PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to Term 3 (10 weeks).

School Opinion Survey

It is that time of year again where students, parents and staff are asked to reflect on their satisfaction level with the school over the past 12 months. I ask that everyone is objective when completing the survey to give a true reflection of the work the school is doing, to ensure success for every student.

On Monday 25th July the oldest student in each family will receive an information letter to take home on how to complete with year’s survey.

School Reports

Our Semester 1 reports are out and, overall, we have seen most cohorts attain or be close to the 85% C or better goal. I believe this is a reflection of the Quality Teaching and Learning approach of explicit instruction which sees students better informed to understand their learning. They are becoming assessment literate learners. Good work everyone!

Sporting Successes

Congratulations:

- Nash Lowis, U18 Javelin Champion, Melanesia Games 2016, with a personal best and a record.
- Tamieka Kyle for representing North Queensland in softball.
- Kyra Crombie for winning a scholarship to the USA for soccer.

Formal

Friday 29th will see our Year 12s head to the Combined Schools’ Formal and we wish them all a fun filled evening.

Contrary to Community Facebook discussion by various individuals who are not members of the school community, the decision for Year 11s to not attend the Formal was not taken lightly by the P&C and there have been no complaints raised by school families. While Year 11 attending has been a long-term tradition, the decision was taken in light of government policy for attendance at extra-curricula events and the community’s current economic situation.

Charters Towers Show

Look for our school display in the pavilion as we showcase curriculum and facilities we offer, along with entries in the produce section from the Agricultural Farm and student cookery.

The Show Holiday is Tuesday 2nd August 2016.

Attendance

Our school goal is 95% or better attendance for every student. I realise that sometimes, due to various extenuating circumstances, some students don’t attain this goal. However, it is the parent/caregiver’s responsibility to ensure the school is notified immediately of any absences. Long-term absences due to family circumstances will require completion of an exemption form obtained from the school office for the Principal’s approval.

From 1st July there is a requirement for schools to notify parents, on the same day, if students are absent. Our school will do this through SMS text messaging. To assist with us notifying you, it is imperative that your mobile phone contact registered with the school is current. This also is a timely
reminder to ensure your email address is registered so that you receive report cards and the newsletter, among other things.

**Student-Led Conferencing**

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday saw interested parents attend our enhanced reporting process “Student-Led Conferencing” whereby students identify to their parents what they were learning, areas they were successful in and how they will improve other areas.

This is a format that will replace the old style parent-teacher evenings where the teacher did the reporting, and sees the student taking ownership of their learning and outcomes.

**Public Holidays and Student-Free Day**

- **Tuesday 2nd August** – Show Holiday
- **Monday 3rd October** – Queen’s Birthday Holiday Qld
- **Monday 17th October** – Student-free day (staff training day)

Yours in Education

![Moya A Mohr, Principal](image)

**2016 EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS’ SURVEY**

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state-wide survey of students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 during 2015. The Early School Leavers’ survey is a short, confidential survey that collects information about what young people are doing the year after leaving school. The information from the survey helps our schools to understand the pathways young people follow after leaving school and to plan services to support transitions into study or employment for our students.

Between July and August 2016, our students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 last year, can expect to receive an invitation to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage early school leavers to take part.

For more information, visit the link below or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.


**STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Congratulations to the following students:

**Year 7** – Anthony Uren, Andrew West and Jack Farraway

![Anthony Uren, Andrew West and Jack Farraway](image)

**Year 8** – Isabel King, Josh Phillips and Hannah Birse

![Isabel King, Josh Phillips and Hannah Birse](image)

**Year 9** – Ethan Herlihy, Jamis Postlethwaite, Angela Walker

![Ethan Herlihy, Jamis Postlethwaite, Angela Walker](image)

Unfortunately, there is no photo available for Hannah.

**SENIOR SCHOOLING**

Welcome back to our Year 10, 11 and 12 students for Term 3. This term we will have numerous activities occurring that will certainly keep our Senior School students busy.

- Year 11 and 12 Biology Camp 25th, 26th & 27th July - Mrs. Komodzinska
- Dalrymple Trade Training Centre Expo 27th July – all Year 10, 11 and 12 students will be attending
- Combined Schools’ Formal 29th July
- QCS & QCS practice testing 30th and 31st August.

