18 May 2016

Principals Report

Welcome to our May newsletter. Like always, much occurring across the school and much to be excited about. I will outline a few highlights and then delve into the second of our three (3) school priorities, our Literate Graduates program. Last time I detailed our plans around Literacy and Numeracy. But first, some highlights for this term.

1. Launch of Our Makerspace.

We had a very successful launch of this trial program, which began this year. Makerspace is about a tailored learning area where students can actively explore, make and develop innovative projects, mostly around the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) agenda.

Our head of Innovations Mr David Mayes has done an exceptional job in bringing this space to life and he is well supported by our STEM Development Officer, Mr Ian Dewey and a number of skilful and dedicated staff members and partners. We are fortunate to have them leading our STEM and Innovations agendas. I mentioned at the launch, that excellence in these areas relies on a culture that engages students and quality partnerships beyond the school. We have both of these “in spades”! I am excited by both the reality of what has been done so far and the future potential to come.

2. NAPLAN

Week 5 was NAPLAN and our Year 7 and Year 9 students did an excellent job in applying themselves to this testing schedule. I saw their efforts on day 1 and was very impressed. What is important now, and this connects to my article last month on our Literacy and Numeracy focus is:

a) Parents, students and staff all focus on NAPLAN delivering, for each individual further, evidence on Literacy and Numeracy skill development. We will use this evidence to intervene and support any student for whom we see the need of more intense work. For the vast majority of our students, NAPLAN will affirm their successful progress along the school learning journey and quality teaching and learning will continue their development.

I would like to thank Mr Paul Charles and all staff who worked so hard to make the NAPLAN program run so smoothly and a big congratulations to all students in Year 7 and 9 for their application to the tests. I wonder how many VIVOs I will have to award to successful students!

3. Jazz Academy Performances

I continue to be “blown away” by the quality of our singers and musicians, who showcase our school so well every time they perform. If you have not heard them you are missing something special. All the students and staff involved are to be congratulated on how well they perform and represent our school. ANZAC Day was just of the many examples this term.
Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019 Priority 2: Literate Graduates

This priority addresses the key question:

What are skills and knowledges needed by students to move successfully into life after school? Often referred to as 21st century skills, these require a school not only to identify them, but to also develop deliberate learning opportunities and feedback on development of the skillsets. They are in some areas referred to as General Capabilities and we have a school specific response in place.

Our Literate Graduate Skillset (see detailed outline below) addresses 6 skill areas – our 6Cs:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Creativity
- Character
- Citizenship

Through our Strategic Plan we will work to ensure these are developed throughout the curriculum. We also plan to deliver a Literate Graduate Certificate to all students who reach an accepted standard on exit of Year 12.

For this year we have:

- Tasked a working party, led by Mr Dan Kaggelis, to begin work on identifying both the ways these skills can be developed and how we can teach and assess them
- Asked all faculties to explore at least one unit of work in which these skills can be explicitly taught
- Expanded our Philosophy curriculum to all students 7 - 10 as a deliberate means of developing critical thinking
- Begun progress to a Student Congress, which will give legitimate voice to our students and develop character and citizenship
- Tasked our Academy Managers to develop draft reporting procedures on elements of the 6Cs.

What you will see developing across the school and the Tropical North Learning Academy, is a commitment to giving our students the best possible opportunity to not only “do well at school” but to also develop the skills to confidently move forward to the future that awaits them. This future has many challenges and we will do all we can to be a leading educational institution in this area.

I have been away working for the School Improvement Unit in recent times and that work finishes for this semester in Week 6. I look forward to being back in the school on a regular basis and to seeing our progress through semester 1 outcomes.

