From the Principal

Welcome back to families for 2011. With the impact of the horrendous weather conditions over the holiday period we trust that a return to a regular routine through school assists in the rebuilding phase. We do have a number of families directly impacted by the flooding and I would again like to reinforce our commitment to assisting where possible as a school. I am also aware that many families will have been indirectly affected or part of clean up and assistance teams during the holiday period and in a search for positives out of such a devastating event would like to highlight the outstanding work in the community to band together in times of crisis.

As you will notice we have had some changes over the holidays. With Principal Kathy Blinks taking leave for Semester One, I will be acting Principal at Bundamba for six months in Kathy’s absence and look forward to continuing the good work that the school has developed. I come back to Bundamba after a five year absence having been Deputy Principal at Beaudesert State High School and after having undertaken a number of other acting Principal positions over the last two years. I certainly look forward to the opportunity to re-enter the Bundamba State Secondary College Community and look forward to an enjoyable and successful start to the year.

Our Graduating Class of 2010 included some exceptional performances from our students. Stephanie Davies and Penny Redshaw achieved the highest standard of an OP 1, while Natasha Urselmann received a 2 and Jessi-May Jennings a 3. I believe we are the only State School in the Ipswich Region to have achieved such high results and the credit for this should be shared between the students, families and the teachers as a reflection on the hard work which led to these outstanding results. Well done.

P&C AGM

Our P&C AGM is coming up on Tuesday 15th of February at 1pm in the School Office. I look forward to seeing a number of our parents and community representatives at this important event.

Staffing

We also welcome a number of new staff. Brendan Verrenkamp joins us as our Middle School Deputy Principal while Mr McFadzean is on sick leave for Term 1, Malcolm Parish is our new Guidance Officer. Shaun Cassidy is our new Senior Co-ordinator and Doneene King is our new Middle School Co-ordinator. Our new teachers for 2011 are Rebecca Humphreys, Kimberley Fjeldsoe, Peter Ward, Janet Johnson, Michelle Scott, Logan Ishmel and we also welcome back Shinead Cunningham and Nikki Turner.

Learning and Attendance

The start of the year is also a great time to refocus on student achievement. The outstanding results in 2010 are a great reminder that students can and do achieve at Bundamba State Secondary College. As a school our key focus is on student learning and we are eager to work to constantly improve the performance of our students through quality teaching and learning. Absences are an important area where we can make a significant impact on student learning. We need our students on time and at school to be able to make this impact. Once more I would encourage parents and carers to contact the school if you have any concerns or issues regarding your child’s attendance and look forward to our students being on time and in class working with our staff for the betterment of their learning.

Kind regards
Andrew Peach
Acting Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Senior School

"Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."
Martin Luther King, Jr

Welcome students and staff to the 2011 school year. We have had such a great start to the new college year already. It has been great to see so many new faces not just in Year 8 but in all year levels.

My Role

As the Deputy Principal in charge of the Senior School I am responsible for overseeing years 10, 11 and 12. I am looking forward to focusing on our Senior School outcomes with the goal to continue to support all students in reaching their potential and goals. My other main role is timetabling for the College. At the start of the year, there may be some slight timetable changes due to our increasing enrolment. We will, however, do everything we can to ensure students’ routine is maximised and disruptions to learning minimised. Subject changes for all students will cease at the end of week 2.

Year 11 Subjects

With the Year 11 students commencing one of the most important academic journeys of their education, it is important that parents are kept fully informed of student’s subject selections. Current year 11 students undertook their SET Plans in Term 3 of 2010. These SET plans included their subject selection for 2011. As I am sure you could have predicted some students have been selecting to make some changes to...
New Staff 2011

Back Row L-R: Ben Adams, Shinead Cummingham, Alan Shanks, Jayne Burton, Peter Ward, Logan Ishmel,
Front Row L-R: Kimberley Fjeldsoe, Rebecca Humphreys, Janet Johnson, Gail Lewis
Below: Nikki Turner

A message from nurse, Melany

Hello and welcome back. My name is Melany Sommerville and I am the Queensland Health School Based Youth Health Nurse. My role in the school community is quite varied and includes providing support to students, parents and school staff as needed. I am available for one on one confidential consultations and also provide ongoing health education and promotion to the school community. I have an office in the school and can be contacted on 38166334 or 0417191504. I am currently at Bundamba on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please feel free to call or text me on 0417191504 if there is anything I can assist with.

The “ARTS”
TUTORING IS AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH:
Assessments
Homework / Research / Drafts
Catching up
Practical Rehearsal, Composing, Performing or Art Making

IN THE FOLLOWING ARTS SUBJECTS:
Dance
Drama
Film & TV
Music
Lighting Production Theatre & Events
Performance Studies
Visual Arts Studies
Visual Art

Tutoring is available (time / day negotiated) for Senior ‘Arts’ students with classroom teachers at school in preferred subject teaching place.

Afternoons between 3 and 4PM or suitable lunch time arrangements.

Please let your class teacher know before each week what times you can attend. Bring your draft assessment, USB or suitable equipment to support your tutoring.

TEACHERS IN ARTS INCLUDE:
Mrs Charles, Ms Demedio, Ms Harcla, Ms Hogan, Mrs Johnson, Ms Kerr, Mrs McSweeney, Mrs Ward, Ms Zerr

their original senior pathway subject selections. To ensure that parents are aware of their student’s senior pathway, the College will be sending a letter to all parents outlining their student’s subject selections for 2011. If parents have any concerns with the information they are asked to contact the Senior Coordinator or myself, Ms Fountaine to discuss the matter. Any subject selection changes after this point will require a signature from parents before subjects changes occur.

