17 June 2016

DEPUTY’S REPORT

ARD Visits

Our Assistant Regional Director (ARD), Lyal Giles, has made recent visits to support our school on our improvement journey. It has been reassuring to receive positive feedback from Lyal regarding the progress and great work evident in our classrooms, engaging students to become assessment literate learners through curriculum clarity and development of learning walls.

School Improvement

Recently our school’s Headline Indicator Report from the Department reaffirmed our improvement journey is well and truly progressing in a positive direction. As a school there has been remarkable improvement in the percentage of students receiving a C or better. Well done to staff and students who have worked tirelessly to ensure students are achieving successful outcomes.

Student Safety

Student safety is a primary concern for all those involved with our students including students themselves. I take this time to remind students they need to make responsible decisions when using roads whether that be walking, riding or, for some seniors, driving, and to be considerate of others using our roads. I encourage parents/guardians to speak with their children regarding being responsible road users. The choices our students make can have a huge impact not only on themselves and their families but the community as a whole.

Semester 1 Report Cards

Semester 1 report cards will soon be distributed to students. Senior Schooling students will receive their reports on the last day of school this term – Friday 24 June. Junior Secondary students can expect to receive their reports by Week 2 next term. Paper copies of reports will be printed and given to students with electronic copies emailed to parents/guardians. If you don’t already have your email address registered with the school please contact the office on 4754 6555 so that the school can email your child’s report direct to you.

Date Claimers

• Canberra Trip – Week 11, Term 2.
• Student-Led Conferencing – Week 2, Term 3.
• Interhouse Athletics Carnival – Week 2, Term 3.
• DTTC Career Expo (Years 10, 11 & 12) – Week 3, Term 3.
• Combined Schools’ Formal (Year 12s) – Week 3, Term 3.
Holidays

As this is the last newsletter for Term 2, on behalf of the school I would like to wish everyone a very safe and relaxing winter vacation. A reminder that the last day of Term 2 is Friday 24 June; student attendance is required until 3.00 pm. School resumes for Term 3 on Monday 11 July. Unfortunately, there is no student free day!

Shirley Holcombe,
Deputy Principal (Senior School)

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Students of the Week:

Year 7 - Mita Asquith and Shanae Casten;
Year 8 - Jessie Brady and Mikayla Masso;
Year 9 - Kendrah Barrett and Trae Thomas;
Year 10 - Noel Woods and Tylah Stanton;
Year 11 - Zahli Gough and Shaye Land;
Year 12 - Tahrea Briffa and Alli Langan-Cole.

(Unfortunately, there was no photo available for Mita, Noel or Alli.)

Food for Thought

Friends – The people you spend most of your time with will have quite a marked effect on the way you live and act, as you will find yourself adopting a lot of their habits and hobbies.

Peer pressure is often referred to as being a bad thing but that’s not always the case.

If you choose peers (friends) whose ways are good, then they will probably influence you to behave in the right way. On the other hand if you choose friends who are constantly getting themselves in some sort of strife, then it won’t be long before you find yourself being led into doing things you don’t really want to do.

Remember, it’s your choice. Think of the characteristics that you like most in people and then look for friends who display those characteristics.

Sharon Beveridge and Helen Milton, School Chaplains

Junior School

Assessment and Reporting

In Junior Secondary, students and teachers have been working extremely hard to get the end of term assessment task done. Students will have their assessments completed today. Parents can expect to receive Report Cards in Week 2, Term 3.

School diaries

Students are expected to bring their diaries to school every day and they are doing an excellent job by engaging in this process. In week 11, when all the assessments are complete, teachers will be assisting students to update their diaries with Semester 1 grades. Through this process students will be able to track their own progress. They will set goals for next term. We continue to encourage all parents to monitor their child’s progress through interaction with student diaries.

Aman Bhullar, A/Junior Secondary Head of Department

Quality Teaching and Learning (QT&L)

Learning Walls

As the school progresses through our Quality Teaching and Learning journey, the Year 9 English teachers and students have been working hard on their speculative fiction unit with a clear focus on using Learning Walls to support student learning.

