14 October 2011

From the Principal

We’ve had another busy and productive start to the term with a number of great events at the school. On Tuesday night our Senior Student Showcase evening was a highly entertaining collection of drama, dance, media, music and visual arts. The work of our students and staff within the Arts Department was demonstrated in the best possible way and all involved are to be congratulated for the fine outcome of their hard work. It is great to see our wonderful facilities being utilised by our school community in such a way and I’ve no doubt the students, staff and family members who came along had a great evening.

Our Annual Sports Awards Evening was held on Wednesday night with the event also demonstrating the outstanding achievements of our students. Mr Steve Nance, former trainer of the Brisbane Broncos was the guest speaker, and the students certainly benefited from his words of wisdom and high level of knowledge at the elite sporting level. Thank you to the parents who came along for the night and also to our hard working and dedicated staff who did such a great job supporting teams through the year and organising the evening on Wednesday.

Our School Awards Night is on this Tuesday the 18th of October. Our guest speaker is Dr Regan Neumann, School Captain from 1980. This year we are starting a tradition where the guest speaker is a former student and we look forward to the insight from Regan around his experiences as a Bundamba student and the impact that has had on his success. Our Awards Nights are always a highlight of the year and give us the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students with the full school community and I would encourage all parents to come along on Tuesday for a wonderful night of entertainment.

This week has also seen eight of our Yr 11 students enter the process for selection of the 2012 School Captaincy. After a suggestion from this year’s school captain, Holly Wilson, our current captains are part of the interview and selection panel. Students have presented speeches to our staff as part of Monday’s staff meeting and to the senior cohort of student’s at Tuesday’s assembly. Staff and students have subsequently cast their votes and the final announcement of our 2012 Captains will be made at next week’s Awards Night after the completion of the interview process. It has been pleasing to see the high quality of speeches and responses at the interviews held so far and no doubt the student leadership at Bundamba State Secondary College is in safe hands for 2012.

Congratulations to Holly Wilson who was awarded the Learn, Earn, Legend National Award over the school holidays. Holly is a great role model for our students and travelled to Sydney to be part of the One Community Awards Ceremony with her mother where the announcement was made. The Award prize is a $5000 Bursary to support Holly at university. Well done Holly.

In the last week of last term we held our Yr 11 Leadership Camp and Geography and Biology camps. I was able to get to the spend a couple of hours with our students on the Leadership Camp and could not have been more proud of their efforts. Mrs Pryor-Ball and Mr Jennings did a great job as the staff on the camp, and they emphasised the outstanding work ethic and collaboration of the students involved. I know the staff involved in the Geography and Biology Camps were similarly impressed with the efforts of the students there also (some of whom had attended the Leadership Camp also). It is another great example of the positive work our students are doing, thank you and well done to all involved.

Before the holidays we received this year’s Naplan results. The positive improvement from the school has since been recognised in a number of forums (including The Courier Mail), but once again congratulations should be shared between the students involved and the staff who supported them. The school does have a heavy focus on Literacy and Numeracy, particularly in the Middle Years, and this is well supported through our involvement with the National Partnerships Program. The additional funding we received as part of this program has enabled us to put a number of programs in place that have no doubt had an impact on our results and has also enabled us to work hard to improve our staff capacity to deliver high quality education. Student’s in Year 9 should have received their individual results in the mail by this time and I would encourage any families yet to do so to contact the school.

Monday is a Student Free Day next week and a reminder that the Queensland Government has a proposal regarding Student Free Days in 2012 out at the moment. You are able to see more information on the proposed changes to the Easter Holiday period and Student Free Days at the following website:


Regards,
Andrew Peach
Principal
From the Deputy Principal – Middle School

Congratulations

I would like to congratulate the Year 9 Students who have achieved outstanding results in the latest NAPLAN tests. We were featured in the ‘Courier Mail’ on the 9 September 2011 as one of the most improved schools in the state. I would like to thank our Head of Middle Schooling and Head of Curriculum Mrs. Kathryn Ona and Mrs. Kerry Barker who have put in a lot of time and effort in helping to prepare our students for the test as well as the organisation and running of the test itself.

I would also like to thank our teachers, HODs and parents who have supported all of our students to achieve such commendable results in this year’s Year 9 NAPLAN test. It is with this strong commitment from all parties that we are able to achieve results that are truly reflecting the outstanding work being done every day.

Our Middle School is performing very well in our positive behaviour rewards program and are displaying a positive attitude at school with our expectations of Respect, Responsibility, Pride and Empowerment. Well done to all those students who have been a positive role model in their classes.

This is the last term of the year and therefore the final chance for students to make a positive impact on their end of year results. I ask that you keep up the fantastic efforts being shown in the classroom and ask that parents support their children in their endeavours to have success here at BSSC.

