

11 February, 2009

## Principal's Message

Isis High's student population in 2009 has remained stable with official numbers similar to 2008. These numbers should ensure that the school retains the current staffing level that ensures sensible class sizes that give our students the best chance of success.

After another busy start to the school year with the first few weeks now behind us it is time to put the finishing touches on our 2009 operational plan. That is, what we hope to achieve in 2009.

Each year all state schools develop an Operational Plan for the year ahead and this plan, in our case, is endorsed by our P&C and approved by the Executive Director for Schools, Wide Bay North District. While this is a lengthy document which contains a whole range of school targets, I have highlighted some significant Key Areas that the school intends to continue pursuing throughout 2009. It is important that our school community remains aware of the schools' strategic and operational direction.

**Operational Plan 2009:** Our Key Development Areas in brief will include:

**Middle Schooling (Years 8 and 9)** – The new Queensland Curriculum and Reporting Framework (QCARF) kept us all busy in 2008 with all subject areas doing a major review of their programs. This year all subject areas will be teaching the 'Essential Learnings', learnings that will be common across schools and provide our students with the necessary foundation knowledge and skills required of our young people to succeed in their senior years of schooling.

**Senior Schooling** – the school community will continue to ensure each senior student has a program designed to assist them towards their preferred career pathway. Each student commencing Year 11 will have a negotiated 'Student Education and Training Plan (SETP)' and progress towards achieving this plan will be monitored closely by the school.

**Literacy and Numeracy** – literacy and numeracy will continue to be a significant focus of all staff at Isis High. All staff are committed to understanding the needs of each student. At Isis High our Learning Enhancement Centre staff provides every Middle School classroom teacher with a detailed profile of each of their student's literacy and numeracy ability. This way, our teachers can be better prepared to support each student in their class.

**Information Communication Technology (ICT) literacy proficiency** – the importance of ICT literacy proficiency in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century can't be understated. All teaching staff will continue to use ICT as an integral component to enhance curriculum and teaching and learning and to ensure that all our students are computer literate.

**Inclusive Education** – the school will continue to work hard to support all groups within our community including: students with special needs, students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, young people who travel to school from rural locations, gifted students, students with social and emotional issues and young people in Care of the State.

For a more detailed account of the school's direction throughout 2009 a copy of the Operational Plan will be available to the public, towards the end of March, in the visitors' foyer of the school administration building.

Next Tuesday 17 February, commencing at 10:15am, the school's Investiture of Senior Leaders ceremony will take place. It is a celebration of the commencement of a new school year and a new student leadership team and your support by way of your attendance would be appreciated. I look forward to seeing you at this ceremony.

Once again this year, with the financial support of the P&C, the school is able to maintain the lease of a 24 seater bus. With 34 Isis High Year 11 and 12 students enrolled in Certificate II courses at Bundaberg TAFE the bus makes this important part of their studies possible. Congratulations to the P&C for continuing to support this important project for our students.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge a past student of Isis High, Christopher (Graduating class of 2006), who has commenced a degree at Bond University in 2009. Chris' journey, since leaving school, clearly demonstrates that there is a range of pathways to achieve your goal. Motivation and persistence however, are key ingredients to success. See a brief account of Chris' journey inside this newsletter.

Kind Regards,

Trevor French – Principal

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

12 Feb	School Swimming Carnival 6:00pm	20 Feb	North Burnett Swimming Carnival
13 Feb	Yr 11 & 12 students home study	26 Feb	Wide Bay Summer Sports Trials
17 Feb	Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony	27 Feb	Newsletter
17 Feb	Morning Tea with parents & leaders	02 Mar	School Photographs

**Every lesson, of every day, of every week ... COUNTS!**

## Student Assessment Planner

Accompanying this newsletter is the Student Assessment Planner for Semester One. It contains the dates of most assessments planned in subject areas across all year levels for Semester One 2009, as at 12 February. Its purpose is to encourage and assist students to properly plan and manage their study and assignment preparation time. In this way, students should avoid unnecessary 'last minute' rushes to have work completed on time. Students should study this document and note the assessment dates for their subjects.

