

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parent Night

On Tuesday night I hosted a successful evening for parents of Years 8 and 9 students. In excess of 200 people were in attendance to hear first hand the significant changes we have made as we continue to move the school forward.

Throughout the night, the term "this information is on the website" was regularly mentioned. It is through our website at www.coombabashes.eq.edu.au that much of our parent information will be made available. In fact, after Easter we will no longer produce a paper version of this newsletter. It will be uploaded to the website and a link will be emailed to all parents who have email addresses held in our student details section. This will save one hundred thousand sheets of paper per year. In visual terms, this is a pile of paper eleven metres high.

Next Tuesday night, March 3 is the Parent Night for Years 10, 11 and 12. A note went home with your child last Wednesday.

Sport

Our first of five cluster days for sport will be March 10. On this day students involved in Interschool sport will be in a full day mini carnival. The schools in our sport cluster are Helensvale SHS, Upper Coomera State College, Pacific Pines SHS, Tamborine Mtn SHS and Ormeau Woods SHS. All students are expected to attend either interschool sport or recreational activities, with selections for activities made last week.

NAPLAN Tests

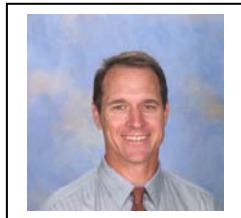
Next week (Mar 2-6), all year 9 students will complete the 2008 NAPLAN tests in preparation for the 2009 tests held May 12 – 14. The tests focus on literacy and numeracy.

A useful link is <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/7137.html>

Literacy Link:

http://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/forteachers/literacy_resources/other_websites.htm

Regards,



Chris Kern,
Principal.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees are now due and can be paid at the cashier window from 8.00am to 1.30pm daily. If you require information on outstanding fees, please contact the school Finance Officer for details.

Arrangements can also be made for a Payment Plan or Centrelink Debit.

We would like to thank those parents who have already paid.

Mr. J. Kenny,
Registrar.

WHAT'S ON

Friday	27/02/09	School Photos – Catch-up
Monday	02/03/09	Regional Swimming TSS Pool 5.00-9.00pm
Tuesday	03/03/09	Yr 10, 11 & 12 Compulsory Parent Evening Yr 9 Debating Round 1 6.00pm
Tuesday	10/03/09	Interschool Sport Trial Day

P & C NEWS



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please feel free to come along to our next meeting, which will be our A.G.M., on Monday the 9th of March 2009 in the Administration Common Room at 6.30pm.

Normally our meeting begins at 7.00pm but as this meeting will be our Annual General Meeting we will be starting early with a General Meeting followed by the A.G.M.

For any questions regarding P & C activities please call either myself or Jane Wilson (Secretary), Monday – Friday, on 5552 3888, 8.30am - 3.30pm

Cheers,

Patricia Campbell,
P & C President.



THE EDUCATION TAX REFUND – GET 50% BACK

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

- ⓘ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- ⓘ Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.



For more information:

- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.

MINDMATTERS

Did you know that Coombabah State High is applying to become a MindMatters school? Do you know what MindMatters is?

If not, here is a brief outline. Coombabah State High has been involved with the MindMatters initiative since early 2000.

MindMatters believes that every person who is part of a school community is a teacher for mental health and wellbeing. The actions and behaviours of all school personnel can make a positive contribution.

A whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing ensures that social and emotional learning and mental health are part of every classroom teaching and learning program. Effective classroom practice is essential to promote and protect the mental health and wellbeing of students.

Student Involvement: Last Tuesday, 9 senior students and staff attended a Student Empowerment workshop at Sharks. During the day our students worked with students from different schools to determine the characteristics of a good leader. This day was an introduction to a two-day course on Student Empowerment and Leadership. I would like to congratulate the students on their behaviour and how proudly they spoke about our school. They were all excellent ambassadors, and looked magnificent in their blazers. Students who attended included: Kasey Marstaeller, Alex Andrews, Damian Smith, Caitlin Summers, Morgan Reid, Marc Salter, Angus Tripp, Stephanie D'Agostino and Rebecca Day.

