Southport State High School NEWS

“The Smart Choice” Issue: Friday 8th April, 2011

From the Principal

Easter is nearly upon us and it is great to report back to you all the wonderful things that have been going on at Southport State High School.

I have read many student reports and I am very pleased to see so many students excelling in so many areas. All students should now have received their school report for Term 1. If you have not received this information please contact our office to gain a copy of your student’s report.

I have challenged all students to reflect on their performance as shown on their interim report and commit to a personal performance improvement plan in the lead up to the end of the semester. A student can only improve if they know where they are positioned with their results, make a plan and a commitment to improve academic performance. We have dedicated and committed teachers who will ensure that all students are given the best opportunity and support to achieve their academic goals.

Also, please remember that Student/Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in the Sports Centre on Monday 11th April starting from 2:15pm. I encourage you all to attend these meetings as they provide much needed feedback for both students and parents on your student’s performance.

Our ‘Smart Choice’ Open Afternoon was recently held and I am proud to tell you that over 100 primary school students attended with their families. The feedback was wonderful with compliments to our staff on the amazing support, teaching, learning and facilities that we have here at Southport State High School. Well done to both staff and students who did a great job.

I had the privilege to listen to our talented Instrumental Music students perform last week at the Ashmore Music Centre. Our teachers ran an exceptional day with the uncovering of a future star in Tiana Storm on vocals. Watch out for this name in the future!

I have spoken many times about uniform and with winter fast approaching I urge all parents/carers to ensure that their student has the appropriate school winter attire. Our expectations regarding personal appearance are very high and the wearing of non-uniform attire not only detracts from our school image but also presents a safety issue as we are unable to clearly and quickly identify outsiders on our school grounds. There will also be increased scrutiny to jewellery and uniform that is not part of the school’s Code of Behaviour.

The P&C held its Annual General Meeting last night and I am pleased to announce the Executive Committee for 2011. Bob Panter will continue on as President, Bianca Mandalios as Vice-President/Secretary, Lyn Mansfield as Treasurer and Deb Fleming as Assistant Treasurer. A huge thank you to these wonderful people for volunteering their time to ensure that our school continues to provide the best opportunities for all our students.

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to recognise the passing of ex-student, Blake Baldock. We send our condolences and support to his family at this terrible time. I hope that everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday and that you get to spend some quality time with your loved ones. See you all next term.

Mr Steve McLuckie
Principal

My School Version 2

Version 2 of the My School website was released on March 4 to provide parents and careers with a range of additional information about our school. New features include 2010 NAPLAN results and student progress, a new measure of the background of a student attending a school and school financial data.

Our school’s financial information will include a breakdown of the different funding our school received from government, fees and charges, P&C contributions and other sources in 2009.

Parents should note that the majority of the funding used to support the operation of state schools is not paid directly to school accounts. Rather it is held centrally by the Department of Education and Training to pay for school costs including teacher salaries and wages and major capital works.

The financial information contained on My School reveals the total school funding and the level of funding per student which varies from one school to another because every school community is unique. Local factors that affect funding include location, make up of the student body and the types of programs offered.

Parents and carers are encouraged to access the My School website at www.myschool.edu.au.

Cyber Safety Help Button keeping families safe online

The Cyber Safety Help Button is a new Australian Government initiative, supported by the Department of Education and Training, designed to keep children and families safe online.

Street Address: 75 Smith Street Southport QLD 4215 Postal: PO Box 1726 Southport QLD 4215 Telephone: (07) 5509 1222 Fax: (07) 5509 1200 Email: office@southportshs.eq.edu.au Website: www.southportshs.eq.edu.au
The downloadable button links to an online resource hub that provides 24 hour access to cyber safety help and information.

Parents and carers are encouraged to explore the resources and discuss the button’s use with their children.

To find out more visit the Department of Education and Training website at


Search is on for our favourite teachers

Students have the chance to tell us what’s great about their teacher in the 2011 My Favourite Teacher Program.

The program, held as part of State Education Week festivities, celebrates the differences teachers make everyday in the lives of students across Queensland.

Students are encouraged to nominate their favourite teacher via the My Favourite Teacher website at

www.education.qld.gov.au/community/events/edweek/favte acher/

Click on your local papers masthead and nominate your teacher in 25 words or less.

Of course parents of smaller children are allowed to give them a hand so no teacher misses out on being recognised for the important role they play in their student’s lives.

Winning teachers will receive a certificate and a Stefan gift pack.

Entries close Friday May 6, with recipients announced during State Education Week from Sunday 22 May to Saturday 28 May.

Find out more about the Australian Curriculum

Australia is introducing a national curriculum with the aim of raising education standards and creating consistent curriculum, assessment and reporting across the nation.

Parents and carers will have the chance to hear more about the introduction of the Australian Curriculum into Queensland schools at a parent information session in Brisbane on Wednesday 27 April.

