

Newsletter

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From the Principal's Desk

Year 9 NAPLAN Tests

Last week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Year 9 students completed their NAPLAN test. All Year 3, 5, 7, 9 students in Australia sat for Literacy and Numeracy tests on those days.

Our students were well prepared and seemed to take the tests in their stride. I was really pleased with them. They have been doing lots of preparation in their English and Maths classes as well as their Literacy and Numeracy classes.

The preparation and organisation was overseen by Mrs Williams and Mrs Thomas and I have thanked them for a job well done. They were helped by Norah Parsons who planned the numeracy preparation.

Our P & C always wish to encourage our students and as a part of that they organised a breakfast for all year 9s each morning of the test. This was a highlight for most year 9s. Thanks to our P & C and Kathryn Clancy in the canteen for organising the breakfast.

Canteen – Breakfast Menu

Kathryn Clancy has been trialling a breakfast menu each morning. It looks great with cereal, bacon & egg muffins, fruit and juice being on the menu. Hot chocolate has also been a hit these cold mornings. I believe the breakfast menu is a great idea as, unfortunately, many students come to school without breakfast. This is often by choice as food is available at home, but some students choose not to eat breakfast. I hope they are then tempted here at school as a good breakfast usually means good learning will follow. Students who are hungry can't perform to capacity.

Working Bee – Long Jump Pits

Norah Parsons, in conjunction with the P & C organised a working bee last Wednesday afternoon to repair the long jump pits for the athletics season. Blaine Morris, Ian Robinson, Ross Clancy and Andrew Elliot gave time, machinery and materials to get the jumping pits up to a high standard. Some students also helped and the P & C put on a supper for the workers. The pits are now reconditioned with sand and have run up mats in place. Thanks for a job well done.

Human Powered Vehicle

Mr Williams and a group of boys have been heavily engaged in making a Human Powered Vehicle for entry into the Technology Challenge later in the year in Maryborough. Mr Williams and the boys have given up a lot of time in after school to develop this project. We have been really fortunate to have Darren Summers volunteer to join the project. Darren is an engineer with Anglo Coal and he brings further levels of expertise to the project. His project management skills will be extremely beneficial as a learning experience for the boys. I want to thank Mr Williams and Mr Summers for their time and effort devoted to this project.

Resource Centre

I believe if you were to ask your students what the Resource Centre was like these days they would say it is really great. Mrs Glass has worked hard to transform our Resource Centre into a well organised, well presented and efficient centre for learning within our school. The resource centre caters well for class or individual learning and it now features a well stocked career guidance section. I am pleased for students that Mrs Glass has made a well run facility available to them. It should be really good when the upgrade takes place.

Student Learning

I have noticed that, in the main, students have settled into their learning. There are still some classes needing assistance but most are concentrating on their learning.

I think the new bell times have helped a lot with most learning happening in prime learning time. I am endeavouring to secure teacher aide time for all students who require assistance and I hope we can all work together to support our teachers so that quality learning experiences can be provided for your students.

Alan Campbell – PRINCIPAL

YEAR 8 HOME ECONOMICS

This semester Year 8 Home Economics students have accomplished great things! Firstly, with the design and construction of an apron for use in the kitchen during cooking classes and many successful cooking lessons. **Brenna Willmott, Sam Collette, Sharnee Moore and Courtney Rewald** enjoyed modelling their fine aprons. Last week the class prepared and cooked savoury scone rings which were absolutely delicious. Every single student turned out a fantastic recipe. Keep up the great work, Yr 8.



SCRUMPTIOUS SAVOURY SCONE RINGS!