School Organiser

All students have been issued with a 2011 Student Organiser which contains lots of important information to ensure the smooth running of the College including the Student Responsible Behaviour Plan, a number of College policies and procedures as well as helpful advice on study skills and homework. The Organiser also contains details on expectations regarding the wearing of the College uniform. Each student is expected to have their Organiser with them at school every day to help them plan their time carefully. Please take a moment to look through your child’s Organiser and discuss relevant aspects with them. The Organiser also has space in the main diary area for parents/teachers to communicate regarding student behaviours, academic progress or other important information. Communication between parents and teachers is imperative to ensure students achieve the best outcomes.

I wish all our students every success in 2011.

Leah Fountaine
Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Middle School

Commencing from 2011, there will be a requirement that all state school students in Years 6, 7 and 8 study a Key Learning Area Language. The languages taught in a school are determined by the school principal in collaboration with the school community, and in response to student needs. The language offered here at Bundamba State Secondary College is Indonesian.

Language studies focus on developing language proficiency and promote intercultural understanding. Studying a language better equips students to engage with others and participate fully in an increasingly globalised world. By studying another language, students:
• gain access to other peoples, ideas and ways of thinking
• become interested in and respectful of other cultures
• develop social and cognitive skills that will help them in other areas of the curriculum

If you believe that your student should be exempt from studying Indonesian you will need to contact the Deputy Principal, Mr Brendan Verrenkamp to discuss your concerns.

If it is decided that it is in the best interest of your child not to study LOTE, they will be required to participate in an alternative program which is comprised of Language and Numeracy elements.

Exemptions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

Under section 21 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, there is provision that a “Principal may decide the range of learning experiences to be offered to students attending the institution”. As with all areas of the curriculum, there may be instances where a Principal decides it is in the best interests of a student not to participate in language study.

Kind regards,
Brendan Verrenkamp
Acting Deputy Principal.
SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal on Thursday 17 February

The flood events of recent weeks have devastated much of Queensland and, for those of us not directly affected, have been heart-wrenching to see.

Although many are doing it tough, the outpouring of community support and generosity is remarkable.

Our school has been overwhelmed by people wanting to help – even our students have been asking how they can help children in other schools.

We will be joining schools across Australia on Thursday 17 February to take part in the SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal.

We ask all of our staff and students to dig deep and make a gold-coin donation to this worthwhile cause.

More information about the day is available on the SchoolAid website at www.schoolaid.org.au

Our students will also be putting together “Messages of Hope” artworks and letters to send to those children and young people in the worst of our state’s flood affected areas as part of the SchoolAid kids helping kids project.

Helping flood affected schools, families and communities

The Department of Education and Training has put together an online fact sheet, Helping schools and families recover from the 2011 floods.

The fact sheet contains information about the financial assistance available to families affected by the floods and details of how people can help schools, individuals and families recover.

Anyone affected by the flood inundation or anyone wanting to help those affected is encouraged to visit the department’s website at www.deta.qld.gov.au/natural-disasters to find out what assistance is available.

From Student Support Services

Welcome back to school. As usual this has been a busy time for all families. It has also been a devastating time for a number of flood affected families in our school community. Please know that the school community shares your pain and anxiety. Bundamba SSC sprang into action and immediately commenced support for these families by providing counselling, vouchers for uniforms, shoes and stationary. A special thank you to Hannah’s House for their stationary donations and Spendless Shoes Booval and Riverlink for supporting our school to get the shoe vouchers up and running in a day. A special thanks to the anonymous donor of a box of stationary items.

These families will need ongoing support. Rest in the knowledge that every student and their family will continue to be monitored over a long period of time to ensure their well being is taken care of.

Listed below is an extract from a support document prepared by Positive Partnerships to assist families dealing with the ongoing trauma experienced by natural disasters.

General strategies to promote coping: What parents, educators and other support people can do:

Natural supports work best:

Children adapt best in their own environments and routines. There is comfort in the familiar, so allow children to go about routines of school, recreation, and play. Consider the community supports you would turn to in any time of need: extended family, religious faith, community organisations, and recreational activities that provide outlets for tension and opportunities to spend time together. Use your support network. Take care of yourself so that you can be available when children need guidance.

Education helps:

Educate yourself about the impact of trauma and how it changes over time. Knowing what to expect helps you be prepared to provide support. For example, expect children to misunderstand some of the things they hear and see. Be prepared to learn what they know and supply accurate and timely information. Teach older children that recovery is a process: it takes time, everyone responds uniquely, and there is no “right” way to feel. There are right ways to act, however, and children need good role models.

Focus on doing:

When you demonstrate caring for yourself and others, you are engaged in coping. It is important to express feelings, but coping is also about learning, thinking, and doing. Some specific steps you can take:

Limit further exposure to trauma.

Given how immersed we are in unfolding events, assume that children know about them. It is important, however, to limit ongoing exposure to the trauma. For younger children, turn off the television during the news. Set aside some time to look at newspaper stories and photographs and answer questions. For older children, watch the news together. Change channels if you feel the media coverage is not constructive. Talk about what you see while you are watching and after you turn it off.

Address concerns about safety.

Discuss safety and the rescue efforts with children. Children will be assured by knowing steps authorities are taking to rescue and help people and rebuild the devastated areas. Discuss these things in concrete terms, using real examples, as you can. Be honest and calm about risk; don’t promise that nothing like this will happen again. Explain that natural disasters do not occur often and reassure children that you will do everything in your power to protect them.

Bundamba SSC will be joining schools across Australia on Thursday 17 February to take part in the SchoolAid Floods Relief Appeal further information will be provided over the coming week.

Please contact the Guidance Officer Malcolm Parrish or Head of Student Support Services Josette Moffatt on 38166333 for any further information or assistance, Josette Moffatt Head of Student Support Services.

Bundamba State Secondary College Newsletter