16 September 2015

Principal’s report

Hello Everyone,

When you receive this we will be into the last week of term 3 so I wish all families a safe and enjoyable break from school. Like all terms this one has been both busy and enjoyable. I hope you are seeing positive progress in your sons/daughters learning.

One of the highlights of this term is last Friday when we had the pleasure of welcoming The Premier of Queensland, the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk to Smithfield. We were able to outline some of the great work being done by students, staff and across our community. The Premier was able to join in one of our combined Smithfield/Trinity Beach Philosophy in Action classes as well!

Another highlight, among many, has been the numerous performances of our Concert, Stage Bands and Jazz Academy students. Their dedication and quality of stage presence/ musicianship are outstanding- led brilliantly by our Music staff.

Parent engagement and effective communication between home and school are crucial areas requiring constant review and improvement. There are 3 initiatives we have commenced this term to assist this:

Q Parents- please take the time to sign up for this. It gives you great access to school information regarding your child. So far the sign up is below our target.

TNLA Smithfield State High Facebook Page is up and running. Check this regularly for updates and vignettes of our students in action.

Parenting Ideas- this program- just google to get to website. We are a member school and continue to use resources that will assist you with the tests of parenting teenagers! See inside for the next article.

Finally, can I make a comment or two on student behaviour. First point is that vast majority of student’s behaviour is fine. We do have though, some students who continue to display inappropriate behaviours despite all our efforts to influence them to change. Those students (around 7% of our student population) are putting their education and that of others at risk and I will not accept it. I have 3 key messages I would like you all to take on board so we can continue with a calm, positive caring environment in each and every school setting:-

This school, like all Queensland State Schools, is committed to providing positive and safe learning environment for each and every student. This means we will put in a range of proactive actions/programs to explicitly teach appropriate behaviours. It also means we will not tolerate students who persistently make poor choices around behaviour.

Despite suspension not being convenient for families, I will suspend students who – swear at staff; bully/harass other students; physically assault others; refuse to alter challenging, defiant behaviours. If warranted I will exclude a student if their behaviour is chronic, brings the school into disrepute or seriously endangers another.

Working together is the best way to keep our students on a positive path. I ask for you to watch the following which can be significant indicators of them “leading the wrong way” at school;

- No study or homework being done
- Attendance, lateness truancy becoming an issue
- Partying without adult supervision on weekends
- Change in behaviour at home
- Change in friendship group (do you know your sons/ daughters friends and do you approve?)
- Poor grades/results or downward trend

You have my commitment to keep a safe, positive environment at school, you have my commitment to do all we can to keep students positively engaged at school and you have my commitment to take away the privilege of attending this school if I feel I have no other options.

Enjoy the holiday period,
Barry
Year 12 Formal

The year 12 Formal is fast approaching. This year it is being held on Saturday October 17 at the Cairns Pullman International Hotel. Arrivals commence from 6pm, Introductions at 7pm and Dinner at 7:30pm.

Tickets are available from the Administration office for $90 per person. We would like to remind you all school fees must be paid in full or an approved payment plan in place, otherwise your student will be unable to attend this important event for their final year of schooling. Please contact the office on 4058 4307 to discuss any outstanding school fees.

Year 12 News

Year 11 STEM Camp

Year 11 student, Dyllan Abood has been chosen for the QUT Vice-Chancellor’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Camp to be held in the September school holidays. He has been chosen because he was identified as a high achieving student with outstanding results, and he joins a select group from around Queensland for this five day camp. They will get a taste of first year university life, and work together with other Year 11 students, as well as academics and QUT students, in an intensive and hands-on research project.

Past student, Hannah Woodfield, who has moved with her family to another region, was also accepted in this program.

Congratulations to both students in being accepted into this program. Well done. We look forward to hearing from Dyllan about his experience.

Mrs Courtney

Year 8 Student Ambassadors

On the 7 August, nine Year 8 Ambassadors from our Junior Academy class escorted up and coming Year 5 and 6 Trinity Beach State School students across to James Cook University (JCU). Our Ambassadors supervised the construction of spaghetti towers and newspaper bridges, demonstrating leadership skills and delegating roles and responsibilities to other students in collaborative teams. Our students were able to share the excitement of attending university with Trinity Beach students and took a tour of the university campus with JCU representatives. The Ambassadors showed great enthusiasm towards furthering their studies at JCU, especially after their free pizza lunch! Overall, the day was enjoyed by all and was an exciting opportunity for our Year 8 Ambassadors.