YR 8 HPE – NEW DUE DATES FOR ASSESSMENT

Yr 8A – Wk 9 Monday 15 June
Yr 8B – Wk 8 Friday 12 June

YR 11/12 PE REMINDER

Written Assessment due Wk 5 Friday 22 May

CONGRATULATIONS - TAYLA MULLER

who came 6th at the QLD Secondary Schools State Titles for Squash and is a reserve in the State Team. Well done Tayla! Good Luck and Congratulations to **Hamish Davidson** who is playing this week in the Qld Secondary Schools State Titles for AFL and also **Skye Calvert** who is playing this week in the Qld Secondary Schools State Titles for Volleyball. We are very proud of our talented State representatives who play quite different sports and happy and proud also of all those students who take the opportunity and have the advantage of learning and playing some form of physical sporting activity. Congratulations to all those students who are pursuing sporting ambitions which in the end must lead to a full and rewarding life.



BREAKFAST AT THE TUCKSHOP

We are now offering breakfast from 8.15am. The menu will be as follows:- \$

Bacon & Egg Muffins	3.00
Spaghetti Jaffles	3.00
Fruit Salad Bowls	3.00
Cereal Bowls	3.00
Toast	1.00
Yoghurt / Fruit & Muesli	2.50
Juice & Milk available from	
\$1.80 through to \$3.00	
Hot Milo / Hot Chocolate	1.50
Breakfast Bar Slice	1.50
Pieces of Fruit	1.00



DATES TO REMEMBER	
29 May	Rocky Rugby League Round 2 Game 4.30pm in Rocky
30 May	Gladstone Volleyball Competition
4 June	Next Newsletter due
12 June	Rugby League Night Bowls Club 7pm
12 June	3000m (Beginning day of Athletics)
19 June	1500m
25 June (Session 3 & 4)	Discus & Javelin
26 June	Track & Field

Snapshot of 2008 graduates released

A statewide snapshot of the education outcomes of last year's graduating seniors was published on a school-by-school basis in *The Courier-Mail* on Tuesday May 5. Regional snapshots have also been printed in major regional daily newspapers.

The publication of Year 12 outcomes is part of wider Government reforms to provide more information to parents and the community about student and school achievements.

The data, compiled by the Queensland Studies Authority and presented alphabetically by school, includes the percentage of Year 12 students receiving tertiary offers, the number of students completing or continuing school-based apprenticeships or traineeships, the percentage of students with an OP 1-15 and the number of vocational qualifications awarded.

This year the report also includes information on the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), the Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma offered by the Queensland Academies and a number of schools.

The Year 12 graduate profile is not a league table – it does not rank schools.

What it provides is an overview of the wide range of learning options students can now choose from, whether it be studying for university entry, a vocational qualification or a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, and the outcomes students are achieving.

If you have any questions about our school's data you should contact me (the Principal).

From May 5 you can access the Year 12 outcomes data and an information pack at: www.qsa.qld.edu.au

Have your say on the Queensland Education Performance Review

Parents, caregivers and other members of our school community are encouraged to provide feedback on Professor Geoff Masters' recommendations for improving education outcomes in Queensland's primary schools.

His final report, *A Shared Challenge: Improving Literacy, Numeracy and Science Learning in Queensland Primary Schools*, was presented to the Premier of Queensland Anna Bligh and Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson on 1 May.

Professor Masters' report contains five key recommendations to improve the performance of Queensland primary schools in literacy, numeracy and science.

They are:

1. That all aspiring primary teachers be required to demonstrate through test performances, as a condition of registration, that they meet threshold levels of knowledge about the teaching of literacy, numeracy and science and have sound levels of content knowledge in these areas.
2. That the Queensland Government introduces a new structure and program of advanced professional learning in literacy, numeracy and science for primary school teachers.
3. That additional funding be made available for the advanced training and employment of a number of 'specialist' literacy, numeracy and science teachers to work in schools (and/or district offices) most in need of support.
4. That standard science tests be introduced at Years 4, 6, 8 and 10 for school use in identifying students who are not meeting year-level expectations and for monitoring student progress over time.
5. That the Queensland Government initiates an expert review of international best practice in school leadership development with a view to introducing a new structure and program of advanced professional learning for primary school leaders focused on effective strategies for driving improved school performances in literacy, numeracy and science.

You can read the final report and have your say on the recommendations by visiting the Queensland Education Performance Review website at www.education.qld.gov.au/mastersreview

The consultation period closes on Friday 29 May.