It has been exciting to see students from Isis High make a big splash this week at our Junior and Senior Swimming Carnivals. The daytime format again saw excellent attendance and participation in all events. Our Sport Captains also displayed outstanding leadership during their first carnival of the year. The events were a credit to sports teachers Miss Clewes, Mr Ferriere and Mr Cutler and all of the staff that organised and executed two well-run carnivals. It was wonderful to have a number of parents supporting students at both carnivals.

Last week Michael Jeh returned to Isis High to work with all students from Years 7 to 12 in specially designed Life Skills sessions. He led discussions on such topics as bullying, fighting, risk-taking behaviour, drugs and alcohol, social media, sexting, inappropriate (illegal) use of technology and respect for women. Michael works with a number of schools and high profile sporting organisation around Australia delivering similar sessions. I encourage you to talk with your student regarding the key messages they took away from these sessions.

There is a real buzz around the school at the moment with our School Wide Positive Behaviour program. Students are acknowledged daily for displaying positive behaviours that align to our three core values Learning, Respect and Responsibility. Students are awarded ‘Merit Points’ by staff and go into the draw for rewards and prizes. Students may also receive a postcard mailed home to inform parents of the positive behaviour. It is wonderful to see staff and students embracing this program.

Kind Regards,

Brett Kavanagh – Principal

Regular school attendance is increasingly being seen in the community as an essential factor for student success and high achievement at school. There is good reason for this view because the educational research overwhelmingly shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

Our school is absolutely committed to supporting, as a priority, that ALL students attend school regularly and we have a range of strategies in place to ensure that happens. Student absenteeism is monitored on a daily basis and those that occur without explanation or appear ‘suspicious’ are followed up with the student and/or family. This is a part of our commitment to ensure every child gets the best chance of success at school.

It is important that families also support this initiative. ‘Optional Fridays’, ‘sickies’ or turning a half hour appointment into a whole day off school are poor practices that do nothing to develop a strong work ethic in students and serve as a considerable disadvantage to their education. Your ongoing support in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Allan Cook – Principal

NOTE: This week has been a very busy week for sport at Isis High with a Junior and Senior Swimming Carnival, the commencement of Bundaberg district sport and North Burnett sports trials. A full report will be provided in the next Newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 Feb</td>
<td>University Showcase (9:00am Stadium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Feb</td>
<td>School Leaders Investiture Ceremony (10:15am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Feb</td>
<td>Indigenous Connections – USQ</td>
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<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Wide Bay Summer Sports Trials</td>
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<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Year 8 Focus Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>‘Changemakers Forum’ - USQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>North Burnett Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>06 Mar</td>
<td>International Women’s Day Breakfast</td>
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<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C Assoc. AGM &amp; Meeting – 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>Blood Ambassador Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>North Burnett Winter Sports Trials</td>
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<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>National Day of Action Against Bullying</td>
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On a pleasantly balmy evening of Tuesday 10 February, approximately fifty of our Year 7 parents and carers and a number of our teachers gathered at the Annexe to share information on a successful first few weeks of high school for our new Year 7 students.

After having a sausage sizzle (thank you senior students) and barista coffee (thank you hospitality students), we moved to a meeting to discuss far-reaching and varied topics including what’s been happening with Year 7 since day one, how parents can access student OneSchool records, reviewing data from a ‘satisfaction survey’ completed by students last Friday, meeting with the Year 7 CARE teachers to discuss classroom rules, homework and classroom procedures and having a ‘Question and Answer’ session with school administrators. One of the reassuring answers to our survey was all Year 7 telling us our teachers are kind and caring.

Mr Kavanagh (Principal) welcomes parents and carers at our Year 7 Parent Information Evening.

It was pleasing to have so many parents come along and learn more about how Year 7 are progressing, but the evening also gave parents a chance to meet teachers and Heads of Department and to also make us aware of any issues related to their child’s transition to High School.

A highly successful activity!

Gary Munks – HOD/Junior Secondary

First Day Impressions

I have something I would like to share from a student out of my Year 7S class. It is a poem that he has written about the first day of Year 7.

First Day

When I came to this school I was nervous as hell,
Even more so after the school bell.
When I went into the room it felt just right,
But it felt even better in my bed that night.

By Robbie

Lauren Samuels – English Teacher

Our school has been successfully implementing the School Wide Positive Behaviour System for the past four and a half years. The primary aim of SWPBS is to improve educational outcomes for students through:

- ensuring all of our school are aware of, promote and adhere to a few simple school rules
- developing skills and knowledge of good behaviour in students for better teaching and learning
- recognising and acknowledging student positive behaviour
- preventing behaviour problems and management of existing issues positively and consistently
- creating and maintaining a better school environment for students, teachers and the whole school community

As a school we are very proud of our staff, students and wider school community’s engagement in this program. As the saying goes “it takes a village to raise a child”, and at Isis High, we believe that a positive approach to behaviour is by far the most effective. An important component in rewarding our students are the conduct of monthly ‘merit’ draws on year level parades, where students win vouchers to local businesses, such as Subway and Mammino’s. We also send home ‘post cards’ to tell you how well your child has been going and we have an end of semester ‘merit’ trip to places like Bundy Bowl and Leisure. Of course, there is also boosts for students like sticker charts, verbal praise and many more operating by teachers in the classroom. Help us to help your child be the best that they can be by encouraging them to follow the school rules of Respect, Responsibility and Learning.

