1 December 2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This is our final newsletter for 2015 as we come to the end of a very busy school year. Both staff and students are well and truly deserving of a holiday break.

Week 7 was an exciting time for our School as we congratulated and farewelled our senior class of 2015! On Wednesday, 18 November the Formal was held at ‘The Landing Dockside’. It was a night in which our Year 12 students were barely recognisable as they were transformed into a most sophisticated and glamorous group of young adults. It was a wonderful night and not only did they look amazing but their behaviour was impeccable. The students then set off for the traditional post formal mystery bus tour. On Friday, 20 November the Senior Graduation was held and it was a real celebration of a most successful year for the end of their school lives. The ceremony ended with the Traditional Guard of Honour by our Year 11 students. The Year 12 students have been outstanding and wonderful role models and have set the bar high for the students that will follow.

2016 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

It is my pleasure to announce that our School Captains for 2016 are Tehana and Kye and our vice-captains are Neasa and Hinckley. Our 2016 leaders are very committed to making a positive contribution to student welfare and are already planning some great initiatives. I am confident the elected captains will lead our school extremely well in 2016. We will be finalising and announcing the remainder of the student leadership team earlier next year.

REPORT CARDS

Semester 2 reports will be mailed to families in the coming weeks; please take the time to discuss your child’s report card with them. If you have recently changed your contact details, please let us know, so that we are able to send you all of the information you require for a successful start to the 2016 school year.

WEEK 10 ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

In the final week of the school year our Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be involved in an organised program that has students working on alternative educational curriculum activities. This will be an opportunity for students to be involved in learning experiences that are both creative and challenging. As a result, normal attendance, uniform and behaviour expectations apply during the last week of school same as any other time during the school year.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING IN 2016

We are currently in the process of finalising the timetable and classes for 2016. As you would appreciate this is a difficult and complex task. To ensure that we arrive at the best possible result for all students it is important that we have accurate information. Please notify the student office as soon as possible if your son/daughter is not returning to Redbank Plains SHS.
THANK YOU

How can we begin to thank all the people who have helped make this year such a success? Of course, we must begin by thanking our staff, each and every one who has gone the extra mile to ensure our School is the best it can be. We are also very grateful to our hardworking P&C who have been so generous of their time and efforts and providing funds for additional resources for our School. Thank you, too, to our parent community. Your support and encouragement are greatly valued by us and have helped make this year an outstanding one for our School. Last but not least, of course, our students. They have been a joy to have, and you should feel very proud of the job you are doing raising such well-behaved and well-mannered children.

A reminder, the 2016 school resumption date is Wednesday, 27 January for years 7, 9 and 12 students only and Thursday, 28 is a full school day all year levels. There will be a few staffing changes in the 2016 school year. These are not yet finalised and will be detailed more in the New Year.

On a final note, we hope you have a wonderful holiday and a very happy Christmas and look forward to another great year in 2016!

Michael West
Principal

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>January 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Newsletter Distributed</td>
<td>25 Student Free day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Last day of Term for Years 7, 8 and 9</td>
<td>26 Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>27 Year 7, 9 and 12 return to school</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28 Full school day all year levels return</td>
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UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

From time to time family circumstances change, for example, custody issues, addresses, new phone number/s 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.

VOCAL GROUP

In Semester 2 a Vocal Group was formed at Redbank Plains SHS to give any interested students the opportunity to sing in a group. On this week’s assembly (24 November), the group performed a medley of Halo and See You Again, and they did an excellent job. The girls worked very hard leading up to the performance and they overcame their nerves to produce a strong performance that got the school clapping along. Congratulations to the members of the Vocal Group.

Daniel Philippe
Vocal Group Director

IPSWICH WORKS ADVISORY GROUP
BREAKFAST

Redbank Plains SHS hosted an excellent industry breakfast on Tuesday, 24 November 2015 with 40 in attendance. There was a good cross section of schools, training organisations, community groups and DET staff with nine people attending for the first time. Once again Platters on Willow did an outstanding job catering for the breakfast receiving rave reviews. Our School Captains and Vice-Captains for 2016, Kye, Tehana, Hinckley and Neasa were great ambassadors for the school. For their first time in public as school leaders they handled it very well and interacted with guests though somewhat nervously at first.

Ms Chris Went, CEO St Andrews Private Hospital, Ipswich spent some time talking to five of our year 11 students who are keen to follow a nursing career. Chris was only too willing to speak with them and a great opportunity for our students to hear from an executive of the level. Chris said to me afterwards that they were a lovely group of students.

Michael Chettle, the trainer for the new program MarIN8 (culinary industry) was in attendance and able to see firsthand the students in action with “Platters on Willow”. Five students have put up their hands to be part of the program and they were given every opportunity to impress. The work- placement component of MarIN8 is being undertaken at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane.

Shawn Gamble, a former student of this school attended the breakfast in his role as a Community Disability Officer with Able Australia. Shawn attended school here in the late 1990s and enjoyed returning to his old school.

Many thanks must go to Strategix Training Group for sponsoring the breakfast.
Breakfasts will continue in 2016 and any businesses/community groups interested in attending, please contact Mike Winton at Redbank Plains SHS on 0422 318 392.

DEANS’ REPORT

At Redbank Plains SHS staff commends students for positive interactions, behaviours or achievements via our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) program. Students are recognised for displaying REAL behaviours (Respect, Excel, Attend, Learn). Opportunities for gaining a positive referral can stem from consistently being on time to classes, through to participation in a school community event. At the end of each week we share and celebrate the positive achievements of each of our year levels.

