From the Principal

Welcome to Term 2. I hope your Easter vacation was relaxing and a chance to recharge your batteries. Traditionally Term 2 is a very busy time in the school and as such a huge focus has been placed on student attendance and academic performance. For Year 11 and 12 students end of semester exams and assessment will be here in no time so I encourage all to keep striving for excellence and make sure time is used wisely.

The Homework Centre has been operating since the start of the term and I am pleased to report that it has been a huge success. Students have had the opportunity to get crucial tuition and support on their assignments and help with study. The Homework Centre is operating on Monday and Thursday afternoons in the Resource Centre (Library) from 3:00pm and all students are invited to participate. It is another demonstration of our commitment to the success of all students and I hope that all make the most of this wonderful opportunity.

I would like to thank all the parents and students who took the time to see us for Parent/Teacher interviews at the end of last term. I know we live in a busy world but the conversations and discussions about student performance were amazing and your support of your child’s personal improvement plan is critical in ensuring success.

Our Smart Choice Open Afternoon was a huge success. We had over 300 people attend. The feedback I received from perspective parents and students was how supportive the staff were, the great programs, facilities and the strong reputation in the community for student performance and behaviour. I challenged all the parents who attended to find a school that had staff who were more dedicated or committed and a school that was more caring and supportive. I am very confident that they will not find it anywhere on the Gold Coast.

This week sees our Year 9 students sitting the NAPLAN tests in literacy and numeracy. Our students and teachers have been busy preparing for these very important tests and we wish them all the best.

Over the Easter vacation we had two of the oldest buildings in the school removed.

From the Deputy Principal

NAPLAN Tests

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an annual event for schools since 2008.

On Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May, students will undertake the 2011 NAPLAN tests.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four domains of Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against the national standards for all Australian children.

All students are encouraged to participate in the tests. Students with a disability may qualify for special provisions that reflect the support normally provided to them in the classroom.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers.

More information is available at www.nap.edu.au

Mr Steve McLuckie
Mrs Karen Brown
From the Deputy Principal

**ANZAC Service**

On Wednesday 4th May the whole school assembly honoured our ANZACs. The assembly began with an honour guard of cadets capably led by Hayley Freeman, Janus & Sean Macuno, Tasman McMillan and Amber Hata, carried out their honour guard duties to a really high standard and added to the solemnity of the occasion. The service began with both the national anthems from Australia and New Zealand being played. Senior leaders, Sarah-Jane Fish and Maddie Collier led the assembly. Our guest speaker, Mr John Riebeling, an ex teacher of Southport State High School and an ex-serviceman from the RAAF, gave an insightful speech into what ANZAC means to him. Callum McMath from Year 12 read the Ode and everyone was reflective about the fallen.

Probably the most remarkable contributions were given by our trumpeters, Jordan Luettke and Chara Scroope, who played the Reveille and Last Post so beautifully in front of the whole assembly. A daunting task by no means, and with such difficult pieces, so they need to be congratulated for their wonderful renditions.

Our Chaplain, Paul McGuire, is always a willing contributor to our school community. His reflection was absolutely lovely and given the recent losses of ex-students, the poignancy of his speech to the student body was most welcomed.

Wreaths were laid by student representatives from each year level, accompanied by a staff member. Year 8’s were represented by Jie Stratton, Lara Filmer and Mrs Renee Dixon. Year 9s by Aniela Swan, Francisco Soler-Torrijos and Mr Tom Vieyra; Yr 10s by Hayley Delore and Ms Lauren O’Toole; Yr 11s by Saeran Tanton and Mr David Fine; and Yr 12s by Michael Mandalios, Rachel Chow and Ms Renee Greenhalgh.

The school community respectfully honoured our ANZACs and I am proud to ensure the tradition at Southport State High School is not lost.

Mrs Robyn Marconi
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

From the School Nurse

I wish to say farewell to the Southport SHS students, staff and community as the time has come for Frances Colahan to return to her position following completion of her role in SBHYN management. I have met some really caring, genuine and professional people during my work at Southport SHS. Term One was by no means a quiet term in many ways and as an outside agency providing a service in the school may I congratulate the school body on their management of the situations arising. It is my intention to return to Southport SHS to relieve Frances as the time arises. Thank you again for making me feel part of your school community.

Mrs Lisa Condon
SCHOOL NURSE
**News from the Chaplain**

It is that time of year again where many of our students will be putting on their walking shoes for Ks4Kids walk-a-thon. Ks4Kids is the biggest fundraiser for school chaplaincy on the Gold Coast and is a great way to get out and do something positive with the family. Together with students from across the Gold Coast we will walk 30km from Southport SLSC to Coolangatta on the 28th May. Last year with late notice we had around 35 students participate and raised over $800. With more preparation and experience this year our target is 100 team members and $5000.