Catherine Shouton – SWPBS Team Member

CQ University Writing Competition Winners

At the end of last year, a dozen of our Year 10 English students represented our school by entering a writing competition organised by CQUniversity, in which three of our students performed with distinction.

Brianna (above right) was one of the overall competition winners for the region and won an iPad Mini for her efforts, while and Amba and Aleisha (also pictured) both won $50 as runners up.

Congratulations on a great effort!

Karen Chambers – HOD/ English
**An Isis High Entrepreneur**

Year 12 student, Hannah has attracted a $2000 grant from the Small Business Buddy program in recognition of her entrepreneurial skills with Hannah’s Handy Petcare and Grooming business. Hannah has been operating her pet business since Year 9 and is well-known within the district for providing quality service. Hannah’s grant will see her receive an on-line Certificate II Pet Grooming course as well as a brand-new dog grooming trailer to house her equipment.

Last year Hannah’s efforts attracted $1000 from MyfutureMylife towards the purchase of a hydrobath and other equipment. Hannah also put the grant to good use by completing a one day intensive Animal Care course which has helped to develop the pet-sitting side of her business. She cares for everything from snakes and rats to horses and sheep while their owners enjoy a few days away.

We congratulate Hannah on her hard work and initiative that has resulted in a successful after-school business and we wish her all the best for continued success.

**Instrumental Music is warming up for 2015**

We are currently encouraging enrolments in both the strings and multi programs, for beginners as well as experienced players. Instruments offered in the String program are violin, viola, cello and double bass. The Multi program offers a range of instruments from the brass, woodwind and percussion.

The program involves small group lessons at school, rehearsals outside of school time, group performances at functions and home practice. The cost is only $40.00 per year and school instruments are available for hire.

Isis District State High School is an excellent time to start learning an instrument – even if you have never read music before.

- High Schoolers tend to grasp the required skills quite quickly, and will soon be able to play music in a group with others.
- Learning an instrument is a great way to get to know people, make new friends and be part of a group.

Research has consistently shown links between learning music and improvement in academic ability, particularly reading, language and maths, as well as enhancing personal development such as self-confidence, self discipline and organisation skills.

More information and enrolment forms are available from the Instrumental Teachers or the School Office.

*We look forward to making music with you in 2015!*

**Kerryn Haaksma – Music Teacher**

**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform Shop is now open Thursday mornings from 8:00am to 12:00noon and now has Eftpos facilities available. You can also pre-order your students uniforms by picking up an order form from our front office.

**Leaders’ Investiture Ceremony**

The Leaders’ Investiture Ceremony recognises those students accepting school leadership roles. In addition, it provides an opportunity for senior students to affirm their responsibilities as a Year 12 student.

The 2015 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 and be followed by a Morning Tea. An invitation is extended to all parents and interested citizens to attend.

*Andy Davey – Deputy Principal*

**DATE SAVER**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY BREAKFAST “MAKE IT HAPPEN”**

- **Date:** Friday 6 March
- **Time:** 7:00am – 8:30am
- **Venue:** TBA Childers
- **Cost:** To be confirmed
- **RSVP:** Tuesday 3 March

Debbie Murphy: 41304690 (N’hood Centre)
Gloria Davey: 41921222 (Isis District SHS)

**2015 Annual General Meeting for Bus Conveyance Committees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Route</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>All parents/carer attendance</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biggenden Bus – Route S.473</td>
<td>Thursday 5 March</td>
<td>Dallarnil State School</td>
<td>Meeting advice has been sent home with students</td>
<td>0411 873480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berries Rd Isis Highway Bus - Route P.1809</td>
<td>Friday 27 February – 9.00am</td>
<td>Millenium Park, Childers</td>
<td>Meeting advice has been sent home with students</td>
<td>0417 831435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Senior) Howard / Pacific Haven Circuit Bus - Route S.434</td>
<td>Wednesday 25 February – 5.00pm</td>
<td>Bill Sargent Hall at Howard State School</td>
<td>Meeting advice has been sent home with students</td>
<td>41277192, 0439 740309</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodgate, Mahogany Park P.1700</td>
<td>Monday 23 February – 6:30pm</td>
<td>Woodgate Club</td>
<td>All parents/carer attendance</td>
<td>Rachel Pigget 0468 851557</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:**

If your bus service is not listed above and you have queries or concerns, you should contact the Bus Operator for your service.