these students certainly was a display and everyone that exited the cars looked amazing and so grown up!

Boys you certainly looked mature and stylish in your suits and girls, you looked sensational in your gowns! Loved the colours that you choose this year, contrasted the classic black and white theming you choose for your formal.

The magic of the night was captured by Tango Photography who have taken wonderful family shots as well as our group photo. If you wish to view the album on line please visit www.tangophotography.com.au. To access the photos you will need to select Buy Photos Online and register an email address. After following the prompts, the access codes is rose2015. As part of your formal package the group photo is available for you, using the same code.

Over 130 people attended your formal and all feedback has been positive. It was wonderful to see all of you relax and totally enjoy yourselves! And how could you not; you were all dressed up looking great, great food, great music and being able to celebrate with your closest friends! I truly hope this was a night you will always remember. Here’s to our graduating class of 2015!

Homestay Families Needed!

Next year we will be welcoming 12 students and 2 teachers from a school in Takasu in Hokkaido, Japan. They will be arriving on Saturday, March 19th and leaving on Thursday, March 31st (9 nights). We are looking for families who would be able to host a student (particularly for the male students) or one of the teachers while they are here. It is a wonderful experience to have a student stay in your home, not only are you introduced to Japanese culture but students can also share their culture and strong friendships can be made.

If you are able to host a student or would like more information, please contact me at school on 55037888 or by e-mail tdooley@eq.edu.au

Tamlyn Dooley
Japanese Teacher
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 Student Resource Scheme Fees and Laptop Fees are now overdue. These payments must be paid prior to the acceptance of monies for other school activities eg: sport, excursions and camps.

2016 Student Resource Scheme paperwork If you have not completed and returned to the office could you please ensure that it is returned the week beginning 18th January 2016

If you have any questions please contact the finance office on 5503 7806

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

Frequently asked questions

Can I get a bus pass?

There are a number of general criteria that apply to STAS. Where a student is eligible for STAS, there are two types of bus assistance available, distance based and Safety-Net travel. Visit www.translink.com.au/schooltransport for eligibility details and to print the relevant application form.

Where do I send the form to?

Applications for 2016 can be submitted now to

Surfside Buslines
PO Box 3036
Robina QLD 4230

Or

Email: gcschools@tagroup.net.au

Who needs to apply?

If this is the first time you are applying for assistance to travel or you are moving schools, changed address, repeating a grade or are moving from primary school to secondary school you need to apply now.

Existing bus pass holders

If your details will not be changing from 2015 to 2016 you do not have to reapply.

Students who hold a 2015 bus pass will be able to travel with that pass until 19 February 2016. This allows some time for the 2016 passes to be made.

If you lose your 2015 bus pass you will have to apply to Surfside Buslines for a replacement.

How do I get my bus pass?

Surfside will process applications over the Christmas school holidays so your pass will be sent to your school for you to collect.

What if my pass hasn’t arrived by 19 Feb 2016?

Without written confirmation from TMR stating your application has been approved you will need to pay the full cost of travel. These fares are not refundable.

What if I am not eligible for STAS?

The Queensland Government offers children and students a 50% concession fare by purchasing a TransLink gocard. Passengers aged 5-14 years are eligible for a child concession fare.
Full time students 15 years or older are eligible for a Student Concession go card. To receive a concession fare, students must always carry an approved Queensland student photo identification card or wear an official Queensland school uniform.

**Timetables**

Use the TransLink journey planner to plan your travel to and from school. There are helpful tips on how to plan and how to catch a bus. Alternatively telephone 13 12 30.

Check out the new MyTransLink app. All bus, train, ferry and tram information is in the palm of your hand with customisable features so you will always get the updates that matter to you.

**Further information**

For more information on the School Transport Assistance Scheme, the Code of Conduct for School Children Travelling on Buses and Timetables visit: