3 June 2013

Principal’s Report

QSchools smartphone App

This week the Minister for Education released the QSchools smartphone app. The app allows parents, teachers and students to have instant access to live school updates and information. The app will display school contact information, news, calendar events and newsletters. This information will feed directly from our school website and when we update and publish content on the website, the app will be automatically updated.

App benefits for parents/caregivers include:

- adding multiple schools as favourites to enable parents to view updates from several schools in a single view
- accessing the latest school news and events to stay informed
- receiving emergency announcements and information around natural disasters and school closures.
- convenient and prompt method of receiving messages/information from school/s

Android and iOS versions of the QSchools app are available for parents to download free via the Apple iTunes store and Google Play.

11 & 12 Exam Block

The Exam Block for Year 11 and 12 students runs from Friday 7 June to Friday 14 June. During this time Year 11 and 12 students are required to be at school only when they actually have an examination or where they have been directed to attend school to complete assignments or other work. This is a very formal examination period and students will require a medical certificate for any exams missed due to illness and parents will need to contact the relevant Head of Department (prior to the exam) for all issues that cause students to be unable to attend exams. For students where travel arrangements are an issue they can attend school for the entire day and we will provide supervision in the Library.

Flying Start – What does Junior Secondary look like?

Six principles have been developed to underpin Junior Secondary and under these guiding principles, Junior Secondary will provide challenging educational offerings that engage young adolescents, while giving them a sense of belonging and support through the changes they face. These six principles are:

1. Distinct identity
   Junior Secondary students will be encouraged and supported to develop their own group identity within the wider high school. This will involve dedicated school areas and specific Junior Secondary events.

2. Quality teaching
   Teachers working with students in the Junior Secondary years building the skills they need through additional professional development, so they can support young teens through these crucial early high school years. Some teachers from local primary schools will choose to move to Junior Secondary at Nerang High, and existing secondary teachers may specialise in Junior Secondary.

3. Student wellbeing
   We will meet the social and emotional needs of our Junior Secondary students with a strong focus on pastoral care. For example, we will provide a home room to support students as they adjust to new routines and greater academic demands. We will provide specific programs to develop the skills our students will need as they enter high school and transition through the Junior Secondary school.

4. Parent and community involvement
   We want parents to stay connected with their students’ learning when they enter high school. Parent involvement in assemblies, special events, award ceremonies and leadership presentations will be welcomed.

5. Leadership
   We will be implementing leadership roles for our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 from 2014. Dedicated teachers experienced with teaching young adolescents will lead Junior Secondary. Our team of teachers will be led by our HOD Junior Secondary and his dedicated team of Year Coordinators, and of course our administration team.

6. Local decision-making
   The needs of each school community will influence how Junior Secondary is implemented in our school. We are looking for parents to have a say in the way we do business in Junior Secondary.

Congratulations ‘Smart Learners’

The top achievers from the junior school have been selected to join the newly formed ‘Smart Learners’ group. Ms Gollan is leading the implementation of this new initiative to help our gifted students set high level academic and personal goals, that are both achievable and measurable. The program will involve the students working with a mentor teacher to assist them in setting and reflecting on their goals each term. The mentor will also monitor the students, ensuring they are coping with the demands of school and be the person they can go to if they are experiencing difficulty in meeting their goals.

Supporting Our Alliance

As a part of the Alliance of Nerang Schools we continue to provide support to each other and have our students work together. Last week we went to William Duncan State School for their Under Eights Day. Once again our students made us proud to be a part of Nerang State High School. The feedback I got was “I honestly couldn’t speak higher of them. The 4 junior girls who manned the Pirate Hat stall were just exceptional and the patience and care they showed with the Kindergarten children was of the highest order. The senior boys manning the BBQ and the senior girls helping out at the Jumping Castle were excellent.”