Ms Cassin, Ms Cameron and Ms Salat have done a fantastic job in developing these Learning Walls that support the students’ assessment. Just like Stephanie and Makayla (pictured), the students have been using the Learning Wall to help guide them in their assessment item on what they need to know and be able to do, to be successful.

I am looking forward to reading their fabulous Hybrid Speculative Short Stories.
**HUMANITIES**

In Year 9 Humanities students have been studying local and global modern history. Students first studied the Industrial Revolution; they had to choose an invention to investigate and its impact on society over the short and long term. Students then moved on to a study of local Australian history. Their studies focused on the short and long term impacts of colonisation on Indigenous Australia; the short and long term impacts of South Sea Island workers on the Australian economy as well as the Islanders’ communities; and the short and long term impacts of social movements such as the Australian Suffragettes on Australian society.

Students are now focusing their studies on the impact of the ANZAC Legend on the Australian national identity and its significance today. Students really enjoy learning about soldiers and their roles in the war and Australia’s history.

*Fiona Cameron and Sarah Cassin, Teachers*

**LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)**

The local area Japanese Speech Contest was held in May. This secondary competition is between Charters Towers State High School, Blackheath and Thornburgh College and The Charters Towers School of Distance Education. Three students from State High’s Japanese Year 7 class volunteered to participate in the competition.

We are very proud to announce that out of the seven students in the Year 7 division, two places were won by State High. Daniel Brooks won first place and Lilly Broderick gained third place. Tanieka Kyle also participated in the event.

*Wendy Sherman-Bryson, Teacher*

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**Debating**

This has been a great year so far for debating and public speaking at State High. Both the junior and senior teams for debating are performing admirably with the senior team on top of their competition while the juniors are currently in second place overall.
The senior team, consisting of Alyssa Congoo, Harmony Barath and Kassidy-Rose McMahon, has only conceded a single debate so far this season, winning such topics as “the Olympics should be for amateurs” as negative and “History is bunk” as the affirmative side. As a note of pride our senior debaters defeated the ASSG team that has been undefeated for the last 3 years.

The junior team, Emily Pankhurst, Isabelle King and Hollie Pianta, has also had some great victories, coming out on top on topics such as “Women should be paid the same as men in sport.”

Rostrum Voice of Youth

This year we have also had two of our seniors compete in the public speaking competition “Rostrum Voice of Youth”. Harmony Barath and Kassidy-Rose McMahon both entered and did our school proud. Although they did not end up placing, both girls had great speeches and placed in the top end of the competition.

Rugby League - Juniors

The Junior Rugby League season came to a conclusion this week. It was a big learning experience for our boys who came up against a number of teams with many years playing as a unit. Over the course of the season, there were a number of character building losses but each week the boys showed really clear improvement, especially on the defensive side of the ball. In the final game of the season, the State High Juniors smothered BTC’s attack and scored 4 tries in their 20-14 win. The previous game against BTC saw our boys lose by over 40 points, so such a turn-around showed a great positive attitude towards the game. I look forward to seeing these young men develop further as footballers in the coming years.

Scott Casey, Teacher and Coach

Rugby League - Opens

The Interschool Rugby League competition finished up last week with State High fighting tooth and nail in a hard fought defeat against BTC. The team displayed character and commitment through the final two games of the season and were able to hold their heads high at the end of the game. While it was a tough road during the year I would like to congratulate all of the players on the effort they put in through the year and thank Mr deBrenni as the sport co-ordinator as well as Mr Brough and Ms Cassin for their support on game day.

These students stood out and I would like to acknowledge them for their achievements during the year:

- Best Forward - Rangi Pehi
- Best Back - Austin Ross
- Most Improved - Alex Lowe
- Best and Fairest - Jack Rodighiero
- Players’ Player - Norman Butler (c)

Looking forward to one last hit out for 2016 when we get together in Term 4 for Rugby Tens.

