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3 April 2017

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Reports and Parent-Teacher Meetings

Reports are emailed or posted home on the last day of term. Please note that this term we produce an Interim Progress Report that has a sole focus on how students can improve. We recognise that the Achievement grade and the descriptors for Effort and Behaviour (i.e.: *Excellent, Very Good, Good, Satisfactory, Needs Attention, and Unsatisfactory*) provide the details on the student's current performance, so our comments will be one or two sentences that communicate what students need to do to improve. Our 'End of Semester' report in June is a more traditional report, based on multiple assessment items and provides information on a greater breadth of areas of student's capability.

Our evening for Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTM) will be in the first week back after the holidays, on Wednesday 19 April from 3.30pm to 7.00pm. To book a meeting time use the online SOBS (School Online Booking System). Bookings for meetings will be open from the first day of the holidays, Monday 3 April, up until the day before the PTM evening. If you are not able to access the online system please contact Fiona Carter on 5503 7806 from Tuesday 18 April. All the details are posted on the front page of our website in the 'Quick Links' section ("Parent-Teacher Meeting - Instructions") ... or follow this link: Parent-Teacher Meetings. It is vital that Parents/Caregivers take this opportunity to come and meet with the teachers and discuss how they can support their child in achieving their very best.

<http://sobs.com.au/school/parent-teacher-interviews>

P&C AGM

At the AGM last week we saw Tracey Spiers re-elected to the position of President. Her re-election comes as no surprise; this represents the confidence that the P&C members have in Tracey and the hard work she continually puts in to our school. Leanne Barnes, our dedicated Treasurer, was elected to the position of Secretary and the Treasurers' position was filled by Hope Frazer. We welcome Hope to the Executive in her first year on the P&C, and I thank her in advance for being a part of the P&C team. Frank Milburn accepted the position for Vice President, after a year away from the role. My thanks to these wonderful people who have 'put their hand up' to take on an executive role on our P&C, and also my thanks to those parents who take the time to come to our meetings each month. Special thanks to Tricia Trinder for her support in the Vice-President role throughout last year.

Club 95

Our target for attendance is 95%. This expectation 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 the club, 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 get to attend "Lunch with the Principal" (a sausage-sizzle) 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.

Meeting with Staff

We encourage all of our parents to keep in contact with their child's teachers. The best way to accomplish this is to email the teacher directly. The email addresses for all teachers are on the school website on the 'Our Staff' page, under the 'Our School' tab. Also, if you are looking to meet with a teacher, this is the best way to organise a meeting. Just send an email with your child's name, the topic of conversation and times that would suit you to come to school, and the teacher will get back to you regarding when they can meet. If you can't email, please phone the office (5503 7888) and we will help organise for you to meet with a teacher.

Coming to school to meet with a staff member (Teachers, Support Staff, Admin) without organising a meeting time could leave you having to wait an hour or two because the staff member has classes, playground duty or another meeting appointment. When making the appointment, also provide an outline of the issues to be discussed, so that we can set aside the appropriate amount of time for the meeting.

New senior assessment system will affect our current Junior School students.

Queensland's system of senior assessment is set to change, commencing with Year 11 students in 2019. There will be:

- new processes to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- an external assessment introduced in most subjects
- a move away from the Overall Position (OP) rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

These changes will improve the validity and reliability of subject assessments and increase confidence in the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

Key changes:

When the changes are in place, students will complete a total of four assessments that count towards their final grade in each subject. Three school-based assessment instruments will be endorsed by QCAA before they are used in schools. Students' results in these assessments will be externally confirmed by independent teacher assessors trained and accredited by the QCAA.

These results will be combined with one external assessment developed and marked by QCAA. The external assessment results will contribute 25% towards a student's result in most subjects. In mathematics and science subjects, it will generally contribute 50%.

The school-based assessments will not be scaled by the results of the external assessment when calculating a student's subject result. The ATAR will be calculated by comparing student results in different subjects through a process of inter-subject scaling.

We will be keeping some important features of our current system:

- The Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA) will continue its close partnership with schools

- Teachers will continue to play an important role in developing assessment, making judgments about student achievement, and independently reviewing the work of their colleagues.
- Students will be assessed using a variety of assessment techniques.

<https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/new-snr-assessment-te>

Investing for Success (I4S)

\$480 million of the Australian Government's Students First funding is being provided directly to schools over 2016 and 2017 through Investing for Success. This additional funding will be invested in Queensland's 1233 State Schools in 2017 to improve student performance. High Schools will receive the same level of funding as 2016, to be distributed across all year levels, with a particular emphasis on the early years of high school. This additional funding will be particularly important for students entering high school with low levels of literacy and numeracy. All Queensland state schools enter into an agreement committing them to invest the additional funding to improve student outcomes and school performance. The agreement outlines how a school will use the additional funding to improve student performance and schools will have the flexibility and autonomy to decide how the funding should be spent.