To ensure you are a part of this fantastic event please fill out a registration form at my office or go to www.ks4kids.org.au and sign up for the Southport High Team. If you want to do more to help us reach our target ask for a sponsorship booklet and hit up your friends, neighbours and local businesses.

Dreamworld have kindly donated a family pass and 3 individual passes for the highest fundraisers.

Get registered to ensure you receive your event T-Shirt. Registration $10 students, $20 Adults

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**Position Vacant**

Applications are now available from the school administration office for the position of Chief Community Representative for the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test which will be held on Tuesday 30 August and Wednesday 31 August. Details of hours, pay rates and other conditions are available with the application package.

Applications close on Friday 13 May 2011.

Mrs Margaret Tonge

**Senior Schooling**

Applications are now available from the school administration office for the position of Chief Community Representative for the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test which will be held on Tuesday 30 August and Wednesday 31 August. Details of hours, pay rates and other conditions are available with the application package.

Applications close on Friday 13 May 2011.

Mrs Tracey Somerville

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**Maths**

At the end of last term we ran a NAPLAN trial day for Year 9 and a half day for Year 8. As part of the trial, the Year 9’s did the 2010 calculator and non-calculator numeracy tests. A comparison of the data with the results from the 2008 NAPLAN practice test we did at the beginning of the year indicated an improvement for many students, so we feel confident our students are well prepared for the “real deal” on 12th May. The Year 8’s did a modified NAPLAN test, the main purpose being to keep them in tune with the NAPLAN process when their turn comes around again next year. The one disappointing aspect was that some students, particularly Year 8’s, did not bring their calculators for the test. As there are a variety of calculators available, it is IMPERATIVE that students have their OWN calculator for ALL mathematics lessons so that they are well rehearsed in how to use it. This obviously has a huge impact on their learning and subsequent success in their mathematical work.

Another important date to note is Thursday 4th August when the prestigious Australian Mathematics Competition will be held during period 3. I would strongly urge all PACE, sub PACE and Maths B and C students to have a go. Of course any student is welcome to participate. The cost is $5.50 and can be paid at the payments window where a receipt will be issued.

Students, particularly in the middle school, will continue to be regularly given “Mathletics” homework. “Mathletics” can also be used as a tool to further improve and consolidate mathematical knowledge and understanding of work covered in class. For students who are unable to access computers at home, the newly opened Homework Centre (open Monday and Thursday after school) would be the ideal place to go for this purpose.

Ms Christine Stewart

**Japanese**

There are many celebrations in Japan. During the period from April 29 to May 5, the Japanese celebrate four national holidays which have resulted in that time being called Golden Week. These holidays include Showa no Hi to celebrate the birth of the previous emperor, Greenery Day and Constitution Day. This is also cherry blossom season so many people take annual leave and spend time having parties and picnics in the local parks, while viewing the beautiful pink flowers.

The final national holiday is Kodomo no hi (Children’s Day) on 5th May. This day is traditionally known as Boys’ Day as there is also a special day for girls called Hinamatsuri. To drive away bad spirits and celebrate the future of their sons, families hoist koinobori (cloth carp streamers) on flagpoles. Each carp is a different size and represents a family member. Indoors families display gogatsu-ningyo (samurai dolls and their armaments) on tiered ledges. Special dishes such as Kashiwa mochi (rice cakes) and chimaki (dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves) are eaten.

Mrs Paul McGuire

Mrs Christine Stewart

Mrs Tracey Somerville
The Arts

“Trojan Women” Drama X Performance

Throughout Term 1, the Drama Excellence class of year 9 and 10 students have been engrossed in the study of Greek theatre and during class time have been rehearsing a traditional Greek play, directed by their teacher. This study has been based on the traditional aspects of Greek style theatre focusing on the use of a chorus, the importance of storytelling through vocal variations and the adaptation of modern staging.

The students have studied the play “The Trojan Women” that centres on the fall of Troy. The chorus of women, whose families have been murdered, are being taken by the Greek soldiers as slaves. This is a passionate story about the trials and tribulations of the women and demonstrates their strength and rage at the destruction of their lives.

As part of their assessment for this term, students performed to a live audience of over 70 parents, friends and past students on Tuesday 14th April. A huge congratulations to the students who performed with commitment and passion. The audience were so amazed at the maturity in which these young performers demonstrated.

Well done Drama Excellence on a fabulous Term 1. I can’t wait to see the wonderful work you produce throughout the year!

Queensland Theatre Company Junior Scholarship winner is.... Cassandra Van Eck

One of our talented Year 8 Drama students was entered in a Dramatic Arts program in the hope of winning a scholarship at The Gold Coast Arts Centre in the Easter holidays for professional tuition by members of the Queensland Theatre Company.

