

Newsletter

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From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to 2009

Welcome to the 2009 school year. I would particularly like to welcome the families of all our new students and welcome back families of our continuing students. We have had many new students this year with 48 entering Year 8, eight students from Theodore starting Year 10 & 11 and many others new to town across the school.

New Staff

I would also like to welcome our new staff to our school community. Our new staff are:-

Barbara Forster – Groundsperson

Helen Glass – Resource Centre Aide

Teachers

Natalie Thomas – English / Social Science

Lorraine McLeod – English / Social Science

Jo Wood – Special Education

Sarah Rudd – Business

Fiona Bailey – Science / Business / Hospitality

Mary-Anne Ahearn – Mathematics / Science

2009 School Year

This year is looming as an interesting year. Education is firmly becoming an important national focus with this year being a state election year, we are certainly likely to hear a lot more about education.

For us our focus will continue to be:-

- Literacy and Numeracy Teaching (particularly for Yr 8 and Yr 9)
- Incorporating the QCAR Essential Learnings (our new curriculum) into our units of work
- The behaviour of students
- The achievement of our students
- Pathways that are flexible and individualised for our seniors
- The school and our community working together

Census Day on Day 8

On the 8th day of school, which is next Thursday, 5th February, we are required to send in to the Department the numbers of students attending our school. At present our numbers are:-

- 48 - Yr 8
- 42 - Yr 9
- 28 - Yr 10
- 32 - Yr 11
- 42 - Yr 12 which is a total of 192

Last year at Day 8 Census Return, we had a total of 170 so it is great to see the growth in our school.

Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme - (LAFHAS) 2009

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts provides assistance to eligible Queensland families whose children must board away from home to attend school on a daily basis because:

- their homes are geographically isolated; and
- students do not have reasonable daily access to a Queensland government state school with the appropriate level of primary, secondary or special schooling.

One of the benefits available to eligible Queensland families is Remote Area Travel Allowance. This allowance assists with travelling expenses, provided the distance travelled to the boarding location is at least 50 km. Assistance ranges from \$109 to \$1405 per annum per student. Travel payable is determined by the kilometric distance from the home location to the boarding location of the student.

Application forms and further information concerning conditions of eligibility and benefit levels payable are available from School Financial Services Unit, Department of Education, Training and the Arts, PO Box 15033, City East Qld 4002, freecall 1800 248 997.

Further information on this scheme is available through the Department's website <http://education.qld.gov.au/finance/grants/fund/garp/html/par-stu.html>

Choice of Classes

In all year levels, students have choice in the subjects they select. In Year 9 and 10 in most lines, students were offered three choices. I could only run two at any one time with the teachers I have available. Usually the least popular subject is dropped and the students choosing that subject are redistributed to their second choice. Next semester when students choose again the subject dropped out this semester will definitely run and I would hope students who missed out on it this semester will get it next semester.

The important point is that students get to choose each semester so that by the end of Year 10, they have had ample opportunity to experience a range of subjects so that they can make wise choices for Yr 11 and 12.

Year 8 Elective Classes

Year 8 students have the choice of two blocks of elective subjects. One block consists of Industrial Technology and Design, Home Economics and Media Studies. The other block consists of Art, Business and Agriculture. Last year, students were asked at their primary school to pick their first, second and third choice for each block.

As it turned out there is 48 students in Year 8, the largest class we have had for many years. Dividing these students into two groups has resulted in classes that are two large for some specialist rooms like the kitchen and workshop. I have decided to split the classes into three groups so in the main, students should get the elective they have chosen. They will get to re-choose another subject for Semester 2. This is a pleasant change to be able to split classes into smaller groups.

Instrumental Music Classes

I have had a meeting with Mr Matthew Chambers, our Instrumental Music Teacher. The Instrumental Music Program will be extended to the high school this year with lessons being conducted at the Moura State School music room on a Monday afternoon. This is great news for our school. To start the program, Mr Chambers would like to meet with all interested students and possibly parents if they are available at 9am here at the high school next Thursday 5 Feb 2009.

Textbook / Resources Hire Scheme and Subject Levies

Invoices for the hire scheme and subject levies will be sent out soon.

The Textbook / Resources Hire Scheme enables students to get all textbooks, have a reasonable amount of free computer downloads, print a reasonable amount of material and receive photocopied resources. The subject levies only apply to Art, Home Economics, Hospitality and Manual Arts to cover the cost of consumables like paint, cooking ingredients, steel and wood. These fees and levies can be paid off in full or you may wish to enter into a time payment plan of regular instalments. If this is not suitable you may work out an individualised payment program with the Principal. Please contact Mrs Jackson or Mr Campbell if you wish to work out a payment plan to suit your budget. It is possible that some items of educational expenses can be legitimate deductions for tax purposes. Parents are advised to keep invoices and receipts and ask their tax agent if that is the case. School office staff can't give tax advice.

Alan Campbell – PRINCIPAL

WHAT IS THE YOUNG CARERS PROJECT?

Support for students who care for a relative who has an ongoing health issue, disability, drug/alcohol issue or mental illness. All information is kept strictly confidential.

Contact **Rockhampton Respite & Carelink** on **1800 059 059** for more information.

