FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It’s hard to believe we are already half-way through Term 1 – where has the year gone? I am thrilled with the start we have made to the 2016 school year.

The classrooms that I visited over the past few weeks have been busy and productive places where the student conduct has been exemplary. I am exceedingly grateful for the way families have embraced and supported the school uniform. I have been contacted by a number of community members who complimented me on how wonderful the students look and how they wear their uniform with pride. The challenge we face is to maintain these high standards and focus, especially as the novelty of the new school year fades.

To maintain the momentum it is important that school and parents work together to ensure that every student:

- Knows and continues to comply with the behaviour and dress standards of the school. Parents please run your eye over your child’s dress and support the code.
- Is attending regularly. Missing school has a major effect on learning achievement and as the term continues students who experience difficulty can also experience anxiety which is often confused with illness.
- Is spending appropriate time completing homework and studying what they have learnt in class. I am an advocate for publishing a study timetable on the fridge and all family members working to support each young person to develop the skills necessary to stick with it. The schedule should include assessment dates.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP – INDUCTION CEREMONY

On Tuesday of week 4 our student leaders for 2016 were officially inducted into their positions. Student leadership at Redbank Plains State High School has developed rapidly over the recent years, to a position where we now have a student leadership structure that truly reflects the quality of students we have in our wonderful school.

We are blessed to have once again, such an extensive group of students who have qualified to be members of our leadership pool and work for the benefit of others within our school and community. These outstanding students took part in a rigorous application and selection program before being elected by the staff and student body. I’m sure everyone present felt very proud as they accepted their badges. It is with great confidence that I believe they will be an inspirational leadership team. I hope that they will always look back on the year that was 2016 and know that they’ve been the best leader they could possibly be.

year 12 leaders
ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY

It was wonderful to have so many parents and family members join us for the Academic Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, 23 February. These awards were for recognition of outstanding achievement of our students for Semester 2 of 2015. This important event provides us with the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of some of our most successful students across the School. Over 350 students were recognised with a Principals Award, Excellence Award, or Credit Award. These students, along with their peers, will be aiming to achieve these awards again at our Annual Awards night later in the year. Special congratulations to the recipients of the Principal Award – these students received straight A’s on their Semester 2 Report Card. Well done to all.

STUDENT REPORT CARDS

Education Queensland has determined that the most effective and time efficient way to distribute student academic report cards is to email them to parents/caregivers. This process can maximize the number of reports reaching parents, reduce paper usage, and improve parents’ abilities to retain documentation electronically.

As of Term 1 2016, Redbank Plains State High School will be adopting this process. This new system will allow a more timely delivery of report cards to families, with the emailed reports to be received in the final week of this term. In order to ensure that you receive your child’s report card this term you will need to have a valid email address recorded with the school. A “Student Details” form has been sent home with your student. Returning this form with any corrections to email addresses will be the best method of ensuring your email address is correct.

Report cards will be sent from OneSchool.application@dete.qld.gov.au. We suggest you add this address to your list of safe senders to ensure report card emails aren’t sent to the Junk folder. Term 1 reports will be emailed during the week beginning Monday, 21 March, 2016.

Michael West
Principal

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Newsletter Distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEP 7/8 Camp – Lennox Heads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day of school Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Full school day</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.

ATTENDANCE – BE AT SCHOOL ALL DAY EVERY DAY!

Our clear objective is for every student to attend school every day, all day. The school goal for this year’s ATTENDANCE is 95%. Regular attendance is promoted by the school and students who do not attend school place themselves in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices. We encourage students and families to make it an APPROVED ABSENCE by doing the following:

- Request a MEDICAL CERTIFICATE or doctor’s appointment slip/card when students are attending health professionals e.g. dentist, doctors, physio or in hospital for injuries etc. ALL medical certificates to be handed in to the student office.
Dear Parent/Caregiver and Student

There is a direct connection between students’ attendance and their academic success. We stress with our students the importance of being responsible for their learning and being part of the strong learning culture at Redbank Plains SHS.