Our school has finalised our Investing for Success agreement which will ensure we are extending our work in the areas of Reading and Numeracy. Our focus for 2017 will be on 2 key groups of students - those with low levels of literacy and those who are capable of reaching the upper two bands in NAPLAN testing. We will also focus our attention on ensuring an increase the percentage of OP eligible students attaining an OP 1-15 and increasing student engagement in learning. Once it is finalised, I will share our detailed plan with the school community via the school's website.

Next Term begins Tuesday April 18

A reminder that there will be a break of two weeks for the Easter vacation and the Monday of that week is the Easter Monday public holiday. The first day back (Tuesday 18 April) is a Cluster Sport day. Should we have too much wet weather over the holidays, and this prevents sport going ahead, we will post an update on our Facebook page.

With Wednesday being the first day of a full academic program, we will be focussed on getting our students 'up to speed' from the first minute we see them in classes. Please ensure that students are at school with their laptop, books, uniform, and a desire to do their best on this first day back. At Nerang High we are committed to every student being here, every lesson, every day.

Over the two week break for the Easter vacation 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 School Watch on 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 Queensland schools. Keep the number handy – 13 17 88.

Wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

**Regards,
Scott Ison**

P&C ASSOCIATION

Hi everyone,

Although I'm a little late of the mark, I'd like to welcome you all to 2017 at Nerang High. The P&C has been busy with the beginning of the year, with Uniform sales and Canteen re-stocking. I'd like to say a public Thank You to all our staff for the amazing job they do throughout the year, but particularly at the beginning of every year.

The Plaza has now been completed with lots of seating and a fabulous floor. I see many students using it when I pop in. The P&C funded the shelter and seating at a total spend of \$115k.



Our next project is to upgrade the lighting around the school, beginning with increasing lighting around the hall and up to the bus bay, then upgrading the existing fluorescent lights around the school and car parks to LED. We have committed around \$22K for this project.

Our Trivia Night is back again this year, on the 26th May. It's a Black and Bling theme, for something different. Please see the attached flyer and save the date on your calendar. Our Trivia Team is already hard at work sourcing donations. If you have a business or attraction you would like to promote to the school community, you are encouraged to donate a prize for our raffle table and in return we will publish your support in this newsletter, on the Trivia Flyer and Program, in addition to any promotional material you would like to put on the tables on the night. Could I also ask you to check your "re-gifting" stash at home for anything you may be able to donate! Please bear in mind this is the ONLY fundraising event we hold each year, so please support us where you can. We are famous for our raffle table, where we aim to have 100 prizes available!

As you may be aware, we have a parent contribution at Nerang High, where we ask for a voluntary donation of just \$30 per family to help us improve the facilities that your child uses. Historically we have only had approx. 100 families donate. If each family donated just \$30 we would have over \$15,000 to improve facilities each year. The P&C don't run lots of small fundraising activities throughout the year as we are well aware that this is not welcomed by parents, that's why we only ask for the \$30. The only funds we raise are through Uniform and Canteen sales, Trivia Night and Parent contributions. I did a quick tally prior to the AGM on Tuesday, in the years I have been involved (12) we have donated in excess of \$350k to

the school in addition to the almost \$400k in grants. Please consider paying the parent contribution at the office, if you have not already done so.

BLACK & Bling

Come join Nerang State High School Community for a night of Black & Bling

When: Friday 26th May
Where: Nerang State High School Hall
Time: Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start
Entertainment: Trivia Night
Over 100 raffle prizes to be won
Lucky door prize
Coin toss
And much more

Tickets: \$10 each or \$12 on the night
Payment can be made to CBA (NSHS General Acct)
BSB: 664 451 Account No: 10013840
(use your name as reference please)
Tables of 8 can be booked now
Contact Tracey Spiers – 0412 267 263
or email: pandc@nerangshs.eq.edu.au
or book with the Uniform/Canteen staff

Decorate your table
BYO Food, Platters, Take-Away

STRICTLY NO BYO ALCOHOL
Alcohol available for purchase
Beer \$5, wine & Bubbles \$5 glass, cider \$5, pre-mixed cans \$7 (JB, UDL)
Please note - over 18 event only.
Complimentary Tea/coffee/water

On Tuesday the 14th we held our AGM and were very happy to have both our local MP Sid Cramp and our Division 5 Councillor Peter Young attend and update us on the various news around Nerang. Both these gentlemen are very strong supporters of Nerang High.

The P&C Executive for 2017 is as follows-

President - Tracey Spiers
Secretary - Leanne Barnes
Treasurer - Hope Fraser
Vice President - Frank Milburn
P&C's Qld Rep - Tracey Spiers

We are very happy to welcome Hope to the team. Our next meeting will be on 9th May due to the holidays. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

Lastly in Uniform News- we have finally got Flexischools up and running in the uniform shop. This enables you to order and pay for uniforms or stationery online for your students to collect at school, during Uniform Shop operating hours. Flexischools is also available in the canteen.

Enjoy the holidays and stay safe!

