9 May 2011

From the Principal

Welcome back to all students and families for what promises to be an action packed term at Bundamba State Secondary College. I would also like to welcome Mr Ian Sevens who replaces Mr Verrenkamp as our Middle School Deputy Principal. After a long Term 1, Term 2 will no doubt fly by, with a number of Public Holidays and only nine weeks of schooling before the June school holidays. Fortunately our students are well underway with their Term 2 units of work with our new curriculum starting before the Easter break.

Thank you to the families who have participated in the variety of school events since our last newsletter. We have had a very successful Parent Teacher Interview evening with the best turn out in a number of years, another positive and well organised (thank you Mr Habben) ANZAC Parade and a well attended SET (Senior Education and Training) Planning evening with our Yr 10 parents.

As we start the term it is always important to refocus our attention to detail and ensure that our processes and procedures around uniform and behaviour are clear and consistent. It is also important that as a school we are implementing the agreed policies in relation to our Dress Code and Behaviour Code. As a school we are also committed to working with our families to ensure this process of alignment is achieved in a fair and equitable manner and I would encourage parents to contact the school if they have any concerns during the term.

In our last newsletter the link to our parent survey was missing. We collected some valuable feedback from staff and students regarding our progress throughout term one and would like to receive the perspective of parents. I would ask parents to assist by completing the online Parent survey at the following website:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bsscparent1

This is a brief survey which should only take a minute or two. It is survey where you may choose to identify yourself, but you can simply skip that question to provide anonymous feedback if you would like.

Feedback from staff and students provided a clear indication of the progress the school is making as we strive for continual improvement. It is important that we are getting a wide variety of perspective on our performance as we strive to ensure high quality and useful outcomes for our students.

Key data from the term shows a reduction in suspensions of 38% over the last three years, an increase in attendance of approximately 4% across the student body during term one and a positive trend in the number of student achieving A, B and C results on our Term 1 reporting results. We look forward to building on these results during the term.

This term we will be hosting a special event to celebrate the completion of our State Schools of Tomorrow work. Our P&C is working hard to ensure this event is successful and an opportunity for our school community to come together. To that end we will be having a brief meeting next Wednesday 18th May at 1.00pm in the Administration Building to start planning for the event. All parents are welcome and anyone able to donate time or resources would be well received.

Good luck to our Yr 9 students who are preparing to undertake the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy) next week. The exams will be in the morning of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and it is important that students are well prepared with a healthy breakfast and a positive attitude to attempt their best during these tests and I would encourage families of our Yr 9 students to encourage persistence and perseverance during the three day period of the exams.

Finally I wish our Yr 8 students all the best for their upcoming camp at the Runaway Bay Sports Super Centre. I’m sure the students will have a great time at this high class facility and I look forward to being able to get down to the camp to see how they are going.

Andrew Peach
Principal (Acting)

From the Deputy Principal – Senior School

This week we had a SET Plan Information Night for year 10 parents and their students. The evening was a huge success and I would like to thank all of the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to come in and support the school in developing the very important partnership with us around students’ senior learning pathways. Parents were provided with several important documents that will aid their conversations around career choices and subject selections for years 11 and 12. If you were unable to attend the evening, you can access all the key documents on our school’s website.

Our year 12 students had a great opportunity on Thursday to participate in a University Showcase Tour. The Showcase was held in the Hall and gave our students direct access to a variety of different Universities. The tour allowed our students to investigate all of those questions that they have had in their minds regarding Tertiary study including - ‘What’s this university business all about?’, ‘What’s it like?’, ‘How do I get in?’, ‘If I get in what do I do?’ Year 12’s, we hope that your questions have been answered!
In accordance with The Education Act (2006) Bundamba State Secondary College is a full uniform school. The Parents & Citizens Association of our college requires the wearing of a school uniform to:

- promote self pride and pride in our college
- foster group identity
- reduce potential for harassment or bullying
- enhance student safety through ease of identification
- ensure Workplace Health and Safety

I have revisited this topic today as BSSC staff would like to ask parents help to ensure that students are wearing the correct school uniform. Generally, our students do take pride in their uniform but student’s non-compliance, especially with their footwear, is impeding some of our students learning. It is imperative that all students wear footwear that is leather or vinyl. Students who continue to not follow the uniform policy and not bring a note from their parents, will face a uniform detention at lunchtime.

I would like to thankyou in advance for your support with this matter. Together we can ensure that our students reach their full potential.

Kindest Regards
Leah Fountaine
Deputy Principal

Year 9 Naplan Testing

Annual NAPLAN testing will occur next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (the 10th, 11th and 12th of May). All tests will be held in the morning sessions in the hall.

The order of tests is:

- Tuesday Session 1 – Language Conventions
- Session 2 – Writing Task
- Wednesday Session 1 – Reading Test
- Thursday Session 1 Calculator Test

Non-calculator Test

Catch-up tests will be held on Wednesday in the afternoon session or on Monday 16th May.

Students will need the following equipment:

- 2B OR HB pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Blue or black ballpoint pen
- Calculator

After the test, students will resume regular lessons as per their timetable.

Full school uniform is required.

Please get a good night sleep and have a good breakfast so that you can do your absolute best.

Kerry Barker
Head of Curriculum

Whooping Cough Information

You may have heard recently that there has been an outbreak of whooping cough cases. The following advice from Queensland health may help to prevent spreading of this infection.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by bacteria (germs). The infection is spread by an infected person coughing or sneezing. The most common source of infection in new babies is a sibling or parent.

There is currently an outbreak of whooping cough (also known as pertussis) in many parts of Australia, including Queensland. Whooping cough can affect people of all ages; however, the infection is most serious in young babies as they are not fully protected by vaccination. Young babies can become seriously ill which can lead to death.

Ways to protect yourself and children from whooping cough:

Vaccinate babies on time, babies have best protection from whooping cough after they have had their two, four and six month immunizations.

Keep baby away from anyone with a cough.

Ensure other children in the household are up-to-date with whooping cough vaccines. Vaccination is recommended for babies at two, four and six months of age, a booster dose at four years of age and a second booster for Year 10 students as part of the School Based Vaccination Program.

Make sure parents, and anyone who cares for children (such as grandparents and childcare providers), have had a booster vaccination for whooping cough.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent whooping cough. Protection from whooping cough is not life-long and hence adults require a booster dose to maintain protection. To protect babies, all new parents should receive pertussis vaccine as soon as possible after their baby is born. Current data show an adult booster dose of whooping cough vaccine will provide protection for at least 10 years.

Signs and symptoms of whooping cough:

- Runny nose and sneezing early in the illness
- An irritable dry cough that gets worse
- Coughing spasms that can end with a gasp (a whooping sound)
- Vomiting after a coughing spasm
- Older children and adults may just have a cough that won’t go away.

Please see your doctor if you have any of the symptoms or require more information on vaccination. Advice can also be given by calling the Queensland health help line on 13HEALTH (13432584)

Melany Sommerville
School Nurse

National Youth Science Forum

Applications for the 2012 National Youth Science Forum are now open!

Students can register to attend one of three 12-day sessions held in Canberra and Perth each January.

Successful applicants will visit leading laboratories and participate in cutting edge science. They will speak to researchers and engineers, and learn about career paths through university and beyond.

All year 11 students with an interest in science, engineering and technology are encouraged to apply online at www.nysf.edu.au/applying

Applications close May 31st 2011