

24 October, 2008

Principal's Message

As we settle into the final term for 2008, it's time to celebrate the achievements of many of our students. Next Tuesday 28 October, academic, cultural and sporting successes will be recognised at our Awards Day and Awards Night ceremonies. The importance of these two events is two fold.

Firstly, it is recognition of individuals, groups or teams within our school community for their outstanding efforts. It is during such occasions that the contribution made by staff, parents and community partners to the development of our young people is also acknowledged. One of the unique characteristics of Isis High is its engaged community. I don't know of any other secondary school that can boast about the huge support provided by individuals, community groups, business and industry. Support that includes helping in the school tuckshop, mentoring, teaching of reading, providing work experience for our students, cash donations, fundraising and the list goes on. While these ceremonies are celebrations of our students achievements it is also important that we acknowledge the support of these volunteers. Community minded people who are willing to give of their time to enhance the future life chances of the young people of this community.

Secondly, it reminds us all of the tradition of excellence long established at this school. This year adds yet another chapter to the history of Isis District State High School and does so in the best possible way with so many achievements to celebrate and acknowledgments to be made. The 2009 School Captains and Vice Captains, as per tradition, will be announced on Awards Night and this announcement is always an exciting one. I would encourage all parents and friends of the school to attend these important celebratory ceremonies.

Semester 2 Merit Level Certificates have been presented to some students at a special morning tea this morning. Students who achieved Merit Level Certificate status in both Semester 1 and Semester 2 will receive their certificate on Awards Day.

Another very important day on our calendar is World Teachers' Day. Celebrated in over 100 countries World Teachers' Day acknowledges the efforts of teachers in an increasingly complex, multicultural technological society. It is a day on which students, parents and community members can demonstrate their appreciation of the contributions that teachers have made to their community. Next Friday, 31 October, Year 12 students will hold a morning tea for teachers at Isis High to celebrate World Teachers' Day 2008. School Captains Brendan and Caitlin and Vice Captains Cameron and Murphy will acknowledge the important work of teachers and present each teacher with a certificate of appreciation. This will end an exciting week of celebrations for our students, staff and the school community at large.

Finally, with only four weeks remaining for our Year 12 students it is important that they remain on task until the very end of their studies. It is certainly not too late to improve on a level of achievement and or complete a competency resulting in the awarding of a Vocational Qualification. One of the best ways Year 12 students can achieve this is to continue to attend school regularly (every day counts) and to work with their teachers who are keen to assist them to achieve the very best they can.

Kind Regards,

Trevor French – Principal



Mr French presents Semester Two Merit Certificates to students (l-r) Emma, Christopher and Taylah

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

27 Oct	'Pink Shirt' Day Fundraiser	03 Nov	Nominations close for Senior Leaders
28 Oct	Awards Day (10:00am) and Evening (7:00pm)	03 Nov	Nominations close for House Captain
28 Oct	Announce School Captains	05 Nov	Interviews for Senior Leaders
29 Oct	Combined Schools Art Exhibition	07 Nov	Newsletter
31 Oct	World Teachers' Day	11 Nov	Announce Senior Leaders and House Captains

Invitation to Awards Ceremonies

The annual presentation of awards for student achievement throughout the year will occur on Tuesday 28 October. There will be two ceremonies conducted on this day at the Childers Community Stadium in the school grounds.

A morning Presentation Ceremony will commence at 10:00am and will acknowledge students receiving awards for meritorious behaviour throughout the year, as well as Sports Merit Awards and Bronze Awards for sporting achievement. In addition, House Trophies from throughout the year will be presented to the winning House Captains.

The evening Awards Ceremony will commence at 7:00pm and recognise achievement in academic, sporting, service and cultural fields, as well as Special Awards. The ceremony will also feature the naming of the School Captains and Vice-Captains for 2009.

Parents and friends are invited to attend these most enjoyable functions where we recognise and celebrate student achievement.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

Biggenden Links

The 'Biggenden Links' program was conducted this week for Year 10 students, from Biggenden State School, who will be completing Year 11 and 12 at Isis District State High School in the coming years. It is a transition program that involves the Biggenden students attending our school for two days obtaining information on the school and participating in classes. They are able to familiarise themselves with the school environment and some of the basic school procedures, as well as meeting other students who will be their classmates in the new year. Students received information from various school personnel, including the Sports Coordinator and the Uniform Coordinator. A special morning tea was also enjoyed by the Year 10 Biggenden students together with some school staff and students.



Our Biggenden visitors included (back l-r) Cameron, Jared, Amy, Taliah, Kerri-Anne and (front l-r) Jade, Rhiannon, Randall and Shanna

The Biggenden students appear a very sensible, co-operative group of young people and we look forward to them attending Isis High in 2009. Thanks to all those involved at Isis High and Biggenden State School for assisting in the successful program that will help students engage successfully in their senior studies.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

The Next Step

Each year Education Queensland conducts a destination survey of the state's Year 12 school leavers from the previous year, known as *The Next Step*. The results of Queensland's destination survey of the seniors of 2007 have been released and it's good news for parents of Isis High students.

The outcomes for Isis High students are very positive. The results show that 94% of students who completed Year 12 last year are learning and/or earning. The data also shows that half of Year 12 students from 2007 are studying, either at university, TAFE or private training colleges, with another 33% working in full employment. When the data from Isis High is compared with the accumulated data from all schools in the Wide Bay Burnett region, the strength of our school data becomes clear.

