



Coombabah State High School

A Community – Building Productive Partnerships & Pathways

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

LAST OF THE PRINTED NEWSLETTERS

In the February newsletter, I highlighted that after Easter we will no longer produce a printed version of this Newsletter. It will be uploaded to the website every second Tuesday starting after the Easter Holidays. A link will be emailed to you if we have your email address. This can be supplied to the office by returning the student details check included in the mid semester report. You may have already completed this form at the Parent information nights held recently.

SPORT

There have now been two full sport days run. I was at Runaway Bay Sports Centre and took great pride in watching our students and staff representing Coombabah SHS in an extremely positive fashion. Feedback from other schools and venue staff confirmed this. With each day run, we continue to evaluate and improve. Any feedback that you have would be greatly appreciated. We can only improve on things that we are made aware of.

SCIENCE REFURBISHMENT

Last week we received the news that we have been successful in securing major funds through the 'State Schools of Tomorrow' funding to completely refurbish the Science block. This will include all seven labs and the preparation room. The theme is to turn it into a technologically able facility capable of delivering 21st century science techniques.

COMMUNICATION

Have you visited the website lately? It is fast becoming integral to our communication strategy. We seek your feedback, especially on anything you would like added.

** Parent Teacher interviews April 6 and 7.

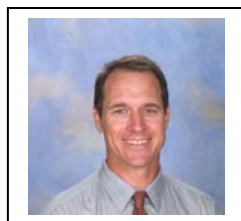
ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES

To help you with supporting your students, the Heads of Department have collated all of the assessment items for next term. Each student will get a copy of their schedule depending on the subjects they do. On the website, under curriculum you will find the Assessment Schedule, by year level.

Our ongoing goal is to continually inform, support and improve.

*Thought for the Week
Blessed are those who listen,
for they shall learn.*

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.

Newsletter Link: Please complete and return to the box in the office.

Student's name: _____

Student's ID: _____

Parent's name: _____

Parent's email address: _____

WHAT'S ON

Friday	27/03/09	Yr 8 Immunisations Girls & Boys Stage 1
Wednesday	01/04/09	Yr 8,9,10 Debating Round 2
Thursday	02/04/09	State Swimming, Chandler Pool
Friday	03/04/09	Cross Country 12.00-3.00pm Lunchtime Dance Competition Student Centre Yrs 8-10
Monday	06/04/09	Parent / Teacher Communication Evening
Tuesday	07/04/09	School Sport Round 2 Parent / Teacher Communication Evening
Thursday	09/04/09	Last Day Term 1
Monday	20/04/09	Student Free Day
Tuesday	21/04/09	First Day Term 2

P & C NEWS

Please feel free to come along to our next meeting on Monday the 6th of April 2009 in the Administration Common Room at 7.00pm.

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.



UNIFORM SHOP

Price Increase.

As previously advised, due to yet another price rise from our uniform suppliers, the P & C unfortunately has to raise the price of our uniforms.



We have been able to hold our prices for the last two years without passing on previous increases, but, as of the 1st of April 2009, prices will be increased by \$2.00 on Unisex Shorts, Junior & Senior Girls Blouses & Skirts, Junior & Senior Boys Shirts, Sports Polos, Sports Shorts and Jumpers. Microfibre Jackets and Long Pants will rise by \$3.00.

We are proud of the fact that our uniforms are Australian made by a local Gold Coast Company and we will endeavour to support local companies in the future.

Borrowed Uniforms - Parents are requested to return any items of uniform that have been on loan to students before the end of term. Invoices will be issued for non-return of items.

Should you have any problems or queries with the uniform please feel welcome to ring the Uniform Shop or Administration or just drop into the Uniform Shop & ask for me.

Uniform shop hours are from 8.15am until 11.15am each day.

Mrs. Ruston,
Uniform Shop Convenor.