We have begun Term 3 with Student-Led Conferencing for Year 11 and 12 students and will also be holding SET Plan Meetings for Year 10 students during this term. These are important opportunities for parents/guardians to meet with teachers to discuss student progress. If you missed the opportunity and wish to discuss your child’s progress please contact the school to organise a meeting.
A reminder for all students and parents/guardians that 95% attendance is our goal for all students and is also an expectation here at Charters Towers State High School. If your child will be absent please inform the office and if you receive an absence letter return it to the school so we can ensure that explained absences can be marked in the system. Every day counts and excellent attendance provides the opportunity for excellent outcomes. To access any of the resources available and fact sheets to assist parents in engaging students with attendance please follow this link:

http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/resources.html

For any of our students experiencing difficulty with organisation of study, managing their subjects or making gains in subject areas please contact your relevant Head of Department, Senior Secondary Deputy Principal or our Guidance Officer and we will provide you with the support you may need. Every student succeeding is our goal and we are here to support all students to achieve that goal.

Have a wonderful Term 3 and see you around the school.

Sharon Hackman, Senior Secondary Head of Department

YEAR 10 ENGLISH

The Year 10 English Unit this term is Shakespeare. In this unit, we are exploring Romeo and Juliet. There are two pieces of assessment.

The first is an analytical essay looking at the play and also Baz Luhrmann’s adaptation of Romeo and Juliet. We have all viewed the film and this week we began to read the play and make some important decisions based on our opinions of the characters and the central arguments of others through evidence from the play. Each lesson we will be chipping away at the task so students must be sure to be at school and in class every day. This will in turn prepare us for our essays.

The second piece is a film review discussing the traditional play and also the many modern adaptations through music and film.

Free tutoring and after school help will be made available soon. Please look out for the timetable shortly.

If you have any questions, please phone the school to make an appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Tara Goldenberg and Stephen Perjanik, Teachers

STATE HIGH’S AGRICULTURAL FARM

The first semester at the Ag farm has been fruitful with the purchase of 2 head of Brahman Cattle. Students have been involved in breaking in the cattle and the students are beginning to achieve success in leading them.

Students have been robbing beehives and extracting honey off the comb and packaging it in squeeze bottles, ready for sale at the office and at Foodworks.

We have been busy producing a variety of crops from the ground up, including chillis, snow peas, beans, zucchini, carrot, corn, lettuce, bok choy, cucumber, beetroot, onions, pumpkin, watermelon, rockmelons and tomatoes.

We have been working hard to build community partnerships with Dalrymple Land Care, who are providing curriculum support.

I would especially like to thank our partners at this time: Burn’s Foodworks, for purchasing a large amount of our honey and fruit and vegetables and also Elders and DAFF for continued industry consultation.

The students are ready to get their hands dirty in Semester 2 and look forward to furthering sustainable farming practices.

This year is the first of many for students in junior agriculture classes, with students now attending the farm to conduct a range of practical field tests. Students in semester 1 really benefited from this hands-on experience, and we look forward to further developing hands-on learning opportunities.

Matt de Brenni, Teacher

JAPANESE

This term, the Year 7C and 8C students will be undertaking the Japanese intensive/rotation lessons. This is an opportunity for the students to gain an in-depth understanding of the topic being studied. Year 7C will study greetings, introductions, class room instructions and Hiragana writing. Year 8C will study food vocabulary and learn to talk about what they will eat and drink at meal times as well as Katakana writing. Year 7 B and D and Year 8 B and D are learning to state where they come from and where they live while Year 7 A and C and Year 8 A and C will be studying culture including Japanese writing.

Wendy Sherman-Bryson, Teacher

NAIDOC ARTS

During lunch on Tuesday last week, the Art Department hosted an Indigenous Art workshop where students from all year levels could create a piece of art inspired by their story. Tania Ault graciously gave up her time to run the lunchtime workshop and was able to pass down her knowledge and passion for Visual Arts. The students who participated loved the opportunity to draw, paint and learn a new skill during the workshop; most of them returned the following day to finish their works. The Art Department is looking forward to many more lunch time art activities to build skills, engagement and rapport with other students and community members.

Michelle Stewart, Teacher
JCU RESIDENTIAL CAMP

On 11th and 12th July, six senior students attended the James Cook University Residential Camp in Townsville. On day one students had the opportunity to attend an educational session in their chosen area and participate in various sporting events with other JCU students. At night, JCU student leaders organised a fantastic dance party at the university for all the schools to attend. Students were able to experience what life is like living on campus and the structure of a typical university day. On the second day, students again were able to interact and listen to various faculty members and what courses they have to offer. All students came away with something new and I believe had a fantastic time. Check out the photo below of our six students who proudly represented our school. Every year Senior students will have the opportunity to attend this residential camp.