Destination of Year 12 students 2007	IDSHS	Wide Bay-Burnett
University (degree)	22.7%	20.3%
Vet Cert III-IV	7.5%	6.1%
VET Cert I-II	3%	4.7%
Apprentice	13.6%	9.5%
Trainee	3%	8.7%
Working FT	33.3%	20.8%
Working PT/Casual	10.6%	18.9%
Seeking work	6.1%	9.4%
Not study/Not working	0%	1.4%

Parents would be very pleased that the school retains a strong academic focus with a comparable proportion of students to other schools in the region attending university. However, for those who do not have academic aspirations, the school's comprehensive vocational education program means that more students compared with other schools enter vocational training courses. It is particularly pleasing that this school and local district encourages and supports students into full-time apprenticeships at a rate higher than other areas across the region do.

Of the nearly 40,000 young people targeted for *The Next Step* destination survey, about 80% responded, which is a tremendous response for this type of study.

This positive data further verifies the excellent education that Isis High provides for its young people. Parents and the community can be assured that when students enrol at Isis High they will obtain an education that allows for quality outcomes into the future. Further information is available by contacting me at the school.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

It's not too late for university scholarships.

Any Year 12 student who is thinking of going to university next year should apply for an equity scholarship, preferably before the end of October.

These scholarships are specifically targeted at students who might struggle with the costs of study; they are available at all universities; there are many thousands available; and there's only one form to fill out (on the QTAC website).

(For example, at QUT alone, there will be about \$9m in scholarships and bursaries for low-income students in 2009, and over the last 2 years, about 80% of scholarship applicants have been successful.) Go to www.qtac.edu.au and click on the scholarship tab.

Trevor French – Principal

Every day counts at our school

Our school encourages all parents and members of our community to support the new State Government initiative to improve student attendance.

The new program – *Every Day Counts* – has four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled and attend school on every school day
- schools should monitor and create ways to improve attendance in schools
- attendance is the responsibility of everyone in the community
- children may find themselves in unsafe situations if they choose not to attend or skip school.

While most students attend school consistently, there is a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education.

Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

If your child is away, you need to let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school.

For more information or if you need support regarding your child's attendance, see our school principal and download the guide for parents at:

www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/

Trevor French – Principal

"Emerge" - Student Art Exhibition

The Combined State Schools Art Exhibition is being held at the Bundaberg Arts Centre in the coming weeks. The Opening ceremony will be on Wednesday 29 October from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and will be opened by our own Isis District State High School Year 12 student, Marnie Edmiston.

Enjoy an opening night of entertainment, performing art, music and dance.

Liz Clout – Visual Arts Coordinator

R U in2arts?

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts has just launched a new website for children and young people to easily access all the arts projects across the state.

The *in2arts* website is searchable by every Queensland region and also by the type of arts activity - for example, dance, film, circus, museums, galleries, festivals, music and writing.

The website makes it easy for you or your child to match family interests with local activities, festivals and special events.

Lots of great stuff is happening all over Queensland so get searching and get involved!

The *in2arts* website is constantly updated so if you have any suggestions or ideas, use the online feedback forms.

Visit www.arts.qld.gov.au/in2arts/

Trevor French – Principal

Merit Certificates

Today our school acknowledged the efforts of students who have consistently demonstrated a positive approach to school during Semester 2. Merit Certificates were presented to these students at a special morning tea with staff. This group of students has contributed to their own learning and promoted the good image of the school through their committed work ethic and cooperative behaviour and deserve the congratulations of our school community.

Year 12 - Terri-Lee, Steven

Year 11 - Jade, Susi

Year 10 - Blake, Ashleigh, Abraham, Sarah, Alisha, Sarah

Year 9 - Shannon, Andrew, Jessica-Lee, Joshua, Christopher

Year 8 - Kate, Brock, Taylah, Samara, Emma

Many more students had also received a Semester 1 and Semester 2 Merit Certificate and they will be awarded a 'Certificate of Recognition' at the Presentation Ceremony this Tuesday. Their names will appear in a future newsletter.

Allan Cook – Deputy Principal

P&C News

At its August meeting the P&C decided to introduce a small nominal transaction charge at the tuckshop. This is to help cover the loss of income due to improved menu options and an increased wage commitment. This will apply per transaction and is not affected by the total amount being spent.

Flora Barwick – P&C Treasurer

ASD Support Group

The ASD Support Group is an informal gathering of parents, teachers and others who are interested in supporting families with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder student. This group meets informally about once a month, at various times of the day, to suit family arrangements. We have the Support of our AVT (ASD) Sita Mannaert, and we try to get visiting speakers who can provide information for our families on topics that are of interest. We are a nice collection of people with the common interest of making our students' journey through education a pleasant one.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Trish Lewis (4126 3080) or Flora Barwick (4192 1222).

Flora Barwick – Learning Support Teacher-Aide

Disability Workshop

A workshop for family members who wish to plan successful futures for their family member with a disability.

When: Tuesday 04 November - 9:00am to 3:30pm

Where: HH Innes Room, 39 Mulgrave St, Gin Gin

When: 06 November - 9:00am to 3:30pm

Where: Peppers Pier Resort, 569-571 Charlton Esp, Urangan

Cost: Free for Parents/Carers; \$25.00 for target group; \$50.00 for non-target group.

For more info about the course, contact the Workforce Council Team on 07 3404 1497

Parish Sacramental Program - Reconciliation (Confession) Catholic Sacred Heart Parish Childers

The first parent and children meeting for the Sacred Heart Parish Sacramental Program for Reconciliation is on Monday 27 October at 4:30pm in the hall under St Joseph's Front School Building.

If you would like any more information please call
Carla Durnan 4126 1866 or the Parish