Thank you again for supporting your children and our school. As always it’s a privilege. Until next time,

Barry

ANZAC CEREMONY

On the 22 April 2016, Tropical North Learning Academy Smithfield High School commemorated ANZAC Day by holding a special ceremony at the YMCA. Special guests of the ceremony included Leading Seaman Timothy Holt, Councillor Jessie Richardson, Andrew Hayes - Alumni & Community Development Officer from James Cook University, Trinity Beach State School Deputy Principal Ms Narinda Singh, Trinity Beach State School Captains Grace Ashby and Rhys Anderson. Leading Seaman Timothy Holt gave an inspiring speech to students about the ANZAC Spirit and what ANZAC day means to everyone today. The focus of the ceremony was to remember and commemorate the Centenary of the Somme Offensive. The Somme Offensive remains one of the most costly periods in any conflict to date with 500,000 Germans casualties and 420,000 British and Allied casualties and 200,000 French casualties. Indigenous Leader Bailey McIntyre also provided an engaging and informative speech on the role Indigenous Australians played in Australia’s war efforts. Supported by the Tropical North Learning Academy Smithfield High School Band, singers and performers, the 2016 Tropical North Learning Academy Smithfield High School ANZAC Ceremony was a sombre yet inspiring commemoration for all those involved.
ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

After having the opportunity to commemorate our ANZAC day service at school, Jazz Academy and music students were proud to be invited to perform the New Zealand anthem and hymns at the Trinity Beach Dawn Service. Students performed beautifully under difficult weather conditions. We look forward to performing again next year as part of this great community tradition which is growing each year.

WELCOME

Ian Dewey

Normal career? Day one started on an oil rig in Bass Straight as part of an international group researching better ways to track submarines. Later the opportunity came to join the Navy’s Seahawk Helicopter test and evaluation program and I found myself flying missions in Australia and abroad.

From flying I moved to human performance analysis with the Clearance Divers. The CD program is a pinnacle of learning; the Divers have learned knowledge, mental and physical strategies as well as responses and techniques. Importantly, every part of their “learning” must be at A+ level to keep them alive.

Life changed and I joined the corporate world as a suit and tie wearing mathematical modeller for ANL (shipping line) and then through a very strange twist of fate ended up back in human performance managing the education structure for the Australian Olympic Kayaking/Canoeing program over 3 Olympic cycles.

With the beginning of the government’s drive for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teachers I entered teaching via one of the Industry to Classroom pathways in SA starting as Physics Co-ordinator at Valley View where I inherited a UAV and robotics program. It was teaching in heaven as my defence science, modelling and human performance background fed straight into my classroom.

Through my career(s) I have seen the importance of the STEM subjects, the inquiring mind, research skills and the ability to communicate clearly. To be in the position of helping create the next generation of scientists and mathematicians is a natural progression.

Library News

Red Hot Reads

Our library is continually adding resources, particularly novels. You will find these new titles on the right side of the first book case you encounter. We established an online book review newsletter, Red Hot Reads to give you a better idea of what is new. This month we’ve added some books about the weapons developed during WW1. We also have a suggestion box, and we attempt to purchase the books (Fiction and Non-Fiction) of current interest to individual students and staff. If there’s something we don’t stock, make a request. The myriad benefits of reading are well known, but as a bonus, students who return their loans on time are awarded VIVO points. Not only does this acknowledge our active readers but their consideration for others.

http://www.scoop.it/t/red-hot-reads

Reader’s Cup

Our Reader’s Cup team have been conscientiously reading and discussing the 6 titles, ready for the regional Reader’s Cup quiz at Cairns State High School on June 2. Team members are: Solomon Bani, Jake Gillman, Closis Damay, Chloé Reid and Destiny Reid. Ask them for their recommendations as the books will be available to everyone after the competition.

The Peasant Prince by Li Cunxin, Loyal Creatures by Morris Gleitzmann, Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech, 300 minutes of Danger by Jack Heath, New Boy by Nick Earls, A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

400 years since Shakespeare’s Death

Our traditional ANZAC Day display was followed with honouring the Bard’s legacy on the 400th anniversary since his death. Of course many of his most famous plays, were on display; representing a large body of his work, in addition to his poetry. The original texts, for some, make Shakespeare difficult to appreciate. But over the years, we have added a large number of prose, film and graphic versions to extend an enjoyment of his timeless narratives to all. A highlight was a lucky dip of hundreds of Shakespeare’s words and phrases, amazingly still in common usage today.

Digital Access to National Newspapers

Unfortunately, many Australian newspapers are no longer available via Library Print - one of the free public library databases. For online access, the Australian and New Zealand NewsStand Database (also available through your public library membership card), stores the text of most articles – after searching for e.g. Cairns Post, edit the date range to start and finish with today’s date (or whichever date you are seeking). Our corporate membership of JCU library provides another route to digital copies of many newspapers and periodicals – but don’t forget to take your USB to their reading room terminals.

http://databases.slsq.qld.gov.au

Deborah Robins
Teacher Librarian.
CSI forensics… can they really tell how old the Earth is/ a skeleton is, or even what food you/ animals of the past ate just from a tiny sample of hair?