As part of our REAL expectations (Respect, Attend, Excel, Learn) we stress that students be at school all day every day. A 95% attendance rate means a student is away from school an average 2.5 days per term or approximately 2 weeks per year. What looks like a reasonable attendance rate still has the potential to impact negatively on a student’s results. A 90% attendance rate means the student is away 1 day per fortnight or 4 weeks per school year and this is likely to have a clear effect on results.

While we recognise that students will become ill and be unable to attend on some days I am drawing your attention to the need to be present at every opportunity. This includes being on time for the day and each lesson. Please do not allow your student to remain home to complete assignments or when they could attend school. If a student is absent due to illness, a medical certificate is required. If a student has other types of medical appointments, then a photocopy of the appointment card will suffice. If a student is attending a funeral please provide the school with a copy of the funeral notice or the program of service so this can be recorded as an approved absence.

Please note that in 2016, Year 12 invitations to attend the Pre Formal function, Senior Formal, Mystery Bus Tour and Graduation Ceremony will only be issued to those students whose behaviour, attendance (at least 95%) and achievement meet the expectations of the our school.

The monitoring of student attendance will commence from the beginning of the school year. Students who do not meet the 95% attendance target by the end of the year may seek an appointment with the Year 12 Deputy Principal or the Principal to discuss the issue.

Let’s all work together to make a difference to your student’s future by ensuring they attend school and meet the REAL expectations. Please contact Belinda Walker, Deputy Principal or Michael West, Principal on (07) 34321222 if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Michael West
Principal

Belinda Walker
Deputy Principal

INTRODUCING OUR GUIDANCE OFFICERS!

Tracey Egan, Year 7 and 8

I have worked in the regional behaviour support team as a Guidance Officer for quite a few years. I’ve also worked in many different types of schools, including primary schools, high schools, even the school inside the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. I am very happy to be here at Redbank Plains State High School. My professional interests include the psychology of behaviour, stress reduction and positive behaviour support in schools. I am currently studying my psychology degree and hope to be finished by the time I turn 50! I’ve got three young boys and I love running! You can find me in the English Block office next to C08 or ask at the Reception to make an appointment.

Tim Clarke, Year 10 and 11

I have worked as a Guidance Officer in several schools in the Brisbane Metropolitan Area before working at Redbank Plains State High School. I’ve also worked for Kids Help Line, Adolescent Detox and in accommodation services for young people. I have a special interest in career pathways for young people and education for social mobility. You can find me in the Guidance Office in C Block.

Leeanne Harlow, Year 9 and 12

I am Leeanne Harlow and have been a Guidance Officer at Redbank Plains SHS for 3½ years. I enjoy working in a secondary school setting and seeing many of our student’s progress towards their goals with positive changes as they move through their secondary school journey. Before Redbank Plains, I have worked at many of the Secondary and some Primary settings in the Ipswich area over the last 15 years.
I began work as a Guidance Officer in the Torres Strait, working within all the Island Clusters Primary Schools, Thursday Island SHS and also in the Northern Peninsula area. To get to school in the Torres Strait I used all forms of transport other than rail! I used to teach a variety of subjects across the more remote parts of Queensland including Ingham, Hughenden, Longreach, Blackall and Cooktown.

Owing to my son, I am also involved in Rugby League and Rugby Union. I have done strapping and first aid in the 2015 season for one of the U15 club teams as well as my son’s school team. Many of you have seen me trying to keep up with you all while bringing the water out.

**HOW TO ATTEND AT REDBANK PLAINS SHS!**

As part of their Access class activities in week 2 of Term 1, Year 10K made a visit to 7K. The reason for the visit was simple – to show the newest members of our school how they could demonstrate the A in our REAL Behaviour motto (A stands for Attend). If students demonstrate these positive behaviours at school they may earn themselves REAL scratch cards from their teachers.

In order to demonstrate the Attend behaviours, 10K compiled a collection of A3 size Scratch Cards with positive behaviours written across the top, along with their name. It was then signed by the teacher and presented to each student of 7K during a class visit in week 4. Ways to demonstrate correct attendance include to “Be at class on time”, and to “attend school all day every day”.

