

02 February 2007

Principal's Message

Welcome to all parents both new and returning. We hope that your association with the school will be positive and rewarding.

2006 was an exceptional and rewarding year for Isis High. Our students achieved regional, state and national recognition in their academic, cultural and sporting pursuits. The *School Opinion Survey*, which is administered each year by Education Queensland and measures the satisfaction rating of students and parents in the five areas of curriculum, pedagogy (teaching), learning climate, school climate and resources, was extremely good news. Both students and parents rated this school higher, in all five areas, than did students and parents in similar secondary schools throughout the state.

In this Newsletter you will find the results of tertiary bound students which are once again very good. Of all our 2006 Year 12 students who applied to commence a tertiary course of study in 2007, 92% of our applicants have received offers. Second round offers are yet to be made therefore we would expect this percentage to be even higher. Congratulations to our 2006 Year 12 students and I wish them every success with their studies throughout 2007 and beyond.

This year we commenced the school year with 105 Year 8 students. They are the third group of Year 8 students to be involve in our Middle Schooling program which includes refurbished, high tech home room facilities, key teachers and a new philosophy of teaching and learning aimed at making the transition from primary to secondary enjoyable, interesting and successful.

A key focus of our Middle Schooling program is literacy. For students to succeed at school, it is critical that they have sound literacy skills. All Year 8 students' literacy age will be assessed in the first weeks of 2007 to identify students who would benefit from further support. A program of literacy support is well established at Isis High and parents/carers of students requiring support will be contacted in the near future.

Our goal this year is to continue our past success. A key ingredient in achieving our goal will be the support of our parent community. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with you to ensure 2007 is another successful and rewarding year for all.

One way of contributing to the growth of the school community and student learning is through P&C membership and participation. Through the good work and support of the P&C, Isis High has a computer ratio of better than one computer for every three students and this compares well with the state average of 1:5. High level computer skills and knowledge through regular access to computer technology will enhance our students' competitiveness either when participating in further study or when seeking employment. This year we have once again expanded and upgraded the computers in the school with the purchase of new computers. These will be put into circulation throughout the coming weeks. The financial support of the Isis District SHS P&C has helped to achieve this outcome. Your involvement would be most welcome.

Finally, I would like to welcome nine new teachers to our school. They bring with them a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm and this will further enhance an already talented staff who are commitment to supporting students and moving them forward towards a love of learning. Life long learning will be essential, for our young, if they wish to participate and share in the wealth of this great nation.

A photograph of new staff is included in this newsletter.

Kind Regards,

Trevor French – Principal



FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

13 Feb	NB Summer Sports Trials	20 Feb	School Leaders' Induction Ceremony
13 Feb	P&C Meeting 7:15pm	21 Feb	Bundaberg Sports fixtures begin
15 Feb	School Swimming Carnival 6:00pm	28 Feb	WB Summer Sports Trials
15 Feb	Newsletter	02 Mar	Newsletter
19 Feb	North Burnett Swimming Carnival	16 Mar	Newsletter

Isis Students Lead with OP1s

The latest students to complete their schooling at Isis High, the 2006 Seniors, have achieved at a very high standard in both academic and vocational outcomes. Students were able to achieve strongly in their subjects and also obtained very strong Overall Position (OP) scores which are used to determine selection to university courses.

Two students, School Captain Bryce and School Dux Vanessa, obtained the enviable highest OP Score possible of 1 and have gained entry to the Bachelor of Medicine course at James Cook University in Townsville. However, it was extremely pleasing that a high proportion of other students also achieved highly. For example, Hannah and Zac both obtained OP2 and Matt obtained an OP3. Zac will be completing a Bachelor of Biotechnology course at the University of Queensland in Brisbane and Hannah has also been offered this course. Matt will be pursuing a Bachelor of Applied Science course specialising in Human Movement studies also at the University of Queensland.



Matt, Bryce and Vanessa are pleased with their Awards Evening success and their OP Scores.

Of particular note was the high proportion of students at Isis who continue to achieve scores in the important OP1-10 range. This range is significant because it ensures students have a greater opportunity to obtain their first university course preference. The table below shows the proportion of OP eligible students at Isis High in sought after ranges compared to other OP eligible students throughout Queensland.

OP Score Range	Isis High	Queensland
1 to 3	14.7 %	8.8 %
1 to 10	50.0 %	42.4 %
1 to 12	55.8 %	52.8 %

These good OP results meant that of the students from the school who applied to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) to complete a tertiary course, all but two of our students were offered a place. Of the 92% of students offered a university course, 80% received their first preference. Several students without an OP Score have also successfully applied through QTAC to complete Diploma courses at TAFE Colleges. These very positive outcomes reflect well on the students' achievements, as well as on the school's academic standards and teaching.

Apart from the outstanding academic success of students, many senior students attained vocational certification under the nationally recognised Australian Qualifications Framework to give them a considerable advantage in gaining future employment. In all, 35 Statements of Attainment, 44 Certificate Level I and 14 Certificate Level II qualifications were issued to students over six industry areas containing vocational modules. A number of Year 12 students, not going on to further education, have already obtained full time

employment, including a number gaining apprenticeships with local businesses eg. the Isis Central Sugar Mill Co. as well as those in other regional areas.