Can they really prove that carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere come from man burning fossil fuels?

Well it turns out YES!! Year 12 Chemistry students were lucky enough to have Isotope Geochemist, Assoc.Prof. Michael Bird from James Cook University, explain how.

We have been busy………. Making Musicians for Life!

In the past month the musicians at TNLA have been kept busy being: rehearsed…… entertained……challenged and motivated to be the best they can be.

Look at what we’ve been up to……and what’s coming up!

John Morrison and Jacki Cooper workshop with Jazz Academy.

Our patrons and partners in Jazz worked with our drummers and vocalists to teach some new skills and develop our passion for performing.

“It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that swing!”

CQU workshops with conservatorium lecturers and Band Hall Jazz.

Our music partnerships with Central Queensland University gave our Stage Band and Jazz Academy students the opportunity of intensive workshops. Lecturers Peter, Jason and Nathan shared their talents to help polish our Stage band for Fanfare on May 21 at Crosswell Hall Cairns State High School. Our Jazz Academy students then joined the lecturers and local jazz musicians to perform and jam at Cairnsbands’ Band Hall Jazz that evening. Josh Pelach was presented with a personal
We are very fortunate for such support of our programs.

Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University - Score It!

An initiative of QMF and supported by the Qld Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University gave selected music students the opportunity to work with Dr. Kim Cunio. Our students are entering the world of film composition; using their skills, talent and passion to compose original soundtracks to accompany films. Entries close on June 10, so our new composition lab will be busy at all times accommodating our resident composers. A big thank you to Mr. Pols for his tireless enthusiasm setting up our computers and recording devices.

Majella Pike  
Jazz Academy Head of Program

FANFARE

Saturday 21 May Cairns State High School- Crosswell Hall.

On May 21, our Concert Band and Stage Band will be competing at Fanfare, a Queensland-wide band competition that takes place every two years. Fanfare is a celebration of the excellent Instrumental Music program that Queensland state schools are so fortunate to have, and is a great opportunity for Instrumental Music students to showcase their abilities at competition level and receive valuable feedback from an expert adjudicator. All music staff and students have been working very hard in preparation for Fanfare, and it promises to be a fantastic event.

Some of my fondest memories of music as a student are playing at Fanfare, so it is a pleasure for me to conduct our two bands at this competition. I am very lucky to be able to work with such a talented group of musicians, who I know will do our school proud!

Cameron Nicholls  
Instrumental Music Teacher

JAZZ ACADEMY AUDITIONS

Mid-year auditions for Jazz Academy are on now! Applications are due by May 20 with auditions taking place on May 30 & 31.

All of the information regarding the audition process and application forms can be located on the school website at the link below.

https://smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Excellenceprograms/Pages/Jazz-Academy.aspx

Host Families required………Smithfield State High School

We have international students arriving as part of our Study Abroad and Graduate Programs that require homestay. We need to hear from families interested in hosting these students. Periods of stay are usually 3 to 6 months, but can be up to 12 months.

You can contact the Smithfield State High School homestay coordinator Donna Lupson by email at dlups0@eq.edu.au or call 4058 4361 for more information.

This is a great opportunity for your family to share your culture and learn more about another culture.

Families will be remunerated.

Smithfield State High School – TNLA CRICOS provider code 00608A

P & C – Entertainment Books
Netball – Under 12’s Smithy Bulldogs

Smithfield State High School has formed an alliance with the newly formed Trinity Beach Bulldogs Netball Club. The Bulldogs have joined the Cairns Netball association and have entered a number of teams from junior right through to an A grade side. The formation of the club allows players to train out at the beaches and then only have to travel into town on competition nights. Smithfield State High will also be used as their training venue.

Our school has entered two sides into the competition. An U12 side coached by Alyssa Miskin and an U15 side coached by Amy Blyth. We will use these two sides to form a basis for school representative teams in junior and senior. School competitions Smithfield will participate in include the Vikki Wilson Cup (both junior and senior) and Mossman 7’s (U14 and U16 sides).

