

11 February, 2013

## Principal's Message



Welcome to all parents and families, both new and those returning to the Isis High school year for 2013. We hope that your association with the school will be positive and rewarding. It has certainly been a difficult start to 2013 with the widespread flooding particularly affecting many in our district and region. We extend our sympathies to those who have had families or friends adversely affected by the recent flood events. The cooperation of parents working with us on the changed school starting arrangements at very short notice was also greatly appreciated.

2012 was a very rewarding year for Isis District State High, as we work hard with students and parents to drive high student achievement and the creation of pathways for every student. In this Newsletter you will find information on some of the outcomes of our 2012 Seniors. The range of successful outcomes of students reinforces the high quality of education provided in the Isis District. Congratulations to these 2012 Year 12 students and I wish them every success throughout 2013 and beyond.

I have already spoken to students emphasising that they can achieve the same very high standard of previous students by meeting a couple of our basic expectations. They include that students comply with school procedures, work consistently on their subject work and co-operate with their teachers. Parents/Guardians should have received a letter from me recently describing some of the important emphases the school has adopted for 2013. I hope all parents/carers have taken the time to read this letter carefully with their children to ensure expectations are clear and to avoid later confusion. Students will also receive further information sessions on these requirements in the coming weeks.

In 2013, we will be building on our past success and a key ingredient continues to be the support of parents. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with you to ensure 2013 is another successful and rewarding year for all. This involves working constructively with the school when student issues arise and another way is through P&C membership and participation. The first P&C Meeting of the year is on Tuesday 12 February commencing at 7:15pm. The attendance by new parents/carers would be very welcome. I'd also strongly encourage support of our Tuckshop Convenor, Jaki Graver by volunteering to help out on the roster.

School Newsletters are a very important form of regular communication between the school and parents/guardians. A variety of news and information notices are included in each edition. Newsletters are issued on the first Friday of each term and fortnightly after that. The importance of the Newsletter is emphasised to all students on parade, to ensure this communication arrives home, so please ask your son/daughter for it. The Student Homework Diary (p23) also contains the dates of the Newsletter issue and all Newsletters are also able to be accessed from the school website ([www.isisdistshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.isisdistshs.eq.edu.au)).

The school year has started well with students quickly into the 'swing of things. The necessary organisational requirements at the start of each year such as taking of ID Card photos, making textbook and resource payments and distributing textbooks is proceeding well. It is also very positive to see most students well presented in their school uniforms and the support of parents/carers in this regard is very much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to welcome several new staff to the school. Mrs Dearnne Beatson joins us as Deputy Principal and will attend to the welfare of students in Year 10, 11 and 12. There are a number of new teachers to our school who bring experiences, knowledge and enthusiasm that will further enhance an already talented team of people who are committed to supporting students and moving them forward towards a love of learning. A photograph of new staff is included in this Newsletter.

We look forward to working in partnership with you in supporting the students of this great school community.

Kind Regards,

Allan Cook – Principal

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

31 Jan	Nominations for BDSSSA Sports	13 Feb	Bundaberg Sports fixtures begin
31 Jan	Nominations for Swimming Carnival	14 Feb	Newsletter
05 Feb	Swimming Carnival Heats (Yr 08-10)	14 Feb	Annual School Swimming Carnival – 5:30pm
08 Feb	North Burnett Summer Sports Trials	15 Feb	Year 11 and 12 Home Study
12 Feb	P&C Association Meeting – 7:15pm	19 Feb	School Leaders Investiture Ceremony – 10:15am

**Every lesson, of every day, of every week ... COUNTS!!**

## Isis High Student Achievers

Our 2012 Senior graduating students have achieved spectacularly high outcomes at both an academic, vocational and employment level. Students achieved well in their subjects and gained very strong Overall Position (OP) scores which are used to determine selection to university courses. School Dux, Taylah, obtained the best possible OP Score of 1. Taylah will be commencing a Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of Queensland (UQ) in Brisbane and has been awarded a prestigious UQ academic scholarship to support her studies. Taylah will be joined at UQ by several other Isis High graduates including Celina (OP6) also doing architecture, with Mitchell (OP2), Isaac (OP3) and Edward (OP6) all commencing a Bachelor of Engineering with Kathryn (OP6) and Grace (OP4) also studying at UQ. A number of students have elected to study locally at Central Queensland University (CQU) in Bundaberg completing courses such as teaching, business and occupational therapy with Dhane (OP4) taking on a Bachelor of Aviation Technology.