Parents can feel justifiably confident and proud that their local high school provides a comprehensive student preparation through academic, vocational and extra-curricular opportunities that ensures there are positive pathways to be pursued at the conclusion of school. Furthermore, the consistently high student achievement statistics at this school compare very well with others in the district and state.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

Responsible Behaviour Plan

Last year the State Government introduced a new *Code of School Behaviour*. Our school, along with every other state school in Queensland, had to develop a new behaviour management plan known as a *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students* to fit the new Code. This Plan was developed with the assistance and input of school staff, parents and other community members and students. The Plan clearly details our expectations of student behaviour in the school and this serves to promote positive learning, as well as mechanisms for providing support. The Plan itself is available to any parent who would like one by making a request at the school office. However, a summary version has also been produced and is included as an insert with this Newsletter. I would ask parents and their children to become familiar with our expectations.

A key aspect of the Plan is a table that was developed to clearly outline the expectations of the school and also the responsibilities of students. This table is included as page two in the summary provided and is also reproduced on page four of the Student Handbook and Homework Diary. The Code of Behaviour makes it clear that enrolment in a school indicates student and parent agreement with the expectations outlined in the *Responsible Behaviour Plan*, as well as compliance with relevant school policies such as the *Student Dress Code*. It is anticipated that promotion and use of the *Responsible Behaviour Plan* will continue to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and staff. If there are any queries on the above information, please contact Allan Cook on 4192 1222.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

New Staff

Welcome to new teachers of Isis District State High School!!



Back (l-r): David Olorenshaw (Business), Brett Martell (Agriculture/Science), Michael Leyman (Drama), Tony Clearwater (Art), Cassandra Smilas (Home Ec./Hospitality)

Front (l-r): Cath Martell (Special Needs), Katrina Thompson (Special Needs), James Hamlyn (English/SOSE), Suzanne Waugh (Business)

School Procedures

In the first few Newsletters, a range of school procedures will be clarified.

The first relates to mobile phones and MP3 players (including Ipods) at school. In the first instance, the school discourages students bringing these items of value to school as both devices can be very susceptible to theft. The school will not assume responsibility for the security of mobile phones and MP3 players given that we advise students not to have them at school.

If students do have them at school, they are only to be used during recess. At no time should the devices 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.

Students who fail to follow this basic requirement may have their phone or player confiscated by the teacher for the remainder of the lesson or day (depending on the circumstances).

The second procedure relates to students leaving school before school commences to purchase unhealthy foods and drinks in town that breach the State Government's "Healthy Schools Policy". Students should be aware that when buses drop students at school in the morning, they are to remain at school. There is no provision for students to leave school without permission and return often with large amounts of soft drink, lollies and the like. Students found doing this can expect behaviour consequences such as detention.

I am certain that parents would support the school in maintaining a learning environment where classrooms are focussed on quality teaching and learning free of distraction and in a healthy environment.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

Induction Ceremony

The Induction 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 2007 Induction Ceremony will be conducted at the Childers Community Stadium at the High School on Tuesday 20 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, a similar 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

Health News

Binge Drinking can do Long Term Damage to the Brain

Some teenagers and young people, whether at the legal drinking age or not, are binge drinking on a regular basis. Binge drinking (the consumption of a large number of alcoholic drinks over a short period of time) is detrimental to all age groups; however there is mounting evidence that the developing teenage brain is particularly susceptible to damage from heavy drinking.

A number of recent studies have shown that teenagers who abuse alcohol have problems with memory, learning and other brain functions compared with their peers, and it is thought these effects could last into adulthood. In fact, an alarmingly large number of young drinkers have drunk so much alcohol during a session that they cannot remember what they did. This type of memory loss is called a 'blackout', and it is thought young people may be more at risk of having blackouts than adult drinkers.

So, not only can heavy drinking increase the risk of young people engaging in unsafe sexual activity, and other risk taking activities such as drink driving, it may leave a lasting impact on the brain.

Parents have an important role to play in the drinking behaviours of their children. Such things as discussing with your child your values and beliefs towards alcohol use; identifying safe drinking levels with young people; and most of all, role modelling behaviours you would like your children to adopt; will not necessarily stop young people drinking, but they can reduce the amount and frequency.

If you are unclear about the safe level of alcohol consumption or you would like further information, you can contact your school nurse 4192 1224 (Isis District SHS) or 4157 2165 (Gin Gin SHS) or the Alcohol and Drug Information Service by phoning 1800 177 833.

Monique Anderson – School Nurse

Childers Markets

Happy 2007 and I hope that it is profitable for all of us.

As yet, the P&C has not had a meeting and therefore, not set any dates for the markets in Childers. At present we can expect to continue as last year, with four markets, one per term. As soon as we have some dates set I will let you know, but I don't expect to have a market before March, when the weather cools down a bit.

Thank you for your support during last year and I hope that we can continue during 2007.

Flora Barwick – Organiser

HOWARD BUSES

Route S434, Senior bus, the Blue bus.
Route S440, Junior bus, the Red bus.

The AGM for both the above committees will be held on Monday 12 February 2007 at Howard State School staff room.

Route S434 meeting will commence at 6:30pm sharp.
Route S440 meeting will commence at 7:30pm sharp.

All parents are welcome to attend whichever meeting time is appropriate.

Full details of agenda for meetings will be sent home with children next week.

Phone Jan Arnott 4129 0011 for further information.

BIGGENDEN BUS ROUTE S473

Conveyance Committee AGM will be held at Dallarnil State School on Wednesday 14 February at 7:00pm.

Queensland Transport policy stipulates that 70% of parents/guardians attend this meeting. All positions will be declared vacant and a new committee elected for the 2007 school year.

CHILDERS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE SIGN ON 2007

When: Saturday 3 February

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Where: Childers Showgrounds

New players please bring two copies of your birth certificate with you. A free sausage sizzle. Further details phone 4126 1805.