Drumline – National Winners!

If you missed the big news from last week, our Drumline competed in the Australian Percussion Eisteddfod held in Melbourne last Friday and were the overall winners. What an amazing outcome. To have had our Drumline for only 2 years (with a third place last year at the nationals championships in Sydney), and to get overall first place this year, is a truly remarkable achievement. When you add into the mix that we were the only state school in the competition, you start to see what a great accomplishment this is.

Congratulations to the 20 students who have been rehearsing before school, weekends and holidays in preparation for this event. My thanks to Mr Dean Harawira and Ms Prue Martin for their work in preparing our students, they have been there for our student throughout the countless hours of training. To the community who got behind us to help fund the purchase of drums and to our whole school who supported our kids in fundraising to be able to get to Melbourne, we thank you. The parents of our competitors should be proud of their children and know that their support is as equally important in getting out students to the level of being national champions.

If you didn’t catch the story in the media the links are below:

9 Gold Coast News: The Nerang State High School drumline ensemble have become national champions. Aired on Nine News Gold Coast at 5:30pm Thursday August 18, 2016 - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J2ZXt_BDWE


New Senior Assessment Process

Commencing in 2018 for our current Year 9s

A new senior assessment system will commence in 2018 with the first certification in 2019. In the new system, the student’s overall subject result will be based on their achievement in three school-based assessments and one external assessment. External assessments will be set and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA). A positive outcome of this change to external assessment will be fewer assessments than students sit currently — emphasising quality over quantity. The result for the entire course of study will not come to performance over a few hours these external exams. In the new system, the external assessment results will contribute 25% towards a student’s overall result, except in mathematics and science subjects, where this will be 50%. The school-based assessments will not be scaled by the results of
the external assessment when calculating a student’s subject result and there will no longer be a QCS Test.

Goodbye OP, Hello ATAR. The ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) is a finer-grained rank order of students than the OP. It’s a number between 0.00 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05, whereas the OP consists bands from 1 to 25. The ATAR is commonly used in other states and territories. ATARs will be calculated by comparing student results. But instead of the QCS Test there will be a process of inter-subject scaling. Scaling is necessary so that student results in different types of subjects can be compared. The method of inter-subject scaling to be used is still to be finalised by the Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce. The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) will be responsible for calculating students’ ATARs.


New Trade Skills Centre

Our new Trade Skills Centre is almost ready to open. It has been a long road since we put an application for funding into the Federal Government in March 2013, but we’re nearly there. This facility will offer our students access to facilities that have been purpose-built for our Vocational Education & Training (VET) Trades Program.

This program runs under the banner of “VET Trades @ Nerang” and encompasses a suite of subjects that are coordinated to provide an integrated program of learning for our students. This program has been on offer this year, and next year will see the “VET Community Pathways @Nerang” program come on line. The VET Trades @ Nerang spans Year 11 and 12 and is a Vocational Program that consists of 5 subject areas; 3 core (Maths, English and Workplace Practices) and a choice 2 electives in the VET areas of Certificate II in Engineering, Certificate II in Furniture Making and Certificate II in Civil Construction. Students also have regular work experience as a part of the program and it’s delivered in partnership with Train Assess Australia.

This is an excellence program for trade students and a key focus is on transitioning the students to trade employment. The new VET Community Pathways @Nerang program does not need a specific facility to be taught, as it is focused on connecting students into community partnerships, vocational training and further education beyond the High School setting. The program consists of the 5 core program subjects of English, Maths, Social and Community Studies, Certificate II in Active Volunteering (delivered in partnership with Volunteering Queensland) and Industry Experience. Student also choose a subject from the wide range of available senior subject electives.

Athletics Champions

Our Athletics Carnival saw fine weather and a day that was enjoyed by everyone. Our students dressed up, participated and had a great day. A huge ‘thankyou’ to the staff and student leaders for their efforts in supporting the running of our carnival. Also, the participation from our students is to be commended. The day, of course, is about the athletics prowess of our students, and our champions were presented at a recent school assembly.

Our Winning house this year was Delta with 1901 points, followed by Alpha on 1794, Beta on 1655 and Delta in 4th place with 1603 points. Our Age champions are: 12 Years - Connor Wright, with Shayla Anderssen and another student tied; 13 Years - Shaun Regan and Chloe Rayner; 14 Years - Dylan Jones and Pareau Terekia; 15 Years - Adam Rossiter and Jessie Kelly-Gale; 16 years - Andrew Urquhart and Maddison Shaw; Open - Matthew Gaudens-McMullin and Victoria Wickramasuriya.

An amazing number of records were broken this year: Jake Elton - 12 Years male Long-jump and 100m, Matthew Gaudens-McMullin - Open male Long-jump, Waimaria Borell -12 Years Female Javelin, Ray Milich - Open male Shot put, Shayla Anderson - 12 Years Female 800m, Paige Faulkner - 12 Years female 1500m, Locke Slade - 12 years male 200m.

These students, along with the other place getters in each age group, went on to represent the school at the District Carnival. Matt Gaudens-McMullin was recognised last year and again this year for both the Best Track Performance and Best Field Performance for 17 years age group. Andrew Urquhart was recognised for the 16 Years Best Field performance.