Both classes learnt a lot about Attendance at school and it is hoped that 7K choose to demonstrate the ways to Attend school and collect plenty of REAL ATTEND scratch cards throughout 2016. A special thanks to Miss Churchland for allowing 10K to visit – it looked as though 7K enjoyed the visit and I believe many of students of 10K enjoyed providing their knowledge about the REAL behaviour expectations.

So much fun and learning occurred during the visit that 10K is already planning future visits to again demonstrate to 7K how to earn the other positive behaviours at Redbank Plains SHS, Respect, Excel and Learn scratch cards also.

**2016 Yagera Summer Season Results**

The latest results of the Yagera season are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Girls Touch</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 16 - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9/10 Girls Touch</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 15 – 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7/8 Girls Touch</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 7 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7/8 Girls Basketball</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Lost 14 - 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Boys Touch</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>No Game ----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9/10 Boys Touch</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 8 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7/8 Boys Touch</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 13 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Boys Volleyball</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 2 - 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9/10 Boys Volleyball</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Lost 1 - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7/8 Boys Volleyball</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Lost 1 - 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7/8 Boys Basketball</td>
<td>Woodcrest</td>
<td>Win 45 - 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Redbank Plains SHS – Living Legends**

Congratulations to the following for being selected in a Met West team:

- Maddison – 13-19yrs Girls Softball
- Josh – 13-19yrs Boys Softball
- Sam – 13-19yrs Boys Softball

**District Swimming Carnival**

On Friday, 12 February the District Swimming Carnival was held at Corinda Pool. Many swimmers swam numerous events one after the other gaining Redbank some vital points. Overall we finished 3rd with one Age Champion:
DEANS’ REPORT

WEEK 6 Student focus this week is “I follow the electronics policy”

In connection with our student focus for week 6: I follow the electronics policy – it is an opportune time to review our process around management of phone use in subject learning. The use of mobile phones and other electronic devices such as iPods, MP3 players and other mini sound systems and pagers are restricted to before/after school and during lunch break. This way our learning environment is not disrupted and the good order and management of school is not jeopardised.

Student devices should be out of sight PRIOR to entering and during classes. The responsibility of securing the devices is the student’s responsibility – no liability will be accepted by the school in the event of the loss, theft or damage of any device.

Should students be sighted with their electronic device in class, consequences are as follows:

- Level 1: teacher directs student to take electronic device (with green slip) to Student Office. Student is issued with a receipt and can pick up the phone after 3.00 pm.
- Level 2: teacher directs student to take electronic device (with green slip) to Student Office. Student is issued with a receipt and the phone can only be picked up by parent/carer after 3.00 pm.
- Level 3: teacher directs student to take electronic (with green slip) to Student Office. Student is issued with a receipt and further consequence for non-compliance will apply.

NOTE: refusal to take the electronic device to the office will result in a referral to the Dean and consequences will be applied in accordance with the school’s behaviour policy.

Featured below is data around positive behaviour referrals across all cohorts for Weeks 3 and 4 this term:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Positive Behaviour Referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weeks 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(8 - 12 Feb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Random Roar Recipients for weeks 3 and 4 each received a voucher from our local Eagle Boys Pizza store at Redbank Plains. Congratulations to:

WEEK 3: Joel 7G, Kole 8L, Marley 11A and Seti 12H
WEEK 4: Nick 8H, Jeffrey 9E, Jasmine 11H and Chloe 11G

Remember queries around behaviour processes, can be directed to appropriate Dean. Have a great week!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years 7/8 Dean</th>
<th>Years 9/10 Dean</th>
<th>Years 11/12 Dean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Megan Armbruster</td>
<td>Kim Johnson</td>
<td>Tanya Webber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UQ YOUNG SCHOLARS – AN EXPERIENCE FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS

At the beginning of the summer school holidays, Tehana and I had the pleasure of attending the UQ Young Scholars Camp for five fantastic days. Throughout the days, most of the time would be dedicated to information sessions about university pathways. These were not randomly allocated, as preferences were allowed to be chosen, weeks prior to the camp.

For example, I selected sessions about pharmacy, business and creative design. As a result, they were quite helpful as they were tailored to our interests and gave insight into the potential futures awaiting us in those career paths. The focus of the camp was not all academic, as emphasis was also placed on socialising with fellow peers and getting to know them.