Thank you to E-Jay Bozkurt, Inca Emery, Simone Gambin, Ronin Patotzki, Jasmin Roe, Kyle Sonnen, Darren Tarutia, Paris Wedding and Bree Woodhouse.

Alice Herbert

Year 8 Ambassadors demonstrating leadership skills during spaghetti tower construction with students from Trinity Beach State School.
News from Junior Secondary

In a recent Health lesson 7E were asked to reflect upon the important role of active listening in showing respect for others. Here are some of their thoughts.

**Respect**

- **Respect is showing someone that they are listening, not only with their ears but with their heart.**

- **To show respect it is to make eye contact with the person who is talking or presenting in front of you.**

- **You show respect when you do not interrupt or put people down.**

- **If you respect someone, you respect their ideas, their rights, and opinions.**

- **Be in the moment, be an active listener.**

- **Use body language.**

- **Commit to being respectful by putting the effort into showing you care about them.**

- **This is showing respect.**

**People who have respect for others will often have good manners, will be active listeners and have the ability to judge when enough is enough.**

**Respect is showing people that you want to be in their presence.**

**Getting distracted by everyday life, such as always using mobile phones, disconnecting us from the people around us. When you become distracted you often miss out on the things that are happening around you. By putting away distractions we can really listen to what other people have to say and show them that we care about them. This is showing respect.**

Zoë Bartlett

**You can show respect by sitting up straight and listening to the speaker, giving all your attention to what they are saying.**

**Being respectful is a good habit to get into. It will get you further in life and will serve you high regard from others.**

**Respect means that no matter what it is, you show them as much respect as you would like them to show you.**

Kelley Kull

From the Guidance Officers

We all know how hard it is at times to bring up our teenage kids. Michael Grose an author of 9 best selling parenting books and International speaker has come up with 7 resiliency robbers that can cause parents to rob their children of vital opportunities to develop personal resiliency.

Tertiary Aspirations; JCU Exercise Science Mentoring Program

A joint initiative between the Smithfield State High School Health and Physical Education Department and JCU Exercise Science Faculty

This term 23 students from years 10 to 12 have been involved in a weekly mentoring / transitioning program with Jamie Cook University (JCU).

This program aims to familiarise students with JCU facilities, staff and courses. Students have been inundated in practical studies, laboratory training and testing and exposed to theoretical content and concepts of a university nature. This program is designed to assist transitioning Smithfield State High School students from the Certificate 3 in Fitness, Senior Physical Education, Health and Science subjects into university in the exercise science, health science and medicine pathways.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience with all participants expressing their desire to transition from school to university after Smithfield SHS. Students will continue in this program for term 4.

There are a few spaces available for new and interested students. Please see Miss Dowling for an application.

Lauretta Dowling
Head of Department Health and Physical Education.

FRENCH COMPETITION

In July this year twelve students from our languages department competed in a French Speaking Competition, held at Cairns School of Distance Education. This courageous and talented group of students competed against students from schools all over the region. Despite their nerves, all the students gave an accomplished performance and the experience has led to the students developing their confidence and self-esteem. We had a number of students successful in their sections with Kaira Refugia (Year 9) and Andreana Roy (Year 10) receiving Gold Medal, Caprice Bishop (Year 7) and Sophie Curtis both receiving Silver. Well done to all students on their effort, with all students enjoying the day and gaining valuable experience.

During Term 3 we were also fortunate to host a number of French students for three weeks. These students, from a variety of regions in France were buddied out to our students over this time. As well as enjoying the natural attractions of the region, the students gained an insight into the Australian way of life. They were very keen to improve on their English and we made sure that by the time they left us they could articulately say “G’day mate.” Many friendships were made over these weeks and it was sad to say goodbye, however having this opportunity to make friends may lead to us visiting them in France in the future.

By Andreana Roy & Sophie Curtis (Year 10)

Further in language news, four of our Year 10 language ambassadors have been working hard towards a presentation they will be giving on the 28 of August at James Cook University(JCU) for the annual Young Language Ambassador Conference. Our students, Tal Pelach, Joshua Pelach, Amma Seedsman and Ella Wiltshire, are particularly interested in how language learning affects brain development, social skills and inter-cultural understanding. To a young person living somewhere as isolated as Far North Queensland foreign language acquisition can seem like a waste of time. However, language learning is changing you (for the better) whether you know it or not!

