Staff, Students, family and friends

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and has settled in for what will certainly be an amazing year. The Redbank Plains State High School community welcomes all new and continuing families for the 2016 academic year. I am very proud to be the Principal of this fabulous school and I look forward to a year filled with continued growth and success for all young people as they develop into outstanding citizens with great prospects for the future.

I would like to thank parents for the way they have presented their students for school from day one; in full school uniform and with all the associated needs to get off to the best start possible.

Our Explicit Improvement Agenda For 2016

Following our Quadrennial School Review in 2015, we have developed our 2016 School Improvement Agenda that will build on the already strong improvement culture at our school, and assist us in continuing to strive for the highest outcomes for each and every student. Our teachers are committed to excellence by implementing research and evidence-based teaching methods that engage students in learning and encourages deep thinking. Below are our improvement agendas that will lead our school and refine our practices to provide the best service to our young people and community:

- We will develop and implement an evidence-based and consistent school approach to the explicit teaching of reading and writing – including spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- We will develop and implement an evidence-based and consistent school approach to the explicit teaching of numeracy.
- We will build a data-informed school culture.
- We will sharpen the focus of our pedagogical framework.
- We will develop an expert teaching team that includes: a systematic and structured approach to classroom observation and feedback. And an emphasis on the sharing of teaching strategies and practices for improving student learning.
- We will continue to improve on our Senior Schooling outcomes.
- We will continue to support all students in Years 7 to 9 making significant improvement in NAPLAN.

Enrolments

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our enrolments have been steadily increasing and we now have approximately 1880 students enrolled for the 2016 school year. The increase in enrolments can certainly be attributed to our school performance, our supportive and specialist programs, our dedication and commitment to the best teaching and learning, and the enforcement of our policies and procedures. I am thrilled that so many wonderful families are making the decision to have their children educated by us and I can assure you that we take this responsibility very seriously and will not let you down.

With the increase in student enrolments, we would like to welcome a number of new staff members to our school. I know
that they will do a wonderful job for our school and for our children.

Values

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 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.

School Organisation And Communication

It is important that parents are informed about the management structure in our school. The Administration team consists of:

- Principal - Michael West
- Deputy Principal (Year 11) - Margaret Kerswell
- Deputy Principal (Years 10 and 12) - Belinda Walker
- Deputy Principal (Year 7) - John Hazzard
- Deputy Principal (Years 8 and 9) - Diana Furlan

We have three Deans of Students who along with our Year Coordinators are responsible for overseeing and coordinating student welfare issues. They focus on the quality and standards of non-subject specific matters – e.g. behaviour and uniform.

Our Deans are:

- Years 7 and 8: Megan Armbruster
- Years 9 and 10: Kim Johnson
- Years 11 and 12: Tanya Webber

Heads of Department have key curriculum responsibilities which focus on quality teaching and learning in their respective faculties.

Faculty Heads of Department are:

- Mathematics - Shelley Peck
- Science - Chris Clarkson
- English - Melissa See
- Humanities - Ben Kiehne
- VET/Home Economics - Trish Gibbs
- Junior Secondary - Josephine Wellings
- Junior Secondary - Scott Pierce
- E-Learning/Business - Ida Seeto
- HPE - Jamie Ramm
- The Arts - Nicolee Clarkson
- Industrial Design and Technology - Mark Hohenhaus
- Senior Schooling - Marianne Waterson
- Literacy - Faith Johnson
- EAL/D - Phil Czislowski
- Head of Special Education - Helen Cassimatis
- Success Coach - Steven Backwell
- Guidance Officers - Tracey Egan, Tim Clarke and Leeanne Harlow

If parents or students have any questions or have issues relating to subjects studied e.g. assessment, marking, teaching practices, it is the Faculty Head of Department you should be contacting.

In 2016 we will continue to work on our own online presence. The school webpage https://redbplaishs.eq.edu.au is constantly being updated with the latest information and we are always posting on Facebook. Could I ask families to ensure that the school has a current e-mail contact, this is an excellent way to strengthen communication between school and families, particularly for emergent issues and to maintaining a ‘green focus’.