There were just over 200 students in the program, who were all split up into groups each having two “mentors”. They were actually university students themselves, so it was useful to be able to question them about life after high school, difficulties with the transition, and their future plans. To be thrown into a completely new environment full of strangers was a daunting situation, but there was comfort in the fact that everybody felt the same.

It was absolutely wonderful to meet so many new people, find out more about university, and it’s an experience I had with no regrets.
The UQ Young Achievers Program offers a valuable experience that is definitely life changing. This program offers a 3 night residential camp and access to current students and lecturers that attend the University of Queensland. The 2016 Camp commenced on Tuesday, 19 January and went to Friday, 22 January. Year 12 Redbank Plains SHS students, Jack, Brandon and Tehana attended this particular camp.

This is the second camp these students have attended for this program, the first being in January 2015. The three day event allowed many opportunities for attendees to not only clarify any ambiguous thoughts concerning University but to also rekindle old friendships with other mentors and yappers (Young Achievers), after a twelve month gap of no communication. Leisure time activities such as movies-and-games-night, Yaps Got Talent, Aussie Adventure (trip to Brisbane city) and a concluding Aussie Dance Night gave yappers and mentors plenty of time to renew friendships and form tighter bonds.

Although this camp wasn’t all fun and games, mentors offered very practical tips and advice that will help prepare these students for their Year 12 schooling carer. Students were taught how to navigate the QTAC system (Queensland Tertiary Admission System), the pros and cons of living on and off campus, budgeting and how to decide what course would suit them best.

Yappers will keep in touch with their group mentors throughout the year to confirm details of their second MAD (Making A Difference) Challenge and to regulate school performance. Also, many students and mentors will reunite in August at UQ open days. Until then yappers will be regularly updated of all Young Achievers Program events to unfold by their alive, alert, awake and enthusiastic group mentors.

On Monday, 11 January 2016 four Year 12 students, Tehana, Coco, Brandon and Brenden attended a week long intensive writing course at The University of Queensland. This short course focussed on both effective thinking and writing skills, which will be vital for any upcoming study.

The students were required to write a 1200 word argumentative essay on a topic of their choice over a five day period. The course was not only beneficial for study purposes but also gave students a great understanding as to what studying at university is actually like.

The 4 students were all successful in completing their assessment pieces and they pass, receive one bonus QTAC rank for the purpose of UQ entry. The students all had a great and insightful week and look forward to receiving their results later on in the month.

Going to yLead was an incredible experience that allowed us to express ourselves and grow whilst challenging us to go beyond our limits to reach new heights. The event was attended by Year 12 students; Jovelie, Coco, Xanthia, Neasa, Tehana, Brandon and Brendan, this experience was the beginning to self-discovery.

The yLead program helps inspiring young leaders find their inner passion, by pushing individuals, above and beyond their comfort zones. It allows you to build confidence and challenge yourself to make a difference, whether it is for your school or community.
The three-day journey allows you to encounter young passionate leaders who understand your strengths and weaknesses, to allow you to value your authenticity and how you can improve as an individual. It’s a personal experience that takes you on a voyage to becoming a successful leader. You find your heart and soul at this conference and you wouldn’t have learnt as much as you did in these three days if it wasn’t for the incredible people you encounter. There is no better place to confront your fears and let go! Every single moment was an adventure.

By Neasa and Xanthia

QCS NEWS (Queensland Core Skills Test)

**QCS Preparation in Term 1**

Students on Pathway A are eligible for an OP (Overall Position) when they complete Year 12. Part of the OP calculation involves OP students taking the Queensland Core Skills Test. All OP eligible students must take the QCS test. Non-OP students may take the test also. Non-OP students should see Guidance if they think that they will be advantaged by taking the QCS test.

QCS practices for both Year 11 and 12 will take place at the end of Term 1 on 22 and 23 March. Conditions will be as close as possible to the real test, including session times and seating.

Building up to this, all Year 12 OP students will have a half-day master class in school time on either 1st or 3rd March. There will also be a voluntary after school session on 9 March. The seminars revolve around numeracy, literacy and visual literacy topics, and the structure of the QCS test. These discussions provide valuable insights into learning and can be applied in any class.

