

17 July, 2009

Principal's Message

Welcome to Term 3 which promises to be an extremely busy one for staff, students and parents. A number of our Year 12 students have travelled to Brisbane this week to obtain a greater insight into Tertiary Education, the school's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge is in week three, our award winning Year 11 Australian Business Week program is in full preparation and is scheduled for the last week of this term and the very important annual Subject Selection Expo Evening, for students and parents, is scheduled for late August.

In spite of all this it is the priority of all teaching staff, at Isis High, to work tirelessly to ensure enhanced learning outcomes for all of our students. Our continuing success in achieving quality student learning outcomes is being achieved through the dedication of our teachers and their willingness to continually upgrade their skills, knowledge and curriculum programs. On the Student Free Day, Isis High teachers were involved in professional development which focused on the "Thinking Classroom" which emphasizes the importance of teachers using teaching strategies that result in 'deep understanding' of the work being covered. As always, our teachers will continue to reflect on their own teaching styles and practices and adjust these where necessary to ensure that all students are encouraged to work hard and achieve to the best of their abilities.

In the last week of Term 2, all Year 11 students had the opportunity to participate in a work experience program which once again proved to be extremely successful. Congratulations to all students who participated in this valuable learning program which is only possible due to the goodwill of our supportive business community. For this support, we are most appreciative.

As you would be aware the school's facilities have been greatly enhanced over recent years with major refurbishment to classrooms, workshops, computer laboratories, gym, grounds, shade and leisure areas, improvements in technology infrastructure, external painting and replacement of asbestos roofs. This week we received news that the Federal Government has provided the school with a \$1,320,000 grant for a major refurbishment and extension to our school's Science Block. As well as this significant Science Block redevelopment, the planning for the refurbishment to the school's Learning Enhancement Centre is now well underway and will be completed for the start of the 2010 school year. These facility upgrades will further enhance the quality learning environments provided for our students at Isis High.

Finally, I would like to welcome seven teaching staff, new to the school, who have been appointed to Isis High for part or all of Semester 2, 2009. I also extend a warm welcome to families new to our school community.

Kind Regards,

Trevor French – Principal



Catherine, Donnalee, Kara and Mitchell in costume for the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- 21 Jul Religious Education School Presentation
- 21 Jul Rock Eisteddfod Community Performance
- 23 Jul Bundaberg Careers Expo (Year 10 and 12)
- 24 Jul Semester Reports and Parent-Teacher Interview Evening information issued
- 27 Jul SmartSkills Hospitality Bar Training
- 31 Jul Rock Eisteddfod Challenge – Brisbane
- 04 Aug Parent-Teacher Interview Evening
- 05 Aug School Social

Come along to the
**COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE of the
2009 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge entry**

Oh! The thinks you can think!

Venue: Childers Community Stadium

Date: Tuesday 21 July

Time: 6:00pm

Cost: Gold coin donation to support students

Performances also by Childers State School,
Booyal State School and Cordalba State School

Rock Eisteddfod **Oh! The thinks you can think!**

A number of our students, parents and staff have been working long and hard over recent months on an arduous but rewarding preparation for this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge entry. It is an exciting event which extends our students' talents and gives them an insight into effective team skills, commitment and the fun, thrill and enjoyment of working toward a common goal.

The theme for this year is the stories of Dr Seuss with the title of *Oh! The thinks you can think!* The production examines narratives and philosophies portrayed in the Dr Seuss books.

Of course, everyone must know of the many hours and hours of hard work to come up with an outstanding eight minutes of sheer delight and pride. A Rock Eisteddfod Challenge entry is a huge school undertaking and the efforts of the whole school community and the support of the broader local community cannot be commended highly enough. A special thank you should go to Production Director Liz Clout and Creative Director Michael Leyman whose efforts have been instrumental in what will be a very successful presentation.

The competition presentation will be in Brisbane on Friday 31 July and, of course, the school extends best wishes to all involved for a successful and enjoyable performance.