Taylah (OP1) and Sian (OP4) achieved highly

Isis High's OP Scores compare very favourably with that of other secondary schools throughout Queensland. For example, in the OP Score range 1-6, there were 35% of our OP-eligible students from Isis High compared to 25% in other Queensland schools and for OP 1-10, Isis High had 50% compared to 48% in Q'ld. Similarly, in the range used by Education Queensland for school comparisons (OP1-15), Isis High (75%) again compares favourably with that of all other OP eligible students throughout Queensland.

These good OP results meant that of the students from Isis High who applied to commence a university course (34 students) in February, every one of them has received the offer of a position and some 80% received their first preference. These very positive outcomes reflect well on the students' achievements, as well as on the school's academic standards and teaching.

Apart from the outstanding academic success of students, many students attained vocational certification under the nationally recognised Australian Qualifications Framework to give them a considerable advantage in gaining future employment. In all, there were 62 Certificate Level I or II qualifications issued, as well as many Statements of Attainment over five industry areas containing vocational competencies. Many Year 12 students, not going on to further education, have already obtained full time employment, including a number gaining apprenticeships with local businesses and with businesses in other regional areas.



A group of high achieving Isis High 2012 Seniors (l-r) Kathryn (OP5), Grace (OP4), Becky (OP6), Sian (OP6), Celina (OP6) and Emily-Rose (OP5).

Parents can feel justifiably confident and proud that their local high school provides a comprehensive student preparation through academic, vocational and extra-curricular opportunities that ensure there are positive pathways to be pursued at the conclusion of school.

Allan Cook – Principal

## School Swimming Carnival

A keenly fought School Swimming Carnival is conducted each year between the four Isis High sports houses Badilla, Pindar, Trojan and Vesta. The carnival is always an enjoyable event that sees a good balance of swimming competitiveness and friendly participation.

This year the Carnival format has been altered to try and ensure we provide the opportunity for as many students as possible to engage in this positive schooling experience. Heat events have been introduced this year on Tuesday 05 February for Year 10 (9.30am), Year 08 (12:15pm) and Year 09 (1:45pm) and on Thursday 07 February for Year 11 and 12 (1:45pm). Parents are welcome to attend these heats.

The 2013 Swimming Carnival will then culminate on **Thursday 14 February commencing at 5:30pm** at the Childers Memorial Swimming Pool. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance of students and parents to ensure a healthy level of support for swimmers. This part of the carnival should be concluded by 8:30pm. Parents/carers and school supporters are encouraged to come along and support students in this pleasant activity.

Analee Clewes – Sports Coordinator

## Leaders' Investiture Ceremony

The Leaders' Investiture Ceremony is an important school activity to formally recognise those students elected and willing to accept leadership roles on behalf of the school and the student community. These include School Captains and Vice Captains, Sports Captains and Vice Captains, Senior Leaders and Student Council representatives. In addition, it provides an opportunity for those senior students, who elect to do so to affirm their responsibilities as a Year 12 student.

The 2013 Leaders' Investiture Ceremony will be conducted at the Childers Community Stadium at the High School on **Tuesday, 19 February** in the morning. The ceremony will commence at 10:15am and conclude at approximately 11:15am. While parents of students receiving a badge of leadership will receive a written invitation in the near future, an invitation is extended to all parents and interested citizens to attend. The ceremony will be followed by a morning tea for guests, parents and student leaders.

Dearnne Beatson – Deputy Principal

## QSA Year 11 Monitoring Day

Once a year the Queensland Studies Authority conducts monitoring of Year 11 assessment work through District Review Panels made up of teachers. In 2013, that day will be **Friday, 15 February**. There are a number Isis High teachers involved in this activity, which is a credit to their professionalism. However, with that many teachers absent from the school, as in previous years, Year 11 and 12 timetabled classes will not operate on that day and students will be afforded the opportunity to study at home with parent permission. There will be supervision of those students who elect to come to school. Further advice will be forwarded by letter to parents of Year 11 and 12 students next week.

