15 March, 2013

**Principal’s Message**

The school is approaching the end of a very busy term in two weeks. The teaching and support staff have worked hard once again to provide our students with a whole range of interesting activities and exciting and challenging learning opportunities. We are appreciative of the co-operation of parents who continue to support their children’s participation in these valuable activities and excursions, to ensure learning remains relevant and engaging. Most students have embraced these opportunities and enjoyed a very positive start to the 2013 school year and will no doubt be looking forward to the Easter vacation to recharge and rejuvenate. The last day of Term 1 before the vacation period commences for students is Thursday, 28 March. However, it is most important that students continue with regular attendance at school up to and including that Thursday. Absence from school at any time means students need to catch up on work missed. Parent support in ensuring regular attendance up to and including the last day would be appreciated.

Our Parents’ and Citizens’ Association conducted their Annual General Meeting this week and we have had a changeover in some Executive positions. Congratulations must go to our new P & C Executive members for 2013, Mrs Sandra Webb (President) who has children Riley in Year 10 and Hayden in Year 08 and Mrs Leigh Ritchie (Vice President), with Lleyton in Year 09. We are also pleased to have continuing experience in Mrs Kymm Cole (Secretary) and Mrs Flora Barwick (Treasurer). The school certainly appreciated the support provided by the Executive throughout 2012 and we look forward to continuing our partnership throughout 2013 and beyond. I must also publicly acknowledge the tremendous contribution that outgoing President, Mrs Roxanne Harney has made to the P&C and school community over her years of involvement. Roxanne has provided excellent leadership to the group and her support for Isis High has been outstanding. We thank Roxanne for her service and are reassured that she will continue to advocate strongly for our local secondary school. Our school was pleased to present Roxanne with an award in appreciation at the recent Leadership Investiture Ceremony (pictured right). I should also thank Neil Grumley for his ongoing excellent support to the P&C and students in the school generally and am appreciative that he will continue as an active member of the P&C Association supporting our school.

Today, Friday 15 March our school has participated in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence together with many other schools around the country. Isis High adopts a very strong and concerted approach to combat bullying whenever we are aware of it and conduct various programs to ensure students are well educated about its dangers. We encourage students to behave responsibly and safely every day, but today we put the spotlight on our anti-bullying strategies with a range of activities. I must particularly acknowledge Ms Liz Clout (Head of Department – Student Services) for her excellent work in organising various anti-bullying programs in the school, including today’s activities. The Bullying. No way! website has information for parents and students of all ages about the National Day of Action and how we can all help create a supportive school environment free from bullying, harassment and violence [http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/)

Kind Regards,

Allan Cook – Principal

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>Chaplaincy C’Tee meeting (3:30pm)</td>
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Constitutional Convention
It is not often that teenagers who are not of age to vote, have the chance to ponder a change to Australia’s Constitution. However, that is what four of our senior students did on a recent rainy day in Maryborough. The students Amber, Kyminah, Kayla and Brandon (pictured l-r below at the Convention) represented the school at the 2013 School’s Constitutional Convention.

This year’s theme was *How should the Australian Constitution recognise Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait peoples as Australia’s first people?*

The students (all indigenous) listened to the views of guest speakers and engaged in a variety of group activities and workshops with students from other schools in the region. Within these groups, recognition of the history and culture of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples was gained, as well as the concepts of racial discrimination, equality and respect. Arguments ‘for’ and ‘against’ were developed and argued, culminating in a student vote for a delegate to attend the National Convention in Canberra.

Throughout the day, our four students participated extremely well, and were a credit to our school. They gained a greater awareness of the Australian Constitution and improved their skills in meeting others, sharing opinions, analysing a topic and expressing their views.

*Meryl McCulloch – Teacher, Modern History*

International Women’s Day
Last Friday 08 March, Isis District State High School and the Childers community celebrated *International Women’s Day* with a delicious breakfast held at Vintner’s Secret Winery. Unfortunately, the rain didn’t hold off completely, but that didn’t stop everyone from having a great time socialising and enjoying the early morning atmosphere. Our two female school captains, Bernadette and Kristie were the joint hosts for the morning and both did a wonderful job welcoming everyone, while also providing us with an insight into what they want to do after school and how being a female leader will help them achieve this. The guest speaker for the breakfast was Ms Trish Mears, the General Manager of Bundaberg Broadcasters, who told us a little bit about herself and her successful career, inspiring everyone to have a go at something different no matter what the outcome may be. With the sounds of the school Strings Group playing in the background, the breakfast was a wonderful way to start our *International Women’s Day*.