STUDENT SUPPORT HUB

Student Support Team:

Guidance Counsellors: Glenda Musgrave; Kevin Glasheen

Industry Liaison Officer: Louise Peters

Youth Pathways Officer: Simon Reddrop

School Based Youth Health Nurse: Anne Read

Youth Support Co-ordinator: Bernard Dalton

Cultural Education Counsellor: Hugh Roberts (5552 3824)
(Pan Pacific Island students)

INDUSTRY LIAISON.

Exciting Opportunity Year 10, 11 & 12 students.

Queensland Racing is looking for students aged 15+ with a passion for horses to undertake Certificate II in Racing (Stablehand) school-based traineeships.

An information session is being held at Gold Coast Turf Club on Thursday the 2nd of April. See Mrs Peters to register your attendance.

Please feel free to contact me with any enquiries.

Louise Peters,
Industry Liaison Officer.
Ph 5552 3815 or 0404 850 314

SCIENCE NEWS

Last week, Mrs Stanbrook's and Ms Taylor's Year 11 Multi-strand Science classes were lucky enough to work with a 'real life' Police Forensic Officer. Senior Constable Chris O'Dell, from the Nerang Forensic Unit, gave our students a taste of what is involved in working as a Field Forensic Officer. Chris has been a forensic officer for over 24 years working in both the NSW and QLD Police Services.

The students were able to see the range of equipment that is used in forensic investigations and were also able to handle some of the equipment themselves. The students learnt how to test for DNA, how to bag evidence and how to test for the evidence of blood at a crime scene. They were also able to use magnetic dusting powder to dust for their own fingerprints. These were then photographed and enlarged so they were able to clearly view their unique fingerprint patterns.



Senior Constable O'Dell discussed with the students many cases she has worked on and how they were able to solve the crimes. The 'in the field' laptop was a treat with lots of photographic evidence showing the crime scenes she had been involved in.

Chris also highlighted the technological advancements in Forensic Science. The most convenient being the National Fingerprint and DNA Database. Cellular materials are also being stored with the view that testing procedures in the future will be able to determine the offender of the crime.

An interesting fact: DNA testing has progressed further than just testing for blood and saliva. They are now able to test microscopic cellular traces. So just one skin cell on an item of clothing could be used to identify a suspect!!!

Simone Stanbrook,
Science Teacher.

ROUND 1 GOLD COAST DEBATING COMPETITION

The results of the first round of the GC Debating competition had one of our Year 9 teams win, while our other teams came very close to toppling their oppositions. In each case the teams were a credit to the school, not only in

their demeanor and sportsmanship, but also in the amount of preparation that was evident in their speeches.

Students and coaches are to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication.

Thanks also to Miss Browning and her willing helpers who coordinated the Year 9 debates at CSHS. It was very efficiently organised.

Round 2 for the teams in Years 8 to 10 will be on 1st April at the same times and places as Round 1. The Year 11 team will have a secret topic debate which starts at 5.00pm on Wednesday the 25th of March at Somerset College.

Good luck to all the teams.

Mrs Macleod,
Gold Coast Secondary Schools' Debating Association.

2009 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

Year 9 students will sit literacy and numeracy tests on May the 12th, 13th and 14th. National tests provide information on how students are progressing and support improvements in teaching and learning.

These tests assess students in the areas of literacy (including reading, writing, spelling, punctuation, and grammar) and numeracy (number, measurement, chance and data, space, working mathematically, algebra function and pattern). There are five different tests ranging from 40 – 65 minutes duration.

Year 9 students have recently completed the 2008 NAPLAN tests to identify their strengths and weaknesses and to develop test familiarity. All teachers of Year 9 classes will incorporate, into their lesson planning, identified focus areas to assist students in the lead up to the May testing.

Students require a calculator for one of the numeracy tests. This equipment is part of our school stationery requirements and should be available every day for use in their classes. It is important that students are familiar with the calculator they will use in the test.

Numeracy tips for parents and carers to help high school students

To support your high school student's efforts at school you can continue the lessons they learn in the classroom by helping them to develop their numeracy skills at home.