However, to thank the local community for their support (and to raise much-needed funds) a special community performance of this year's Rock Eisteddfod Challenge entry will occur this Tuesday 21 July at the Childers Community Stadium commencing at 6:00pm. Other performances by students from Childers SS, Booyal SS and Cordalba SS will add to this exciting event. Entry will be by way of a gold coin donation.

Tickets for the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge in Brisbane are now available from the school office. The cost is \$74.00 which includes bus fare and entry to the performance.

Trevor French – Principal

Student Semester Reporting

Student Semester Reports are now being compiled by staff to report on student progress. Student achievement will be reported on a 5 point scale from A to E. In addition, teachers will report on student effort and behaviour in classes, again on a 5 point A to E scale. Student Semester Reports provide valuable information for students and parents about performance and achievement for the previous semester. The significance of teacher comments is also critical as it provides greater detail on what the student has achieved and how performance might be improved. Student Semester Reports will be issued to students next Friday 24 July.

At the same time as reports are distributed, students will receive information on booking appointments for the Parent-Teacher Interview Evening (Tuesday 04 August).

Students who are contemplating a change of subject need to initiate this as soon as possible by collecting a blue Subject Change Form from one of the Deputy Principals. Subject changes will only be completed where there are genuine reasons for doing so.

Finally, students in Years 11 and 12 can expect to have their reports monitored to ensure they are making satisfactory progress on their senior learning options. Where there are concerns, particularly with the achievement of a Queensland Certificate of Education, students will be counselled.

Any questions or comments on the above information may be directed to me on 4192 1222.

Andrew Carlile – Acting Deputy Principal

Year 10 and 12 – Semester 2

With the beginning of Semester 2, Year 10 and 12 students have commenced an extremely important semester of their schooling.

Year 10 students enter the final semester prior to commencing senior schooling or employment. The effort and subsequent achievement of students this semester will largely determine final Levels of Achievement that will appear on their Year 10 Semester Reports received at the end of the year. As such, students should be focussed on engaging in class work, completing set work and cooperating with teachers so as to maximise their final results. In addition, Year 10 students will this term commence the process of deciding their options for next year, including subject choices for senior study. The School expects all Year 10 students to continue into Year 11, unless they have definite employment or are commencing alternative education. Major information sessions will be conducted for parents of Year 10 students later this term.

Year 12 students have similarly commenced their last semester of secondary education. This is a most significant achievement and will no doubt be celebrated with gusto at the end of the year. Prior to that, however, there is much important work to be completed. While there is sometimes a trend for Year 12 students to become 'distracted' by other events at this time of the year, it is most important for their final achievement levels that they remain focussed on their school work in order to remain eligible to receive the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The other significant events for Year 12 students include the Queensland Core Skills test (Tuesday 01 and Wednesday 02 September) and the process of application for tertiary study (QTAC) which includes university and TAFE study.

It is a mandatory requirement of the Queensland Studies Authority that Year 12 students are present at school up to and including the last day of their course to be eligible to receive a QCE. Those dates are:

- **Year 12 – Friday 20 November 2009**
- **Year 10 – Friday 27 November 2009**

Please contact me should there be any queries in relation to this information.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

Bundaberg Careers Expo

Each year Education Queensland conducts a 'touring' Careers Expo along the coast of Queensland. It includes information booths on careers, as well as universities, TAFE, agricultural colleges, defence forces and employment agencies. The 2009 Careers Expo will be held at the Bundaberg Civic Centre next Thursday 23 July.

Isis High will be taking Year 10 students to the Careers Expo during the day to enhance their understanding of their SOSE Careers Unit of study and the development, later this term, of their Senior Education and Training Plans. However, there is also an opportunity for families to attend a public session from 4:30pm to 6:30pm in the evening on that same Thursday. It is free of charge to students and their parents and is an ideal opportunity for young people to obtain more information.

