Warning regarding behaviour: The silly season is upon us, the school year is coming to an end and temperatures are rising. Last week, on assembly, I warned students that throwing water and having their clothes saturated was not acceptable behaviour and would result in detentions, being sent home to change and possible suspension for repeat offenders who were being deliberately non-compliant. To counteract the heat, the hall will be open during both lunch breaks from now until the end of the year as a cool, air-conditioned alternative to the playground. I trust students will take up this opportunity to keep cool. I also remind parents to send a large water bottle to school with students for use in class as students are not permitted out of class for a drink.

Year 12: We say farewell and best wishes to our graduating Seniors this week with various activities: final assembly on Tuesday and Valedictory Dinner on Thursday, interspersed with Slave Day. On Friday they travel to Townsville, departing from and returning to Friemann Oval (8am to 3pm) after a BBQ breakfast.

Reporting: Report cards will be available on the last day for Years 10 and 11 (Friday 28th November) during Roll Class and on the last day of school (Friday 12 December) for Years 8 and 9. Please note that reports will NOT be mailed home. Any student who does not collect a report on their last day will collect it at Roll Class on the first day for 2015, being Tuesday 27th January.

School Fees/Student Resources Scheme: I take this opportunity to remind you that under State Government Legislation/Policy, unpaid fees preclude students from participating in optional extra curricula school activities. In reminding you of this departmental policy, I advise that the P&C has taken the decision that school sport is also an extra curricula activity at this school and, therefore, comes under the above guidelines as does: Leadership positions, Year 12 shirts and jerseys, attendance at the Senior Formal, Valedictory, non-curriculum camps, etc. In order for students to begin accessing resources from Day 1, I recommend parents make an initial deposit of $50 to the scheme. In tough economic times we offer a payment plan which can be negotiated with either myself or our Business Services Manager, Mrs Robin Ford, by making a confidential appointment through the office on 4754 6555.

Open House: On 1st and 2nd December we host our final Transition Session for future students and invite their parents to attend from 9am to 10.30am to see the children working in their 2015 classes and classrooms. Please advise the office of your intention to attend, for catering purposes, as we will host a morning tea after Session 1, to field questions. (Please see further information on next page.)

I look forward to meeting many new parents on these days. Yours in Education, Moya A Mohr, Principal
OPEN HOUSE
For all prospective
Year 7 and
Year 8 parents in 2015
Monday and Tuesday
1st and 2nd December
from 9am to 10.30am

Join us to experience learning and life at Charters Towers State High School. Our Junior Secondary Open House will be conducted during normal school hours in order to show exactly how our school functions every day.

Our Open House will coincide with our primary students’ transition day to State High.

The Open House will give you an opportunity to talk to our current and transitioning students, meet our staff, visit classrooms and tour the school campus.

We will conclude with a morning tea and a Question & Answer session.

Please contact the school office on 4754 6555 to indicate your attendance, for catering purposes.

Please direct any questions to Aaron Willis at the school.

Welcome to State High!
This term in our *English Essentials* classes, we have been working on creating exciting and interesting short stories between 250 – 500 words. This is a difficult task to undertake as the students need to be able to draw the reader into the story quite quickly. The students are currently in the drafting process with the final copy to be handed in today. If their drafts are anything to go by, there are going to be some super exciting stories for me to read this weekend. I am also hoping that I can convince some of the students to publish their work in the next newsletter.

The *Maths Essentials* class just completed their exam and are now continuing further study in fundamental mathematics concepts. We will continue our fascinating journey into the world of maths, where we are currently focusing on word problems as they relate to subtraction, addition and multiplication, as these can be tricky to understand. The students are also learning to complete simple maths problems without the use of a calculator.

**MARA SAMOJENKO, TEACHER**

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The Year 8 Debating Competition for this year has come to a close and State High’s team has performed incredibly well narrowly losing in the final round against Columba, the front runners of the competition. The team of Thomas Phillips as first speaker, Kurt Bull as second and Taliesin Parkhurst as third performed admirably and proudly represented their school.

Their first debate had them arguing that “We should be stricter with kids” and the final debate was “That competitive sport should be compulsory in school”. In both cases the boys were on the negative side and came up with some fantastic arguments. The adjudicators from all schools commented on how formidable a team the boys will become when they continue on into the higher grades.

A big thank you to Taliesin, Kurt and Thomas for their hard work and effort in achieving so much over the last few weeks.

**SCOTT PARKER, TEACHER**

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Friday night was the night for Charters Towers State High School’s first ever *Atten-dance*. To be eligible for an invitation to this event students must have had attendance of 95% or better for this term. This means that students were only allowed to have missed 1.25 days (unexplained) off school so far this term. As a result, there were a staggering 170 students invited (Years 8, 9 and 10).