The Queensland Studies Authority will be holding the special evening session for families at their annual conference ‘Vision to Reality: Queensland’s new education landscape’.

Find out what the new curriculum means for you and your child.

Learn about the differences between the Australian Curriculum and Queensland’s current curriculum.

There will also be a chance to ask questions about how the new curriculum will be used in Queensland. The session will be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre from 5-7pm. Cost is $15.

The Queensland Studies Authority provides Prep to Year 12 curriculum, testing and certification for Queensland schools.

For further information visit the Queensland Studies Authority website at http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/11699.html

To register your interest, complete the parent information session registration form online at http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/events/pd_conf_201 1_parent_session.pdf and return, with payment, to the Queensland Studies Authority.

Queensland Youth Week competition now open

Young people aged 12 to 25 are encouraged to get creative and be in with a chance to share in more than $10,000 worth of prizes in the Youth Week Own It! Competition.

Using a range of mediums including audio, design or film, students can have their say on health or social issues or share how they Own It!, whether it’s through volunteering, travelling the world or following their dreams.

Approved entries will be displayed on the Youth Week website and students will be able to vote for their favourite entry.

For more information visit the Youth Week website at www.youth.qld.gov.au

Entries close Tuesday 31 May.

Upcoming school holiday dates

Parents are reminded that the arrangements for these school holidays will be slightly different to previous years.

The last day of school for this term will be Thursday 14 April 2011. Students are expected to attend on this day.

A student free day has been scheduled for Friday 15 April to enable teachers to prepare for the term ahead and participate in professional development activities. Students should not attend school on this day.

The school will be officially closed until Tuesday 26 April inclusive, allowing for the ANZAC Day public holiday on Monday 25 April and the Easter Monday public holiday on Tuesday 26 April.

We wish all our school community a safe and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on Wednesday 27 April.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school.

If you see anything suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.
The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, The Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

For more about the School Watch Program contact Education Queensland’s School Security Section on (07) 3237 0874.

Mrs. Karen Brown
Deputy Principal

Upcoming Events Calendar

The following are proposed dates on our school calendar

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<th>Mon 11th</th>
<th>PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS</th>
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<td>Wed 13th</td>
<td>YEAR 08 NAPLAN PRACTICE</td>
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<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>STUDENT FREE DAY</td>
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<td>Mon 18th -  Fri 22nd</td>
<td>EASTER VACATION</td>
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<td>Mon 25th</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Tues 26th</td>
<td>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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Parent Teacher Interviews

All students were issued with their Term 1 report card on Friday 1 April.

The Parent Teacher Interviews will commence at 2.15pm to 7.15pm Monday 11th April. Please accompany your student to gain important feedback from teachers to assist with their learning. Due to the Parent Teacher Interviews school will be finishing at 1.15pm. If your student is unable to leave or be collected before normal school finishing times please contact Student Services via the office.

Guidance Information

Griffith University is currently offering The Senior School a great opportunity with their Experience Days. The Years 10, 11 & 12 students are invited to the Griffith University Experience Day. The Experience Day Program will be held in Semester 1 from 16th to 20th May 2011. The program includes sitting in on first year lectures and participating in tutorials and workshops. Students will also get the chance to meet lecturers and staff from their area of interest, as well as like-minded students from other schools. Please note registrations close Friday 15th April 2011. Places are limited so early registration is recommended.

Year 12 Information

Gold Coast Institute of TAFE is offering 2012 Direct Entry and Scholarship Applications. You can secure your place early in a diploma program at Gold Coast Institute of TAFE with their Direct Entry Program. Standard fees apply for Direct Entry, and a select number of applicants will also be considered for a 2012 scholarship. The 2012 Direct Entry rewards those students who are committed to their high school vocational studies, demonstrate learning, training commitment and excellence in the career area of their choosing. No OP or rank is required. Diploma programs are available in Accounting, Interior Technology, Graphic Design, Music, Events, Hospitality, Children’s Services, Fitness, Beauty and many more.

Mr. Greg Cheshire
Guidance Officer

Broadwater Swimming Carnival

Broadwater Swimming Carnival was a successful day for Southport. The carnival was held on the 16th of February at Somerset pool. Southport had a small swim team but it was packed with talent. On the day all students were well behaved and represented the school excellently. Some of the more impressive results include David Morgan who broke the record in the Opens butterfly, 2nd in the backstroke, 1st in the freestyle and Open Boys’ Age Champion. The Open boys also had an amazing win when they took out the medley relay with two of the swimmers from year eight. Kai Edwards came first in the backstroke while Evie-Jane Dunn also had a number of good results including a 2nd in the backstroke. A special thanks to Mandy Morgan, Tahlia Klien and Morgan Rodwell for time keeping all day.

Mr. David Fine
Supervising Teacher

SEP

The students of the SEP have been attending Learn to Sail lessons at Runaway Bay Sailing Facility. In the lessons students have learnt skills from sailing independently to righting a capsized boat. Everyone has shown a keen interest in learning new skills and had a great time doing it.

