

15 February, 2007

## Principal's Message

Now that the dust has settled on another busy start to the school year it is time to reflect on where the school is going and what we intend to achieve throughout 2007.

Our student population in 2007 has grown by almost thirty students when compared with this time last year. In February 2006, the enrolment was 453 students while in February 2007, the enrolment is 482 students. This increase should provide the school with some extra teacher allocation and ease the pressure on a number of larger classes which currently exist in the Year 9 cohort. With this resolved, the class sizes at Isis High will fit well within Education Queensland's class size policy giving our students the best chance of success.

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 Key Areas that the school intends to continue pursuing throughout 2007. It is important that our school community remains aware of the school's strategic direction.

**Operational Plan 2007:** Our Key Development Areas, in brief, will include:

**Middle Schooling** – the ongoing development of a Middle Schooling philosophy will continue to be an explicit focus of the school resulting in an even more engaging curriculum and even more effective teaching and learning for all students in Years 8 and 9.

**Senior Schooling** – the school community will continue a relentless focus on ensuring each senior student has a program designed to assist them towards their preferred career pathway. This year all Year 11 students throughout Queensland commenced the year with a Student Education and Training Plan (SETP). This plan will be monitored throughout their senior schooling.

**Literacy** – this will continue to be a significant focus of all staff at Isis High. As well, we remain committed to maintaining our very successful Community Literacy Program in Schools (CLIPs). In 2006 the age appropriate reading level of our Year 8 students increased from approximately 68% at the beginning of the year to almost 90% when re-tested in October 2006. This is an excellent outcome for our 2006 Year 8 students and for the school community.

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

**Partners for Success** – the school will continue to work closely with members of the Indigenous community to ensure quality educational outcomes for all our young people including those from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

For a more detailed account of the school's direction throughout 2007 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 20 February, commencing at 10:15am, the school's Induction 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.

Finally, with the support of the Isis District State High Parents and Citizens Association the school has taken delivery of a new bus. The new bus is larger than the old one with seating for 25 passengers. With over 40 Isis High Year 11 and 12 students enrolled in Certificate II courses at Bundaberg TAFE the bus makes this TAFE component of their studies possible. Congratulations to the P&C for supporting this important project for our students.

Kind Regards,

Trevor French – Principal



*Year 11 students inspecting the school's new Mitsubishi 25 seater bus. The bus will be used to transport Year 11 and 12 students to Bundaberg TAFE on Tuesdays and Thursdays and for school excursions on other days.*

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

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

## 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. Parents and interested citizens are invited to attend the ceremony which will be followed by a morning tea for guests, parents and student leaders.

*Allan Cook – Deputy Principal*

## CLiPS Literacy Success

Since 2005, Isis District State High School has developed and implemented an innovative reading support program known as CLiPS (Community Literacy Program in Schools). The program, which is proving to be highly successful, is primarily delivered by volunteers from the Isis community.

The program builds on existing support at the school, providing one-on-one reading and learning assistance to those students requiring this level of support. The success of CLiPS is largely due to the commitment, dedication and enthusiasm of the community tutors. The program aims to ensure that all students are equipped with the necessary reading skills to optimise learning and work participation.



*Some of the current CLiPS tutors doing such impressive work with students includes (back l-r) Sonia Jones, Marilyn Tynan, Jack Russell, Gwen Russell and (front l-r) Sue Baldwin, Judy English-Ellis, Alison Anderson*

More helpers are needed to replace some tutors who have moved on as well as to enable the program to be expanded to assist more students. Volunteers do not need any previous experience or qualifications. The school will provide:

- training and skills development
- continuous support from a teacher and from a community co-ordinator
- all resources and materials

For further information or to volunteer, please leave your contact details with the school office on 4192 1222 by 28 February 2007. The Community Co-ordinator for the program, Judy English-Ellis, will return your call.

## 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, 2007, as at 15 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 the subjects they are studying.

The Homework Diary includes a page (p 22) where dates of assessment items for the particular subjects a student is studying, can be collated in one section. Where changes to the listed assessment dates need to be made students and parents will be advised by insertion in the School Newsletter. 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*

## Youth Pathways - School Support



Young people at Isis District State High School are supported by various external agencies with personnel who come into the school to work with students. Youth Pathways aims to support young people, who may be at risk of

prematurely leaving school, to get through school and make it easier for them to make the shift to further education, training or employment.

Youth Pathways offers young people aged between 13 and 19 years of age one-on-one assistance to help them set goals, to work out their strengths and to overcome those barriers impacting on their schooling.

If you are considering leaving school before completing Year 12, then Youth Pathways may be able to help. The Youth Pathways officer for Isis District State High School is Mr Dave Facer (pictured above) and he can be contacted through the school office or directly at Community Solutions on 4151 0244.

*Allan Cook – Deputy Principal*

## Religious Education

Religious Education at Isis District State High School is a 'Co-operative Program' offered by the Childers Ministers' Fraternal. The curriculum is non-denominational and flexible and all students are encouraged to actively participate in this worthwhile aspect of the school curriculum.