Tahrea Briffa, Crizalyn Benavente, Maddie Power, Cheyenne Johnson, Dagne Bering and Cody Jones

Tracey Hill, Head of Department, Senior School

NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA

The NCCD will take place across Australia during Term 3, 2016. Please read the attached information. If you choose to opt out of your child participating in the NCCD in 2016 please contact the school as soon as possible.

Lorena Goll, Head of Special Education Services

SPORT

Nash Wins Gold and Smashes the Oceania Area Record!

The Melanesian Athletics Championships were held in Suva, Fiji from 7th to 9th July 2016. Charters Towers State High School student, Nash Lowis, as a member of Regional Australian Team competed in the Men’s Javelin under 18. Nash won with an outstanding throw of 71.50 meters, an Oceania Area Record; the previous record of 66.96 meters was set in 2002.

Nash was also a member of the Men’s 4 x 100 meter Relay Under 18 team; they brought home the Bronze.

Nash was given the privilege of Flag Bearer for the closing ceremony for his amazing performance and the area record in Javelin.

At the Closing Ceremony Dinner Nash, in recondition of his magnificent performance, was named the winner of the Arthur Eustace Shield for the most outstanding performance by an U18 athlete. This award is only awarded to athletes when their performance is worthy; this last being awarded in 2006.

Let the competition begin! Nash wins gold for U18 Men’s Javelin

Arthur Eustace Shield for Most Outstanding Performance U18

Honour of being Flag Bearer for Closing Ceremony

Girls’ Rugby League

Last year Charters Towers competed in the Cowboys Schoolgirls’ Rugby League Challenge in Townsville. It was an extremely successful day with the girls not only winning games but meeting and playing against girls from all over North Queensland.

Gabby Peddlar steamrolling the opposition

Alyssa Congoo making a break down the sideline

This year the event is back and we are looking to build on last year’s success. If girls are interested they can see Mr Brough at school. We will begin training one lunch time a week at the start of term and will add an after school session as the event gets closer. The day will be held on Friday 21st October and we are looking at having two teams this year, U14 and U16.

Carl Brough, Teacher and Coach
**INAUGURAL CANBERRA TOUR**

Message from the teachers received at the school on Day 1 of the tour:

**CANBERRA DAY 1 - Tuesday 21st June 2016:**

Yesterday was our first full day in Canberra. After an early visit to Mt Ainslie, we visited Parliament House and Old Parliament House. The students debated the Franklin River Dam Bill from 1983 and even had a guest appearance from Ms Mohr, who played the role of Mr Bob Hawke. We then visited the National Museum and Telstra Tower before an evening visit to the Australian Institute of Sport.

It’s cool today and the students are getting a taste of what life outside of tropical North Queensland is like.

In the last week of term two, I, Ms Mohr and a group of 24 Year Eight students travelled to Canberra. We had a brief, rainy stop off in Sydney before spending three days experiencing Canberra. The tour started at Parliament House and gave students a great opportunity to learn about our democracy and how it functions. The students had the opportunity to visit other venues such as Old Parliament House, Government House (Yaralumla), Telstra Tower, the Royal Australian Mint, the National Art Gallery and the National Museum. Two highlights for the students were the National Science Centre (Questacon) and the Australian War Memorial, where Hollie Pianta and Parker Warren had the privilege of laying a wreath at the last post ceremony, closing the memorial for the day.

A massive thanks must go out to the parents who assisted with fundraising through the ‘footsy doubles’. Also, Christine and Michael Burge generously donated several hundred dollars worth of food that we used for our fundraising barbecues which raised almost two thousand dollars. The trip would not have been possible without the hard work and effort of our administration staff, in particular Kerry Brown, who organised the finances.

Everyone had a great time and we hope to see an even bigger group, made up of our current Year 7s take part next year.

*Scott Casey, Teacher and Coordinator*

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

**SHEP**

Rock’n’ at SHEP: A few weeks ago, our very own Charters Towers award-winning musicians had the opportunity to take part in the Townsville SHEP Festival. This was a great opportunity for the young musicians to show off their musical skills and create new friends at the same time. SHEP stands for State Honours Ensemble Program and is a way of showing of your musical skills whilst befriending other musicians like ourselves. This program ran over the weekend and the students all learnt at least one thing from it. The program was fun and very interesting for all the students.