Exam Block – Year 12

The mid-semester exam block, for Year 12s only, is scheduled for the week of 5-9 September (Week 9 of this term). Year 12 students are required to attend for all relevant scheduled assessment during this week. The exam timetable for each individual has been made available to them - Please check your child has brought this home and you are aware of their assessment load. A year-level version of the timetable is also available on the school website.

https://nerangshs.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/News/Pages/Term-3-Exam-Timetable-for-Year-12.aspx

Students are required to wear the school uniform when at school during the exam block. In the interest of fairness to all, a medical certificate is required if a student must miss an exam due to illness. If there is a reason, other than medical (e.g. bereavement), as to why a test cannot be sat at the scheduled time, it is essential that a Parent/Caregiver makes phone contact with the school’s Attendance Officer (Fiona Carter 5503 7806), on or before the day. In either of these situations a student may be permitted to take the test at a later time, as per the school’s Assessment Policy.

Students are only required to attend school during the times when they have a scheduled exam, as long as all other assessment has been completed. This provides students
with extra time to do exam preparation at home. In between exam sessions, the Library will be available for quiet, individual, independent study for those students not going home after their exams.

Regards,
Scott Ison
(Principal)

Everyday Counts at Nerang State High School

Nerang State High School is committed to providing our students with a safe and supportive learning environment which addresses their educational needs. In order to achieve successful outcomes a student needs to be engaged in their learning every day.

Research shows that high levels of attendance have a positive relationship with student achievement. Conversely, students with irregular and poor attendance often struggle at school, and the value they receive from their education is greatly diminished as a result.

Did you know?

‘Missing one day each week means that you miss out on approx. 2 weeks of lessons each term’.

It is important that students, staff and parents/carers have a shared understanding of the importance of attending school. Nerang State High School:

• is committed to promoting the key message of ‘Every Day Counts’
• believes all children should be enrolled at school and attend school all day, every school day
• monitors, communicates and implements strategies to improve regular school attendance
• believes truanting can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices
• believes attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.

All schools are required to mark rolls daily and record absence data in accordance with departmental procedures. Your role in this process is critical. Should your child be absent from school you need to contact school to advise of the reason for the absence. You can contact school via the following methods:

Phone: 5503 7806
Email: fcart10@eq.edu.au
SMS/Text: Reply to text sent by school on the day of absence
Send a note with your child and have them hand it to the office or Form Teacher

Nerang SHS has set a target of ZERO Unexplained absences for 2016, and in order to achieve that, we need your help.

As part of our ‘Attendance Policy’ we would also like to recognise and celebrate those students with outstanding attendance records with our CLUB 95. Term 2 this year saw a record 339 students being rewarded for exceptional school attendance. Please encourage your child to make ‘Everyday Count’ and become part of this celebration for Term 2.

Thanks, Brad Dixon

English Department

Spelling Bee Winners

Year 7

Gold Medallion Winner – Zander Meiklejohn
Silver Medallion Winner – Shayla Andersen
Bronze Medallion Winner – Esaias Black

Year 8

Gold Medallion Winner – Emily Hutchinson
Silver Medallion Winner – Isabella Parbery
Bronze Medallion Winner – Annalisa Rashad

The English Department offers a variety of opportunities for students to enter competitions.

Please encourage your student to enter these competitions. Details and closing dates are listed below.

"The Write Stuff" - A Short Story Writing Competition

Nerang State High School is holding a short story competition for all year levels: The Write Stuff.

• Entries close on Monday 12th September at 9.00am.
• Entry forms can be collected from your English teacher.
• Entries to be handed to Ms Bell/Ms Chambers in M Block and a digital copy sent to Ms Bell at cbell37@eq.edu.au.
• Junior - Year 7, 8 and 9 (600-1000 words).
• Year 10 (600-1200 words).
• Year 11 and 12 (600-1500 words).
• Only one entry per student.
• No late entries will be considered.

AB Paterson Public Speaking Competition and Nerang Alliance of State Schools ‘Speaking Out’ Competition

The entry forms and topics for the ‘AB Paterson Public Speaking’ competition and the Nerang Alliance of Schools ‘Speaking Out’ competition are now on the noticeboard in M Block. Please come and register your names for these competitions. These competitions are held in September.

ABC's Heywire Competition

The ABC’s Heywire competition is calling for stories by year 10, 11 and 12 students from rural and regional Australia. They’re
encouraged to submit text (400 words), audio, photos or video about life in their neck of the woods.

Entries close 16th September 2016.

Cathi Bell
English HOD

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

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.

INTERNET PAYMENTS

Have you considered making your SRS payments via the internet? You can make the payment at your convenience and include a due date for the payment to be made. The school banking details are:

Name of Account: Nerang State High School
BSB: 064-451
Account Number: 10003546

For all internet payments, it is essential to use an identifiable description so that your payment can be receipted. Please use the following examples of descriptions:

Jamie Smithson paying for SRS, the description would be: SMITH Jam SRS
Jack Longworthy paying for SRS, the description would be: LONGW Jac SRS
Jack Longworthy paying for Laptop Program, the description would be: LONGW Jac LAPTOP

If you follow the above examples, it ensures that the office staff can receipt to the correct student and invoice.

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME FEES

2016 3rd Instalment of 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.

If you have any questions please contact the Finance Office on 5503 7806

SRS (Student Resource Scheme) for 2016

We have a number of parents who have not fully paid their SRS for 2016. If you have overlooked this payment, please pay at the finance window or alternatively use the school’s bank account details to process an EFT:

School Bank Name: Nerang State High School
BSB: 064-451
Account Number: 10003546
Description: Students Surname SRS

We are hoping to have all students 2016 SRS accounts fully paid by the end of September as we gear towards issuing 2017 SRS documents.

Gayle Rees
Business Manager

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 Donna Rath 5503 7804