Some activities you could do include:

- asking for their help when using a map or street directory to travel to a new destination
- planning a family holiday including budget and travel times
- discussing what measurements you need for decorating or renovating a room. For example, "what measurements do we need to make when buying a desk?" and "do we need to measure or will estimating be acceptable?"
- when assembling furniture read the assembly instructions and relate them to the real object. Discuss how two-dimensional drawings are related to three-dimensional items
- draw and discuss plans related to landscaping decisions around the home
- discuss the implications of time issues related to overseas locations
- when shopping, use the catalogue specials to talk about discounts and whether it is cheaper to buy larger-sized products or a few smaller products
- use computer packages that create virtual rooms to help visualise what a room would look like, if planning renovations.



How you can help your child with writing

The best way to help your child with writing is to encourage them to use real occasions in family life to practise. This can include writing notes, messages, reminders or even helping to keep a family diary.

Here are some other ways to help your child with their writing:

- if they are unsure of how to spell certain words, encourage them to have a go. Keep a dictionary close by and start a spelling list
- read your child's writing and discuss what you like about it. This makes writing fun and encourages children to keep writing
- if possible, give examples of your own writing to your child to show how it is important in your daily life and your work
- talk to your children about the types of writing they do at school and praise their efforts as well as correcting grammar or spelling

- when reading their draft writing and commenting on what you like about it, remember not to change the writing. Leave all the creative decisions to the writer.

If you would like more information or tips about helping your child visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/ or <http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html>

Zoe Schalch
HOD Middle Schooling

Runaway Bay 3 Neighbourhood Watch



Family Fun and Community Awareness Day
Sunday 29th March 2009
Between 10am – 2pm
In the park adjacent to the Runaway Bay Library
Complex
Corner Morala Avenue and Lae Drive



Lots of fun for everyone



Jumping Castle
Animal Farm Face Painting
Mini Olympics (between 10.30am – 12.30pm)
Sausage Sizzle
Music Giveaways

Community information displays
and demonstrations

Children's activity area and bicycle track

All Activities Free (except sausage sizzle)
Plenty of shaded area so bring along a blanket
and join in the fun

Please note this area is an alcohol free zone

For further information contact Jean on
55005705

Proudly supported by
RAY WHITE – Runaway Bay and Paradise Point
GCCC and Councillor Grant Pforr – Division 3
Peta-Kaye Croft MP State Member for Broadwater



**The Queensland
Association for Gifted
and Talented Children
Inc**

Gold Coast Branch

Website: <http://www.qagtc.org.au/>

Parent Support Group
Saturday 28th March, 2009
Hillcrest Christian College, Bridgman Drive, Reedy Creek
2-4pm
"Giftedness, Learning Disabilities and Underachievement"
Guest Speaker: Carol Barnes

Carol is the convenor of a support group for parents of children who are both Gifted and Learning Disabled (GLD). Since discovering in 2001 that her older child was GLD, Carol has studied a wide variety of the research literature in the areas of gifted education and learning disabilities, and attended numerous conferences, workshops and courses on those topics, both in Australia and overseas...Carol is not a psychologist or an educator, rather she is a lawyer, a linguist and a university lecturer, but most importantly, the mother of two gifted teenagers, each with multiple learning disabilities.

Cost: Gold coin donation please

Bookings: bookings@goldcoast.qagtc.org.au



**PHOENIX
NETBALL
CLUB**

We desperately need Under
13yrs players for club
competition.

Please Phone for more
information:0401387432



**RUNAWAY BAY BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION**



**FRIDAY NIGHT COMPETITION
SAME VENUE EACH WEEK**

U13, U15, U17 & U19 AGE GROUPS
SIGN-ON FRI 24TH APRIL 5.30PM – 7.30PM
RUNAWAY BAY INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE, SPORTS
DVE

FOR MORE INFO – PHONE GREG ON 0409 769883