Date Reminder: On Monday 17 October (Student Free Day) we are holding our Year 9 Enrolments. We ask that parents book an interview time with the school on (07) 3816 6333. Our staff will be able to inform you of what to bring on the day.

Mr. Ian Sevens
Deputy Principal

From the Deputy Principal – Senior School

YEAR 12

This term is especially hectic for our Year 12 students as they complete the final weeks of their secondary schooling. In addition to their study and exams there are a number of functions to mark this important phase of their lives. The first of these is the school formal to be held on Wednesday 16 November followed by the Mystery Tour ($55) going into the early hours of Thursday morning. Students and parents should have already received information about these events – it has certainly been a ‘hot’ topic of conversation amongst our senior students.

A reminder for all parents and students that in order to attend the formal, students must have no outstanding accounts for payment with the school. The pre-formal will occur at the Formal venue – Woodlands, Marburg, with parents of Year 12 students invited to attend. I am sure we can all look forward to an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

YEAR 10

It has been a great effort by our SET Plan team to get the majority of our Year 10 SET Plans completed in preparation for 2012. An important part of the SET Plan process is the subject selection and now that we have this information we will be taking a second look at the data to ensure that our students have the best start to their senior pathway. In general, this means that over the coming weeks, our Senior Admin team will continue to have conversations with students and parents about fine tuning students pathway and subject choices. I would ask also if any students or parents that have any concerns regarding their SET Plan decisions to please contact the school to discuss them in further detail.

FINAL EXAM BLOCKS DATES– Year 12 & 11

Year 12 Exam Block – 7th November to 11th November
Year 11 Exam Block – 18th November, 21st to 24th November

The exam block timetable will be provided to the students but will also be available to be viewed on the College website. During the exam blocks Yr 11/12 students will either be at school sitting an exam, studying in the library waiting for an exam or at home studying. Students are required to be in full uniform as per normal school expectations.

STUDENT MOTOR VEHICLE POLICY

Bundamba State Secondary College has structured guidelines for students to follow when wishing to drive and/or park private motor vehicles at school. These guidelines are to enable students to be responsible for others safety as well as their own. Students are permitted to drive a motor vehicle to and from school subject to the authorisation of their parent/guardian and the School Principal. Parents authorising usage of a motor vehicle, subject to the school’s conditions, accept full responsibility for such motor vehicle usage by their children whilst students of the College.

Students that are wishing to apply for these permissions are required to fill in an ‘Application For A Motor Vehicle Usage (Student)’ Form which can be accessed through our Senior Coordinator Mr Cassidy or on our School website.

UNIFORM

Bundamba State Secondary College is a “uniform” school. Currently the school is undertaking a review of the uniform policy in preparation for 2012.

The uniform is to be worn in its complete form at school and when travelling to and from school. The Parents & Citizens’ Association of Bundamba State Secondary College supports a Student Code of Dress (uniform) for Bundamba State Secondary College because it believes that a Student Code of Dress promotes the objectives of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006. In particular, the parents & Citizens’ Association supports the intention of a Student Code of Dress to:

• promote self pride and pride in our college
• assist in our responsibility to keep each other safe through easy identification
• encourage respect by reducing the potential for harassment or bullying
• empower students by fostering a group identity

Our Student Code of Dress consists of an agreed standard of items of clothing, which are defined as a school uniform that our students wear when:

• attending or representing Bundamba State Secondary College;
• travelling to and from school; and
• engaging in school activities out of school hours.

Students not in the full and correct school uniform on any given day must:

• supply a written note to be given to their PC teacher from a parent/carer outlining a valid reason and detailing when the correct uniform will be obtained. THIS IS EACH STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY.

At Bundamba State Secondary College we impose sanctions on a once-only basis per episode of non-compliance. Our sanctions
are reflective of the severity and recentness of the non-compliance.

Correct Footwear
Parents/Carers and students are reminded that appropriate shoes are part of the Student Code of Dress. Workplace Health and Safety regulations apply to certain areas of the school.

Examples Of Acceptable Shoes
- black leather
- black vinyl

It is impossible to develop a code to meet everyone’s individual requirements, styles or needs. Our school’s dress code promotes the good image of the school within the community, and encourages students to uphold and enhance that image, as well as meeting community expectations and health and safety standards. A neat, complete uniform and tidy appearance shows pride in self and school. It projects a positive image to employers and the community.

The BSSC Team and the P&C Association are asking that parents and caregivers support the school by ensuring that their students are provided with and sent to school in the correct school uniform.

