Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that the Easter vacation gave families the opportunity to relax and spend some quality time with each other. This term promises to be another exciting and very busy one as we continue a varied array of school activities, but at all times maintaining a strong focus on learning aimed at improving outcomes for our students.

One of the very important school activities that enrich the life of our students and school community is music. Our very dedicated music instructors in Peter Pagett and Kerryn Haaksma do a fantastic job with our students and their passion and enthusiasm is reflected in the playing of our bands and ensembles at school and community events. It is with regret that I inform you that Mr Pagett will be taking leave from the end of this term. Peter has decided to ‘broaden his horizons’ (literally) and has been successful in gaining a music teaching position in Thailand for 18 Months from July. Peter is now in his third year of teaching at Isis High (and surrounding cluster primary schools) and in that time, he has done a remarkable job in rejuvenating the excitement associated with our school band. His commitment and passion in supporting music students, particularly at out of school activities is truly exemplary and he will be a great loss to the school. However, this also presents a wonderful opportunity for Peter and we sincerely thank him for his contribution and wish him all the very best for a rewarding time. A replacement for Peter will be announced closer to the end of this term.

While speaking of farewells, on the last day of last term we bid farewell to our Danish exchange student for the last six months Michala Holberg. Michala has fitted very well into our school and has greatly enjoyed the cultural experience we’ve been able to provide. At Year 12 Assembly on the last day of term, I farewelled Michala and presented a small memento of the school to her while each Year 12 student wrote a message in a ‘Good Luck’ card (pictured right with Megan Menchin). Michala thanked students and the school for making her so welcome and indicated she had a wonderful time experiencing an Australian rural culture. Michala will remain in Childers for a couple of more weeks prior to returning to her hometown in Denmark.

Students have today received their Interim Report providing information on their progress in Term 1. I would encourage all parents and carers to review reports with their children. Where concerns are identified, prompt action at this stage can ensure that satisfactory outcomes are achieved later in the year. Information was also provided on the forthcoming Parent-Teacher Interview Evening (please see the information detailed elsewhere in this newsletter). I commend the Parent-Teacher interviews as an important element in your child’s education and another opportunity to work in partnership with the school to resolve any learning concerns.

The school looks forward to another busy and successful term of learning.

Kind Regards,

Allan Cook – Principal

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

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Interim Reports

Today students have been issued with their Term 1 Interim Report. The purpose of this report is to provide information to parents and students about progress in subjects to date. The information presented by teachers is based on the performance of each student in Term 1 in each of their subjects. It is based on four areas: Effort, Behaviour, Homework and Achievement. The Achievement rating is based on a student’s general progress and may not be based on specific student assessment. The ratings are described on a five-point scale and should provide students and parents/carers with a very good perspective of how well students have commenced the school year. While the vast majority of Interim Reports indicate students making good progress, a new term presents a great opportunity for a ‘fresh start’ for those with reports that indicate some concerns. Where this is the case, please ensure some corrective action is planned.

The report also indicates whether the teacher of the subject believes that there is sufficient concern with the student’s progress to warrant a parent interview at the forthcoming Parent-Teacher Evening. If the teacher does not indicate there is a need for an interview, it simply means that the student is making satisfactory progress. Of course, all parents are able to request interviews with teachers.

Our school encourages active teacher/parent communication. Please take the time to peruse the information on Parent-Teacher Interviews following in this newsletter.

Dearne Beatson – Deputy Principal

Parent-Teacher Interview Evening

The Parent-Teacher Interview evening is scheduled for Tuesday 30 April from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Students have been issued with letters and booking sheets today. It is the responsibility of students to approach teachers to organise times suitable for parents and teachers and to record the time allocated with the teacher’s name on the booking sheet. It is essential that bookings be made to ensure that teachers are available to speak with you. If you would like to speak with teachers but cannot attend the evening, please contact the school and we will organise alternative arrangements.

This Parent-Teacher evening offers the opportunity for parents to clarify concerns or issues that may have been raised as a result of the Term 1 Interim Report. It is important to establish positive communication links between parents and teachers, as well as allow a ‘face to be put to a name’ and so your attendance is encouraged.

Teachers at Isis District State High School look forward to meeting with you on Tuesday evening 30 April 2013.

Dearne Beatson – Deputy Principal

ANZAC Day Commemorations

Isis High will be commemorating ANZAC Day with a solemn ceremony at the school on Wednesday 24 April commencing at 10:30am in the Stadium. All students will be in attendance and parents, friends and community members are invited to attend. The ceremony is being coordinated by Ms McCulloch’s Year 09 History class and will highlight the fact that ANZAC Day is an important aspect of our history worthy of deep and solemn respect.

Some of our students will also attend the Childers Dawn Parade and our School Captains will lead students later in the Childers ANZAC march. Our School Captains and Vice-Captains will participate in the Childers ceremony following the march. Some students will be participating in services in other centres.

The continuing school commitment to commemorate ANZAC Day in a meaningful way does much to instil its significance in our young people.

