FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of the Semester. It certainly has been a very busy and successful first half of the year. We introduced new and updated policy and procedures at the start of the year and I am pleased to say that they have been overwhelmingly supported and have contributed to the outstanding improvement of student results and outcomes.

School reports for the middle school (Years 8, 9 and 10) will be issued to students on Friday 22nd June. Please read through all documents in the reporting package as it contains vital information that will support your child. These reports are a great communication tool with you on the performance of your student over the Semester. All Senior School reports (Year 11 and 12) will be issued to students on Friday 13th July. This gives teachers the time needed to prepare accurate reports and to comply with all QSA regulations. We will be conducting Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 24th July. Bookings can be made via our website. More detailed information can be obtained in the reporting packages on both the reports and Parent Teacher Interviews.

We have had a thorough review of our school Appearance Policy - a huge thank you to our staff, parents, students and local business members who made a very valuable contribution. We had a great response to our open forums that were advertised to all our staff, students and parents. I appreciate our wider school community contributing to our school and ensuring that we have an Appearance Policy that is current and reflects the values of our school community. The following updates will be enforced from 2013 and will give all our families the chance to prepare for the new improvements.

1. Students will only be permitted to wear the new school hat – no other hat will be permitted (hats will be available to purchase in December).
2. All skirts must be worn on or just above the knee. Any altering (shortening) will not be permitted.
3. A new school jumper has been designed and will also be available in December.

Our new school fence is nearly complete and I must say it is very safe and secure and looks aesthetically pleasing. As part of our school improvement agenda we have now completed installing the last of the data projectors and have refurbished 3 classrooms. It is pleasing to say that our school is fast becoming a leader in the use of technology and resources in our region.

In closing I would like to recognise Bianca Mandalis our P&C Secretary who unfortunately had to resign from her position on the Executive last week due to personal reasons. Bianca has been a huge support to our school and has done a magnificent job in the last 2 years. I would personally like to thank her for her support and outstanding contribution. You will not find a more generous heart and dedicated Southport State High School supporter. The position of Secretary will be made available at our next P&C meeting. I would like to wish all our staff and families a very safe and relaxing winter vacation. With all that we have achieved this Semester I certainly look forward to another exciting second half of the year and the success to come.

Mr Steve McLuckie
PRINCIPAL

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Trades and Apprenticeship Information Session
Interested in electrical/electronic, mechanical, marine and aviation jobs in the defence force?

Get along to the information night - details:
When       Wednesday 20 June 2012
Where      Australian Industry Trades College
           281 Scottsdale Drive, Robina, QLD
Time       6.00 pm
RSVP       Friday 15 June 2012
Bookings   Phone 55693900

Calendar of Events

The following are proposed dates on our school calendar

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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE (Public Holiday)</td>
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<td>Yr 11 &amp; 12 Block Exams</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Indigenous Students – Dare to Dream Camp</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Indigenous Students – Dare to Dream Camp</td>
<td>Yr 11 QCS Practice Test</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Career Pathways Day</td>
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<td>Music Symphony Orchestra</td>
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ANATOMY EXPERIENCE

On Thursday 3rd May the Year 12 Biology class travelled to Brisbane’s Prince Charles Hospital for the MERF (Medical Engineering Research Facility) Anatomical Experience. The students were given a brief safety and ethical induction before heading to the surgical unit to get ‘dressed-up’ in surgical gear.

The students were given a presentation of the anatomy of the human body with a description of the location and functions of some of the organs and tissues of the human body.

The students were allowed to stand adjacent to the cadaver during the presentation and handle any of the organs or tissue the presenter directed them to.

At the end of the full cadaver presentation students were given the opportunity to handle some organs that were persevered – healthy and diseased tissue.

The Year 12 students are presently studying the nervous and immune systems and this ‘hands-on’ experience was invaluable in ensuring they understand the location, structure and function of the organs and tissue that constitutes the human body especially our present area of study.

The presentation by the staff at MERF was professional and thorough. Our students are to be congratulated for presenting themselves in a mature and respectful manner.

