As a nation, Australians recently reflected on the sacrifices past and present members of our armed forces have made to ensure we enjoy the free and democratic country we have today. Anzac Day is a time for us to remember the heroic deeds and contributions our soldiers have made. At Isis District State High School, the time is taken very seriously with a whole school ceremony, also attended by parents and community members, held on the day before Anzac Day. The continuing school commitment to commemorate Anzac Day in a meaningful way does much to instill its significance in our young people and to develop values around community participation and sacrifice. A more detailed report appears later in this Newsletter.

Together with our Isis High School Captains, Troy Stark and Bernadette Steinmann (pictured left with Mayor Forman), I represented the school recently in attending the Bundaberg Regional Council ‘Leaders meet Leaders’ luncheon. This activity involved primary and secondary school captains across the district meeting with our regional Councillors. Mayor Mal Forman introduced each of his Councillors and discussed their Council responsibilities. The Mayor congratulated all students on their leadership positions and encouraged school captains to do all they could to progress the interests of the students they represent. Troy and Bernadette acknowledged the value of the activity in developing a broader perspective of Council’s activities, as well as talking with captains from other schools.

We have now completed three weeks of Term 2 and students should be well and truly into their work schedules associated with all subjects. A focus on current class and set work effort and cooperation with teachers will see the best chance of strong achievement. Parent support for student work is always appreciated as our partnership together will always enhance the likelihood of positive student outcomes.

Allan Cook, Principal

It’s sad but true that most school committees, sporting clubs and community groups struggle to attract people to their meetings. Unfortunately, Isis High Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) is no exception with only a small number of parents regularly attending monthly meetings. This makes it very difficult to discuss school matters that affect ALL students, as only a few parents are able to share their views. With a population of around 150 families at the school this is a very small percentage of parents ‘having their say’.

The P&C meets on the second Tuesday of each month and are conducted in an efficient manner so that they are completed within a reasonable time frame for families (usually around an hour). Meetings are usually held in the Common Room in the School Administration block starting at 7:15pm.

Please consider coming to the next meeting which will be a Meet and Greet at the School Stadium in North Street on Tuesday 14 May at 7:15pm. Join us for a coffee, take an active role in your child’s education and help make Isis High the best it can be for our kids.

Sandra Webb, President, P&C Association

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

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<td>07 May</td>
<td>NB Cross Country – Biggenden</td>
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<td>07 May</td>
<td>Vaccinations for Yr 8 and Yr 10</td>
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<td>14 May</td>
<td>Year 9 NAPLAN Testing (and 15, 16 May)</td>
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<td>14 May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Association Meeting – 7:15pm</td>
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<td>17 May</td>
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<td>21 May</td>
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Every lesson, of every day, of every week ... COUNTS!!
Isis State High School commemorated ANZAC Day with a solemn ceremony at the school on Tuesday 24 April attended by all students as well as parents, community members and a number of returned servicemen.

School Captains, Troy Stark and Bernadette Steinmann led the ceremony in acknowledging the sacrifice of servicemen/women in a respectful manner. Mrs Davey’s Year 9 Social Science class provided their reflections of aspects of the ANZAC traditions based on research completed in class.

Year 11 Student Council representatives Zeppelyn Wegner and Thomas Green lay a wreath during the school’s Anzac service.

Returned serviceman, Mr Allan Rendell provided an eloquent and very moving ‘Requiem’ in which the emotion impressed upon students the significance of the ANZAC events. Service personnel expressed their thanks to the school and students for their ongoing commemoration of the ANZAC Day and for the due respect afforded to them. Following the service, visitors and parents enjoyed a pleasant morning tea.

Isis High students also took part in various ANZAC Day services in district centres, including around fifty students participating in the Childers Anzac March (pictured below). At the Childers Civic Service, School Captains Troy Stark and Bernadette Steinmann read the names of those from the Childers district fallen during World War I and II, while School Vice-Captains, Jacob Alexander and Kristie Krieger laid wreaths on behalf of our school.

The students will complete their tests in the Showground Hall in order to minimise distraction during the tests. The school is coordinating the provision of a pancake breakfast for students prior to the exams on each day to ensure they commence the tests ‘nutritionally fortified’.

