Principal’s Message

Once again the school is grateful to those parents who took the opportunity to attend the important Parent - Teacher Interview Evening held in the school’s Resource Centre recently. It was well attended and the feedback from parents and teachers has been very positive. The involvement of parents in their child’s education in a positive partnership with the school and understanding how their students are progressing continues to be proven as a critical factor contributing towards student success.

The school will hold a Parent Information Evening for current Year 07, Year 08 and Year 10 students and their parents, in the Drama Auditorium. Following these presentations parents are invited to view Subject Area Displays and meet with teachers in the Resource Centre. This way parents get a much clearer picture of the subject offerings and have an opportunity to talk informally with teachers to gain a better understanding of each subject being offered throughout Years 08 to 12. On this evening, Tuesday 27 August, we will take the opportunity to once again showcase the wonderful talent of our School Band and String Quartet as well as our Hospitality students, who will provide some light refreshments. A timetable for the evening is shown in the advertisement below.

Finally, many thanks for the good wishes of the school community as I embark on a period of leave for health reasons. I am very pleased to introduce Mr Brett Kavanagh who will be Acting Principal for the remainder of the year. He will introduce himself below. I look forward to catching up with parents in 2014.

Kind Regards,

Allan Cook – Principal

Welcome to Mr Brett Kavanagh (Acting Principal)

I am very excited to be joining the Isis community and look forward to getting to know everyone. I will be officially commencing as Acting Principal at Isis District State High School on Monday 12 August. I had the pleasure of being at the school to meet with students, staff and community members last Monday and was made to feel extremely welcome. My first impressions were very positive with smiling faces and engaged students in all classrooms.

I grew up in northern New South Wales on a cattle farm and have always had a deep passion for music and education. My music journey led me to studying Pipe Organ at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. I started my teaching career as a Music teacher and Director of Music on the Gold Coast before moving to Brisbane as a Head of Department (Arts) and more recently as a Deputy Principal at two large Brisbane state high schools.

I will be working closely with students, parents and staff in the coming months to ensure the high academic standards that Isis High are regarded for are well maintained. Don’t hesitate in contacting the school at any stage if you have any concerns or questions.

Regards,

Brett Kavanagh – Acting Principal

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 7:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>Yr 12 QCS Practice Test (and 14/08)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Aug</td>
<td>North Burnett Track and Field Carnival (Gayndah)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Aug</td>
<td>Yr 10-11 Subject talks</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Aug</td>
<td>School Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Aug</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening (see right)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>SET Planning Day (Yr 10)</td>
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PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 27 August

Information Sessions commence in the Drama Room

6:00pm  | Year 07 to Year 08
7:00pm  | Year 08 to Year 09
7:30pm  | Year 10 to Year 11

Parents can also view subject area displays in the Resource Centre and meet with teachers.

Parents of Year 07 students can bring Enrolment Forms for interviews.

School uniforms can also be ordered.

Every lesson, Every day …. COUNTS!
Subject Selection Evening

Over the coming weeks, the important subject selection activities for Year 10 students going into Year 11 (2014) and Year 08 students moving into Year 09 (2014) will be completed. Students in Year 10 will develop a plan for the next two years. While other options outside school are available, with such a high premium on well-skilled employees, most students choose to complete Year 11 and 12 to try and attain a Queensland Certificate of Education. Certainly, our school has the expectation that all students in Year 10 will move into Year 11, unless the student has definite employment or definite alternative education plans. Year 10 students, their parents, and the school will be required to complete Senior Education and Training Plans (SET Plans) that will help students review past achievements and plan a program of education for Years 11 and 12. While the decisions students in Year 08 need to make, in choosing Year 09 subjects, are less critical than those of Year 10 students, no less importance is attached to the process by the school.

The subject selection process for both year levels commences shortly with students receiving information booklets, talks and Subject Selection Forms.

A Parent Information Evening is being held on Tuesday evening, 27 August 2013. An advertisement on the cover page of this newsletter provides further details.

Parents can be assured that the school provides every opportunity for ensuring that students have all the information to make good decisions about selection of subjects for the next phase of their schooling.

Michele Kirkland and Dearnne Beatson – Deputy Principals

History comes alive!

History has walked right into the 10A History classroom recently with a number of local people volunteering their time to share their memories of growing up in the local area with our students. As part of the current Popular Culture unit, students are learning about the impact global and national trends in popular culture have had on those growing up in the Childers area during the post-war years. Topics such as fashion, entertainment, technology, film and television and sport are being studied across the decades from the 1950’s to today. In groups, students are investigating the lives of those in their teens and early twenties who have passed through Isis High before them and are realising that although some things may be completely different, some aspects of growing up never change.

Our guest speakers have included Mrs Denise Rapkins from Childers Library who advised the students on resources available at the library and online to assist them with their research. The students have also enjoyed listening to the reminiscences from Mr Jock Gardner, Mr Bill Trevor, Mrs Sue Royan, Mrs Dorothy Bunn and Mrs Jenny Ralph. All of these wonderful volunteers have engaged the class with their warm memories and insightful comments regarding the way life was for them, and the lessons students can learn from studying the past. Mrs Royan, Mrs Bunn and Mrs Ralph also brought along items such as photographs, clothes, letters and even a bicycle to show the students.

