25 October 2013

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Schools are such busy places in 2013 with so many competing demands; the least of which is our curriculum and what students are learning in the classrooms. Since our last newsletter, we have had students participating in Opti-MINDS, a National Chemical Analysis Competition, our Arts students have performed in an Alice in Wonderland performance and all of this has happened in the first three weeks of this term. Further details of these activities can be read about in this newsletter.

Enormous thanks are extended to our teachers who give so much by supporting our children in what is usually out of school time events. Caloundra State High School has a tradition of providing a range of extra-curricular activities to our students, but in the age of accountability, the school is required to provide to our community the rationalisation of all activities undertaken to demonstrate how these activities meet course requirements or how they enrich the education of our children. We are serious about ensuring that everything we do enhances the learning of our students without impacting on the learning of others and this justification of activities outside of the classroom will enhance and support our student learning.

Thank you to our parents and students for recognising the value of school attendance, I am very pleased to be able to report that our attendance data has improved since this time last year. Common sense tells us, if a student attends, then a student learns. If a student is learning then a student is achieving. If a student is achieving then a student has a greater opportunity to undertake the pathway of their choosing when they leave school.

We will be holding our Presentation Night ceremony, next week on Tuesday, October 29. This year there will only be one ceremony for both the Senior and Junior sectors of our school. As well, we have introduced individual subject awards for students who achieve the highest result in each subject, as we feel it is very important to recognise and celebrate as many achievements of our students as we can.

Our community have shown their support for our school through the sponsoring of awards and we thank our sponsors for providing the bursaries for our awardees.

Our 2014 timetable is being constructed and students have indicated their subject preferences for next year. Caloundra High prides itself on its broad subject offering and with the introduction of new certificate level courses for our senior students; we have expanded the opportunities for our students to undertake viable future employment pathways. For a subject though to be offered we require a minimum number of students to select the course for it to be viable. For unviable subjects, the school has a range of options including studying through the School of Distance Education for students wishing to study the course.

This week the leadership team undertook a Planning Day to determine where the school is at and to plan for our future direction. In 2014, the school will undertake a quadrennial review of practices and programs and gather feedback from the school community on the future direction of the school in order for the school to compile a four year strategic plan. We will be looking to our school community for input and participation on our committees as we go through this process.

The upgrading and the enhancing of school facilities is continuing with the refurbishment of H block staffroom and the provision of new classroom furniture for J block and our Flexible Learning Centre which happened over the September holidays. Funding for these projects is coming from the Getting Ready for Secondary School state budget in preparation for the Year 7 students’ enrolment in 2015.

Our Year 12 students are very busy counting the days down until they finish school with only three weeks of school remaining. Exams start next week for Year 12, followed by their graduation ceremony and formal. The last official school day for Year 12 is Friday, November 15 which is part of our exam block and scheduled for every student in Year 12 who requires assessment catch up time. We wish all of our departing Year 12 students the very best of luck in their future endeavours and life journey.
Thank you for your continued support of the school and I look forward to being able to congratulate your child on their achievements at Presentation night next week.

Today is World Teachers Day and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Caloundra High teaching staff for their dedication and commitment. “Teaching is like planting seeds. Often we don’t see the results of our work for years”.

Ms Julie Pozzoli
Principal

Diary Date Claimers

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Little Athletics

Congratulations to Logan B. who has been selected for the 2014 Little Athletics Queensland New Zealand Development Tour in the Under 14 age group for events in 100 metres, long jump and triple jump. He will spend 9 days travelling and competing throughout the South Island of New Zealand from January 18 to 26.

Good luck Logan.

Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre

Caloundra High students have been achieving extremely well in their courses at the Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre with three of our students receiving awards.

HIA – SCTTTC Student of the Year 2013 - Rhyse C.
CHEMISTRY WHIZZES

Earlier in the year, four teams of our Year 11 and 12 students competed in the “National Chemical Analysis Competition” held at the University of the Sunshine Coast. They performed exceptionally well, taking out First, Second and Fourth positions.

On Saturday, October 19 the top two teams travelled to the University of Queensland to compete at the national level. Again, we were outstanding, and gained First and Third at the event. Now there is the tense wait to hear how our scores compare to the other states.

Congratulations go to Sarah M., Tamara E. and Kayleigh K. taking First, and Billie B., Jenny M. and Chloe W. – Third position. The students put in many hours of practice to gain this expertise – and all six received an individual gold medal.

QATSIF SCHOLARSHIP

We were recently informed that our application for Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) scholarships for three of our Indigenous Senior students, Jake (Year 10), Jess and Topaz (Year 11) was successful. The scholarships will greatly assist these students and their families as they complete their schooling at Caloundra High. This is an excellent outcome for these students and our school, and will further encourage all of our Indigenous students to reach their potential and successfully complete their QCE.

