

25 November, 2013

**Principal's Message**

Last week was both a sad and an exciting time as we farewelled our Year 12 students and wished them every success for their future. The Senior Dinner on Wednesday evening and formal Graduation Ceremony on Friday were both very special events which the students and families will remember forever. Our Year 12s have done us proud and it was again closure with class!

The Childers Cultural Centre was awash with colour and hot cars (not to mention a buggy drawn by a pony!) on Wednesday night as our Year 12 students attended their Senior Dinner. It was wonderful to see so many parents, family members and friends lining the streets to 'ooh' and 'aah' over the dresses, suits and cars! The evening continued with an excellent meal prepared by our own Jaki Graver and her team of volunteers, speeches from staff and, of course, reflections from our Year 12 students. The opportunity for them to share this special occasion with their family will be something they will cherish for years to come.

The formal Graduation Ceremony took place in our Stadium on Friday morning and again the room was filled with parents and family. Each Year 12 student was presented with their school Graduation Certificate and a small gift from Isis District State High School for completing their schooling. Our Year 08 students were also in attendance to celebrate the Year 12s success and be inspired to complete their schooling and attend their own graduation in four short years. Following the ceremony students and parents joined staff for morning tea (including their Graduation Cake) prepared by our hospitality faculty and served on the deck of the Stadium.

On Wednesday 19 November I was invited to speak at the Childers Wesleyan Methodist Church's 'Over 50's and Wiser' community group, as their guest presenter. This was their final meeting for 2013 and they celebrated the occasion with a full Christmas lunch. With over 60 people in the room I had a great time talking to them about the changes in Education and gave a small insight into the Art and Science of Teaching. With plenty of laughs along the way, the people were remembering their own schooling experiences. It was a great way to look into the time and energy that is being invested into the ongoing development of our greatest asset, our teachers. The Isis District High School String Quartet and their teacher Ms Kerry Haaksma also entertained the guests with a variety of light classics and Christmas music. *(Pictured right)*



The Department of Education Training and Employment has confirmed that I will remain at Isis District State High School as Principal until the end of Term 1, 2014. This will provide stability in leadership and planning for the start of the new school year. Mr Allan Cook continues to do well and he will provide a personal update in the near future.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Brett Kavanagh  
Principal

| <b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b> |                                  |        |                               |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| 27 Nov                    | Yr 10 EOY Excursion              | 10 Dec | P&C Meeting & Break-up 6:10pm |
| 29 Nov                    | Last day for Yr 10 & Yr 11       | 11 Dec | Yr 08 & Yr 09 EOY Excursion   |
| 02 Dec                    | Yr 07 Transition Days (02-03Dec) | 13 Dec | Last Day of Term 4            |
| 06 Dec                    | Newsletter                       |        |                               |

***Every lesson, Every day ... COUNTS!***

## Teaching and Learning at Isis High

This year is the second year of the implementation of the Art and Science of Teaching (ASOT) as the whole school framework for teaching and learning. Isis District State High and our feeder school primary teachers have all participated in professional development on pupil free days, and twilight sessions over the last 18 months. You may have heard your students talk about different things happening in the classroom like learning goals, elbow partners and the use of mini whiteboards to brainstorm or let teachers know if they understand what is being taught. You may have seen the expectations for students written in your student's workbooks. All of these strategies are part of the Art and Science of Teaching, a framework that is based on over 40 years of research and allows teachers the opportunities to share their best practice. "Robert J Marzano (2007) presents a model for ensuring quality teaching that balances the necessity of research-based data with the equally vital need to understand the strengths and weaknesses of individual students. The outcome of the implementation of this framework is to produce exceptional teaching and outstanding student achievement."

Our focus for this semester is the use of learning goals, tracking achievement and celebrating student success. Learning goals allow students to clearly understand what they need to know (knowledge) and be able to do (skills and processes) by the end of the unit of work. Students should be able to identify if they are on track to reaching the learning goals for each of the subjects they study. The learning goals should be clearly shared with students and is often stated/written in the student's notebook/electronic records.

We will continue to provide professional development for teachers as we roll out the framework. Many teachers have taken on this model with enthusiasm and we are seeing the results in the level of student engagement and learning in the classroom. For most teachers this is not a new concept but a refresher of practice which is supplementing the fantastic teaching already occurring in our school.

Please ask your student about the use of the strategies in their classes and the learning goals they had for this term.

*Michele Kirkland – Deputy Principal*

## Have Your Say

### Review of senior assessment and OP processes – newsletter

The department has engaged the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to conduct an independent review of Queensland's senior assessment, reporting and Overall Position (OP) tertiary entrance processes. As part of the consultation process for the review, ACER has developed an online survey to capture the views of all Queenslanders on this important issue.