Subject Selection Evening

Mrs Jenny Ralph and Mrs Sue Royan (both parents of former students of Isis High) have been sharing their memories of growing up in the Isis with Year 10 History students

It has been a rewarding experience so far, for both students and visitors, to share and engage in real historical experiences. We also enjoyed welcoming several more locals in this process, with Mr Paul Bartlett, Mr Peter Anderson and Mr Scott Rehbein visiting the class.

Meryl McCalloch – History Teacher

Trade Training Centre Opening

Last week saw the official opening of the Bundaberg Regional Trade Training Centre by Senator John Hogg, at which I was pleased to attend together with Dearnne Beatson (Deputy Principal) and Malcolm Lindsay (Head of Department Technology). The Regional Centre is an initiative of each of the schools with secondary students in the Bundaberg district to further enhance the facilities available for vocational training. They were successful in making a multimillion dollar regional submission to the Federal Government several years ago. It allowed each school to improve their vocational training facilities. At Isis High, around a million dollars saw significant upgrades to an industrial standard hospitality kitchen, a new shed and associated equipment to introduce an aquaculture component into the agriculture program and a large new workshop and machinery to enhance the engineering vocational program. The funding also sponsored a joint engineering facility located centrally at the Bundaberg TAFE campus, which Isis High students will be able to access. Vocational training forms a critical part of the senior schooling program and these Trade Training Centre resources are a welcome investment.

Bundaberg secondary Principals with Hon Senator John Hogg and Member for Hinkler, Mr Paul Neville MP, at the opening of the Bundaberg Regional Trade Training Centre.

Allan Cook – Principal

(Name and images removed to comply with Information Privacy Legislation)
Perfect Language

Year 09 student Elyse Wallace recently participated in the Language Perfect World Championships, whereby 225,000 students from around the world who learn a foreign language were tested to determine their proficiency. Elyse was placed in the top 5% of competitors, having answered 7603 questions and was presented with a Silver Award (pictured left) on parade this week. Elyse is currently studying Japanese through Distance Education, supported by Teacher Aide, Mrs Barwick. Congratulations Elyse on such an impressive result.

Michele Kirkland – Deputy Principal

Athletics Carnival

The inter-house athletics carnival is always one of the most anticipated events on the school calendar and this year was no exception. Last Thursday and Friday saw the Childers showgrounds come to life with spirited war-cries and dress-ups amongst the friendly rivalry of competition between our four school houses. Friday morning kicked off with the annual ‘march past’ where each of the houses parade onto the showgrounds dressed in costumes to music associated with their chosen theme. This year saw Vesta ‘Video-gamers’ take on strong contenders from ‘The Bold and the Brave’ from Badilla, Trojan ‘Thillers’ and Pindar ‘Pyjama Party’. Whilst the competition was close, Vesta “Video-gamers” took out the initial event of the carnival by unanimous decision.

Perhaps this was a sign of things to come as Vesta powered through the day to be (once again) named champion Athletics house for 2013. Whilst their victory was decisive, the other houses certainly put up a good fight and ensured the margin was not as large as previous years. Final standings were Vesta as champion house followed by Badilla, Trojan and finally Pindar. Whilst Pindar house may have finished in fourth position, it must be mentioned that their girls actually finished second overall – so well done girls!

Five records were broken throughout the competition with Troy Stark (3000m), Hayden Marvell (3000m), Adam Stark (Triple Jump), Tamika Marshall (Long Jump) and Hendrikus Balk (1500m) all set new benchmark marks for future Isis athletes to aspire to. The last announcement of the day was the victors in the age champion race, not surprisingly Vesta had four age champions – Christopher Gibbs (13yrs), Simone Manski (14yrs), Coby Gibbs (13yrs) and Kayla Templeman (Open); Pindar had three – Brianna McMahon (13yrs), Jade Johnson and Dylan Zelinski (both 16yrs); Badilla claimed two – Phoebe Arbon (15yrs) and Troy Stark (Open) and Thakdanai Dinmuang (14yrs) flew the flag for Trojan.

These athletes will lead another strong Isis contingent at the North Burnett Athletics Carnival in Gayndah on 19 August. We wish all of our Isis athletes well at this event as they endeavour to retain the North Burnett athletics shield for a second year.

Analee Clewes – Sports Coordinator

Primary Schools Visit

Ms Kirkland, myself and our Year 08 Junior Peer Support Group had an excellent time visiting students from our Year 07 feeder primary schools, to talk about Year 08 at Isis High, hand out Enrolment Packages and informing about the Parent Information Evening which will be held on Tuesday 27 August at 6:00pm.

Year 08 students who did a magnificent job visiting Year 07 students at our primary feeder schools included (back row l-r) Damon Flanders, Emily Bowman, Georgiana Rutherford and Grace Sargent. (front row l-r) Dylan Freshwater, Cherrykie More, Hayden Webb and Brianna McMahon.

Our Year 08 students who attended the primary feeder schools have done an excellent job; explaining the difference between secondary and primary school and highlighting many of the opportunities which are available for students at Isis High. Each of the Year 07 students we have met has been incredibly polite, well-mannered, cooperative and very enthusiastic.

We are looking forward to having them visit our school during the Year 07 Transition activity later on this year and of course, welcoming them to our school as Year 08 students in 2014.

Anneka Lloyd – Year 08 Coordinator

(Names and images removed to comply with Information Privacy Legislation)