Once again, thank you for making our school the best school in the area; and I look forward to your continued support in 2016.

Michael West
Principal

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Year 7 Parent Info Night in PAC at 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Reginal Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Newsletter Distributed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
KELLOGG’S FREE BOOK PROMOTION

Kellogg’s are currently running a promotion where you can receive a free book/novel for every 2 boxes of Kellogg’s products purchased. All you need to do is keep your receipt for the products, head to their website and follow the prompts! Each person may claim up to 5 free books!

For more information head to: https://www.freebooks.kelloggs.com/

SENIOR SCHOOLING NEWS

New Programs in 2016

A number of new and existing programs have begun for students in the Senior School. The following programs are for students in Year 12 and are running this year:

MarIN8 - Certificate II in Hospitality
LamIN8 - Certificate II in Furniture Making
AlleVE8 - Certificate II in Health Support Services
AccelR8 - Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
GenR8 - Certificate II in Logistics.

Each of these programs has both a theory and practical element, with students undertaking a placement with an employer in the local community. We wish all 43 students the best of luck.

Amy Luxton
Senior Studies Room

REDBANK PLAINS SHS – SPORT

After winning the Yagera Champion School in 2015, expectations are running high for a repeat effort in 2016. The Yagera Summer Season gets under way in week 5, Tuesday, 23 February against Woodcrest. Good luck to all the students for the season. Sports and coaches for the summer season are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BASKETBALL</td>
<td>YEAR 7/8 BOYS</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr Crofts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOUCH</td>
<td>OPEN BOYS</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr Faulkner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YEAR 9/10 BOYS</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr Best</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YEAR 7/8 BOYS</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOLLEYBALL</td>
<td>OPEN BOYS</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr Kelk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YEAR 9/10 BOYS</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Mr Collins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The whole school swimming carnival was held on Wednesday, 3 February this year at Bundamba Pool. The points for our annual carnival were as follows:

1st - Draco Dragons - 995
2nd - Scorpius Scorpions - 842
3rd - Aquila Eagles - 690
4th - Taurus Bulls - 642

Congratulations to Draco Dragons!!!

School Swimming Age Champions were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Joel and Graham</td>
<td>Lucinda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Caleb</td>
<td>Bella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Tiarna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>NIL</td>
<td>Madeleine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Frank</td>
<td>Fetu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>Lauren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19 years</td>
<td>Jayden</td>
<td>Eseta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deans’ Report

WEEK 4 Student focus this week is ‘I EXCEL’ by making healthy choices

Welcome to the start of 2016 and in particular our many new students at Redbank Plains SHS. This year Deans will be allocated to year levels as follows:

- Years 7 and 8 – Megan Armbruster
- Years 9 and 10 – Kim Johnson
- Years 11 and 12 – Tanya Webber

As we begin the year, our focus begins with every student being in correct school uniform. We have started operating our
Uniform Exchange, which now includes black, leather, lace-up shoes for students.

- **Uniform Exchange – Operates every day between 8.30am – 8.50am.**
- Students are to exchange the incorrect clothing/shoe item for correct uniform.
- Students pick up their item immediately following 3.00pm each day and hand back the school uniform item.
- **Items available for exchange include: shoes, shirts, shorts and jumpers.**

If your child is out of uniform for the day, please remind them to access our Uniform Exchange each morning before school. Remember to contact your child’s relevant Dean if you wish to discuss any uniform concerns.

At Redbank Plains State High School as part of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program, staff at school can commend students for positive interactions, behaviours or achievements. 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 look, as a whole, at the positive achievements of each of our year levels.

Featured below are total numbers of positive behaviour referrals obtained in each year level cohort, for Weeks 1 and 2 (combined) this Term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Positive Behaviour Referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weeks 1 and 2 (27 Jan – 5 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each week a random draw also identifies students – from the names of all students who received positive referrals in the week – who are our Random Roar Recipients. These students each receive a complimentary voucher from one of our local businesses. Congratulations to our winning students for Weeks 1 and 2: Ayla 7G, Jasmine 8E, Joshua 9E, Lily 10D, Troy 11M and Neasa 12A

Please remember to wear your uniform with pride!