The survey is on the ACER website and consists of 21 simple questions on key aspects of our current senior assessment and tertiary entrance arrangements. All teachers, students and parents are encouraged to have their say and complete the survey. It is available at: <http://www.acer.edu.au/queenslandreview>

*Brett Kavanagh – Principal*

## Uniform Shop

Uniforms that have been ordered have arrived and are awaiting payment and collection. The uniform shop will be open as usual on Tuesday mornings and uniforms can be collected at the normal times between 8:00am and 12:00pm. We can accept credit card payments, cash and cheques, but not EFTPOS.

Opening times for the uniform shop are as follows:  
Mon 09 & Tue 10 December for Year 07 Transition  
Thu 23 & Fri 24 January student free days for all  
Tue 28 & Wed 29 January.

The hours for all these days will be 8:00am to 12:00 noon.

*Carmel Randell – Uniform Convenor*

## National Young Leaders Day

Several students from across year levels were given the opportunity to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Brisbane last week. Hundreds of potential student leaders from across North Coast schools attended the day and were inspired by a range of guest speakers including Bindi Irwin. This conference is designed to motivate and encourage our young people to lead in the school and wider community.

We hope that your students were inspired by stories of some current leaders in a variety of fields and that the content has made for some interesting discussion on what it means to lead well!

Thanks for a wonderful day!



*Students who attended the National Young Leaders Conference: Katelyn, Caleb, Lauren, Thomas, Mitchell, Courtney, Georgiana, Hayden, Ethan, Coby, Eden, Thomas, Abigail and Emily.*

*Dearnne Beatson – Deputy Principal, Senior Schooling*

## Making Every Day Count

As we near the end of the school year, it's important to remember that all students are required to attend school every day until the end of term which is 13 December 2013 for Year 08 and Year 09 students and 29 November for Year 10 and Year 11 students. Not only is attendance at school a legal requirement, but being at school helps students to achieve more and builds social and emotional skills such as communication, teamwork and resilience. For more information visit <http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts>

*Brett Kavanagh – Principal*

## Chaplaincy News

During the month of October, our school joined many other schools in the Bundaberg region in promoting "Random Acts of Kindness" month. This chaplaincy supported program encourages students to show acts of kindness to anyone around them, There were also many charitable causes that students could engage in – for example "Operation Christmas Child" (to provide less privileged overseas children with helpful Christmas gifts), "Bandanna Day" (fundraising for cancer research), and "GYProcks".

The purpose of the "GYProcks" fundraiser was to purchase wall cladding for homes that still needed repair from the January floods. Students could make donations and also sign or paint on a specially provided piece of wall cladding. Isis District State High School raised over \$130.00



Mr Kavanagh (Principal) with Emma and Leah who were doing some artwork on the sheet of wall cladding used in the "GYProcks" fundraiser.

"Random Acts of Kindness" month culminated in a morning tea on Friday 01 November where Mal Forman,

the Bundaberg Regional Council Mayor spoke to an audience of students and school staff on the importance of kindness to our society. Two students, Thomas Welldon and Holly Allen, and two staff, Pamela McHardy (HOSES) and Ralph Thurlow (School Chaplain) represented Isis at the event.

*Ralph Thurlow – School Chaplain*

## End of School Year

As the end of the school year is drawing to a close, parents/carers are asked to support their students in the successful return of student resources to the school. These include returning laptops, blazers and textbooks to the book room. Parents/carers are also encouraged to support their student by finalising all monies owed to the school before the end of the year.

*Karen Webb – Business Service Manager*

### FOR TENDER - PRIME LAMB

Female purebred dorper lamb, 10 months old, ready for sale now, born and raised by the school - offers over \$110.00 considered. Please hand your tenders into the school office by Friday 29 November.

### CHILDERS CHORAL SOCIETY 2013 CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Childers Catholic Hall, 40 Churchill St  
2:00pm - 5:00pm 07 December  
\$5.00 entry

## Suggestions to help protect your child on the internet

Where possible keep all internet capable devices in **common family areas**

Know how to **disable location services** on your child's smart device

Check **privacy settings** on your child's social media accounts

**Be aware** of the social media sites on your child's device

Check your child's **online profiles** and ensure the content is appropriate

**Maintain direct and open communication with your child**

Ensure you have **access** to your child's accounts in order to monitor them

Consider **password protected settings** for installation of age appropriate applications on smart devices

Consider installing **filtering and/or blocking software** on computers

**Monitor** your child's phone plans and credit for **unusual activity**

Consider what **device** you provide your child

Consider **appropriate phone and data plans** for your child

Know how to save copies of your child's **instant messaging chat logs**

Consider the "**Family Internet Safety Agreement**" developed by QPS

Children should be able to tell you the name of their **online contacts**

Consider **syncing** smart devices to a family account