The school would appreciate parents ensure students get ample sleep during the week of NAPLAN testing and provide any support necessary for students to be ‘at their best’ during these days. Please contact me on 4192 1222, if you have any questions regarding the NAPLAN testing program.

Michele Kirkland – Deputy Principal

On the 14, 15 and 16 May, some 200,000 students across Australia will participate in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in schools across Australia will have their skills assessed in numeracy, reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar over these three days.

This testing provides important progress information to students and families about student progress in these important areas of basic skills. At Isis High, students in Year 9 have been receiving focussed literacy and numeracy instruction and preparation throughout their time at this school. Students have also completed practice assessments in the Literacy and Numeracy test papers to ensure familiarity with the style of assessment.

Aleisha Nagent, Aleisha Thomas and Thomas Cole get some additional NAPLAN tuition with Literacy Mentor Mrs Bradford

Parent-Teacher Interview Evening

Many parents took the chance to meet their child’s teachers by attending the Parent Teacher Interview Evening last Tuesday. These meetings are important opportunities for making contact with parents which lead to supportive partnerships that benefit your child/ren’s education. Students generally achieve higher academically when they observe their parents building a positive relationship with teachers. I know teachers appreciated you taking the time to meet with them to discuss student progress and attitude to studies. Of course, teachers remain available to discuss student progress issues with parents if you were not available on the Tuesday.

Michele Kirkland – Deputy Principal

Allan Cook – Principal
Last Tuesday and Wednesday, the Year 11 and 12 Rural Operations classes were fortunate enough to be involved in a pilot program to build their awareness of the sugar cane industry. This program was designed by the Cane Growers Association in partnership with Rural Skills Australia.

Our students spent two days touring local cane properties and the Isis Central Mill, particularly focusing on jobs in the industry. Students were able to talk with many workers about what their job was and what was involved in the industry. We were exposed to jobs of every level from cane harvester operator to technical engineer to laboratory analysis and everything in between. Students were involved in many ‘hands on’ activities to help them understand what these jobs involve. Some of the activities students were involved in included collecting and identifying cane beetles using hair patterns on their bottoms, identifying cane diseases in a field survey, carried out farm planning, had a fabulous tour of the mill and even climbed into a harvester to see how it works.

Students and staff alike learnt a lot from this tour and it has given many students a much better understanding of the jobs available to them in their own back yards. Thank you to the many farmers and mill workers involved in making this program a success and particular thanks Mrs Sandra Webb from the Canegrowers’ Association who did much of the coordination work.

Catherine Christen – Agriculture Coordinator

Isis High senior students make regular blood donations to the Bundaberg Blood Bank as another worthy community venture that the school takes pride in being involved. For several years, Ms Adams has coordinated students to participate in this vital activity and which has seen them recognised through winning several regional awards. Each year the school adopts ‘Blood Ambassadors’ to act as coordinators and role models for other students. The 2013 Blood Ambassadors were recently announced to take an annual pledge on School Assembly and pictured below holding last year’s Best Schools trophy include (l-r) Courtney Sinnett, Georgia Wiemers, Jacob Alexander and Tyler Baguley with Ms Adams.

The financial support of the Parents and Citizens’ Association is greatly appreciated as they pay for student travel by the school bus to Bundaberg for students to attend the Blood Bank. This is another important activity for fostering strong community values in students.

Renee Adams – Coordinating teacher

The School Newsletter is published fortnightly through the school year (21 editions) and issued to all school families. It is also distributed to other identified community supporters and is published on the school website. Any business interested in securing advertising on the back of our School Newsletter, can contact the office on 41921222 or email the.principal@isisdistshs.eq.edu.au.

Karen Webb – Business Services Manager

There are two piglets available for sale (1x female and 1x male), 7 weeks old, very friendly.
Large white cross, large black. $60 each, Contact the School Office (4192 1222) for more information.

The Australian Government Mobile Service Centre (Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support services) is supporting rural communities by providing convenient access to Australian Government payments and services. This specialised vehicle offers a wide range of face to face and self service assistance for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

You can visit the Mobile Service Centre opposite Millennium Park, Crescent Street, Childers Tuesday 14 May 9:00am to 3:30pm