To be eligible for this scholarship, we had to demonstrate how as a school we support and promote the education and development of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Our application was endorsed by local elder, Aunty Betty, and letters of support were provided by Ms Jenny Cronin, Reconciliation Group secretary and Mr Jordan Dwyer, AIME Sunshine Coast Program Manager. We thank them for their ongoing support.

QATSIF’s initial funding was provided from interest earned from both the Queensland Government’s former Aborigines’ Welfare Fund and the Queensland Government’s Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparation Scheme and is now also assisted through philanthropic support.

Further information about QATSIF is available on their website: www.qatsif.org.au

WELLBEING TIPS FOR PARENT INFORMATION SESSION -

**Topics:** “Wellbeing: what is it and how can you assist your child in achieving a balanced life?”

**Presenters:**
- Di Alexander (School-based Youth Health Nurse)
- Louise Bowden (Reconnect, Integrated Family and Youth Services)
- Greg Setchell (CYMHS psychologist) and
- Maureen Brook (HOD Teaching and Learning)

**Who:** All interested parents/carers

**When:** Monday 4 November

**Time:** 4.30pm to 5.30pm

**Where:** Caloundra SHS’s Resource Centre

**RSVP:** Mrs Maureen Brook on 5436 8439 or email: mbroo44@eq.edu.au

Mrs Maureen Brook
Head of Department, Teaching and Learning
ALICE IN WONDERLAND

“Mustard, Now don’t be silly! Lemon that’s different, that’s yes!” Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18 over forty PEP students across junior and senior, performed “Alice in Wonderland”. The show was a great success and all students involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves. During intermission an amazing tea party was served by Ms Marlene Manning (Hospitality Teacher) and her hospitality students, while the cast continued interacting with the audience.

A huge thank you to all involved and to those who came and supported the show.

Miss Natasha Williment
Teacher

HOSPITALITY STUDENT’S PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

Our Certificate II Hospitality students have been busy over recent weeks. Year 12 students have completed work placements in a variety of Hospitality establishments working towards completing the competency Apply Hospitality Skills in the workplace. They also recently completed a pizza, salad and pavlova lunch service in the Karma Café.

Year 11 Hospitality students have enjoyed preparing and serving a delicious range of “tea party” foods and beverages for Alice in Wonderland patrons at the recent performances.

Ms Marlene Manning
Teacher

FINANCE NEWS

Please note that the Finance office will be closed as of December 6. This means that all payments due need to be paid to the Finance office before this date.

Should you have any queries with your account, please contact the Finance office on 5436 8454 or email: accounts@caloundrashs.eq.edu.au

BACK TO SCHOOL STATIONERY PACKS FOR 2014

Impact Office Supplies has been selected as our preferred supplier for parents to order their child’s Back to School packs for the 2014 School year.

Impact Office Supplies is a locally owned business which specialises in this field and we’ve negotiated reduced pricing on all items. Impact will deliver to either your home or work address in time for the start of school next year well in time for the New Year.

Ordering is simple, fast and completed online and will be accessible from the November 11, by visiting www.impactofficesupplies.com.au and clicking the “Back to School Packs” button. Simply enter the password ‘ARDNUOLAC’ and choose the specific year level you need for 2014 on the drop down list. The full Back to School list for that year level will then appear, all you need to do then is enter your delivery address, the stationery amount you want for each item and you’re done. Payment is due at the time of ordering via Credit Card.

It is encouraged that parents/carers place their orders online as soon as possible to ensure delivery prior to the new school year.

Click on the relevant year level stationery list below:
Or visit https://caloundrashs.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Pages/ Curriculum.aspx after November 11.

ADVANCED LEARNERS

Opti-MINDS State Finals

Recently over one weekend, two of our Opti-MINDS Creatively Sustainability Challenge teams competed in the State Finals forum at the St Lucia Campus of the University of Queensland in Brisbane. Our students performed admirably against other regions and states, and demonstrated their commitment to Caloundra’s image in the wider community through maintaining a high standard of behaviour and maturity at all times. While our teams did not receive places, we are very proud of the diligence and the high standard of performance that they have shown throughout this process.

On behalf of the opti-MIND students and staff at Caloundra High, I would like to give a grand thank you to the support and generosity to the parents involved.
Term 4 Planning for Advanced Learners

Advanced Learners for Term 4 will undertake an environmental study of Caloundra State High School that will focus specifically on making Caloundra High a sustainable school that encourages environmental activities. Projects undertaken and conducted will benefit community members and the surrounding environment. The Sunshine Coast Council, Planet Ark plus various local organisations and businesses will assist students in their endeavours to make the school an increasingly sustainable environment. Students will participate in various activities throughout Term 4 including waste audits, recycling stations and community organisation visits.