In the near future, teachers will start incorporating the MindMatters principles into their lessons. They will be not making changes to the curriculum, but embedding new strategies into their lessons.

Liz Bailey
MindMatters Coordinator

DEBATING @ COOMBABAH

Debating is underway at Coombabah SHS already, with teams from Year 8 to Year 11 meeting weekly to put together their points of view in the Gold Coast Secondary Schools competition. We are pleased that this year the Year 9 North Gold Coast schools will be debating here at Coombabah, with Miss Browning the venue coordinator. She will be asking for assistance from school leaders closer to the dates.

The first interschool Year 11 debate will be Wednesday 11th March at Somerset College. Years 8, 9 and 10 have their first debates on 18th March, starting at 6pm. Round 2 dates are Wednesday, 25th March for Year 11, and Wednesday 1st April for Years 8-10.

The venues are: Year 8 – A B Paterson, Year 9 – Coombabah SHS, Year 10 – Upper Coomera State College.

Parents, thank you for the support you will be giving to enable your children to represent their school at this level.

Ennis Macleod
Debating Coordinator

STUDENT SUPPORT HUB

Our support team continues to grow, and we welcome Hugh Roberts as the *Cultural Education Counsellor* who is available to support Pan Pacific Island students. Hugh can be contacted on 5552 3824.

Upcoming Events

The *Roadshow* is coming! Year 12 students will have the opportunity to find out about the various courses available at University and TAFE when a number of representatives from tertiary institutions will be at the school on **Thursday March 19**. Speakers will address the students about tertiary study, university life, and other issues related to their transition after Year 12.

THE COOMBABAH SHS STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM
PRESENTS

Balancing Your Life



An event promoting students' wellbeing and future options

THURSDAY 19th March, 2009
Student Centre 12.30 – 2.00 pm

Balancing your Life.

This event will be open to all students and will focus on the various resources available to assist young people at the school as well as through community agencies. It will be held in the Student Centre during the lunch hour on Thursday March 19 and will feature a number of activities and displays.

Glenda Musgrave, Kevin Glasheen
Guidance Counsellors

Industry Liaison

The Queensland Police Service is currently seeking applications from Year 12 students wishing to participate in work experience placements. Relevant information and application forms are available from the Student Support Hub.

Year 11 or 12 students who would like to participate in work experience are encouraged to make an appointment to see me so that I can assist them with this procedure. Likewise, if they would like to commence a school based traineeship or apprenticeship, I am available to discuss options with them.

Current traineeship positions available:

Cert III Dental Assisting – Varsity Lakes

Students should possess a genuine interest in the dental industry as this is a medical/clinical environment.

Cert III in Outdoor Recreation (Multiple activities – surfing instructor, surfing guide & snorkelling/scuba)

The students' role in the surf school will initially be Surf School Assistant, Assistant Coach and then graduating as a Surfing Instructor & Surfing Guide.

The process involved in getting a school based traineeship or apprenticeship is basically the same as applying for a job. Students need to apply for the positions, attend an interview, and quite often attend a trial work day. Students face tough competition when applying for these positions, so it is a great achievement when students secure themselves a school based traineeship/apprenticeship.

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been through this process and are now working towards completing a nationally recognised certificate.

Harvey Zappico	Cert III Tourism	Warner Village Theme Parks
Tom Gardener	Cert III Tourism	Warner Village Theme Parks
Teina Manaia	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Cassandra Farley	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Daniel Hansen	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Ashleigh Hyman	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Samantha Staats	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort

Kristina Fleming	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Daniel Lin	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Jack Rowlatt	Cert III Hospitality	Sea World Resort
Ellis Haigh	Cert II Hairdressing	Structcha
Nicholas Musson	Cert II Horticulture	Paradise Point Bowls Club
Rachel Burnett	Cert III Cabinetmaking	Aussie Kitchens
Kyle Baumgart	Cert III Tiling	Rag Tiling

Our congratulations to the following students who have successfully completed school based traineeships. This, in many cases, is a culmination of two years hard work completing modules and attending work at least one day per week, and this is in addition to attending school.