Michele Kirkland – Deputy Principal

No Limits

In Term 1, a group of nine Year 08 boys began a No Limits course facilitated by myself and Behaviour Support Teacher, Gary Munks. Our School Vice-Captain, Jacob Alexander (Yr12) has also been involved as a participant and as a senior student role model. The course, which is based on weekly sessions will finish this term with a further two sessions and culminating in a planned full day excursion; a bushwalk to climb Mount Woowoonga near Biggenden.

The course aims to encourage young people to reflect on and develop a greater awareness of positive values, and their own potential through action based learning. The weekly sessions include various tasks and activities which promote self-discovery and understanding of the role of values. After each activity, there is a time for discussion on how these values allow us to more effectively participate in our world.

Throughout the program, students are ‘challenged by choice’, and so begin to see a difference between their actual potential and their current self concept. By expanding their self concept, they are then empowered to see ways in which they can grow and develop their leadership potential.

Our school encourages active teacher/parent communication. Please take the time to peruse the information on Parent-Teacher Interviews following in this newsletter.

Dearne Beatson – Deputy Principal

No Limits course participants engaging in action based learning

The feedback from students and parents is very positive and although the course is not yet finished, already the students are responding well to this type of learning. In lunch breaks, I am often greeted by an expectant: “Are we getting together for No Limits this Thursday?” from excited participants.

A further No Limits program will be conducted in Semester Two giving another group of students an opportunity to challenge and extend themselves and further develop into effective leaders.

Ralph Thurlow – School Chaplain
Haidee Arnold – History Achiever

Haidee Arnold (Yr 11) has been successful in being selected as a participant into the prestigious Young Historians Workshop coordinated by the Queensland History Teachers’ Association. Haidee will have her travel and registration expenses paid to fly to Brisbane and participate in a history project conducted over two days at the State Library of Queensland. Participants had to be achieving highly in a Senior History subject and have a possible interest in further History study in the future. With only ten students selected from throughout Queensland to participate, this is a very creditable achievement for which Haidee (and her teacher Ms McCulloch) should be justifiably proud and congratulated. Well done!

Allan Cook – Principal

University Showcase

The University of Southern Queensland (Hervey Bay) recently conducted a University Showcase on Wednesday, 17 April at the Childers Community Stadium at Isis High. Representatives from a number of universities, Wide Bay TAFE and the Armed Forces attended to provide Year 12 and some Year 11 students with information on tertiary opportunities and courses at their institutions. There were around 100 students from our school who listened to talks and collected information.

It is always a delight when former students come back to our school to visit and give something back to the school that helped them. And so it was when former School Vice-Captain from 2009, Joshua Suli (pictured with Ms Adams) returned to Isis High recently to talk with senior hospitality students about opportunities that may be available to them when finishing school.

This initiative is another mechanism by which the school attempts to ensure students understand the negative effects of bullying and promotes respectful relationships between people. If you require discussion about bullying please contact your child’s Year Level Coordinator.

Liz Clout – HOD, Student Services

Verbal Combat

On Tuesday 16 April the dramatic performance Verbal Combat was presented by the theatre group ‘Brainstorm Productions’ to Year 08,09 and 10 students. The performance looked at the hurtful games that teenagers sometimes play to give ourselves a false sense of power and belonging. The production is an entertaining way to promote discussion about friendship, bullying, body image and the way teenagers interact at school and on the internet.

A variety of issues are discussed including: peer pressure, name calling and rumours, body image, media pressure, under-age drinking, harassment, cyber-bullying through mobile phones and social websites, cyber-safety and cyber-footprint. These issues have become increasingly more prominent in teenagers lives.

This initiative is another mechanism by which the school attempts to ensure students understand the negative effects of bullying and promotes respectful relationships between people. If you require discussion about bullying please contact your child’s Year Level Coordinator.

Liz Clout – HOD, Student Services

Former Student Returns – Joshua Suli

It is always a delight when former students come back to our school to visit and give something back to the school that helped them. And so it was when former School Vice-Captain from 2009, Joshua Suli (pictured with Ms Adams) returned to Isis High recently to talk with senior hospitality students about opportunities that may be available to them when finishing school.

Since leaving school Joshua had a ‘gap year’ in Childers and then attended the prestigious Blue Mountains International Hospitality School. Josh has only six months to go in his course before he is able to work in international hospitality and tourist resorts. His presentation to students was very well-received and no doubt has inspired some more young people to consider that direction after school. We greatly appreciated Joshua’s visit (whose mother, Margaret Phillips works at the school as a teacher aide) and wish him the best for the future.

Renee Adams – Hospitality Subject Coordinator

MLC Tennis Hot Shots tennis lessons

Venue: Isis Tennis Club, North Street, Childers
Commences: Thursday 18 April after school
Conducted by Bundaberg Tennis Academy Professional Coach, Kevin Banner.
Please contact Kevin 4152 0753 or 0409 520753