A great night was had by all those who attended. There were some epic dance moves on show and many students displaying their hidden talents.

A big thank you to Sharon Hackman for organising the event and a big thanks to all teachers who assisted with supervision.

No doubt next year’s *Atten-dance* will be even bigger and better!

**WESLEY SMITH, YEAR 9 COORDINATOR**
As part of Job Skills, the students have volunteered their time to assist at Eventide Nursing Home in games and morning tea. All participants benefited from exchanging stories and getting to know each other. We thank Eventide for accepting our help and we hope to continue this partnership in 2015. This last week, we visited the school’s Agricultural Farm. The students collected eggs, pawpaws and helped Mr Donaldson with feeding the fish. The students are looking forward to visiting again soon.

With the end of the year fast approaching, students are busily trying to complete assessment items. Please remember if your child needs help the school offers tutoring. Also, if your child hasn’t completed their SET Plan Meeting this needs to be done ASAP.

Most Special Education students will be on the QCIA pathway for 2015 – 2016.

KYLIE HIGGINS, TEACHER
UI3 Girls Softball—Undefeated!

The U13s Softball Girls have completed the season undefeated. The team played two rounds against BTC, ASSG and CCC.

Accolades have to go out to the girls who put in the time for training and games on Wednesday afternoons. Well done to Nadyne Isaacs, Paige Fielder, Ruby Boundy, Mikalah Alloway, Karlee Willmot, Kelly Polsen, Carla Stonehouse, Naomi Knuth, Grace Glenwright and Gale Pryor; a well-deserved win.

RACHEL BARRY, TEACHER

School Expectations:

⇒ I am Safe
⇒ I am a Learner
⇒ I am Respectful

Please consider becoming a member of our Parents and Citizens’ Association

Parents as members of the P&C are the voice of the school and allocate the distribution of fundraising to worthy school causes.

As a parent, you are invited to become an active member of the P&C by attending meetings in the Administration Lounge once a month (the second Tuesday in the month) for 1 hour from 6.30pm.

This is the place where school policy is decided and the place for you to have your say.
From the Guidance Officer

Being a Friend versus Being a Parent

It is interesting when considering the number of children and adults alike who believe that a Mum or Dad should be a ‘friend’ in preference to being a ‘parent’. The job of being a parent is so much more than being a friend and holds a great deal of responsibility. This is worth some discussion.

What does Being a Parent mean?

- Being there for your child – to talk with them, take them places, stay up late waiting for them to come home to know they are safe, helping them with homework that sometimes is beyond your own knowledge, having school meetings with teachers, preparing lunches for years on end (this alone would test any friendship)
- Being with them to celebrate the good times but also to help them through the difficult times (and at times the difficult times out way the good times)
- Even when they say “I hate you” you give them unconditional love by answering ‘I love you’ and adding ‘but I don’t like your behaviour’ (not many friends would last the distance if they felt unloved).
- Using tough love when needed (letting them know when they have done the wrong thing; getting them to take responsibility for their actions; setting limits)
- Saying ‘no’ – and sticking to your decision when you know it’s in their best interest (this takes energy and strength to resist the emotional blackmail and the language that comes with this eg, you’re ruining my life/ my friendships/my future). Life not always going ‘your’ way actually helps build resilience/ it’s the struggles that make us stronger (we could go on and on with the benefits of ‘no’)
- Letting them know what they are doing well but also letting them know what they may need to improve on (which they may not want to hear)
- Being honest but not harsh eg, if an outfit is inappropriate who better to tell them than a parent (a friend most probably wouldn’t)
- Being the shoulder to cry on but eager to talk through the issue causing the problem
- Modelling good behaviour and educating your child with skills needed for them to be ready for living in the community – socially appropriate people are more employable than those lacking such skills

In drastic times, dropping everything and coming to their aid; at these times putting their needs before your own.

It takes more than a friend to be a parent. It takes love, commitment, selflessness, and endurance.

Let’s congratulate ourselves for lasting the distance.

Christine Barnes, Guidance Officer
Have you got the App?

We are signed up for our own Skoolbag Mobile Communications App to help us communicate more effectively with our parent/student community. To download the Apple version, look for our school name “Charters Towers State High School” in the Apple App Store and install it on your iPhone. The Android version can be downloaded from the Google Play Store. Both are free and provide you with instant access to important information provided by the school.

Insurance cover for students

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised the Department of Education, Training and Employment does not have accident insurance cover for students.

If your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents. Student accident insurance pays some benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is up to all parents to decide what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child. Please contact your insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if you wish to take out student personal accident insurance cover for your child.