**Regards,
Tracey Spiers
P&C President
pandc@nerangshs.eq.edu.au
0412267263**

CANTEEN NEWS

Online ordering is now available at the School Canteen. Flexischools is a fast and secure way to order and pay for your Canteen orders. Take advantage of this new convenient service by going to the link below and register.

<http://www.flexischools.com.au/>

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Gold Coast Debating – Proposed Dates 2017

Junior Round 2	Wed 3/5
Junior Round 3	Wed 24/5
Junior Round 4	Wed 7/6
Junior Round of top 16 teams	Wed 26/7
Quarter finals	Wed 2/8
Semi finals	Wed 9/8
Grand finals	Wed 23/8

Write 4 Fun Competition

This competition is for students prep to year 12. Write a poem or short story for your chance to win \$1,000 cash (\$500 for you and \$500 for your school)! As well as one of the AWESOME prizes available. All it takes is a burst of inspiration, a dash of creativity and a little bit of effort for great poems and stories to appear! We can't wait to read yours! Entry is free! Entries close Friday 31st March, 2017. Further information is on the English noticeboard in M Block and ask your English teacher for more details.

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.

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

Gayle Rees

Business Manager

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME FEES

2017 1st 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

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*

SUPPORT TEAM

Supporting Nerang Schools Chaplaincy fund

Nerang RSL helps raise funds for community based groups such as Nerang Schools Chaplaincy. For every meal purchased on a Monday evening you can nominate \$5 to a fund of your choice. Why not enjoy a meal at the Bistro and help raise funds to support our Nerang School Chappies

To find out more check out Helping Hands

<http://www.nerangrsl.com/helping-hands.html>

Check out all the great activities happening during Youth Week 31st March-9th April (loads are free events) around the Gold Coast such as music, art, surfing, paddle boarding etc

<http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/mobile/youth-week-on-the-gold-coast-calendar-40150.html>

Have a safe and blessed Easter Holidays

Chappy Elizabeth

Important information for students with EpiPens®

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that four batches of EpiPen® 300 microgram adrenaline injection syringe auto-injectors are being recalled. If your child's EpiPen® is from batch 5FA665, 5FA6651, 5FA6652 or 5FA6653 (all of which expire in April 2017), return it to your pharmacy for a free replacement or refund. It has been identified that EpiPens® from the four affected batches may contain a defective part that could result in the auto-injector failing to activate or needing to be applied with more force than normal to activate. It is important to keep the current auto-injector until you get the replacement, and use it if required (being mindful that you may need to apply more force than normal to activate it). For further information see the TGA Recall Alert below. If you have further questions or concerns, talk to your health professional.

<http://www.tga.gov.au/alert/epipen-300-microgram-adrenaline-injection-syringe-auto-injector>

CyberSafety

Parents — give your children the knowledge to stay cyber safe with the 'Meet the Creeps' website and quiz! The website guides you and your children through online scams, social media pitfalls and cyberbullying.

<http://www.creepquiz.eq.edu.au/>

It is on the back of research that shows:

- 58% of 18-25 year olds regret something they posted as a young teen.
- The average teen will never meet 25% of their online friends... and, 80 million Facebook accounts are bogus
- 21% of 14-15 year olds reported being cyberbullied.

This is a simple activity for your children to complete over the holidays to reacquaint themselves with the messages around cyber safety and cyber bullying.

Assessment Schedules

Assessment Schedules were provided to students earlier this term. These are individual for each student, showing the due dates for all assessment this semester. You will be able to work with your child in using this information to plan for assessment. Planning to complete assignments over a number of afternoons and weekends is imperative.

We ask that students use their Assessment Schedule to firstly record the due dates for each assessment item in their diary. The next step is for students to then record in their diary the times when they will work on each assessment item:

- Students can plan for the workload relating to tests by setting revision times for each test. Students need to write 'Revision' on the night before the test and then record further revision times for 2 of the 5 nights prior to this date.
- For assignments, students write the assignment name in their diary on each night that they will be working on it between the date it is given out and the due date. In general, they need to build a minimum of 3 times when the assignment will be worked on.

Ask your child to show you that they have done this planning in their diary. The Assessment Schedule should then be written onto a Term Calendar and displayed in a prominent place, so you can consistently refer to it and give reminders about due dates for assignments and preparing for tests.

If you need another copy of your child's individual Assessment Schedule, students can ask at the Admin office, or, even though we cannot post over 1000 individual Assessment Schedules on the school website, the assessment program for each year level is provided in the Curriculum / Testing and assessment section of our website. The Guide to Homework and Study is also available here.



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- * Use of the voice
- * Build confidence
- * Safety Awareness
- * Saying NO

- * Easy target strike points
- * Who to turn to for help
- * Learn simple, yet practical self-defence techniques



Saturday, 1st APRIL, 2017

10:00 am – 12:00 PM

Robina Community Centre Auditorium

196 Robina Town Centre Dr, Robina QLD 4226

Open to all ages and abilities – no experience necessary

Specialist clinics for Men & Women, Women only & Children only.

Bookings Essential

0468 477 951 OR email info@powmartialarts.com.au

