18 March 2014

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Term 1 has raced on and activities in the school have also continued to do so.

Student Leadership Day

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Leadership Conference for all the School Leaders from the State High Schools in our geographical area. Schools represented were Lowood, Bremer, Ipswich, Glenala, Bundamba, Forest Lake, Rosewood, Springfield Central State High Schools.

Woodcrest and Boonah

This was a tremendous day hosted by Bundamba where the students were addressed by the Mayor, Paul Pisasale and other guest speakers. They engaged in team building and public speaking activities where they shared with the other leaders what made their schools great. This activity was about giving our new leaders the chance to represent their schools with pride and also about raising pride in the public education offerings we have in our city.

The day was a tremendous success and many new friendships and networks were made from it. The students were given the opportunity to consider what they would add or change in their high schools to make them better. As we were walking out the students were recounting what other students were asking for in their high schools and Rikihana commented that everything that the students in her group were asking for in their schools already existed at Redbank Plains State High School. This was very affirming for the leaders who attended from our school.

The most positive aspect of the day was the absolute quality of the young leaders we have in our community and their passion and vision to lead our future.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is rapidly approaching and the students and staff have been working hard rehearsing for the celebration of the cultures represented in our school. This event is one of the highlights of our annual calendar and the students certainly look forward to this. Harmony Day Assembly is Tuesday, 18 March.

Please be aware that next week’s Harmony Day assembly is a closed school event.

With our current enrolment of nearly 1500 students, there is no space available in the hall for parents or other visitors on this day.

Parents and Citizen’s Annual General Meeting

Next Monday afternoon, March 24 at 3.30pm, the school will have its annual general meeting for the P&C. We have a small band of members on the P&C but need to grow this group with some parents from our student body. The time commitment of this group is not huge as the two main fundraisers are the canteen and the uniform shop that have fulltime staff. The school and both these businesses will need to expand in 2015 as the enrolment growth from the arrival of the Year 7’s will see us approach 1800 students.

It would be heartening for us to see some of the parents of our Year 8’s join the committee to ensure that the initiatives and focus of the P&C is reflecting the priorities of the community.

The meeting is in the Media Room, upstairs in the Performing Arts block. Come to the admin building and sign in and you will be directed to the room. We would love to see some new faces.

Regards

Llew Paulger
PRINCIPAL

DATE CLAIMERS

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<td>Immunisation Year 8 HPV Year 10 Boostrix (all students) and HPV (males only)</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.

**STAYING HEALTHY AT SCHOOL**

Infectious diseases account for thousands of school days lost each year for kindergarten through 12th-grade public school students:

- 40% of children aged 5–17 years missed 3 or more school days in the past year because of illness or injury.

The School environment can foster the transmission of infections from person to person because they are a group setting in which people are in close contact and share supplies and equipment. With this in mind, encouraging sick students and staff to stay home and seek medical attention for severe illness will decrease the risk of the illness being transferred to someone else.

Other things you can do are:

- Frequent hand hygiene before and after you go to the toilet, before you eat and after you eat, and if you cough or sneeze in your hands.
- Ensure all your vaccinations are up to date, for e.g. Measles, influenza and whooping cough.
- Drink the daily recommendation of hydrating fluids such as water.
- Eat healthy foods such as fruit and vegetables to aide your natural immunity.
- Ensure you have enough rest and sleep.

Staying healthy is important to yourself and your community. Please find fact sheets on Hygiene and immunisations etc. at the Qld Health website: www.health.qld.gov.au

**School Nurse**

**QATSIF BREAKFAST AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

Nine Indigenous students from our school attended the QATSIF breakfast at Parliament House On Wednesday, 12 March.

The students fortunate enough to receive a scholarship were Troy, William, Rebecca, Shyler, Myles, Jordan, Cheyanne, Jake, Clitelle, Mick, and Jamaine.

The QATSIF is a benefit donated out of the stolen wages funding.

It’s a time to remember our past and for the indigenous students to build on a better future.

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**Sam Conway**  
Community Education Counsellor

**LEADERSHIP DAY – LEADERSHIP IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

A group of School Captains and Student Leaders descended on Bundamba State Secondary College for a full day of leadership collaboration. We attended along with other state schools, such as Ipswich State High School and Forest Lake State High School, to share ideas, views and information on our school and leadership programs.

The program was opened by our inspirational local Mayor Paul Pisasale. We found him to be a very motivating speaker and spoke with much passion about the Ipswich community and our role in this community.

In smaller groups we interacted and challenged ourselves with the ‘rock wall climb’. Jurmayn and John proved outstanding at this drill and had no problem conquering “the wall”. Our school had Presentations from the leaders of our school which was a great chance to also see what other schools offered. Many student leaders wanted to know more about our Senior Room and positive behaviour program after listening to our discussion. After a wonderful lunch we had an opportunity to mingle and meet other leaders. We were able to discuss the positives from our respective schools and pick up new ideas that we could implement at our own school. It was exciting to meet other leaders who encountered similar issues and to discuss our common goals.