Where changes to the listed assessment dates need to be made, subject teachers will discuss and negotiate these changes with students. I would also draw the attention of parents to the Assessment and Assignment Policy included in the Student Homework Diary on pages 16 & 17.

Students should identify possible concerns and/or problems (eg. a large number of assessments on the one day) and raise them with their teacher, Head of Department or Subject Area Coordinator, for an explanation or resolution. Students may direct any general queries in relation to this document to me.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

## Leaders' Investiture Ceremony

The Leaders' Investiture Ceremony is an important school activity to formally recognise those students elected and willing to accept leadership roles on behalf of the school and the student community. These include School Captains and Vice Captains, Sports Captains and Vice Captains, Senior Leaders and Student Council representatives. In addition, it provides an opportunity for those senior students, who elect to do so, to affirm their responsibilities as a Year 12 student.

The 2009 Leaders' Investiture Ceremony will be conducted at the Childers Community Stadium at the High School on Tuesday 17 February in the morning. The ceremony will commence at 10:15am and conclude at approximately 11:15am. While parents of students receiving a badge of leadership will receive a written invitation in the near future, an invitation is extended to all parents and interested citizens to attend. The ceremony will be followed by a morning tea for guests, parents and student leaders.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

## Letter to Principal (re past student)



The following is an excerpt of a message sent to Mr French.

*I thought it would be appropriate and a pleasure for me to let you know that Christopher (pictured) an ex student of Isis High has been successful in gaining a Certificate III qualification in Information Technology at TAFE in Bundaberg in 2008. He was awarded*

*'Student of the Year' for his particular course of study and to our excitement he was later offered a place at Bond University in a degree program. I personally would like to thank all staff at Isis High because I have no doubt in my mind that they made a big contribution to helping Chris on his way to a promising future.*

*Regards,*

*Ken and Lynette Sharman (Grandfather and Grandmother)*

## What's on in the Social Sciences

This term Year 09 students are undertaking a detailed study of the impact of war on Australians. To complement their studies, students have examined primary source material that has been on loan to us from the Australian War Museum. Students have learnt about the attacks on Australian soil in Darwin and Sydney Harbour, and as part of their assessment are required to examine conditions at Gallipoli and use evidence to construct a biography of a Gallipoli veteran.



*Year 09 students Lockie, Bradley and Cody display some of the evidence that they have examined while studying "Australians at War"*

Meanwhile Year 10 students are currently studying the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and drawing parallels between the actions of Martin Luther King Jnr and Barack Obama today. Students (*pictured below*) re-enacting a slave receiving 50 lashes after he was caught praying for freedom in Alabama during the 1860's.

It is important for young people to appreciate the actions of our future can be influenced by the lessons of the past.



*Michele Kirkland – Acting HOD Social Science*

## School Procedures

The first newsletter for 2009 contained some important reminders to parents about two school procedures, with the request that parents emphasize these with their children. Those procedures related to leaving the school grounds and student dress code. Your support is appreciated. This newsletter contains information on a further two procedures, the school is concentrating on with students.

## Cooperation with staff

The orderly good management of nearly 500 students in classes and in the grounds requires good cooperation between all members of the school community. It is important that when students are given instructions by staff members, that they are courteously complied with. In cases where students believe they may have been treated unfairly, there is always a mechanism for review. However, in the first instance when instructions are given by staff members students should follow them without disobedience or argument.

## Mobile Phones

Given the prolific ownership of mobile phones, it is important for their use at school to be understood by students and parents. In the first instance, the school discourages students bringing these items to school as they are of value and so can be very susceptible to theft. The school will not assume responsibility for the security of mobile phones. If students do have them at school, they are to be used for appropriate purposes during recess only. For example, taking photographs or videos is inappropriate in a school environment as it is an invasion of privacy. As well, taking photographs or videos of minors may well breach the law.

