Dear Parents, Caregivers, Families and Friends

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014 and to our Year 8 families and those others who are new to our school and community. I would like to extend a special welcome to you. We thank you for choosing Redbank Plains State High School to provide your child’s education and I assure you we take this responsibility very seriously.

Over the first two days, I was able to talk to every student in attendance at their first year level assembly. I spoke about being a REAL student at Redbank Plains State High School and always carrying themselves in a way that exemplifies our mantra of “Respect, Excel, Attend and Learn”.

I also spoke to all the students about the expectation that they give their education and this school 100%. This applies to all aspects of their schooling; application to their studies, commitment to performing at 100% in every class and assessment task they encounter, giving 100% effort in external testing like NAPLAN and QCS, and complying 100% with school uniforms and operational processes.

This commitment will ensure we develop employable, capable and highly productive young adults who are ready for further study and the workforce.

The school is very proud of the progress we have made in the past three years. The growth in respect for our “brand” in the community, and the wider Ipswich and Brisbane community, has increased significantly in value for our students. This helps the students with leveraging the best employment, training and career options for their future.

Graduating Student outcomes for 2013

In 2013, the school had an explicit focus on enhancing student outcomes. This meant that our energies were focussed on supporting students to maximise their potential and clearly demonstrate this through their subjects. We also had an explicit on 100% completion of all assessment requirements. What came of this?

In 2013, every Year 12 student graduated with either a Qld Certificate of Education, a Qld Certificate of Individual Achievement or a Vocational Education and Training Certificate – 100% success. This is the second year in a row the school has achieved this. For the students who were on Pathway A and B (University or TAFE), of those who applied for a course through QTAC, 97% received an offer.

The results of this for our graduating year 12 students saw an increase from 41.8% to 43.5% in the number of students achieving Ops 1-15. This was pleasing and part of our on-going work that starts at year 8. Congratulations to Gina Q, our dux who achieved an OP 2, and Chelsea S and Jayesh who both achieved an OP 3.

Chelsea has since informed us that she has been successful in gaining a number of scholarships to support her university studies and sent this lovely email to our guidance counsellors:

“Hey miss!
I just want to thank you for pushing, nagging, lecturing and reminding us about scholarships and due dates, etc. I got offered the Supporting Women Scholarship (from the Government-worth $20,000) The Women in Engineering (from QUT) and the Equity Scholarship (from QUT)
I am forever grateful for what you have done, without it I wouldn’t be blessed with these things! :) Thank you so much! I hope you have a wonderful day! “

Where we experienced an amazing improvement in 2013 was in the completion and achievement of Certificate courses by our students. All these courses contribute QCE credits for students towards their Qld Certificate of Education.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>VET Cert I</th>
<th>VET Cert II</th>
<th>VET Cert III &amp; IV</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>489</td>
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As you can see the tremendous improvement in completion rates is evidence that paying attention to something results in improvements. Students studying Certificate III and IV courses are able to enter university and TAFE via what is called a Selection Rank. This is a pathway that a number of our students used to access university placements in Engineering and other degrees.

Attendance

One of the highest predictors of student success is their attendance at school. Students clearly cannot learn or demonstrate what they have learnt if they are not at school, engaged in the school curriculum and assessment instruments. Sadly, High School sees an increase in student absences and many of these are often sanctioned by parents. If a student
is clearly sick and potentially going to make others sick, they should be kept at home. A phone call to our absence line will ensure that this is an explained absence. If a student has a birthday during the week, it is not acceptable that they ‘have a couple of days off’ for this. This creates gaps in their learning and they may miss valuable opportunities that arise every day here at school. I have attached a graph showing the attendance trends in schooling in Queensland. It shows that students in years 8-10 have an increasing absence rate before it improves in years 11 and 12. This means that many students miss the foundation knowledge that their senior education is built on and this may limit their future opportunities.

At Redbank Plains State High School, we have employed from our National partnership funds Lucy Salanoa, our Community Liaison Officer – Attendance, who works closely with the Year Co-ordinators and the Deputy Principals to monitor attendance and intervene where necessary.

Please ensure that your student maintains a high standard of attendance to maximise their chance of future success.

Uniform

Congratulations to the students and their families for the fantastic presentation and quality of the school uniform from day one. There have been a few minor issues around correct shoes (a reminder they are required to be totally black leather lace up) but students and parents have been very positive around resolving the issue to ensure that all students are compliant with the uniform regulations. We are proudly a State High School with very clear and high standards that are in place for our students. These have been endorsed through the appropriate channels and will be enforced.

I look forward to another amazing year of growth and development of our high school. The indications are that we will have record enrolments this year. As of day 3 we are at 1466 students with many more enrolments booked. Our year 8 cohort is sitting at 320 students, up 30 from our predictions from our feeder schools. The builders of the new Junior Secondary Centre arrived on site on Tuesday this week and preparation for this building is well underway.

Life is exciting at Redbank Plains State High School. As our parent and caregiver community, please involve yourself in the life of the school. We need interested parents to join our Parents and Citizen’s Association to ensure that what we are providing is responsive to our community needs. We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 3.30pm at School in the Media Room of the Performing Arts block. We would love to see some new members this year.

Regards

Llew Paulger
PRINCIPAL

DATE CLAIMERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>February</th>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
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UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

From time to time family circumstances change, for example, custody issues, addresses, new phone numbers and emergency contacts.

It is critical that the school has the correct information on students. The school will not release a student to someone who is not listed as a contact on our system. Please ensure your emergency contact details are correct.

Attached is a Change of Details Form, please complete and return to Student Office with accurate information if your circumstances have changed.

TAKING A STAND AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

Our school is taking a stand against bullying and violence in 2014

We have registered to be part of the 2014 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, being held nationwide on Friday, 21 March.

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (National Day of Action) is Australia’s key anti-bullying event for schools. It’s a day where school communities across Australia ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence.

Redbank Plains State High is dedicated to creating supportive school environments, free from bullying, harassment and violence. By working together we are sending a clear message to young people that bullying and violence, in or outside of school, are not okay at any time.