Brett Wilson

Soccer News

Bill Turner U15 Girls Soccer

After tough tryouts to even make the team, the U15 girls’ soccer team have proved themselves in their clashes against Redlynch State College to move into the next round of the competition. The Week 3 home game saw the girls smash Redlynch 6-nil. There were goals from Jade Valmadre (2), Susie Stewart (2), Caitlin Woodman and Chloe Mills but awesome skills and teamwork were also shown from the rest of the team. The second game, also against Redlynch, proved to be a little tougher after the Redlynch girls spent the week training vigorously to improve their skills and teamwork. The end result was 2-1 to Redlynch. However, because our goal difference was higher, the Salty Girls will be making their way up to Mareeba on Thursday, May 19 to take on St Stephens. Good Luck girls and GO THE SALTIES!

CISSA GIRLS SOCCER

After a gruelling season with maybe 1, 2 or 6 huge losses, the CISSA Girls Soccer team finally made history by winning two games in the season, both against Trinity Bay State High School! The first game, won back in Term 1, was played away to TBSHS with the score ending 1-0. This win came despite us loaning some of our best players to the 8 man opposition. However, it was the final week of the competition that gave us what we had been long awaiting – a 3-2 win over TBSHS at home. Goals from Cate Llewelyn, Jamie Saxon and Tiara Leitch helped seal the victory. The main factors contributing to the glorious win were the blue hair ribbons, the blue war paint and the team photo to start the game. Well done girls and GO SALTIES!

Baseball

Peninsula recently hosted the State Championships for Open Baseball at Trinity Beach. The Championships had 6 visiting teams from across the State playing against our own Regional Side, The Peninsula Pirates. Although the competition was affected by rain, the home team still managed a couple of wins against Met West and a “President’s” side and we assisted 2 players into the Queensland Team that played at the National Championships in Perth. Smithfield was represented in with Luke Sexton playing in the Presidents Team. Brody Sordelli and Alec Penn were to play in the Pirates Team, however had to unfortunately withdraw. The Opening Ceremony is always a big event for these Championships and the National Anthem was sung by the fantastic duo of Zara Betts-Colefax and Mayla.
Jacob followed by the first pitch by local councillor Max O’Halloran.

Coral Coast Championships

Kaleb Smee & Jaxon McCarthy

Kaleb and Jaxon have been training in Combined Martial Arts for over 12 months and have recently started boxing training also. They had their fight at the weekend in an international tournament and won. Kaleb backed up his win on the second day in an unplanned match, he stepped up to do another one after a fighter backed out.. They are also booked in to fight in Townsville in 2 weeks time. They train in Combined Martial Arts at Nexus in Smithfield and have travelled as far as the Gold Coast for MMA tournaments.

Great Job Boys!!!!

‘FROM THE SPORTSDESK ‘

Athletics, cross county, futsal, rugby league and soccer are all part of the sporting juggernaut at Smithfield State High School that continues to power on this term.

Recently a small but dedicated group of runners represented our school at the interschool cross country championship, which also doubles as the TCN selection trial. This is a hotly contested event and our competitors were certainly ready to compete with the best athletes from the northern schools in Cairns. Taylah Gunton (Yr 7) continued her record breaking school form with an outstanding win in her event. John Gordon (Yr 12) also found form gaining a bronze medal in the 17 yrs division. E-Jay Bozkurt (Yr 9) and Mischa Salvaras (Yr12) also gained selection in the TCN team to compete at the Peninsula trials later this month. Although we only had a small group we were very competitive gaining a number of top 10 placings and with these results Smithfield was only just out of the medals finishing in fourth place. Congratulations to all these competitors on representing our school and to our magnificent team managers Miss Stewart and Mr Grundy.

Our rugby league season is in full swing with our Open boy’s having a terrific start to the season. The team is looking very strong and has so far accounted for both St. Andrew’s College and Mossman SHS in their opening rounds. Coach Ah- Kuoi and assistant Spletter are continuing to add the polish to the side with the lunch time trainings. This team has set early lofty goals of being there at the end of the season and on recent form are looking promising to fulfil this. The boys have a number of home games and they would love to have some local support on their home ground.