At no time should mobile phones be turned on during lesson time. It is important that students aren't distracted during learning and that the instructions of teachers and the learning conversations be clearly heard by all. The school does not accept that mobile phones should be activated in class on the possibility that a parent may wish to phone their son/daughter or text a message, other than an emergency situation that has been previously negotiated with the school administration. In most instances parents should contact the school office for staff to pass on messages to students.

Students who fail to follow these important requirements may have their phone confiscated by the teacher for the remainder of the lesson or day (depending on the circumstances). This policy applies similarly to MP3 players (including iPods).

Again, compliance with these requirements by students will ensure that our school continues to enjoy a quality learning environment where classrooms are focused on quality teaching and learning free from distraction.

*School Administration*

## Isis District State High School P&C Canteen

The Isis District State High School Parents and Citizens' Association operates a school canteen serving healthy, nutritious and tasty food each recess of each school day. The added benefit is that any funds raised by this service are put back into resourcing for students by the P&C. Parents are asked to support their children using the canteen for purchase



*Daniel looks forward to a tasty lunch after being served by hard-working Canteen Convenor, Mrs Jaki Graver*

of food and also to consider supporting the P&C by serving at the canteen in a voluntary capacity.

Not all food is available every day and special orders (eg. salads, vegetarian, no butter etc) are able to be placed by 9:00am for provision later that day. A separate leaflet shows the current price list for canteen food.

*Jacki Graver – Tuckshop Convenor*

## Reporting Student Absences

The school's telephone system includes a mailbox system for the reporting of student absences. If your child is absent you are now able to phone the school at any time and leave a message by leaving your name and student name, date, duration and reason for your child's absence. The number to call is **4192 1260**.

*Karen Webb – Business Services Manager*

## School Bus Transport

School bus routes are required to each have a school bus Conveyance Committee for overseeing issues that may arise with the service. The list of AGMs for these committees that the school is aware of appears below: -

Large Biggenden Bus - Route S.473  
Bus Committee AGM

Date and Time: Wednesday 18 February 7:00pm

Venue: Dallarnil State School

All welcome to attend. Meeting advice has been sent home with students.

Contact: Leanne Lawer Secretary A/H 4127 7281

Little Biggenden Bus - Route P.1809  
Bus Committee AGM

Date and Time: Thursday 19 February 9:00am AGM

Venue: Childers State School in the undercover area near the tuckshop.

All welcome to attend. Meeting advice has been sent home with students.

Contact: Julie Allan 4126 2664/0413 743 150

Howard Buses

Bus Committee AGM

Date: Tuesday 19 February 2009

Venue: Grand Hotel, Howard

Time: 6:00pm Route S434, Senior Bus (Blue Bus) Meeting

Time: 7:00pm Route S440, Junior Bus (Red Bus) Meeting

All parents are welcome to attend. Full details of agendas for meetings have already been sent home with children.

Contact: Pamela Evans 4129 0707

South Isis Bus Run

Bus Committee AGM

Date and Time: Tuesday 23 February 6:00pm

Venue: Childers State School in the undercover area near the tuckshop.

All parent/caregivers are welcome to attend.

Forest Ridge Bus - Route P1700

Bus Committee AGM

Date and Time: Wednesday 18 February 4:15pm

Venue: Childers State School in the undercover area near the tuckshop.

All parents/guardian are asked for their support in attending.

Woodgate Bus

Bus Committee AGM

Date and Time: Tuesday 24 February 10:00am

Venue: 75 Mackerall Street, Woodgate

Contact: 4126 8858

Mahogany Park Bus - Route P1855

Bus Committee AGM

Date and Time: Monday 23 February 6:30pm

Venue: Childers State School in the undercover area near the tuckshop.

All parents/guardian are asked for their support in attending.