**ORIENTATION WEEK**

I really enjoyed orientation week and I feel privileged to be nominated to write about it!

Orientation Week was a fun, exciting week. We did rotations which consisted of soccer, Itta (a traditional Indigenous Australian game) and a game called Endzone which is a mix of basketball and volleyball.

School after Orientation Week is still very exciting and I love my classes especially Home Economics with Miss Holt and I have made lots of friends.

So let’s talk about classes. I have a variety of classes including Access, Home Economics, English, Mathematics, Science, Design, Music and History. If you are learning about the Regulus Program like me, then you will know that we learn about how to be a ‘REAL’ student and about what the school does and how it works.

If you’re looking for various clubs to join, there is the drama club, anime club, debating club, Student Council, and loads of sport choices. I am very glad that I came here to Redbank Plains State High School.

**Bailey 7S**

**Orientation**

I enjoyed swapping activities with our house group (mine being Eagles). That gave me and my friends the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends, as well as building our teamwork skills.

I also enjoyed meeting the new teachers for our 2016 year. Mr Hazzard constantly came to check on us and gave positive and encouraging pep talks to keep us on task. Also, Mr West gave us informative speeches about our 2016 school year.

I felt more at ease after orientation. Not only because I knew all of the teachers but because I had made a bunch of new friends. So I have become more confident and I am now looking forward to the best school year ahead of me.

**Lindsay 7S**

**YEAR 8 HISTORY INCURSION**

Year 8 students will be receiving a Permission Letter this week regarding an incursion occurring in Week 7 (March 11) of this term. It will cost $10 for a 2 hour session which includes a 90 minute presentation and 30 minute hands on experience.

Knight for Hire provide a hands on approach, specialising in bringing interactive medieval history displays to schools. This provides the students with a fantastic opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Medieval Europe in preparation for the exam.

While the incursion is not vital, it is considered to be highly beneficial to students as it will reinforce classroom learning. It will also provide practical examples of the theoretical concepts examined in class.

**Natalie Petersen**

*Year 8 Humanities Coordinator*
We encourage all parents to ensure that their children are following the rules of the road, including crossing at the pedestrian crossings rather than walking across the road amidst traffic.

Thank you for your support of these safety measures.

**2016 SCHOLARSHIPS**

On our first school assembly this Term we presented 49 students from Year 7 – 12 with our annual scholarships. The scholarships are across many facets of schooling life including – academic, sport, instrumental music and the performing arts.

Added to these are our annual REAL scholarships presented to a selected Year 6 student from each of our main feeder primary schools (at their graduation ceremony) and to our elected school captains.

We offer our congratulations to the 2016 Scholarship students, wishing them every success in their endeavours both now and in the future.

_Diana Furlan_
_Deputy Principal 8 and 9_

**Getting REAL about Reading and Writing**

One of our key priorities in 2016 is to improve the reading and writing skills of our students. Our goal is to prepare them to meet the literacy demands of the 21st century through an intensive focus on literacy.

We know that in order to become better at playing a sport or a musical instrument, you must practise – and the same goes for reading and writing. Therefore, teachers are working to significantly increase the amount of time students spend reading and writing throughout the school day.

Students in years 7 and 8 will have access to high quality libraries in their classrooms and will be given time to read for pleasure every English lesson. Additionally, twenty minutes of reading is their homework each night. We strongly encourage parents and guardians to talk to students about what they are reading and reinforce the importance of this lifelong skill.

You may hear students talking about ‘VCOP’ and ‘Big Writing’, which are at the heart of our writing improvement strategy. VCOP stands for Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, which are our four core writing targets. The goal is to have students evaluate their own writing and understand what they need to do to get better. All students in years 7 to 9 will also participate in a weekly ‘Big Write’ which will involve a lesson of uninterrupted, sustained silent writing.

We are very excited about our new initiatives and so far the students have participated enthusiastically.

Watch this space for updates on our progress and tips for how you can support students to improve their reading and writing. Together we can make a difference!

_Faith Johnson_
_HOD Literacy_