Regards,
Scott Ison

BOND HIGH SCHOOL MOOTING COMPETITION 2013

Nerang participated in the Bond Moot Competition against many other schools on the Gold Coast. We represented the Appellant and our students did very well in delivery strong arguments in favour of the Appellant.

Congratulation to Raquel Smit, Senior Counsel, Zac Maher, Junior Counsel and Courtney Hendy, Instruction Solicitor. The Judges were very pleased with their submission and congratulated the students on an excellent moot presentation.

On behalf of the students and myself we would like to thank Charlotte Pugin, a past legal studies student from Nerang for coaching us and giving us some of the practical skills necessary to compete in the moot.

We would also like to thank Bond University, Faculty of Law, for hosting such a worthwhile event every year and giving the students the opportunity to test some of their advocacy skills in a Court of Law.

Margaret Harburg
Legal Studies Teacher
AWARDS

Nerang SHS is pleased to have two entrants in this year’s South East Region School-Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship Awards – Vaughan Kluver – an entrant in the Building/Cabinetmaking Section and Lauren Brown – an entrant in the Retail Section. Applicants will be notified in July of the outcome. We wish them good luck!

Shelley O’Sullivan
Industry Liaison Officer

Geography students take on the competition!

A big congratulations to the efforts of the Year 11 Geography class in the recent 2013 Australian Geography Competition. Our students performed admirably with two students achieving a Distinction and two students receiving a credit. Three Year 9 COMET students also represented Nerang State High School in the intermediate level competition and also achieved excellent results, a Distinction and a Credit. A big thank you to all students who participated and I look forward to the competition in 2014.

Daniel Alarcon
Acting HOD – Humanities and LOTE

RTC News

At RTC we are making some changes to ensure parents and guardians are kept informed about their child. We have started using an SMS system to inform parents and guardians if their child has been referred to RTC or if their child has failed to return any outstanding plans to RTC. We will also issue information brochures in letters home to parents and guardians to help you better understand our system.

If you have any questions or would like to know more information with regards to your child’s referrals to RTC you can always contact me at rtc2@nerangshs.eq.edu.au or phone 07 5503 7854.

Please ensure your mobile phone, home address and email addresses that you have registered at the school are kept up-to-date so that you can receive our correspondence.

By working together we can help your child make better choices for the future.

Angela Meyer
RTC Coordinator

Mobile Phone Recycling

Thank you to all those parents who sifted through drawers and under beds for old mobile phones. We have managed to collect 30 phones which we will send off to be recycled. The school will earn $90 for these unwanted phones. Please keep looking for and collecting old mobiles and take them to the uniform shop. Ask family members to ask their friends and work mates to check for old phones lying around. Help the environment and your school!

Uniform News

Over the past 8 months the P&C has been working with parents, community members, teachers and students in designing a new school uniform. Our current uniform has been in place for 25 years and some of our current parents wore it with fond memories themselves! With the Flying Start intake of students in 2015 seeing current Year 6 and 7 moving up to begin high school at Year 7 and the adoption of our new school logo this year, we felt it the ideal time to make this change.

With the formation of our Junior Secondary school, we will have a different formal day uniform and sports uniform for both Junior and Senior school levels. In past newsletters Mr Ison has discussed the research into the needs of students beginning the journey into high school and our decision stems from that research.

Our open night was held earlier this month and samples of the new Junior Uniform were on-show for the first time. I received nothing but positive feedback from teachers, students and prospective new parents who attended.

The Junior uniform will consist of:
• A formal boys uniform of navy shorts and blue shirt
• A formal girls uniform of plaid skirt and blue blouse.
• The unisex sports uniform will be navy shorts and predominantly navy shirt with grey contrast (in same design as current sports shirt).

The Senior uniform will consist of:
• A formal boys uniform of navy shorts and formal shirt (colour still to be finalised)
• A formal girls uniform navy skirt and formal blouse (colour to be finalised)
• The unisex sports uniform will be navy shorts and a predominantly grey shirt with navy contrast (in same design as current sports shirt).