Religious Education for students in Term One will take place on Tuesday 27 February. The session will see a performance

by the young Christian-based band *New Vision* which is a part of the *Youth Encounter* network. This group of young adults minister throughout the United States and Australia for one year with a faith-encouraging program of music, testimonies and drama to inspire people of all ages. The performance will be at the Stadium in a regular timetabled lesson. Members of the Childers Ministers' Fraternal, the School Chaplain and teachers will be present during the session. As always, parents who consider there is a legitimate reason for their children not attending these classes should confirm this reason by letter to the principal (if not already provided). These students will complete supervised alternative work. Please contact Mr Cook on 4192 1222 should you have any concerns in this area.

*Allan Cook – Deputy Principal*

### Youth Science Forum

On January 15, I arrived in Canberra to attend the 'National Youth Science Forum'. The first week began with an interesting twenty-two hour bus trip from Brisbane to Canberra. Although the length of the bus trip sounds rather daunting, time passed quickly as I 'attempted' to meet another 50 students from around Queensland who were also to attend the forum. Upon arrival at Burgmann College, Australian National University, we gathered with a further 100 students from the Melbourne and Sydney coaches and became involved in various games and cheers such as pretending to be animals and singing nursery rhymes. Although it sounds rather juvenile, these activities really loosened everyone up allowing us to get to know everybody better.

The first week and into the second encompassed various excursions to engineering orientated businesses such as Snowy Hydro looking at alternative energy resources.



Additionally, we became involved in huge group debates discussing contemporary science-related issues such as 'Global Warming, Fact or Fiction?' and 'Nuclear Energy versus Renewable Energy'. The forum not only taught us about science and technology but also aided in our communication and public speaking skills. There was a huge focus on preparing us for the future with impromptu speeches and mock job interviews. Furthermore, we received talks from some of the paramount universities in Australia such as UNSW, UQ and ANU providing information about future career paths and destinations.

Aside from the learning experience, there was also a science themed dance, bush dancing in an old wool shed, ice skating, swimming, tours to: Telstra Tower, Parliament House, Government House, the Australian War Memorial and a visit to the botanical gardens where we encountered 'naked orchards' as the ranger had mistakenly said and sparked a giggle.

In summary, the forum was an excellent, action-packed and definitely worthwhile experience to not only learn about science, but also to meet a fantastic group of people of diverse cultural backgrounds yet of similar interests and I encourage anyone in Year 11 to apply for this amazing opportunity.

*Harry – Year 12 student*

### Uniform News

#### SPRAY JACKETS

The next order for spray jackets will close on Tuesday 27 February 2007. This is necessary because there is a 4-5 week delivery time and the jackets will be needed in Term two. Orders, with payment of \$80.00, can be made with Mrs Butcher at Recess one on Tuesdays at the Uniform Room.

*Flora Barwick – P&C Committee*

### Tuckshop News

As usual at this time of the year I am trying to get the rosters of volunteers arranged for the rest of 2007. We are desperately short of helpers. So if you could spare some time regularly or on a casual basis please contact me on 4192 1236.

*Jakie Graver – Convenor*

#### GET SET FOR WORK

Do you know someone who should be "earning or learning" and is not enrolled in schooling or working 25 hours per week and have not yet reached the age of 17 years. Get Set For Work may be the answer you are looking for.

This program is individualised to suit your own needs. Get Set For Work will assist you to begin actively planning pathways to reach your career goals. The program is based at the Tom Quinn Community Centre where you have the opportunity to work in a safe, friendly & positive environment. Programs include:

- Bike workshop
- Furniture/timber workshop
- Mechanic workshop
- Landscaping & Horticulture
- Administration
- Retail
- Hospitality
- and others

#### INTERESTED?

Call or visit The Salvation Army Tom Quinn Community Centre, 8 Killer Street, Bundaberg. Phone: (07) 4153 3557 or phone Isis District State High School on 4192 1222 and they will arrange for a Get Set For Work representative to contact you.

#### BOOYAL BUS SERVICE ROUTE S438

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday 6 March at 7:00pm at Booyal State School.

#### WOODGATE BEACH/CHILDERS BUS RUN

The Annual General Meeting is on Saturday 24 February at 9:00am at 75 Mackerel Street, Woodgate Beach.

#### CHILDERS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Training for juniors aged 13 to 18 years of age, commences Tuesday 20 February.

Ages 13 to 14 4:45pm

Ages 15 to 16 5:30pm

Ages 17 to 18 6:30pm

Training will be both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

#### YOUTH PATHWAYS

##### A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

*Dave Facer – Community Solutions 4151 0244*

#### APPLE TREE CREEK MEMORIAL HALL

"Learn to Dance" All welcome, \$2.00 per person includes a light supper Commencing this Friday 16th February 7:00pm – 9:00pm.