Aaron Willis, Teacher and Coach

Touch Football – House Challenge

In an effort to build team spirit and morale, the senior sports captains at State High School have been giving up their Friday lunch times to run an Interhouse Touch Tournament. The competition has been fierce with all houses vying for a place.
in the finals and a chance to have their name on the House Challenge trophy.

The results are in: fourth place to Fraser on one point; third place to Friemann on three points; and there was a tie for first with Clarke and Mosman both ending up on four points.

The tie-breaker final is taking place as this newsletter goes to print.

Louise Halfpenny, Teacher

JUNIOR DRAMA

Year 8 Drama students are busy doing their Physical Theatre Assessments. Students have spent the last 8 weeks learning the principles of Physical Theatre. Students then manipulated the Physical Theatre principles and created their own narrative that reflects the theme of betrayal. Students have been very innovative in their narrative design and have created some amazing Physical Theatre pieces.

Meanwhile, Year 7 Drama students have been unpacking Zen Zen Zo’s modernised version of Romeo and Juliet and a monologue derived from the original Romeo and Juliet. Students compared both performances and analysed the theme of love embedded in both.

Kelcey Kirkpatrick, Teacher

JUNIOR SCIENCE

Year 7

Float like Cadillac, sting like a Beemer and get ready to race! It’s the annual State High balloon car race and the Year 7s are ready.

This term the Year 7s were challenged to a balloon car competition where students designed and built a car which accelerates from the propulsion of air released from a balloon attached to the car. The cars will be judged on design and workmanship, as well as winners for both the fastest and the furthest travelling cars.

A lot of hard work has gone in to the cars and the students have learned about the design process and how forces act on moving objects. The task was given to the Year 7s as part of a physics unit to teach them about forces and Newton’s laws of motion.

The Year 7s have had a lot of fun building their cars and their teachers feel the competition has brought out the engineer in all of them.

Rebecca Brooks, Teacher

Year 9

The term is coming to a close but this doesn’t mean that the learning is any less meaningful.

Year 9 science classes have been working hard this term on two units of work surrounding Chemistry and Earth Science. The first unit was a bit of fun where students had the opportunity to research radio activity in relation to isotopes and design a super hero based on an isotope of their choosing. This resulted in some great designs and students getting very involved in their assessment. The current unit of work surrounds plate tectonics and the theory of continental drift. (No, we didn’t watch Ice Age.) Students looked at how different plate boundaries cause formations on the Earth’s surface and below it. This knowledge was applied through an exam which required students to make links to theories in order to predict outcomes of tectonic events. Overall, students have enjoyed and challenged themselves throughout this unit.

Next term, students will cover a further two units with regard to the function of the human body and the structure of our ecosystem, which are both of the science strand, Biology.

Hope you all enjoy your holidays and I look forward to a great term 3.

Nathan Morris, Teacher
Premier’s Reading Challenge 2016

All Charters Towers State High School students in Years 7 to 9, are invited to join in the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge. The challenge aims to boost literacy skills by encouraging students to read widely for pleasure and learning, to develop their imagination and to cultivate a passion for literature.

The reading period for the 2016 Premier’s Reading Challenge commenced on Monday 16 May and closes Friday 26 August.

There are associated competitions in which students can participate, with the approval of their parents.

Students should see Ms Barnes for further information.

TUH ‘Big Thank You’ Giveaway

Just by saying a ‘Big Thank You’ to our teachers and librarians, you can help our school win one of 5 x $1,000 education resource bursaries. Your child can also win one of 100 x $50 gift vouchers just by entering.

All they have to do is visit the link below and say, in 50 words or less, how their teacher or librarian helps to inspire a love of reading. (Parents can help younger students with their entry.)

http://www.bigthankyou.com.au

The ‘Big Thank You’ Giveaway is proudly sponsored by TUH (Teachers’ Union Health), a health fund that was founded in Queensland 43 years ago to serve the education community. TUH was also the proud principal sponsor of the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Faith Barnes, Teacher

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY, RESTFUL AND SAFE WINTER HOLIDAY