It is planned that these activities will continue to be developed and will carry on into 2014 and beyond.

Any student interested in becoming a member of the Caloundra High Environmental Team is encouraged to attend sessions in the Resource Centre during Period 0 on a Tuesday and/or Thursday.

Mrs Kim George
STLaN Teacher

BAT PROGRAM

Another successful BAT program was completed during Term 3 and students celebrated at a Graduation ceremony, first week back this term. The program saw groups go through a 9 week program with the final week being a camp that has shrunk to two nights. Even with a shorter format, we are still achieving significant growth.

The camp was fantastic. The group of Year 8s was possibly the best behaved thus far. It makes a really positive difference to the outcomes of all the boys when the group is mixed up with both behavioural based aims and students that require a boost in self-confidence. Many great discussions were had and new limits set with a very physical three days.

Day 1 was an 18 kilometre paddle with fully loaded canoes, beginning with a headwind and waves across Lake Catharabah. Day 2 was very hot and dry which was just perfect for our 20 kilometre walk on sand – up to and around the Cooloola Sand patch (3 litres of water each was barely enough!). Day 3 was the pack up and return journey, done efficiently and with enough time to have a rewarding lunch and be off home at 3.00pm.

The students should be congratulated on a job well done and thanks to Chappy for his assistance.

Mr Andrew Mahony
Teacher

JUNIOR SECONDARY NEWS

iACHIEVE

Last week our Year 8 and 9 iACHIEVE students completed interviews with their mentors to review academic results and to set targets for the end of semester reporting period. Students have a mentor who is their Line Manager, and they will meet with their mentor throughout the term to review their progress. Parents can assist their students by discussing study strategies, reading drafts and providing feedback, looking at the assessment planner to be aware of current work and deadlines.

All iACHIEVE students have completed a Reflection and Goal Setting plan and we ask parents to review and discuss this with their student. We are very proud of our iACHIEVE students and wish them every success for Term 4.

Flying Start – Year 7 into High School

Caloundra High is currently preparing for the arrival of Year 7 students into high school in 2015. As part of this process, we will be visiting our local feeder schools and meeting with parents to inform them about Caloundra High. As existing parents, if you are talking with primary parents, please tell them about our school.

8 Horizons

Our Year 8 Horizons academically talented class is achieving great success this year under the guidance of their teachers. Students are enjoying using their laptops and being challenged to explore new ideas and ways to learn and process information. I congratulate the class on their great work and application to their studies.

Junior Sport

The junior sporting competition is now underway on Wednesday afternoon and our teams are doing well. Sports being played are Year 8 and 9 – Basketball, Tennis, Boys Touch, Big Bash Cricket, Girls AFL and Year 9 Oz Tag. Best of luck to all teams.

Students not playing in the interschool competition are engaged in Learning Skills lessons which offer a range of alternative educational or sporting activities.
Presentation Night

This year we have a combined whole school Presentation Night on Tuesday, October 29 commencing at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start at the The Events Centre, Caloundra. We look forward to seeing our parent community at this very special event.

Ms Denise Miller
Deputy Principal – Junior Secondary

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MENTORING EXPERIENCE (AIME) PROGRAM

A number of our Indigenous students attended the final AIME Day for this year. Students had the opportunity to listen to a number of guest speakers and to ask them questions about their experiences, ideas and for advice. Toby Adams, a Program Co-ordinator with the Stronger Smarter Institute, explained that his role models when growing up taught him to ‘be deadly, stand up and be proud’ and encouraged the students to ‘chase your dream, have a go even if you have a few hurdles along the way’. Olympian boxer, Brad Hore spoke about his role with the Institute of Urban and Indigenous Health and told the audience that he learnt to ‘respect your elders’ when growing up and dealt with any negatives by achieving and proving them wrong. Blain, a proud Gubbi Gubbi man who is an educator with Sunshine Coast TAFE encouraged participants ‘to learn who you are and about your culture and aspire to be what you want to be’. Karen, from United Care Community, and Vinnie, a current University of the Sunshine Coast student, also shared their experiences and encouraged students to successfully complete school and to do what is needed to succeed.

All students were then congratulated and presented with certificates recognising their commitment to the AIME program. Year 12 students and school staff were surprised to be presented with AIME ‘hoodies’. TJ was recognised for reaching the top 100 in the recent ‘The Other Election’ and was one of two students asked to share their experiences as part of the AIME program. TJ encouraged all those present to make the most of their opportunities, to set and achieve goals and to be proud role models.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

For this month’s tips, I am sharing Bruce Sullivan’s ‘Parenting Pearls’:

1. If It’s Not Fun... Make It Fun! Humour is a great way to help everyone in your family decrease their stress, increase their mental and physical health and make your “home” a desirable place to live.