Cybersafety help button

Online safety is just a click away with the Cybersafety help button installed on all school computers throughout the state. The floating icon is visible on computer desktops and is also available for parents to download to their home computer. It provides students with an easy means of reporting cyberbullying and online concerns. The button is a federal government initiative providing an online hub with 24 hour access to cybersafety help, reporting options, resources and information. http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/behaviour/qsaav/cybersafety-button.html

Community Services Scholarships and Holiday Programs – CHARLTON BROWN®

2015 Director’s Scholarship

Students are invited to Apply for 2015 Scholarships; commencing study in January, February and March intakes next year. Scholarships are available in Diploma and Certificate IV programs across all CHARLTON BROWN® disciplines. Entry is open to current Year 12 students (graduating class of 2014) and Year 10 students who are not continuing with senior schooling (and meet Government requirements). Each applicant is assessed on merit and the level of scholarship, from part to full scholarship, is based on this. In 500 words or less, the applicant needs to explain why a career in community services, children’s services, aged care work or disability care is for them. Applications must include:

- Current resume
- Two (2) colour photographs
- Two (2) written references
- Two (2) contactable references

All applications are to be emailed in full to CHARLTON BROWN® Operations Manager, Amina Kerr.

Junior Nanny Holiday Program

$250. Bring three friends for the price of two! 12—15 January 2015, 3/31 Duncan Street, Fortitude Valley, 4006. CHARLTON BROWN® offers high school students the opportunity to get a taste of what it is like to be a Nanny. During the four days of the Junior Nanny Award course, students learn about children’s play and learning, child development, baby care and safety in the home, bath time, painting and game development. Phone 07 3216 0288 to make a booking for the Brisbane Junior Nanny program.

Travel off the Beaten Tourist track- Volunteer in Asia with the CHARLTON BROWN® Foundation

Gemma Brooking, current Diploma of Youth Work student, completed her practicum placement with the CHARLTON BROWN® Global Linkages program, in Hyderabad, India. Gemma and the Global Linkages team undertook a program to educate the community about hygiene practices and the role that sanitation can play in the prevention of illness and improvement of community health and wellness. The team worked with children, orphans and the community educators.

For more information please visit their website at http://www.charltonbrown.com.au/
Message to Parents

Let’s Keep Them ALIVE!

It is that time of year again where many students have acquired their driver’s licence and the school values the lives of every student so . . .

It is a requirement that no student be a passenger in a vehicle driven by a student unless we have on record permission notes from the parents of both the driver and passenger.

Statistics show that most road accidents and fatalities occur with young men aged 17 to 25 and we don’t want any of our students being a statistic.

When inexperienced drivers get friends in the car the distractions multiply significantly which in turn puts themselves and the lives of other road users and pedestrians at risk.

Please consider donating your uniforms to the school.

All donations are appreciated!
The Queensland Government does not promote participation in Schoolies but seeks to enhance the safety and responsible behaviour of school-leavers at Safer Schoolies locations and to minimise disruption to local communities.

What support will be available for teenagers during Schoolies?

As part of the Safer Schoolies Initiative, a range of safety and support services will be provided at the key Schoolies destinations in Queensland.

Each Safer Schoolies location has its own access requirements, but all require proof of student photo ID to take advantage of the free activities and support services available.

Police, emergency services, security, volunteers and officials will maintain a highly visible presence, providing schoolies with medical assistance, general support and advice.

Safety initiatives include wristbands or photo ID for identification, street patrols, walk-home services, schoolies-only areas, free water and medical assistance. The Red Frogs Australia Chaplaincy Network also provides support to schoolies in accommodation venues.

Volunteers play a vital role in helping to keep school leavers safe. All volunteers have a Blue Card, agree to a code of conduct and receive training.

Some tips and advice for preparing your children for Schoolies can be found at:


Providing alcohol to underage children where there is no responsible supervision is not only dangerous, it is illegal. Penalties are high. If you get caught providing alcohol to an underage child for consumption in an unsupervised environment you will face penalties of up to $9108.
SU-Schoolies 2015 Now Open

Looking for the ultimate way to finish 12 years of school?

Look no further!

SU-Schoolies - an awesome start to the rest of your life!!!

Choose Your Way To Finish!

Then apply online

SU-Schoolies.com

SU-Schoolies has 5 events happening in 2015.

We will also be offering subsidised bus transfers from Cairns, Townsville and Mackay for Sunny Coast and Fraser Schoolies. Travel costs will start at $130 from Mackay and include accommodation on the Sunday night prior to events starting on Monday.

Registrations for all 2015 events are now available through:

www.su-schoolies.com