

7 December, 2012

Principal's Message

Another school year is almost over with just five days to go with our Year 12, 11 and 10 students already finished. 2012 has been a year of great progress as we strive to provide a high quality education for the young people at this school. For example, we have

- commenced the Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics and Science in Years 08 to 10;
- awarded many students through the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support program;
- focussed on ensuring the importance of regular attendance is well understood using *ID Attend*;
- completed the first year of implementing our National Partnership Schools Strategic Plan;
- supported many extracurricular programs, sport and cultural activities;
- ensured a school focus on *Respect, Responsibility and Learning*.

Consequently, there have been many wonderful moments and great achievements by a huge number of students throughout 2012. Our recent Awards Evening validated the very good work of the school and the recently released results of the *School Opinion Surveys* (see story in this Newsletter) also confirmed the high regard for the school by the community it serves. The school, with the ongoing support of the community, will continue to work hard in 2013 to ensure students are provided with a large range of experiences in academic, cultural and sporting areas.



This week Isis High was very pleased to welcome Year 07 students (pictured) from Childers SS, Goodwood SS, Cordalba SS, Dallarnil SS, Howard SS, Torbanlea SS, Biggenden SS and St Joseph's Primary School, to experience high school life. Ms Lloyd (Yr 08 Coordinator) organised a two day Year 07 to 08 transition program and this was implemented with the enthusiastic support of Isis High teachers. Students enjoyed participating in a variety of interesting subject activities. Year 08 is a very important start to secondary schooling and our school does all it can to

ensure students have a rewarding and productive learning experience. We certainly look forward to getting to know these young people better in 2013.

The end of each year invariably sees some staff changes. Mrs Sharyn Morris has been with us this year in the role of Head of Department (e-Learning) and has worked wonderfully well with students and teachers in fully embracing the use of learning technology within the curriculum. I also want to acknowledge the contribution of Mr Brett McCook who has been at our school now for six years and given very valuable service in a number of roles. I must also thank Deputy Principal, Mr King for his contribution to our school during 2012. I extend my thanks and very best wishes to all for the future.

As this is our last newsletter for 2012, I want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of teaching and non-teaching staff at Isis High and also thank parents and community members for the tremendous support given to the school throughout the year. We look forward to continuing this partnership next year to ensure our young people receive the very best education this school community can deliver.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I trust that the festive holiday season will be a safe and enjoyable time for all families.

Kind Regards,

Allan Cook – Principal

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

10 Dec	Year 08/09 Enrichment Program (10-14)	14 Dec	Last Day for Year 08 and 09
11 Dec	Take Home Laptop Allocation for Yr 09	21 Jan	School Office re-opens
12 Dec	Year 08/09 End of Year Excursion	29 Jan	School resumes for Yr 08 ,09 and 11
12 Dec	Year 08/09 Semester Reports Issued	30 Jan	School resumes for all students



Merry Christmas + Happy New Year



2013 School Starting Arrangements

The 2013 school year commences on **Tuesday, 29 January for Year 08, 09 and 11 students only**. Students in these year levels will be commencing new courses and there may be some clarification required of their study program.

All students (Years 08 to 12) should attend school on **Wednesday, 30 January**.

Both days will commence with a school assembly in the Stadium. Photos for ID cards will be taken on these first few days of school.

Payments for the Student Resource Scheme will be collected on Thursday, 31 January (Year 12, 11, 10) and Friday, 01 February (Year 09 and 08).

Monday, 28 January is a public holiday for Australia Day.

The school office will be open from Monday, 21 January and Administration members will be available that week for enrolments and/or enquiries.

The Uniform Convenor will be available for uniform sales at times listed in this Newsletter.

Ian King – Deputy Principal

Uniform Shop

The P & C Uniform Shop opening times for the beginning of 2013 are as follows:

Thursday 24 January – 8:00am to 11:30am

Friday 25 January – 8:00am to 11:30am

Tuesday 29 January – 7:30am to 8:30am

& 11:15am to 12 noon

Wednesday 30 January – 7:30am to 8:30am

& 11:15am to 12noon

As the shop is run by the P & C Association, it is operated by voluntary helpers and we are always looking for assistance.

Please contact the school if you wish to offer your assistance in any form which would be greatly appreciated.

Flora Barwick – P&C Treasurer

Farewell to Marina

The school always enjoys hosting exchange students from overseas as it adds a rich diversity to our school culture. Of course, our international visitors also enjoy a wonderful experience in a country school setting. After a six month visit, I recently presented German exchange student Marina Garcia Unger (*pictured below with some of her new Year 10 friends including Eleisha Furlonger, Rhianna Nurse and Ella McGregor*) with a small gift to farewell her and thank her for her time at Isis High.