*Dearnne Beatson – Deputy Principal*

## New Teachers to Isis High

The Isis High school community warmly welcomes new staff to the high school. Our new teachers have all indicated they are very much looking forward to working with students to advance their education.



*New teachers to the school this year include front (l-r) Ms Sheridan Simms (Head of Department – e-Learning), Ms Danielle Ney (Maths), Mrs Dearnne Beatson (Deputy Principal), Ms Kaitlin Christensen (English/Social Science). Back (l-r) Mr Rob Elphinstone (Maths, Social Science, Business), Mr Lyndon Walmsley (Industrial Arts) (Absent: Mrs Rebekah Williams (Home Economics/Hospitality))*

Mrs Beatson, joins our school as Deputy Principal looking after Year 10-12 students. With the continuing emphasis on learning technology (particularly laptops) being used in the curriculum, Ms Sheridan Simms joins our school this year in an important role as a Head of Department (e-Learning).

Welcome again to all new teachers and we trust you will find your stay with Isis High rewarding.

*Allan Cook – Principal*

## Student Behaviour

The school's *Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students* has been developed with the involvement of teaching and non-teaching staff, parents through the Parents and Citizens' Association and students through the Student Council. The Plan was reviewed in term 4 of last year and has been approved by *Education Queensland*.

The Plan identifies three 'global' school rules to teach and promote standards of responsible student behaviour:

### RESPONSIBILITY

- Come to school ready to learn
- Wear the school uniform
- Use equipment safely
- Be aware that actions have consequences

### RESPECT

- Treat others well with fairness and compassion
- Make the school safe
- Respect your own property and that of others

### LEARNING

- Be actively engaged in learning
- Work with teachers to learn
- Make a genuine effort

In order to understand and make clear the extent of each of these rules, a set of behavioural expectations has been developed and can be examined on page 4 of the *Student Handbook and Homework Diary*. I would encourage parents and students to become familiar with these expectations. While the school will continue to work with parents to support have consequences, in the interests of learning for all. A copy of the full plan is available from the school website or office.

*Allan Cook – Principal*

## P&C Welcome

On behalf of the Isis District State High School Parents and Citizens' Association, welcome to all families for the start of the 2013 school year. The P&C is a small, but dedicated group who support students and assist the school in any way we can.

**UNIFORMS** Things have been busy with purchasing of uniforms and we would like to remind students and parents that the Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday at 7:30am to 8:30am and at Recess 1. We would also like to remind senior students that their senior uniforms need to be ordered in advance– we do not keep a large stock of blouses, skirts etc.

**TUCKSHOP** Jaki Graver (Tuckshop Convenor) is getting her rosters for the year worked out. If you can give 4 hours of your time once per month to helping in the tuckshop it would make an enormous difference to its efficiency. Please contact Jaki (4192 1236) to discuss – arrangements can be made to allow for shift work, appointments etc, but we really need to replace parents whose students left last year.

As part of our fundraising the P&C caters for all sorts of functions throughout the year. To assist in this work we would really appreciate it if some home-made slices could be donated. We have a large new deepfreeze which allows us to stockpile such goodies – one slice per family per semester would be good, but one per family per term would be even better. Please contact Jaki (4192 1236) for further information.

The P&C committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm in the Administration building and everyone is welcome. The first meeting for the year is the 12 February. We look forward to a great year working with you.

*Flora Barwick – P&C Treasurer*

### **For Sale - \$150 negotiable**

1 x Dorper ram approximately 10 months old  
Great meat sheep, born and bred at school, friendly  
Offers for attention of Cath at school office

### **Childers Junior Rugby League Club**

**Sign On - For all NEW and existing players**

**WHERE:** CHILDERS SHOWGROUNDS

**WHEN:** Sunday, 03 FEB and 10 Feb from 9.00am to 12noon

All new players are welcome

Please bring two copies of your Birth Certificate.

For all fees and important information,  
please phone Sheryl on 0438 201 482