Andrew Carlile – Acting Deputy Principal

Farewell Susi

Susi (pictured) has been attending Isis High for the past 12 months as a Rotary exchange student from Desselbrunn, Austria. Susi has proven to be a truly delightful member of our school community proving popular with all who have contact with her. She has worked hard at her studies with success and involved herself in a full range of extracurricular activities. She has also greatly enjoyed being involved in the community activities of a small, vibrant Australian town (and would have been loudly barracking for a Queensland State of Origin clean sweep via the internet).



Year 12 student Courtney presents Susi with a gift at her Rotary farewell function

A farewell function was held for Susi by the Rotary Club in the last week of last term and was well attended by staff and students. There were a number of speakers who all attested to the high regard in which Susi is held and we wish her all the best for a happy and rewarding future.

Fay Harvey – Teacher

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 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

Check your contact details

The school is finding an increasing number of incorrect contact details on school records. In these busy times many parents have changed mobile phones and workplace numbers etc. which could lead to inconsistencies in our parent/guardian contact details. It is requested that families provide changed contact details to ensure school records are accurate. This can be done by contacting the general office on 4192 1222.

Karen Webb – Business Services Manager

Uniform Track Suit Pants

The P&C is phasing black track suit pants into the uniform. These quality pants are now available at the Uniform Shop on Tuesdays at Recess 1 and they cost \$30.00 per pair. They are made of the same fabric as the school shorts and are plain black and are easy to care for. All students are encouraged to wear these during cooler weather.

Cindy Novak – Uniform Convenor

(#Names and images removed to comply with Information Privacy Legislation)

Keep children at home if they are sick

As school resumes for Term 3, parents are being urged to keep their children home if they are sick with flu-like symptoms. Queensland now has more than 1600 confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Human Swine Influenza). Symptoms of human swine flu are similar to seasonal influenza and include a fever, cough and/or sore throat. Other symptoms can include fatigue, myalgia, headache, body aches or chills.

Queensland Health says one of the best ways to stop the spread of the flu is to keep sick children home and encourage good hygiene.

If children are sick the best thing to do is keep them away from school and other events such as socials and sporting carnivals. This might mean that some children will miss interstate and other planned school trips.

People generally have to be mindful that there are some who are more at risk from swine flu so those who are sick need to do the right thing and stay at home from school and work. School closures remain an option in very limited circumstances but the likelihood of disruption during the new school term has lessened.

Queensland is now in the 'protect' phase in managing the influenza outbreak and parents need to be aware that while most people who contract the flu are making rapid and full recovery, some who are particularly vulnerable need to seek medical help at the onset of flu-like symptoms.

The essence of the 'protect' phase is to concentrate on the early treatment of those in the community who may be more vulnerable to severe outcomes if they contract the virus. Those identified as being vulnerable include pregnant women, Indigenous Australians, people with respiratory disease (including asthma and COPD), heart disease, diabetes, renal and liver disease, obesity and immunosuppression.

If you have any questions regarding symptoms or illness, contact your general practitioner or call Queensland Health on 13 Health (13 43 25 84)

For education related questions, contact your school principal. Further information is also available from the Queensland health website.

Queensland Health Swine Flu Response website:

www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/html/schools.asp

Specific information and advice for parents:

www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/documents/parents_advice.pdf

Trevor French – Principal

2009 Workshop - Warm glass fusing and slumping

Date: 08 - 09 August 2009

Venue: Isis District State High School Annexe

Cost - Flying Arts Members \$155.00 Non-Members \$165.00

(All equipment and material included in this price)

Make beautiful coloured glass forms e.g. vases

For further information: Kerry Hetherington - 4126 9118

2009 Bundaberg Careers Expo

Date: Thursday 23 July

Venue: Bundaberg Civic Centre

Entry: Free

Public Session: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

A range of exhibits including: employment agencies, TAFE, apprenticeships, universities, colleges, hospitality, academies, local business, engineering, manufacturing, aviation, student exchange, police, training groups, tourism, defence forces and more.

All parents, students and the general public are welcome to attend.