Please be assured we have kept the following in mind when making our decision: quality, value, wearability, laundering and cost. We am very pleased to announce that we will be able to provide the new uniforms without increasing the price to parents. Our uniform prices have remained the same for many years.

Students & Teachers of Class 93’ Nerang State High School You’re invited to attend your 20 Year Reunion

WHEN: Saturday 19 October 2013
WHERE: East 1/88 Surf Parade, Broadbeach
TIME: 6.00pm – 9.30pm
COST: $30.00 include a drink on arrival & canapés
RSVP: no later than 28-Sep-2013
Robyn Cooke (Schijvens) – oosrc@bigpond.com

To be added to the guest list, money needs to be paid ASAP

BSB: 633-000
Account No: 149458358
Account Name: R Cooke & S Bowden
Reference: Please add your full name + (maiden name)

No tickets on the night
No partners
Only students who graduated in 1993 ‘Teachers of Class 93’

Actforkids

TEEN Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)
Venue: Act for kids (Conference room)
21 Tallebudgera Creek Road West Burleigh
Wednesday 12th and 19th June 9.30am - 1.00pm (morning tea supplied)

“Learn strategies to help parenting teenagers easier”

Triple P offers parenting suggestions and ideas to help parents of Teenagers with everyday parenting concerns including the following:
• Building a positive parent / teen relationship
• Encourage and increase desirable behaviour
• How to develop effective, practical strategies to manage behavioural problems
• Managing misbehaviour in a positive and effective way
• Take care of yourselves as parents

For bookings please contact your Family Support Worker or Intake: 5508 3822
Go card makes travelling to school easy

Did you know that if your son or daughter uses a Translink go card to travel to school they save at least 30 per cent on the cost of a single concession paper ticket, which is half of an adult’s fare? What’s more families can register the card so the balance can be protected if the card is lost or stolen. Registering the card also allows families to top-up online or over the phone. They can also set up auto top-up so students will always have funds on their card.


GOLD COAST HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES – ORAL HEALTH SERVICES

ORAL HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Did you know that Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services – Oral Health Services in both the community and school dental clinics accept Teen Dental Vouchers?

Good oral health care is important for young people. The government has provided Teen Dental Vouchers to help enable and maintain good oral health and preventative care. These vouchers can be presented to private dentists or Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services – Oral Health Services, including a community or school dental clinic.

Children attending schools up to the end of Year 10 who present a Teen Dental Voucher with Gold Coast Oral Health Services will receive a comprehensive examination, x-rays, scale, clean and a full course of care. Children in Years 11 and 12 in receipt of a voucher can only be seen by Gold Coast Oral Health Services if the eligibility criteria is met. They will then be placed on a waiting list to receive a comprehensive examination, x-rays, scale, clean and a full course of care.

If the Teen Dental Voucher has been used at a private dental practice, completion of the private dentist's treatment plan will need to be undertaken privately at own cost. Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services will only be able to provide Emergency Care for these children, not a full course of care as prescribed by the private dentist.

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services – Oral Health Services have qualified and experienced dentists, oral health therapists, dental therapists and dental assistants who work together to provide a range of oral healthcare services to meet your child’s specific oral health needs in a caring environment.

As the Teen Dental Voucher expires by 31.12.13, it is important that you arrange your appointment as soon as possible by telephoning the Gold Coast Oral Health Services Call Centre on 1300 300 850. Oral health services are also provided during all school holiday periods.

For more information on the nearest community or school dental clinic, the Oral Health Call Centre will be able to assist you with your enquiry.

Tennis Fixtures

New Season starting in July is now OPEN to all level of tennis players – Adult or Junior.

Saturday Afternoons, Tuesday Nights, Thursday Nights

Contact Tennis Gold Coast to enter a team now (2 person team) – tennisgoldcoast@bigpond.com, 5532 8566.

Full details: www.tennisgoldcoast.com