2. Practice Gratefulness... NOT Cynicism! Gratefulness opens up our hearts, minds and possibilities whilst cynicism shuts down our minds and closes doors for us and our children. Practicing gratefulness can be awesome fun too!

3. Good Intentions Are NOT Enough! Children learn what they live by the example we set every day. Be not afraid that our children won’t always listen to our attempts at teaching… be more afraid that they are watching and listening to EVERYTHING we say and do!

4. Be Willing To Change YOU and not them! If we are not getting the outcome we want then it’s up to us to change the way we are parenting. Demonstrating behavioural flexibility takes effort on our part but we know that are children are worth it!

5. Teach Resilience NOT Helplessness! Great families have useful language and frameworks to explain the ups and downs of life so everything can eventually be viewed as a positive!

For more information about Bruce Sullivan visit his website: brucesullivan.com.au

Mrs Maureen Brook
Head of Department, Teaching and Learning

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

On Tuesday, October 15 our International Students joined the Year 10 Geography class on an excursion to Noosa.

They travelled by bus to the Noosa Lagoon Lookout, then down to the famous Hastings Street, where the students managed to take some wonderful photos before eating their lunch in the shady trees overlooking Noosa Beach.

After lunch, they walked around the beautiful scenic boardwalk to the Noosa National Park.

The students enjoyed mixing with some of the Aussie students and also were very grateful for the opportunity to go on this excursion.
International Students also ventured on an excursion to Dreamworld. The clear blue sky and warm temperatures were welcomed by all, considering the rain and thunderstorms that were around in that week.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their theme park day out and also having fun next door at White Water World on the water slides and dipping in the wave pool to cool off!

A great day had by all!

Mrs Helen Wormald
International Student Homestay Co-ordinator

P&C NEWS

P&C Committee Meetings

“It takes a village to raise a child”.

Parents and caregivers are most welcome to attend our meetings and to become members. At the meetings, you will gain an understanding of how the P&C is helping to make the school a better environment for your student.

Proposed meetings for the remainder of 2013 are 11 November and a dinner meeting to close the year on 9 December. Meetings commence at 7.00pm in the Conference Room of the Administration block (Queen Street) and finish no later than 8:30pm.

P&C Awards

It is with great pleasure to announce the P&C Staff Award for September was presented to Mrs Leanne Toohey. Leanne is a Business Teacher at Caloundra High and has assisted many of our students to excel in Business Studies and also the Vocational Education qualification, Certificate II in Business.

The P&C Staff Award for October has also been awarded to Mr Murray Finch. The award was presented to Murray for his outstanding commitment to our Year 10 students as the Year 10 Coordinator and also for his teaching expertise over many years.

Uniform Shop Hours

We would like to advise to parents that the uniform shops opening hours are from 8.30am to 10.00am Monday to Friday until the end of Term. As of 2014 the new operating hours will be from 8.30am to 10.00am every school day, but closed Wednesday.

Sale - TI-84 PLUS Graphics Calculator – the price of this calculator has been reduced from $200.00 to $165.00. This is a bargain, so get in fast before stocks run out. This calculator is required for students studying Maths B and C.

Mrs Lesley Porter
P&C President

MEGT – SCHOOL-BASED TRAINEESHIP/APPRENTICESHIP

Your son or daughter may be able to get a head start on a career even while they are school.

A school-based traineeship or apprenticeship could not only provide them with formal entry-level qualifications, the workplace experience could also help them confirm it is the right career. They would be paid for their work, gain (or work towards) a nationally recognised qualification as well as complete their secondary schooling and provide them with valuable workplace experience for their resume.

Employers of School Based Australian Apprentices may also be eligible for up to $9,750 when they take on an Australian Apprentice.

To find out more, please don’t hesitate to discuss this option with the school careers teacher and Caraline Preston from MEGT Australian Apprenticeships Centre on 0448 725 190
TURN YOUR PHONE INTO A LIFE SAVER

The Australian Red Cross has released a free first aid app for smartphone users.

The app guides users through the correct response for many incidents including heart attacks, strokes, diabetic episodes along with the more common burns, sprains and strains.

The app is easy to use and features vital life-saving information, videos and quizzes to test your first-aid knowledge on correct treatments for children and adults.

Learning the skills to save a life through first aid training is one thing, but remembering what to do when under pressure is where this first aid app can help most.

This new Smartphone app is available from www.redcross.org.au/first-aid-app.aspx or the Google Play and Apple app stores.