**Lachlan Dietrich, Grade 7, Trumpet**

SHEP was a great experience, learning new percussion instruments including Orchestral Chimes, which were really fun to play with. I found out they cost around $11,000 and the conductor told me to hit it hard because I won’t break it! The pieces of music we played were Colonel Bogey – a fun, fast march; Letters from Sado – a very mysterious piece; Abracadabra – a magic song; and The Battle March – an older style piece. Meeting all the other percussionists and seeing what school they went to and how old they were was a good experience. There were eight of us, so we were able to create lots of noise. When the performance came, I was listening and enjoying what the vocal and string ensemble had learnt. Overall, it was a very fun weekend and I hope that I can participate again.

**Noah Niemi, Grade 7, Percussion**

SHEP was a great experience. You can learn how to count in different time signatures such as 6/8. Another thing we did was play pieces at a different level than what we play at band. Also you could create and influence the story of the piece. Another great thing about SHEP is you learn different warm-up activities. Overall, SHEP is a great honour to attend and is a great experience on the whole.

**Georgia Richards, Grade 8, Alto Saxophone**

**Band Tour**

Band tour started Monday morning at some unearthly hour. (Logically, if the sun isn’t up, why should I be?). With a knee dislocation in the middle of the bus, Caleb was rushed off to hospital before we boarded the bus bleary-eyed and cold but excited for what was to come.

After an impossibly long bus trip (4 whole hours) we arrived at a school in Clermont. Plot twist: it was the wrong school. So off we went again before arriving at a different school. After finally disembarking at the correct location we teamed up with the budding musicians of Clermont State School to workshop and perform a variety of pieces. That afternoon we explored the town, venturing up the main street, and spending half an hour in an empty block trying to get a football back out of a tree as a result of a certain unnamed person’s questionable kicking skills. The evening consisted of a quick caravan park concert, which Taliesin enjoyed from inside the bus. Many fingers succumbed to the cold, resulting in a small implication on the quality of our
playing. The next morning brought a small amount of frost and a large amount of complaining students.

Tuesday involved a second workshop with Moranbah State High School students, a night time concert with fellow high school musicians and a certain highlight of the tour: pizza. The weather was a touch warmer, nevertheless there is no doubt we were still shaking in our shoes. Tuesday was also Kassidy’s 17th birthday so we enjoyed cake and sang happy birthday to her a number of times. A direct quote from a student’s experience of Tuesday night ‘It was too cold so we went to bed.’

Wednesday we travelled from Moranbah to Airlie Beach via Mackay. We performed at Northview State School where they graced us with a set of very entertaining drumming sequences. This school was essentially chosen as it is Mr Mossley’s primary school from back in the day, so it was enlightening to see where his career began. After packing up, we made our way over to Mt Pleasant Shopping Centre to execute our final concert of the tour. Another certain unnamed student opted to leave his instrument safely on the bus. Spirits were high as the Big Band performed with enthusiasm before packing up and being set free to swim around shopping, in a shopping centre with more than a handful of shops. (As a female student, this was quite the icing on the cake.) At precisely 2pm we boarded the bus for Airlie Beach. Upon arrival, we settled in and then went out on the town to watch the State of Origin. That night was substantially warmer than the previous two days. The weather was still nippy but by this time we were like old bushmen conditioned to the cold.

Thursday was the final day of Band Tour. Laden with hats, sunnies and wetsuits we sang our way across the blue water of the Whitsundays. The tour included a bushwalk over one of the islands and a couple of hours relaxing on Whitehaven beach. The plucky members of the band braved the cool air and went snorkelling. Snorkelling itself was an incredible experience. We enjoyed seeing hundreds of colourful fish and several stray turtles in the picturesque water. We arrived back on the mainland in the afternoon, windswept and sunburnt before leaving for Charters Towers around 4pm. The bus ride home was uneventful as students took the time to catch 40 winks. We arrived back home in the dead of the night (9:30pm), tired but appreciative of our short week away.

A huge thank you to John Baron, and Jamie and Andrew Richards, for accompanying us and keeping us in line. Also to our tireless bus driver whose forte proved to be dancing, showing us all up in the dancing-on-a-speed-boat department.

Finally, a massive thanks to our top of the line teacher, Mr Mossley, for organising the tour and making it happen. It was a huge success. Overall, it is safe to say that the tour finished on a very high note.

_Lara-Jane Kimber, Student_