Featured below are the total number of positive behaviour referrals obtained in each year level cohort for Weeks 6 and 7:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Positive Behaviour Referrals</th>
<th>Positive Behaviour Referrals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>102</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL for each week</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>454</td>
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Each week a random draw also identifies four students – from the names of all students who received positive referrals in the week – who are our Random Roar Recipients. These students receive a complimentary pizza voucher from our local, EAGLE BOYS at Redbank Plains – thank you Eagle Boys!

Congratulations to our winning students for Weeks 6 and 7:
- Week 6: Brittany 12E, Filipo 9C, Passiant 7B and Maria 10G
- Week 7: Madison 8G, Ashleigh 8A, Vicky 10H and Tiffany 10A

Please remember to wear your uniform with pride!

TIPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS:
- Spend time with your student doing positive things.
- Know where they are and what they are doing.
- Give praises and encouragement where much needed.
- Ensure that your student has all learning equipment.
- Make sure your student wears full school uniform, ready for learning.
- On their birthday, encourage they attend school for the full day, celebrate at home.
- Attend parent/student meetings at school throughout the year.
- Ensure your student has a place to study and it’s quiet.
- Make sure your students have breakfast and lunch for school.
- During exam time be supportive and make sure your student has plenty of rest and sleep.

Thank you to all students and families for your ongoing support to being REAL. If there are any questions or ideas you have, please contact me. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year for 2016.

Lucy Salanoa
Community Liaison Officer

HAROLD BLAIR MEMORIAL PLAQUE OPENING

The Platters on Willow students and the Indigenous performing group receive their Certificates of Appreciation from the Ipswich City Council on the last assembly of the year.

On Monday, 14 September 2015 the Platters on Willow catering team lead by Ms Pulou and our Indigenous performing group along with Mr Conway participated in the opening of the Harold Blair memorial plaque opening.
A brief history of Harold Blair

Uncle Harold Blair was a famous Opera singer who started his working life here in Ipswich. He was given time off from the factory site where he was working, now O’Connell Agency’s, at Blackstone to audition for a spot with a famous visiting opera singer. He was successful at the audition and studied Opera singing at the Melba Conservatorium in Melbourne.

This is where he met his wife Dorothy Eden another opera singer and they had two sons, Harold Blair travelled to the United States of America and was the first Aboriginal person from Australia to appear on American television. Harold Blair performed in America and toured European countries. He and his wife settled in Melbourne where he ran a singing school for children from regional and remote communities.

Dorothy Blair remembered her husband for his altruism and willingness to fight for Aboriginal rights.

"He was always trying to find something to do to help his people," Mrs Blair said.

The guests at the function heard wonderful stories of a man who overcame many obstacles to achieve what he did in the mainstream Opera World.

We were lucky enough to provide the catering which the many guests loved.

Our indigenous student sang very proudly and with the many guests appreciating the singing.

As the guests dined on the food the huge voice of Harold Blair blasted out of big speakers on the workshop site. A number of students couldn’t believe the vocal power of this famous Opera singer, “Harold Blair!”

Sam Conway
Community Education Counsellor

Somerset Region has a 5 week program with activities for 2 age groups 5-11 and 12 and above.

Challenge Employment are offering Cert II Engineering and may possibly be offering Cert III in Aged Care. Contact Challenge on 32828000.

QTAC

I spoke with the Year 12 students during the alternate program and wanted to just give one last reminder that all the information that you need to change preferences, respond to an offer and have contact with QTAC over the holiday are in your QTAC handbook. If there are any students who have "misplaced" their QTAC handbook, you can download a PDF version from the website www.qtac.edu.au.

P.4 has Key Dates

P.42 covers any change of preferences. Remember you have 3 FREE changes of preferences (included in your original admission cost) and to move your preferences around, add preferences and delete preferences until you see that it appears on the screen as you want it to be, in the correct order and then press save.

p. 45 – 46 covers Responding to your offer and deferment.

Happy and Safe Holidays

Leeanne Harlow, Tim Clarke and Tracey Egan
Guidance Team

COMMUNITY NOTICE

With a high volume of vehicles competing for limited drop off and pick up areas, many school zones experience illegal parking behaviours associated with congestion. Going against the road rules in school zones puts all children at risk.

Five Tips For Safer School Zones:

1. Allow enough time to take your child to school safely and without rushing.
2. Always observe parking signs and speed limits in and around school zones. They are designed to keep your child safe.
3. Talk about parking signs, traffic lights and school crossings with your child. Identify and discuss places where it’s safe to get in and out of the car and cross the road.
4. Teach your child to cross the road where there are traffic control lights or at a designated pedestrian crossing, where generally there is a crossing guard supervising traffic.
5. Park a few streets away and walk the rest of the way – its great exercise and helps teach your child road safety rules.

Loading Zones - If We Work Together, They Will Work!

• At drop off times, students should be ready to get out of the car and if possible have their school bag with them in the car to avoid needing to open the
boot and potentially place the student between your vehicle and another vehicle.

- At pick up times, if your child is not ready at the loading zone, DO NOT PARK. Keep the process flowing and move to a parking area nearby or simply leave the loading area and come back in a few minutes.

- Loading Zones are designed to keep things flowing. You cannot stay in a loading zone for any longer than 2 minutes (only 120 seconds) if you are picking up or dropping off passengers. If everyone obeys this law, everything will work so much better.

Ipswich City Council will be actively patrolling your school zones in partnership with the Queensland Police from the start of the 2016 school term to ensure People Park safely and legally. For more information, please visit www.ipswich.qld.gov.au/schoolparking.