Enthusiastic language learners, educators and parents from around the region will congregate at JCU for the day to listen to inspiring talks by successful language professionals as well
as presentations given by keen young language learners of Far North Queensland. Good luck to our presenters!

Miss King- French teacher Smithfield SHS

Library Update

Science Week

August 14-21st was Science Week around Australia. Our Science Department’s display entitled “Ignite your Imagination” fitting the International Year of Light theme, was stunning. Ms Field and Ms Coe erected a darkroom in the middle of the library and their various apparatus generated rainbows and light shows to delight us and ignite our appreciation of physics.

A slide show, competition and videos added educational explanations to the hands-on focus.

Book Week 2015

August 21-18 is Childrens’ Book Council Book Week and with the theme, Books light up the World, we went for the “Big Pineapple” effect. Brooke Ryan, Tenielle Burdin and Sky Ashworth helped library staff to create giant replicas of the 6 young adult books shortlisted this year. Our display highlights these hard-hitting novels for teenagers and adults. Australia’s best young adult books are: Nona & Me (Clare Atkins), Intruder (Christine Bongers), Are You Seeing Me? (Darren Groth), The Incredible Adventures of Cinnamon Girl (Melissa Keil), The Minnow (Diana Sweeney), The Protected (Claire Zorn).

eBooks

The rules have changed and EQ now enable us to use our MIS ID login to download our eBooks. You will still need the short four character password generated by the library computer but this makes reading eBooks on our mobile phones and computers much easier. For instance, Bill Brown’s login is bbrow4 and his eBook password is b52j. See the library staff if you have forgotten your short eBook password or if you need help with downloading BlueFire Reader to your phone/computer. All details about how to borrow eBooks can be found here: http://smithfieldshs.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/#_6 If more students and staff are downloading these books to read on their portable devices, we will purchase more items. At the moment we have about 250 eBooks.

Mrs Robins ~ Teacher Librarian

Trinity Bay Writer’s Festival Report by Logan Bradshaw 10H

On July 30 & 31 I was fortunate enough to attend a Writers’ Workshop at Trinity Bay High School.

It was very interesting and informative, providing plenty of useful information such as how to correctly structure a story and how to bring your reader into your mind, your world; like through things they understand or relate to (characters, events, landscape etc.).

Talks were given by professional writers such as Melaina Faranda, Richard Harland and Saffron Bryant.

I found them to be very wise with a great knowledge about what they do and the process with which they do it.

I learnt many techniques to get the story out there and how to make it come across in a clear genre (medieval, alternate timelines, present events or real past events); also what makes a story better, mainly regarding the world of your story or plot.

I found it to be of a great benefit and it encouraged me to keep my imagination and writing alive.

Logan Bradshaw 10H

Book Week Quiz

Congratulations to Boase Paul (7B) for winning the Book Week quiz. Madison Wells (11C) was also drawn from a group of patrons downloading an eBook during Book Week. Enjoy your $20 Collins Bookstore vouchers!

Ms Robins
Teacher Librarian
Adolescents growing up in a digital, highly ‘mobile’ world are increasingly facing challenges with coming to grips with questions of ethics and behavior when socializing and interacting online. During this semester our school based police officer Senior Constable Narelle Neil will be talking to our year 9 and year 10 students regarding safety and sensibility when on line.

She will be speaking to these year levels regarding sexting and the legal consequences for such behavior. This will occur through their timetabled Health and Physical education class. She will also be discussing issues surrounding the use of mobile phones and social media websites to create child exploitation material. Often teenagers are not aware that the photographing and sending of explicit material carries charges which are applicable to them.

### Mobile Phones and Sexting

Sexting is sending sexually explicit messages via cell phone or instant messenger. As technology has advanced and cell phones have the capability to record and send photos and video, the practice of sending suggestive and explicit pictures has increased, especially among teens.

Social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Bebo have changed the way young people communicate. While these sites are an effective way to keep in touch, it is important for young people to be cybersmart and think before posting material online.

It’s important you monitor your child’s behaviour on these sites and ensure they are being used in an appropriate manner.