Of all the schools in the Gold Coast area, our very own Drama student Cassandra Van Eck was chosen and awarded a full scholarship for the week long program which ran from Saturday the 16th of April to Wednesday the 20th April. The professional workshop ran for 5 full days and ended in a performance showcasing their work from the week.

The extension program offered development in dramatic acting, characterisation, and voice production, and was offered exclusively to The Arts Centre Gold Coast. The residency was an outstanding opportunity for Cassandra as she got to learn vital performance and theatrical skills from industry professionals in this five day program. Not only learning about performance skills that promote self-worth and build confidence, Cassandra was also able to develop her skills as a budding actor, through the guidance of the professional performers.

I sat as a very proud Drama teacher on the final night where Cassandra showed exemplary skills as a performer - shining amongst the group of other students. Look out for Cassandra in the future as I know we will be seeing her on the stage a lot more!

Congratulations Cassie!
COURSE PRODUCTION NIGHT 2011 – JULY 27TH

With 2 months out from show night, the annual Course Production is well underway as the Year 12 Drama students gear up to present an evening of thought-provoking, humorous and moving theatre as each performance highlights the underlying theme: Psychosis. Fittingly named, Psychosis will delve into the dark, disturbing nature of insanity and dysfunction of the mind through a collection of plays directed and performed by the Senior Creative Arts Academy Drama students. Broken into two acts, the second half of the night will traditionally be a sneak peak at the entry piece into this year’s Senior Drama Festival division, written and directed by Rachel Cutajar.

List of plays include:

Effie’s Burning - directed by Michael Mandalios
Effie, who has lived in mental institutions since she was thirteen, has been admitted to hospital with severe burns. Treating her is Dr. Ruth Kovacs, who finds in Effie’s extraordinary story the key to her own suppressed courage. Taut and powerful, tender and often funny, Effie’s Burning is an emotional switchback of a play, with a searing anger at its heart.

Bachelor Holiday - directed by Rachael Monaghan
Three men. A sanitiser-obsessed freak, another with OCD and the last whom you will never want to share a room with – all crammed in one apartment. What could possibly go wrong?

4.48 Psychosis - directed by Rachel Chow
Exploring the complex nature of institutionalized depression, 4.48 Psychosis takes us into a reality where the desperate cry for help to escape spiraling sadness is responded with the indifference of certified hospital staff.

In the Dead of Night- directed by Kirra Khan & Natalie Owens
Can healing be restored to a broken family after a tragic car accident? A young girl struggles with the trauma and confusion of losing her mother and finds the only way to cope is to blame someone.

Phobias - directed by Bradley Deem
A quick comedic skit, five people convene at a local phobia conference to discuss and hopefully bring closure to their deepest fears. Watch on as things don’t go quite so smoothly as expected…

Cripple - directed by Rachel Cutajar
2011 Senior Drama Fest Entry piece.

Held in the Creative Arts Academy Theatre on Brooke Avenue, tickets will soon be on sale for $5 which you may purchase by calling the school on (07) 5509 1222 or at the Payments Window. We hope you will come for a creatively inspiring night of entertainment and support our dedicated Creative Arts drama students.

Miss Rachel Chow

This June, Southport State High School students will be performing the classic, family favourite Annie as this year’s school musical. Over the past few months, students and teachers have been working hard to pull together a theatrical experience that the whole family can enjoy. Annie tells the story of a young orphan girl, named Annie, who is treated to an extravagant Christmas thanks to the local billionaire, Mr. Warbucks, and the search to find her parents. Supported by a cast of colourful characters we can guarantee that you will be touched by the inspiring, dedicated, and sometimes comedic performances of our students.

To add to the cosy, family feeling of this musical, the behind the scenes team has decided to do something a bit special with the seating. This year we will be performing a dinner show which means that you will be seated at tables where you can bring along and enjoy your own picnic basket full of treats for you to eat and drink while watching the show, or if you would prefer platters and wine will be on sale during the night. You are able to purchase single tickets or fill an entire table with friends and family to support your students. Please remember that seating is limited so you will need to book early. Plus, as always, we will be drawing a raffle, thanks our generous sponsors, such as The Gold Coast Arts Centre and Escape Travel, plus other donations from our various supporters. The raffle tickets will be on sale throughout the evening.

Mrs Rachel Cutajar
Drama Teacher

Important Information

Where: Creative Arts Academy Theatre at Southport State High School

When: June 15, 16 and 17, 2011
Doors open 6:45pm for a 7pm start.

Cost: Tickets - $10.00 each
Table - $50.00 for 6 seats
Tickets will be on sale from 9th May, for bookings call 55091206

Remember to save the date and get your ticket before it sells out!
Parent & Child Activities

1. Take your child to the car wash and have him/her help you wash your car.

2. Take your child with you to get your car serviced. Make sure he/she knows basic car maintenance like checking the oil and filling up the car with petrol.