YEAR 8 HPE SWIMMING DATES & TIMES

All Year 8 students will be involved in swimming as part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum. This activity is compulsory and therefore all students are expected to participate. If students are unable to participate, due to injury or illness, a letter to Mrs Townsend or a phone call to the school office is required.

Alternative work will then be arranged for the student. Students have received a permission form which is to be **returned to the school office** no later than **Monday 2nd February**. If there are any concerns or queries please contact Lacey Townsend or the school office. Below are the dates students will be participating in swimming during their HPE lesson.

YEAR 8A HPE

Week 2	Mon 2 Feb	1.50-2.55pm
	Wed 4 Feb	9.05-10.10am
Week 3	Mon 9 Feb	1.50-2.55pm
	Wed 11Feb	9.05-10.10am
Week 4	Mon 16 Feb	1.50-2.55pm
	Wed 18 Feb	9.05-10.10am
Week 5	Mon 23 Feb	1.50-2.55pm
	Wed 25 Feb	9.05-10.10am

YEAR 8B HPE

Week 2	Thurs 5 Feb	9.05-10.10am
	Fri 6 Feb	11.55-1.00pm
Week 3	Thurs 12 Feb	9.05-10.10am
	Fri 13 Feb	11.55-1.00pm
Week 4	Thurs 19 Feb	9.05-10.10am
	Fri 20 Feb	11.55-1.00pm
Week 5	Thurs 26 Feb	9.05-10.10am
Week 6	Thurs 5 March	9.05-10.10am

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Moura State High School runs an Activity Program on a Friday afternoon during session 4. Parents should have received a letter outlining this program. If you have not received one please contact the school office for a copy. Below are some main points concerning the Program.

- Students in year 8, 9 and 10 participate in the program
- Year 11 and 12 students have the option of going home or attending a supervised study group
- Students will participate in 4 sports during the first 7 weeks of term;
 - Water Sports
 - Cone Ball
 - Dodge Ball
 - Volleyball
- Students will rotate around the sports and participate in a different sport each week
- Students will travel via bus to the pool and are required to pay a \$2.00 entry fee to the pool. A fee of \$20 per student for the year will be invoiced for bus hire.
- If students are unable to participate in any sport a letter to Mrs Townsend or a phone call to the school office is required
- Students have been allocated into 1 of 8 teams
- Each team has a Senior Leader as a Team Captain
- Team lists are posted around the school and on the school intranet

Below is the schedule for the Water Sports activity to assist students to remember to bring their swimming gear when they have Water Sports.

Week 1

Team 4 (Team Captain – Rebecca Elliott) & Team 5 (Team Captain – Stevie Tucker)

Week 2

Team 3 (Team Captain – Rees Mackellar) & Team 7 (Team Captain – Courtney Semple)

Week 3

Team 2 (Team Captain – Elinor Stratford) & Team 8 (Team Captain – Jake Hafner & Andrew Kendall)

Week 4

Team 1 (Team Captain – Marya Milne & Christian Bock) & Team 4 (Team Captain – Rebecca Elliott)

Week 5

Team 6 (Team Captain – Reuben Dunk) & Team 7 (Team Captain – Courtney Semple)

Week 6

Team 3 (Team Captain – Rees Mackellar & Keltie Butler) & Team 4 (Team Captain – Rebecca Elliott)

Week 7

Team 2 (Team Captain – Elinor Stratford) & Team 6 (Team Captain – Reuben Dunk)

Protection Against The Sun

Queensland state school students are protected from our harsh sun by the Department's *Developing a Sun Safety Strategy* policy.

This policy requires that all schools provide an SPF 30+ broad spectrum waterproof sunscreen to students for outdoor activities and ensure they are wearing protective clothing. It also requires schools to develop educational programs on sun safety.

Schools develop sun safety strategies in consultation with their school community, and parents are encouraged to support the strategy by providing their children with appropriate protective clothing, including hats, sunglasses and swim shirts for water-based activities. Under the Department's policy, swim shirts must be worn by Prep to Year 7 students during all water-based activities except during races at school swimming carnivals.

The Queensland Cancer Council's website has plenty of tips for parents on reducing the risk of over-exposure to the sun. Visit their site at: http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce_risk/prevention/prevent_sunProtection.asp

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DATES TO REMEMBER	
12 February	NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE
27 February	Swimming Carnival
6 March	Seniors Induction Day
9 April	End of Term 1
20 April	Pupil Free Day

GARDEN PARTY

Moura Garden Lovers have organised a bus to attend the "Garden Party" being held at "Southend" Theodore on **Saturday 7th February** owned by deBurgh and Margery Joyce.

This promises to be an excellent day out with a fashion parade, raffles, a wide variety of stalls, demonstrations for flower arranging and home garden plant propagating, along with wine tasting.

There will be prizes for best Garden Chair, Prettiest Hat as well as Fashions in the Garden. Entrance fee is \$30 and this includes morning tea and picnic lunch. The bus will cost \$20/seat, which will depart from the pub at 8:30am and return approx mid/late afternoon.

BYO Chair is essential.

For any further information and bookings please contact **Annette Weier** on **49971252**. This trip is open to anybody interested and I will need to know numbers by **Friday 31st January**.