Mr Grundy does not slow down and is back on the charge again this time with the U15 side. The boys enjoyed the bye in round 1 and used the extra week to their advantage in preparing for the opening clash against Mossman SHS. The Smithfield side were completely unstoppable in their fixture and utterly dominated the opposition in a relentless display of attack and great defence. This young side will look to emulate the feats of the open side and continue to work in a bid to play in finals football in early June.

The soccer season is also underway with our U15 sides involved in the state-wide Bill Turner competition. Our boys side have unfortunately been knocked out in a game that can accurately be described as “one that got away”. The team shot out to an early 2 nil leads against St. Andrew’s and dominated the possession for the entire first half. Coach Fleeting had his side humming however the second half proved to be a different story and the boys surrendered their lead and the chance to progress.

Miss Barton is revelling in her appointment as the U15 girls coach and has had great early success with an opening win dominating the game slotting home 7 goals. The reverse fixture though was not quite as successful suffering a surprise loss however their superior goal difference ensured that they would progress to the next round against St. Stephen’s College-Mareeaba. Best of luck girls.

The PE staff have been working feverishly to prepare the last major inter house contest for 2016- the Athletics Carnival. The pre carnival events are underway and are run during the students lunch hours. This year the school has adopted a new program and has extended the carnival to run over a full day and a half of competition commencing after lunch on Thursday June 2. The school would love to see parents here on the days to see their child to compete however I would like to remind parents that they must sign in through the front office if they would like to spectate. The carnival is a great whole school event and is set up that all students can be involved at some level. It is expected that your child will be in attendance for both days. If you would like a copy of the program leading up to the carnival please contact the PE department.

Recently Morgan Cotrel (Yr 8) and Emily Ashlin(Yr 7) travelled to Brisbane to compete at the Queensland Senior State Gymnastics Championships. Morgan competed fantastically over the two days, hitting routines that he’s struggled with in training and performing consistently over both competitions. Emily had a fantastic result this year not only competing beautiful routines, but also gaining a place on the Queensland Border Challenge B team which competes later on in the year against the other Australian States. Congratulations to both of these students on such excellent achievements.
There are so many students achieving amazing results in their chosen fields outside of school hours and I enjoy hearing about these regularly so please encourage your child to keep me informed of their achievements.

Yet another jam packed article highlighting again the countless opportunities the students have available to them at Smithfield SHS, I can only ask that we encourage more and more students to take advantage of these and get involved in them, they provide such wonderful opportunities to form new friendships and provide great reward in representing your school.

ALASTAIR YEABSLEY
DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Communication tools for parents to the school.

Facebook
The Tropical North Learning Academy – Smithfield State High School facebook© site is up and running. Please take the time to go to the site and ‘like’ what you see. It is regularly updated with news and events from the school.

QParents
The QParents app is available from the app store. Parents/carers need to contact the school and sign the appropriate documentation to offer them a portal to their students’ data at school. Attendance, behaviour, outstanding fees, to name a few, are available through the app.

QSchools
The QSchools app is still available from the app store. Everyone is able to download it onto the phone/tablet. It offers parents/carers news articles, the latest newsletter, calendar items and notifications. Be sure to download this informative app.

LOCKERS FOR HIRE !!!

PARENT & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION HAVE LOCKERS FOR HIRE

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Please email pandc@smithfieldshs.eq.edu.au if you have any queries.

Student Resource Fee Reminder

All families with outstanding Student Resource fees should have received their Family Statement by either email or post at the end of last term.

Unless families have committed to an ‘approved’ school payment plan, Student Resource fees were due at the end of Term 1. (There are some subject fees in Year 11 and 12 which are exceptions to this rule.)

Student ID cards will be made available to those students who have no outstanding fees or who are currently committed to a payment plan agreement.

To ensure your student receives their student ID card please ensure payment of fees is made as soon as possible or a payment plan arrangement entered into with the office.

Approved payment plans can be arranged via Centrelink deduction or Credit Card deduction. Please download and complete the appropriate form and return to the school office.

If you have any questions regarding school fees or payment plans, please contact Tina Stevens on 4058 4307 or tstev153@eq.edu.au.

OLD UNIFORMS FOR SICKBAY

If you have any uniforms that are no longer required or have been outgrown and are still in good condition, could you please hand them into Admin as we need them for the sickbay. Thank You.