25 November 2011

From the Principal

Congratulations to our graduating Year 12 students who finished their schooling with a wonderful week last week. The students had an outstanding Formal and Mystery Tour and the week was capped off by a very well attended and emotional Graduation Parade. It was great to see so many families and friends come along to wish our students all the best as they now move into the next phase of their lives. As I said on the morning, Bundamba State Secondary College will always form a big part of their lives and we are eager to keep that link with our students and provide whatever help we may be able to supply in the years to come.

We were also heavily involved in the Celebrate Pacifica day last Saturday, with students performing, running stalls and collecting donations for the family affected by the fire at Slacks Creek. Thank you to Reg, Jackie, Mrs Moffatt and her family and all of the students and teachers who made it along to the day. It was a great way to once again highlight our import role within the community and another opportunity to show the wider community what a great job we do.

Last week the school also had a Teaching and Learning Audit. The Audits are conducted by Education Queensland in an effort to help guide future improvement. Each school in Queensland has undergone an Audit and we have now completed our second within an 18 month period. This is because of my appointment to Bundamba State Secondary College with one of the rules around Audits being that schools with a new principal undergo an Audit in that year. The Audit was conducted over two days, by two experienced school principals and I am pleased to say that I feel they were able to get a clear understanding of our school and where we are headed. Most pleasing was the fact that the school has improved in all of the eight domains assessed and moved to the next level in four of those areas. The feedback from the Auditors was also very pleasing with the discussions with staff, students and parents helping to provide a clear picture of our school. The results of our last two Audits are below:

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<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An explicit improvement agenda</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis and discussion of data</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A culture that promotes learning</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Targeted use of school resources</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An expert teaching team</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systematic curriculum delivery</td>
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We hope our Yr 10 and 11 students enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday, with today being their last day for the year. A number of students have already collected their laptops for use over the holidays after paying their school fees in full. I would once again like to remind people that we are the only school I am aware of that does not add an additional fee for a take home laptop program and we are working with a number of families to help ensure all of our senior students in 2012 have a laptop for use at home and at school to help with their success over the senior phase. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at school and we will have a fourth parent information session early in the new year.

During the Christmas holidays this year I will be taking a group of seven other teachers on a Study Tour to schools in the Los Angeles area. The staff are paying for their own airfares on the trip which departs on the first day of the Christmas break and we will visit a wide variety of schools in an effort to explore a wide variety of school settings to see what we may be able to do to further enhance our school.

With the year nearing an end, student reports will be posted in the coming weeks. This year we have trialled an increase in the number of reports, with parents receiving four reports for the year instead of the normal three. We have however removed the comments from reports after feedback regarding the value of the comments. Each report has a mark for Achievement, Effort and Behaviour, with most comments only providing another way of saying the same thing. During the year we are encouraging parents and teachers to ensure good communication means that the reports are not a surprise to either students or parents. Our Yr 11 and 12 students are also receiving achievement results which reflect their position through the senior phase of learning. This is how they are assessed at the end of year twelve and it was decided that this provides a more explicit picture of how our students are progressing towards their final outcome. If you have any concerns or feedback around our new process please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for a great year during 2011. I have enjoyed returning after an absence of four and a half years and it is pleasing to see students and staff working so hard for the future of our school. I’m looking forward to future improvement in 2012 and have no doubt that we are heading in the right direction. Enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday and a reminder that all students will start on the first day of next year, Monday 23rd of January.

Andrew Peach
Principal

This Newsletter is provided to Bundamba Secondary College with the great support of the local business community.

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From the Deputy Principal –
Senior School

As this is the last Middle School report for 2011, I would like to thank the fine staff here at Bundamba State Secondary College for the significant amount of work which goes into the planning and delivery of our curriculum. This is a very busy time of year for all of our staff and students as they put the finishing touches on the year. Students are sitting their final exams and our staff are going through student portfolios and finalising reports. Reporting is a very time consuming process, but it is one which our staff take very seriously. The last reports for 2011 will be mailed out to parents / carers on Thursday 8th December. The reports provide evidence of your child’s achievements over the last semester in both their core subjects of English, Maths, Science, SOSE and HPE, as well as their individual electives. Along with the reports we will be mailing out stationery lists for 2012. The stationery list is available on our school website www.bundambassc.eq.edu.au.

On a personal note I would like to thank the students, staff and parents for the ongoing cooperation throughout 2011 and I wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas.

Ian Sevens
Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal –
Middle School

As this is the last Middle School report for 2011, I would like to thank the fine staff here at Bundamba State Secondary College for the significant amount of work which goes into the planning and delivery of our curriculum. This is a very busy time of year for all of our staff and students as they put the finishing touches on the year. Students are sitting their final exams and our staff are going through student portfolios and finalising reports. Reporting is a very time consuming process, but it is one which our staff take very seriously. The last reports for 2011 will be mailed out to parents / carers on Thursday 8th December. The reports provide evidence of your child’s achievements over the last semester in both their core subjects of English, Maths, Science, SOSE and HPE, as well as their individual electives. Along with the reports we will be mailing out stationery lists for 2012. The stationery list is available on our school website www.bundambassc.eq.edu.au.

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Ian Sevens
Deputy Principal

Student Support Service Update
Wow –What a Great Year

In 2011 the newly developed Student Support Services team has taken head-on the responsibility to support our students through any challenges that they may have faced this year. The team has continued a commitment to a whole school approach to implementing specialised support services to students and the school community while ensuring students wellbeing, participation and education outcomes are the focus of intervention.

I want to thank the many staff who make up this valuable team for their hard work and dedication to assist students engage and achieve at school and in the wider community: - Learning Engagement Officer, Community Education Counsellor- Community Liaison (Attendance), Community Education Counsellor- Indigenous, English as Second Language Teacher, Head of Curriculum, Polynesian Liaison Officer, School Chaplain, Special Education Coordinator, a team of Special Education and Learning Support Teachers and a wonderful band of Teacher Aides.

BSSC has cemented extensive links with parents, government and community organisations. These organisations have provided our students and their families with wonderful support networks that assist them achieve their social, emotional, academic and career goals. Special thanks to these and many other organisations that have supported our school community this year - Boystown, Ipswich City Youth Services, ARTIE/Former Origin Greats, Broncos, Ipswich City Council, Queensland Rail, QMEA, Pass Australia, Ipswich Pace Coordinator, Indigenous Elders, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation, Swifts, Queensland Health, Queensland Police are just a few of the many organisations that have assisted us throughout the year to support our college community.

The Student Support Services team wishes all our families and community networks a safe and wonderful break we look forward to supporting our students and the wider community and experiencing yet another wonderful year in 2012.

Josette Moffatt
HOSES

National School Chaplaincy and Students Welfare Program

BSSC is currently writing an application for funding under the National School Chaplaincy and Students Welfare Program for a Chaplain for the next 3 years.

This application was tabled at the P&C meeting held on 22 November 2011. Any input into this decision making process is welcomed by our school community.

Please contact Andrew Peach (Principal) or Josette Moffatt (Head of Student Support Services) if you wish to make any comments regarding this application.

An information brochure on school Chaplaincy is available at the Student Services in Lower K Block.