All web users have a responsibility to be mindful when publishing content online to ensure it does not breach social, religious, cultural or copyright standards.

If our school becomes aware of inappropriate content involving our staff, students or school, or images, banners, logos or our school crest are used without permission, we will take reasonable steps to ensure the content is removed.

Our school is committed to promoting a safe and supportive learning environment and students involved in the posting of inappropriate material on websites may be disciplined in line with our school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students.

We will continue to work closely with parents and students to address these issues as they arise, but appreciate your support in monitoring your child’s internet activity and reinforcing this message at home.

For information, tips and advice to help you and your family make the most of being online; visit the Australian Government’s CyberSmart website at www.cybersmart.gov.au/parents

### Five tips for parents in assisting your student with correct use of mobile phones & the internet:

1. **Address the consequences of behavior early on**
   
   - It’s not a new topic. Teens are often naive about the long-term results of their actions. The parts of their brains responsible for good judgment have not matured enough for them to avoid dangerous situations. You’ll need to spell out possible outcomes for activities that seem innocuous but may be risky.

2. **Talk specifically about the potentially serious end result of sexting.**
   
   - Teens are often impulsive and caught up in the excitement of acting on a dare without considering the consequences. While they are not able to process the potentially negative end point, it’s up to you to remind them that once they’ve put something out on the Internet, they can’t erase it, no matter how many times they hit the ‘delete’ button.

3. **Discuss the importance of privacy and self-respect.**
   
   - Peer pressure is an especially strong force at this developmental stage, so give your teens the tools to avoid going along with the gang when they feel uncomfortable. As they become more secure in their personal identity and have higher self-esteem, they’ll find value in trusting themselves to make the right decision.

4. **Keep the door open for more two-way conversations.**
   
   - Encourage your teens to share their concerns with you and try to listen without being judgmental. Know when to keep silent so they can express their views. Reinforce the value of their opinions as they make decisions that are appropriate for their safety.

5. **Stay aware of your teen’s Internet activities and step in if necessary.**
   
   - Just as you recognize their need for independence, you also know the value of supervision at this stage of their development. As you monitor online usage, if you believe their health and safety is being threatened, draw on ‘tough love’ and shut down your kid’s Internet access.


Should you have any queries or concerns regarding these sessions, please feel free to contact me at the school.

**Lauretta Dowling**

**Head of Department Health and Physical Education**

**‘FROM THE SPORTSDESK’**

It wouldn’t seem possible to fit in so much sport since our last issue (only 3 weeks ago). However the sporting opportunities provided once again at Smithfield SHS have been plentiful.

Our soccer academy team took on Cairns SHS in a friendly. Coach Fleeting utilised this opportunity to blood a number of our younger players. Smithfield dominated the opening stanza grasping the opportunity to take the lead through a well-executed finish from Ashley Gosley. Our side continued to dominate the game however as is the nature of the game some
defensive lapses cost our side and they eventually went down 2-1.

Gordonvale State High School also were up against the might of the Smithfield Salties in organised netball and basketball friendlies. Our netball side truly did dominate this game with the Gordonvale side not really featuring on the scoreboard until deep into the third quarter. Resident netball guru Coach Wilson was happy with the combinations that the girls started to form and certainly felt that this resounding victory will bring the confidence he desires to the team.

The basketball boys, who hone their skills most lunch times, put on a point scoring bonanza. The team which was playing together for the first time gelled very quickly dominating the offensive hoop. Although I watched a lot of the game I was not lucky enough to witness Beau Anthony’s bomb from beyond the arc however he assures me it did happen!

Although both these sides completely dominated their opposition neither team played arrogantly and continued to display tremendous sportsmanship to their opponents. Well done to all players.

BRONCOS COME TO VISIT

Although an avid Knights supporter I felt it would be selfish not to allow the Brisbane Broncos to come and run a session for our students. We were lucky enough to have current origin star Josh Maguire along with some coaching staff visit the school recently. The students were put through some skill drills by the staff and gained some insight into training at an elite level. The students also got to listen to the sacrifices it takes to make it at the top, how important respect and humility are and also Josh really rammed home the importance of being grateful for what you have in life.

The students really enjoyed the short time they had with these guys and hopefully will put into practice some of the tips they picked up on the day.