Thank you to all of the staff who attended and also, Bernadette and Kristie, together with Jade Johnson and the Strings Group led by Mrs Kerryn Haaksma. Another wonderful activity in celebrating this important day.

*Jessica Robinson – Coordinator*

Karate Achievement
Our school takes great pride in the many and varied achievements of our students. While we usually report on those achievements directly relating to school, we do take an active interest in student achievements away from school, knowing how closely school and community are related. In late February, four of our students, (pictured below l-r) Dylan (Yr 10), Thomas (Yr 11), Joshua (Yr 8) and Hayden (Yr 8) travelled to Tanunda in the Barossa Valley outside Adelaide in South Australia to contest the Australian TSKF Karate titles.

All four students performed very strongly in gaining a number of placings in the two main areas of competition, with Hayden performing very strongly to gain first placings in both the categories he contested. The students indicated they had a tremendous time meeting and interacting with other students from all around Australia. They also indicated how such national competition has helped them develop and improve their own skills. I must also acknowledge the ongoing service to our community’s young people in this area by Mr John Russo who accompanied the boys and his tremendous support for students of this school.

*Allan Cook – Principal*

Coffee Training
A group of twenty-two senior students spent all of last week training in the art of espresso coffee making, conducted by the SmartSkills training group from Brisbane. All students successfully completed units of learning which contribute to their hospitality vocational qualification (Certificate II in Hospitality).
In addition, school staff enjoyed cappuccinos and lattes during recesses as students practised their new skills. These ‘real-life’ learning activities form an important part of the senior curriculum at Isis High. Brooke and Trent practise making flatwhites and café lattes.

Renee Adams – Hospitality Teacher

The Sport Report

It has been yet another busy fortnight for our Isis High athletes. Last Wednesday the Bundaberg sport competition finally kicked off for our 5 touch teams after a round of byes followed by a washed out round. While all teams performed well, it was the Under 15 Boys team who recorded the first victory for the season defeating Shalom. The Open Boys Yellow also recorded an impressive result, going down 6-2 to Bundaberg High, a team we have struggled greatly with in the past. This competition continues every Wednesday afternoon until early next term. Good luck to all teams!!

On Tuesday 05 March, a team of 18 Isis High swimmers boarded the bus for Mundubbera to compete in the North Burnett Swimming Carnival. After a day of fierce competition (including that of a 3m brown snake who decided he needed a dip to cool off!), all Isis High students shone, but five in particular were recognised as North Burnett age champions. Hayden (16 years boys), Brianna (13 years girls), Caleb (14 years boys), (pictured below l-r) Maddison (17 years girls) and Troy (17 years boys) all dominated their age groups to help bring home both the Junior School Champion and Overall School Champion trophies for Isis High. This is the first time in a number of years Isis has held both trophies at the same time. Well Done Team Isis!! In achieving this Troy Stark reset a record for the 100m Open Boys freestyle and Caleb qualified for the Wide Bay team who compete at the Queensland Schools Swimming Championships in Brisbane later this month. Good Luck Caleb!!

Finally, a big thank you goes to Miss Murphy and Mr Ferriere who assisted with the North Burnett trials and especially to Mr Darren Golchert who offered his assistance to referee rugby league for the day and who also drove the bus for the swimming carnival to Mundubbera last week. Your support for students involved in school sport is greatly appreciated.

Analee Clewes – Sports Coordinator

QTU campaigns for Gonski

Queensland Teachers’ Union members at Isis High have thrown their support behind the proposed new model of school funding, known as the Gonski model. This model would see funding going to schools based on a range of identified needs in the school. The Gonski model of funding would see a significant increase in funds for a school like Isis High.

Teacher union members at the school wore the Gonski campaign colour of green on an ‘I give a Gonski day’ on Tuesday and enjoyed a special Gonski afternoon tea where the predominant food colour was green. More seriously, union information was also provided to families on how the new Gonski model would operate and parents were encouraged to show their support by signing a petition at www.igiveagonski.com.au

Andy Davey – QTU School Representative