Allan Cook – Principal

CQU Uni Skills Program

In the last week of their school year, 46 Year 10 students from Isis High travelled to CQU Bundaberg to be involved in the CQU 'Uni Skills' Program. Students were greeted by CQU staff before making their way to the main lecture room, where each received a 'bag of goodies'. Separate skill presentations then took place, each involving students completing various activities with 'prizes' being given. The most enjoyable and challenging of these activities was the Experiential Aviation Exercise which had students use a Flight Simulator. After donning a pilot's helmet and plugging into the simulator, a student, guided by another student (*Ella McGregor in 'aviator helmet' guided by Shaun Weiss pictured below*) attempted to take off, fly and land their plane. Needless to say, these students make better students than pilots!



The next day saw students visit Wide Bay TAFE where they again were given an insight into a TAFE experience before returning for another session at CQU.

Overall, this program offered students a chance to see how tertiary operates and to realise that now is the time to begin to make decisions about their academic and career pathways.

Gloria Davey – HOD English/Social Science

School Opinion Surveys

The school recently received the results of *School Opinion Surveys* completed confidentially by samples of students, parents and staff in August. The results were very pleasing in the very positive regard shown by these groups, as indicated in the following examples showing agreement with the statement:

<i>This is a good school</i>	100% (parents) 91.3% (students)
<i>My child feels safe at this school</i>	93.8% (p) 96.6% (s)
<i>Student behaviour is well managed</i>	90.6% (p) 87.2% (s)
<i>School celebrates student achievements.</i>	100% (p) 98.3% (s)
<i>This is a good school to work</i>	89.7% (staff)
<i>Staff and students respect each other</i>	91.1% (staff)

The proportions of each group in agreement with statements (showing support for the school) exceeded those of similar schools to ours, as well as other regional and state schools. A copy of the report is available in the school Office.

This data provided a strong validation of the good work of the school and its staff and assures the community of the continuing quality education the school delivers for the young people of this district.

Allan Cook – Principal

Year 7 to 8 Transition

On Monday and Tuesday of this week, some ninety Year 07 students from various feeder primary schools around the district attended their first two days of high school in order to familiarise themselves with the procedures of Isis District State High School for 2013.

Students were placed into one of four groups with a teacher and attended subjects in various areas ranging from Science and Computer Studies to Manual Arts and Agriculture. Our 2013 Senior Leaders acted as mentors and accompanied the Year 07's to their classes and activities.



Year 07 boys enjoyed engaging in some science activities in the Chemistry laboratory

To complement the subject-based activities, students also had the opportunity to meet new friends and liaise with teachers and support personnel from the school in an informal setting at the Childers Showgrounds. The Year 11 students hosted a 'Welcome BBQ' on Monday which was very much enjoyed by all Year 07's. On Tuesday, students had the opportunity to participate in a Karaoke Competition which all students obviously enjoyed.

Of course there was also the inevitable "oohs and aahhs" when it was time to feed the goats in the Agriculture section (pictured). The day ended with a 'Photo Chase' around the school, which students participated in very enthusiastically, particularly getting school Principal Mr Cook to pose with each group ... smiling!



Year 07 students getting ready for some Manual Arts

Many thanks to the teachers and support personnel in the school who helped make the transition so successful. Also thanks must go to the primary schools' staff for their co-operation, 2013 School Captains and Senior Leaders who were outstanding in their leadership and support towards the 2013 Year 08's. Looking forward to seeing you next year.

Anneka Lloyd – Year 08 Coordinator

Year 11 Leadership Camp

Year 11 students recently enjoyed three days of fun-filled activities with a focus on team-building and developing leadership skills. Although the activities were physically demanding, students exhibited a great deal of mental toughness in successfully completing activities. After settling in on the first morning, our instructors led the groups in getting to know each other better through 'easy' challenges such as balancing acts and trust activities. It soon became clear to all that peer support and teamwork skills were important to successfully completing the challenges, high ropes, canoeing, rock wall climbing, rogaining and the 'leap of faith' (as shown by Adam Stark pictured below).



The camp proved to be an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience for students, pushing many beyond what they thought possible. It also strengthened the camaraderie among the group by developing trust and appreciation between one another. Many thanks to Miss Murphy and Miss Robinson for their enthusiastic involvement and student supervision. Have a safe and happy holiday. We are all looking forward to a strong and united Year 12 cohort in 2013.

David Felstead – Year 11 Coordinator

P & C Association

The P&C has recently taken delivery of a large commercial freezer and is looking forward to using it for catering requirements for next year. One frequent fundraising activity is preparing and delivering various refreshments (eg. small cakes and slices) served at the school for visitors and at other important occasions.

We are now appealing to the 'bakers' of the school's community to donate a tray of slice, biscuits or other similar things that are suitable for freezing so that we can supply beautiful cooking and not have to purchase from outside. Please contact Jaki Graver at the Tuckshop (4192 1236)

APPLE TREE CREEK MEMORIAL HALL CHRISTMAS DANCE

Sunday 09 Dec - 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Afternoon Tea - \$8 Admission

MIXED PROGRAM - FUN PRIZES

All enquiries: 07 41261224 or 0417 199 375

CHRISTMAS DISCO

Saturday 15 December

Under 10's - 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Open to all ages - 7:30pm to 10:00pm

ONLY \$5 for all ages

Enquiries: 07 41261224 or 0419 735 227