Mr. Ron Pyre
Hod SEP
The Arts

The cast, crew and teachers of this year’s musical ‘Annie’ are well and truly busy with rehearsals underway and a show starting to form. Rehearsals are well ahead of schedule and the students, although working really hard, love every minute of it. Our talented cast are busy singing, dancing and acting each Monday afternoon and Wednesday sport days and each week, the show is bigger and better.

The amazing teachers that are helping to put our show together are also working tirelessly round the clock to help create, paint, build, promote and fund our work. Special thanks to Pete Fadner, Geoff Hodskiss, Tony Lawrance and the teachers in the Marketing and PR Focus group.

Keep your calendar open for June 15th, 16th & 17th so you don’t miss out on one of the best musicals to date! See you then!

Library News

Somerset Celebration of Literature

Every year a small group of students visit the Somerset Celebration of Literature. This is a great opportunity for students to hear authors speak about their work and meet them when their novels are autographed.

This year, we encountered Ben Chandler and Kirsty Eager.

Lachlan Horrigan (11E) reports:

Ben Chandler, author of Quillblade, spoke about the similarities of modern day superheroes such as Batman and Wolverine with heroes from ancient stories like Beowulf and King Arthur. His talk inspired anyone to accomplish their dream of becoming an author by inventing creative, original characters for their own stories.

Kirsty Eager has written a distinctly Australian vampire novel, called Saltwater Vampires. It is a mix of vampires, Australian history and surfing. Kirsty knows what she is talking about; she’s a surfer from way back. Here is part of the book blurb:

For Jamie Mackie, summer holidays in the coastal town of Rocky Head mean surfing, making money, and good times at the local music festival. But this year, vampires are on the festival’s line-up … fulfilling a pact made on the wreck of the Batavia, four hundred years ago. If their plans succeed, nobody in Rocky Head will survive to see out the New Year.

Trish Bailey (11E) is currently reading and enjoying it and Emma Cheshire (11E) is next.

We look forward to next year’s Somerset Celebration of Literature to see what new authors we will be introduced to.

Ms Kelly Sparke
ENGLISH DRAMA TEACHER

“Blood, Sweat & Dance”

This year, Dance students have been learning about various styles and forms of Dance. On Friday 18th March, a group of dedicated and enthusiastic students from Years 8 to 12, ventured to the Gold Coast Arts Centre to witness the epic performance of “Blood, Sweat & Dance”.

This show was directed and choreographed by So You Think You Can Dance finalist Ben Veitch and featured 5 truly talented performers who immersed the audience in a visually and emotionally challenging performance. The story of the show focused on the trials and tribulations of a dancer as the cast delved into the heart and soul of what it means to dance. This performance featured jazz, ballet, latin, ballroom, contemporary and hip hop genres, in addition to the show having phenomenal lighting and creative staging choices. This was a performance never to be forgotten and the dance students left the theatre wanting more. A wonderful night of theatre!

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Mrs. Avril Priem
LIBRARIAN
Marine

Year 11 and 12 Marine Camps 2011

In week 6, for 3 days and 2 nights, 43 Year 12 Marine Studies/Marine and Aquatic Practises students embarked on a camp to South Currigee on South Stradbroke Island. Mr. Russell, Mr. Fine and Miss Duguid were accompanied on the trip by Mr. McGuire (School Chaplain), Mrs. Wastell (Science Officer) and Miss Lovesey (Prac. Teacher).

Students formed buddy groups and were asked to organise all their own equipment, food and drink. The first morning was spent transporting students and what seemed like a mountain of equipment to the island.

Once the camp site was established, students rotated between driving the tinnies, the Ibis, snorkeling and fishing. A couple of decent size mud crabs were caught, however, both were ‘Jennys’ and had to be returned. We also ventured over to the surf beach, for an eco-walk and some fun in the waves.

Unfortunately, it stormed on both nights and we found out the hard way that about half a dozen tents were not waterproof! Mr. Fine spent most of the first night trying to sort out wet equipment and dry accommodation for those affected students.

In week 7, this time for 2 days and 1 night, 26 Marine and Aquatic Practises students attended the same camp site. Again, Mr. Russell and Mr. Fine did all the hard work, with Mr. McGuire and Mrs. Wastell helping out. At least 1 less day meant a lot less equipment needed to be transported to the island, and it didn’t take as long to set up camp.

The Year 11’s were not quite as creative as the Year 12’s with their cooking skills, with a few more 2 minute noodle packs appearing on their menu. The Year 11’s did redeem themselves, however, with quite a large number of fish caught, even if it did take most of the night!

All in all, the students on both camps had a lot of fun while gaining valuable boating and navigation skills. The site managers were very pleased with the behaviour of our students and the tidy state of the camp site after our departure. We were thankful for the lovely weather (apart from the night storms), and great camp fire stories from Mr. Russell, accompanied by Mr. Fine on the didgeridoo!