The challenge from the day was to remain focused on our leadership as a team, within our own school, while ensuring that we still achieved our own academic aspirations. We look forward to continuing to develop as a Leadership Team throughout 2014.
STUDENT DETAILS FORM

Student detail forms will be sent home this week and they MUST be filled in and returned to Student Office for Students to obtain their ID cards. Can you also note that all medical details must be included on the form? Please check that all information is correct on both sides of the form.

NERIMA STUDY TOUR – JULY 2014

Each year Redbank Plains State High School hosts 15 Japanese students for one week. This year we will be welcoming our Japanese visitors on Sunday, 27 July.

We need families who are willing to host a Japanese student from Sunday, 27 July until Friday, 1 August. To host an overseas student you need the following:

- Friendly home environment.
- A bed for the visiting student.
- Host family is provided with payment to offset the costs of food and board during the week.
- Their own room is preferred but not necessary.
- A teenage student willing to assist as the Host Buddy for the Nerima student.
- All adults over 18 years of age have Blue Card.
- We assist you in your application of a Blue Card if you do not currently have one.

In being a host family you are participating in an international experience that is celebrating its 21st year. Our Japanese visitors come from Nerima City in Tokyo and are eager 13 – 15 year old, boys and girls, looking forward to experiencing education, culture and life in Queensland during their brief 5 day visit.

For more information please contact the schools’ Reception on (07) 3432 1222 or email myself at jwell28@eq.edu.au

HANDS-ON ENGINEERING DAY

Taking power: hands-on engineering day for Year 9 and 10 female students

To coincide with International Women’s Day celebrations a handful of our motivated Year 9 and 10 students attended the Power of Engineering day at QUT’s Gardens Point campus.

Along with students from eight other schools the girls rotated through four activities designed to show them how engineering is applied in the real world. The activities included:

- Marshmallow challenge - using spaghetti and marshmallows students compete to build the tallest structure.
- Create a city - students will test their engineering, town planning and collaboration skills to create a miniature city.
- Water filtration - students are assigned to different countries with varying resources to build a water filter.
- Tour of the Science and Engineering Centre - students learn about the unique design features of the Centre, 5 Star Green Star - Education Design v1 certified.

The students then went on a site tour to ARCAA (Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation) at the Brisbane Airport where they saw researchers working on unmanned aircraft that will in future be used for search and rescue and monitoring natural disasters.

The event is held each year and is designed to prompt more young women to consider a career in engineering.

MAYOR PISASALE INTERVIEWED BY YEAR 12 DRAMA STUDENTS

Our Year 12 drama students are currently studying the style of Verbatim Theatre. Verbatim Theatre is based on real stories told by real people. Interviews are conducted surrounding a particular issue in the community. Verbatim essentially means
‘word for word,’ therefore the students scripts will consist of real stories that give voice to a particular community.

Teacher Hannah Kreis arranged a handful of community personalities for her class to interview including Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale. The class specifically chose to focus on the 2011 floods for Mayor Pisasale’s interview, asking him questions to explain his role during the floods and to share stories of specific families affected. Students will now work to create their scripts based on their interviewee’s responses. Many thanks to each of the community personalities who donated their time to help our Year 12’s complete their assessment task.

SENIOR SCHOOLING DEPARTMENT

Senior Schooling Open Mic Day

Last Friday, just outside of the Senior Schooling kitchen, we set up an Open Mic stage for aspiring performers. We had noticed a large amount of talent in the school and wanted to create an opportunity for many of these talented students to entertain other students during lunchtime. The students flocked to the senior schooling courtyard during their lunchtime and took part in celebrating the talent present in the school.

While at first students were reluctant to take part, it only took a confident Year 8 student to start the ball rolling. The young student showed impressive skills as a beat boxer. The crowd was very supportive and cheered loudly for all the brave performers. We are hoping to continue providing these Open Mic sessions and are keen to also see the talented teachers come down and perform with or for the students. Students have already started to enquire about performing, which is great. We hope that this initiative will help our students to gain confidence through entertaining their fellow students in school.

Aurizon International Women’s Day Event – “Inspiring Change”

Year 12 student Teina was recently invited to represent Redbank Plains State High School and attend the Aurizon International Women’s Day business lunch celebrations. The event’s aim was to ‘Inspire Change’.

Teina at Aurizon International Women’s Day event

Aurizon currently employs two Redbank Plains State High School students on School Based Apprenticeships at the Redbank workshops but it is committed to increasing the number of female employees at all levels of their company.

The business lunch, held at the Sofitel Hotel in Brisbane, promoted networking and showcased Aurizon’s plans to promote more varied opportunities to women. Through this event, Aurizon gave a snapshot of what careers their company have to offer young women and truly inspired the next generation of industry leaders.

Teina is to be commended for her poise and maturity and for representing Redbank Plains State High School so well at this event.

Strategix Parents In Training

Mike Winton and Chris Lologa re-visited parents and family members of students who had taken advantage of a free Cert II in Cleaning qualification with Strategix. The course at Riverview Community Centre ran for two weeks. The parents have now completed the course.
Teina and the Aurizon CEO 7.3.2014

Senior Schooling Team