Tyrone Compton	Cert II Automotive
Olivia Strong	Cert III Retail Operations
Haylee Gordon	Cert II Retail Operations
Stephanie D'Agostino	Cert III Business Operations

Louise Peters,
Industry Liaison Officer.
Ph: 55523815
lpete69@eq.edu.au

ENTERPRISE DEPARTMENT

Business Studies

A reminder to students if they need a Tax File number for employment that the teachers in the Business Department can help you. For further details please see Mrs. Hafford.

Water Cooler. During these warmer days the water cooler purchased from profits of Business Ventures has been very popular. I remind students they cannot access the cooler during lessons, only at break time. As the cooler is in the middle of the block, students accessing water during lessons are affecting the learning of other students.

Home Economics

Students have been very busy in the kitchens preparing many different foods. Year 8 students have been focusing on life skills in both nutrition and textiles. Year 9 students have been looking at healthy main meals, while Year 10 students have been comparing meals made with fresh ingredients against meals prepared with commercial products. Year 11 Hospitality students have been studying Workplace Hygiene, while the Year 12 students haven working on their coffee skills.

Fees for cooking are now **overdue**. Unfortunately, if students have not paid fees they will not be able to continue with cooking next week. We suggest if you are experiencing difficulties with payment you pay for one semester. If payment plans need to be established, please call our cashier, Bronwyn Schmidt, on 555 23 869. I apologise, I made a mistake and we DO NOT have the facilities to accept direct debit payments.

Advance Notice to any **Year 12** students wishing to complete a **Responsible Service of Alcohol** course. We will be conducting a course in Term 2 for a cost of \$45. Please stay tuned for more details. The course will be conducted by our R.T.O., and takes 5 hours to complete.

Certificate III Children's Services

Year 11 students have completed an introductory 2 day visit to centres to show them how a child care centre operates. The students were well behaved, and centres were happy with their efforts.

Year 12 students need to complete their **compulsory** hours this term. To help them gain their 200 hours, they are to attend centres on a fortnightly rotational basis – one week for a full day on Tuesday (9.00 am – 5.00 pm) and on the other week Monday (12.30 pm – 5.00 pm). I ask all parents/guardians to ensure your child completes all the needed visits.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK (makes 16)

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ cups self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard
- 100g butter, diced or grated
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, or parmesan, grated
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 4 tablespoons milk, approximately

CHEESE SCONES



Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a tray with baking paper.

Sift flour, bicarbonate of soda, cream of tartar, salt, pepper and mustard into a large bowl.

Rub in butter until flour resembles bread crumbs. Stir in grated cheese.

Make a well in the centre, stir in egg and enough milk to make a soft dough (add more milk if necessary).

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured board and knead gently. Flatten out until 2cm thick. Cut into rounds of desired size and place on lined baking tray close together.

Brush tops of scones lightly with some milk and bake in oven for 10-15 minutes.

Allow to cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes before serving.

Liz Bailey,
 Head of Department – Enterprise.

SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE 2009



MINIBALL TO UNDER 10 COMPS AVAILABLE.
GIRLS & BOYS. BEGINNERS WELCOME
FRIDAYS (U14 – U18)
SATURDAYS (MINIBALL – U12)
RUNAWAY BAY INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE (SPORTS DVE)
FOR MORE INFO – PHONE GREG FOX ON 0409 769883.



Come and play basketball on Tuesday from 4.00 – 6.00 pm at the Labrador Primary School Community Hall, Imperial Parade, Labrador.
 Ages range from primary to high school age.

Only \$5 a night!
 For more information please phone Andy on 0406 990 121
 or contact
goldcoast@fusion.org.au



JUNIOR INDOOR NETBALL

When: Tuesday afternoons from 4.00pm
Where: Parklands Indoor Sports, Cnr Smith St and Parklands Dr
Who: Boys and Girls (All Ages and Abilities)
 Phone 5531 3022 for more information today!!
 Teams and Individuals Welcome