Non-OP students who would like to take the QCS test are welcome to come to the training, but they must see Mrs Dawson to put their name on the list.

QCS preparation for Year 12 involves practicing with as many past papers as possible. During Access classes on Thursday afternoons, students will practice with Multiple Choice, Short Response, and the Writing Task papers.

Year 11 students will be working out of a workbook called Pathways to Success. This can be purchased from Student Office at a cost of $20. It will be used every Thursday afternoon in Access. It is an individual workbook and is designed to be written in. Please purchase them as soon as possible.

Finally, the latest word is that the QCS test will be used until at least 2019. Students in Year 9 this year will sit the QCS.

Any questions please contact the QCS coordinator Mrs Dawson, at school in the Senior Schooling Hub.

**Mrs Dawson**

**QCS Coordinator**

**REMINDER OF ROAD AND PARKING SAFETY**

The movement of nearly 1900 students in and out of our school every day is a huge task. Some parents have taken to entering the grounds in their vehicles to pick up students, leading to congestion at entrances to our school. This puts at risk the safety of many students.

To further assist us in keeping everyone safe, there are a few important issues to be considered:

- Parents **should not** drop off/pick up students inside the school grounds. Parking in the grounds is provided for parents and visitors here on legitimate business with a pre-arranged appointment.
- Parents **should not** enter the designated bus zones to drop off/pick up students. As you are no doubt aware Police will again be involved in Back to School operations outside school monitoring the 40 km/h speed signs and the no parking and bus zone regulations in an attempt to ensure the safety of our students in school zones.

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.

**KAMBU HEALTH IS VISITING**

Kambu Health is visiting Redbank Plains State High School on Monday, 18 April to give health checks to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

To find out if your child is eligible and/or to book your Child in call Ray Nagas on 0429 516 222 or the Goodna Clinic on 3436 9600
FIGHTING THE LITERACY APOCALYPSE

You may have heard your students talking about the ‘literacy apocalypse’ at home. This is our way of referring to the nationwide decline in reading and writing skills. Our goal is to motivate students to become soldiers in the war against the apocalypse, by practising reading and writing at every opportunity.

According to research released just last month, poor employee literacy and numeracy skills are holding Australian businesses back. A report by the Australian Industry Group found that 93% of employers believe that workers with poor literacy skills are having a negative impact on their business.

Through a relentless focus on improving reading and writing skills, we are determined to give our students the edge in the labour market. We refuse to let them be victims of the literacy apocalypse!

What can you do to help us win the war? Simple! Encourage your student to read for at least half an hour each night. According to the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), students who spend 21 minutes a day reading for pleasure are among the highest achieving students in the world. This isn’t much when you consider that the average teenager spends 90 minutes a day texting.

So urge students to put down the screens and pick up a book, and help up us fight the apocalypse!

Faith Johnson

EXCITING NEW IT COURSE FOR YEAR 7 and 8S!

Coinciding with the newly released syllabus, students in year 7 and 8 will be studying the new subject “Digital Technology”. This exciting course commences in year 7 with a unit on Cyber-Safety where students learn about the dangers of sharing information online and trusting strangers. Students then cover the basics of the Microsoft Suite before developing knowledge about Information Systems and finish the year creating Multimedia Movies. In year 8 the fun continues with building fabulous Websites in HTML and design software followed by hands on experience building Networks. Students finalise the course learning about Java and Object Oriented Programming Language.

The course is aimed at giving students a fundamental understanding of Information Technology principles which are echoed in further studies in E-Learning, but also providing generalised knowledge which can be used across other subject areas in the research and presentation of course assessments. The subject has been running for one month now and positive feedback from the students is resounding. Teachers are already reporting stand-out students who may be the next IT-System Analysts of Tomorrow!

Ida Seeto
HOD ELearning/IT/Business

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Walking and Cycling in Ipswich

Tell Council what you think about walking and cycling for transport purposes in Ipswich and what we can do to make it better.

Complete this online survey to have your say:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M8TFVWQ