3. Now is a good time to encourage your child to start thinking about their future career aspirations. Get online and visit some training and tertiary education sites so they know what to expect for future pathways.

4. If your teen has no homework tonight, encourage him/her to read the newspaper or read a novel.

5. Remember that teens need privacy. It’s normal for them to close their doors.

6. High school can be stressful. As often as possible take time to just talk with your teen. Being a good listener can go a long way.

7. Be informed in your teen’s high school. When exams are approaching make sure your teen studies hard and offer to help them review their notes.

8. If your teen expresses interest in a job, help him/her fill out an application. If it’s their first interview, role play questions the employer might ask.

9. It’s national library week. Go with your teen to check out the services your local library offers. Encourage them to use the library for a quiet place to study or do projects.

10. The next time you drop your teen off at practice, stay a few minutes to watch and show you’re proud of him/her.

11. The older your child gets, the less likely they are to stay active. Encourage your student to join sports teams at school. If he/she isn’t athletic, encourage him/her to do something as simple as stretching each day to stay fit.

12. If your teen is confused in a class make sure that they ask the teacher for help right away before getting more lost.

13. Let your teen plan a family outing for next weekend.

14. If your teen is a new driver, offer to teach the rules of the road.

15. Ask your teen to teach you how to do something today such as download music or burn a CD.

16. Each day 4,800 teens start smoking. Talk to your teen about the health risks of smoking and peer pressure.

17. Pick a controversial issue in the newspaper and discuss it with your teen.

18. Enjoy some one-on-one time with your teen. Start a hobby together or go out for lunch.

19. Have your teen’s homework habits slipped a bit? Help to get back on track by making a daily study time. Remember, no TV.

20. Watch a travel program with your teen today. Talk about places you’d like to visit and ask for their opinion.

21. If your teen seems to be having a tough week, go out to a movie or dinner one night.

22. If you find yourself faced with a difficult situation that may go beyond your reach, try talking with other parents or teachers, they can be a great source for advice.

23. Ask your teen where they might like to go on a family trip. They could research and compare prices with other destinations.

24. Approval from parents is as important to teens as approval from peers.

25. It’s TV-Turnoff week. Try finding other things to do with your teen like listen to music, do chores around the house or encourage reading.

26. Be sure to stay firm with your teen about attending school, even when the weather is not good.

27. Cliques leave many teens on the sidelines and feeling left out. Talk to your teen about reaching out to include others.

28. Most teens don’t read recreationally. Take a few hours out of your day and visit your local bookstore. Help your teen look for books that they could be interested in reading.

29. If your teen runs out of money, don’t always bail them out. Let them do without sometimes to stress the importance of budgeting and saving money.

30. Go through your teen's closet with them to help pick things out that is no longer needed. Donate the extra clothes to charity and discuss the importance of doing so.

Learning Support

Wanted Volunteers & Their Dogs!

SHARE Reading Dogs is a program that aims to motivate and encourage students with reading difficulties. It involves a dog and its handler working with students who are in need of a little extra help with their reading. If you are interested in volunteering and think you may have a dog with a temperament suitable for this kind of activity, please contact Zoe at the AWL Education Division on 5509 9032 or email education@awlqld.com.au

Southport State High is currently on the waiting list for a volunteer.

Mrs Elaine Whybrow
LEARNING SUPPORT
Aussie Wildlife Course

Learn the skills to help sick and injured wildlife.

Enjoy and learn about Australia's unique native wildlife Birds, Mammals, Reptiles and how to care for them. Aussie Wildlife Course is conducted once a week over 8 weeks. The course is presented by experienced professionals in wildlife care at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Course Details

Start Date: Wednesday 4th May 2011
Duration: 8 weeks
Time: 5.45 – 8.30pm
Cost: $280
Venue: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary


Or call (07) 5534 0846 for more details

Careers Expo

Study Gold Coast are very proud to confirm that the 2011 Gold Coast Careers Expo Magazine is now available online.


Rotary Youth Exchange

is seeking applicants for the 2012 program.

Students from Year12 are able to apply. Places are still available - but hurry!!!

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you will spend one year living in another country, usually with three or four host families. You will become part of those families and their community. These Rotary families are volunteers who will welcome and care for you, supervise your year and introduce you to their culture and lifestyle.

In your host country you may learn another language, experience cuisines, study different subjects, enjoy a new culture and discover another way of living. In addition you will learn a great deal about yourself and gain confidence and self-sufficiency.

You will attend school in your local community, as well as participating in Rotary activities and civic functions. At the same time you will make new friends, see exciting places and experience adventures that will take a lifetime to recount.

Any students or parents interested in finding out more about this wonderful Youth program can contact yep@yep.rotary9640.org or phone Denise Payne on 0755391041.

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www.carepathwaysqld.com.au

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