TRACKING OF OUR SENIOR STUDENTS
The senior years of schooling are two of the most important years for our students. They are the springboard years for our students into the next phase of their lives whether that be entering the workforce, undertaking tertiary or TAFE studies or engaging in an apprenticeship. With this mind we have implemented a ‘Tracking’ system. The system consists of students being tracked by a member of our Management team throughout their senior school years. At identified intervals throughout the years students will be involved in interviews with their mentors who will discuss their progress, allow for goal setting and support any of the students other needs. The hope is through this tracking we will be able to further ensure students reaching their potential and improving their individual senior outcomes.

EMAIL ADVICE FOR STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL AT THE END OF TERM 4
At the end of Term 4, all school-provided email accounts will close for Year 12 students and other students who are leaving the state school system. Please ensure your child is aware that their school-provided email account will not work beyond the end of the school year and that they should ensure that they provide a personal email address to prospective employers or educational institutions.

This is especially important for students enrolling in further education or training using the QTAC, TAFE or other online system.

Emails will bounce if sent to a student’s school-provided account after the end of term and students may miss out on confirming their enrolment into their chosen course of study.

Leah Fountaine
Deputy Principal

Student Support Services - Supporting Students to Engage in School

What a great start to Term 4.

QATSIF Scholarships

The term has started with wonderful news that 17 Year 11 and 12 Indigenous students have been successful in gaining scholarships from Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation for 2012 and 2013. Further information will be provided to families as soon as information comes to hand.

Motivation Sessions with Mick De Vere

Tuesday 11 October was the final motivational session with Mick De Vere former Broncos and member of the Learn Earn Legend Team. Mick has been meeting with our Year 12 Indigenous cohort over the last 6 months. He has focused on motivating them to identify and set goals for themselves as a way of motivating them to achieve their future pathways. Students finished off the last session learning life is full of opportunities like a smorgasbord and you need to step forward to taste all it can give you. As a final farewell the students presented Mick with a gift from the school and a resounding thankyou.

Pacifica Culture

At the end of Term 4 a team from Student Support Services attended a Pacifica Culture workshop to increase our knowledge and understanding of the Pacifica community. The workshop provided staff with the opportunity to experience some aspects of the Pacific Islander culture and discuss needs of Pacifica students within our community. Many networks with community organisations that assist Pacifica students within the community were forged and this information is now being passed onto staff to assist them in supporting the outcomes of our Pacifica students.

Attendance News

The Attendance team has been very busy following up on students who are absent from school without an explanation, are late to school, or miss classes. Remember every day counts and every minute of every day assists students to engage in class and meet expected outcomes which is essential for them to reach their goals.

A reminder to parent/guardians and students that Pastoral Care commences at 8:55am. Pastoral Care is a compulsory component of the school day the first roll is taken and valuable information to student with regard to changes in the school day (classroom, teacher etc.) and information on whole school and extra-curricular events is provided. Thankyou to parents who contact the school first thing in the morning when their child is away sick as this provides us with valuable up to date information.

Leaving the School Grounds

A reminder to students that you cannot leave the school grounds throughout the day without a signed letter from your parent/guardian which you take to the Middle or Senior School Deputy for signing first thing in the morning, then to the Student Service Office (Lower Admin) for a pass out when leaving.

Homework Centre

A reminder that the Homework Centre operates out of the library on Tuesday and Thursday 3:00pm – 4:00pm. Please encourage your child to attend to gain assistance to complete homework and assignment tasks.

Josette Moffatt
Head of Student Support Services
Message from nurse, Melany

How much physical activity you should be doing?

In the past it was thought that for exercise to be beneficial, it had to be carried out vigorously 3-4 days a week for a minimum of 30 minutes. Medical experts recommend that for health benefit adults and children aim to do at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most days a week.

This can be broken up into periods of 10 minutes though out the day. Moderate intensity activities include things such as walking, swimming, gardening, and bike riding. These activities increase your heart rate, but don’t make you puff.

Children also need to participate in additional regular vigorous activity for healthy growth and development.

Tips to help make physical activity a regular part of your family life

- think of times that suit your family to be active
- make small changes to your daily routine
- find an activity that your child will enjoy
- start with short term goals. Make them realistic, ones you know you will stick to.

Community Notices

Does your child suffer asthma or eczema?

Every day thousands of Australian children suffer the effects of asthma and eczema, and families struggle with illness management and children’s behavioural and emotional adjustment.

Positive Parenting for Healthy Living is an adaptation of the successful Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, offering practical ideas and support for parents of children suffering asthma or eczema. This innovative group program is designed to help parents manage their child’s illness, assist children in coping with their illness and emotions, and prevent and manage difficult child behaviour.

Over the next few months and for a limited time only, parents of 3-10 year old children suffering asthma or eczema are able to access Positive Parenting for Healthy Living Triple P free of charge as part of a University of Queensland research project. Contact Amy Mitchell on (07) 3365 7305 or email healthyliving@uq.edu.au, or visit www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/healthyliving for more information.