Mr Pat Foreman
Biology Teacher

WOMEN IN SPORT BREAKFAST

Written by student reporter Hannah Allan (12D)

On Wednesday 16th May Jade Haddy, Britney Morris and I visited Griffith University to attend the “Women in Sports” breakfast. Many inspirational and successful women, including an Olympic gold medallist Glynis Nunn, told us their life stories and of their impressive careers. In the various workshops, we got a taste of the exercise science and physiotherapy courses on offer, and learnt of the seemingly endless number of careers they can lead to. All in all, it was a fantastic and informative day with delicious food!
ABORIGINAL ART AND STORYTELLING FOR YEAR 8s

Year 8 students have been listening to rain sticks, didgeridoos and clap sticks and trying their hand at art as part of their new English program. Student art is featured below.

Indigenous Support Worker, Vicki Campbell, and Indigenous Teacher Aide, Maddie Hodge introduced students to Aboriginal stories, music and artefacts.

Thanks to library assistant, Deborah Byrne, for arranging these interesting lessons.

Ms Avril Priem
Teacher-librarian
ENJOYING JAPANESE

Written by student reporter Amber Hill (8B)

In Year 8 there are three Japanese classes, all taught by Mrs Somerville. This term we have been learning about numbers, places, months and days, pronunciation and Hiragana with sound changes and combination sounds. It has been slow progress learning Japanese but it is an enjoyable subject. I interviewed some students to hear their opinions.

Gen Fish: ‘I think that Japanese is an enjoyable subject, and I have learnt many things.’

Jasmina Botonjic: ‘My opinion is that Japanese is an interesting subject and I have learnt lots of things.’

Kyle Monteith and Hamish Clements: ‘We both agree that Japanese is a good subject because we play many enjoyable games.’

STANTHORPE GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

On Tuesday 22nd May students from the Year 10 & 12 Geography classes were involved in an excursion to Stanthorpe to witness various geographic factors. The Year 12 students were required to observe changes in topography and altitude and take note of the way in which biodiversity changed accordingly. They were also, along with the Year 10 students, required to improve their understanding of food production in the region.

The next unit of work being studied by the Year 10 students will involve an intensive look into Australia’s farming regions and techniques. The students were fortunate enough to visit an organic apple orchard and a salad ‘picking’ farm. The owners of both farms spoke to the students about their ‘farming philosophy’ and their very personal thoughts on the future of farming.

The day was a great success! Did I also mention we got to spend an hour picking the best tasting apples ever for the princely sum of $2? Thanks to the students and pre-service teachers who accompanied me for a great day.

Mr Greg Kenafake
Head of Department SOSE
Arranging equipment in study area to achieve correct student posture

Students should arrange equipment in the study area in order to maintain correct posture while working in front of the computer.

The correct posture of a person working at the computer is:

- Feet are rested firmly on the floor or footpad
- Thighs are fully supported by chair seat except for a two-finger width space behind the knee
- Curve of lower back is supported by chair back
- Elbows, hips and knees are bent at approximately 90 degrees
- Shoulders are relaxed so shoulder blades are free to move
- Forearms are parallel to the floor or sloping slightly downwards to the desktop
- Wrist are straight and not bent up, down or to the side. Note: Wrist supports help to maintain natural, not extreme wrist position when working with a mouse. Wrist supports to be soft
- Top of screen is at eye level or slightly below, about arm length straight in front of your eyes
- Glare and reflection of the screen are avoided by changing angle and orientation of the screen
- Neck is relaxed and balanced; chin is not poking upwards.

Correct posture can be complemented with correct study behaviour as follows:

- Take short breaks while keying to relax your hands and prevent fatigue
- Take longer breaks every 30-60 minutes to get up, walk, and do exercises or another task to move your body and to increase your blood circulation
- Take time to look further away to help your eye muscle to relax
- Take breaks to drink water and have nutritious meals
- Change position often while obeying the same basic principles of correct posture.

Taken from http://education.qld.gov.au/smartclassrooms/users/parents/correct-posture.html
Youth activites and support run every weekday 3.30pm - 5.30pm (1.30pm - 5.30pm on school holidays) at Lynne Richardson Community Centre, 2a Gidgee Court, Molendinar.

Call Wade or Emma for more details: 55975622 or www.YouthConnectGC.com. Great for after school and holiday activities. See Guidance Officer for a flyer.