From The Principal

We are at that crucial point in the term when assessment is due and classes are busy places to be. I hope that all students are busy completing homework and working on assignments. Teachers have also been hard at work marking drafts and ensuring that your child has the best educational opportunities and support.

Our ‘Smart Choice’ Open Day will be held on Wednesday 26th March from 3:30-6:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase why we are regarded as one of the best schools on the Gold Coast. Our doors will be open for prospective parents to gain an insight into our programs, see the fantastic facilities and meet our wonderful students and staff. It is also a very exciting time as we will have Year 6 families coming through in preparation for our Flying Start program next year. If you know any families who are considering enrolling their children in our great school please let them know.

Our first School Council meeting was held last Wednesday. Being an Independent Public School our School Council is designed to look at the strategic direction of our school. I was very pleased with our first meeting and proud to announce that Bob Panter has been elected as the inaugural Chair and Julie Grantham as Secretary. I will continue to report back to you all on the work being done by the Council in the future.

It is with great excitement that the school’s new electronic sign is fully operational. It’s location in Smith Street certainly provides vital information to our wider community and makes a huge statement. Adding to this is the new school App which is available to download for both Apple and android devices. We have started sending push notifications regarding dates, times, notices and other vital information for all students and their families. It has the emails of all teaching staff for quick and easy messages. For more information please visit our website. It is a must see for all!

The school website is now up-to-date. We will be adding new stories and what is happening at our school weekly. It is the one-stop shop for all your educational and Southport State High School needs. It is very easy to use and I encourage you to log-on and explore our policies and procedures and all the great happenings at Southport State High School. A new feature under contacts is where you can find the direct email addresses to all teaching and Admin staff. If you need to discuss anything with a staff member please ensure you email with the information that you require.

I also want to mention the extraordinary performance of one of our many talented athletes, Tanya Stovgaard. Tanya recently competed in the South Coast Swimming trials. Without a doubt Tanya’s performance in the pool was regarded as one of the greatest individual performances in the history of the carnival. Tanya dominated her age group with five wins and two second places out of her 7 events and smashed four long-standing records. We certainly are very proud of Tanya and all the members of our team who participated in the carnival, well done to all!

Reporting on your child’s education is not too far away. School reports for all year levels will be emailed home so please contact the school office to update or add an email address. Parent-Teacher-Student interviews will be held next term on Wednesday 30th April. I encourage all parents to attend these meetings as they provide much needed explicit feedback for both students and parents on your child’s performance. Bookings will be made available on-line and can be done on our website. We will be activating the bookings tab very soon and will send a push notification and email when available. A letter will be sent home to explain the PTO booking system. I hope to see you all there. Remember - Every day in every class counts to ensure your child’s educational success!

Mr Steve McLuckie
Principal
Calendar of Events

The following are proposed dates on our school calendar. A more extensive version can also be viewed on our school website or app.

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<th>MARCH</th>
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<td>25th</td>
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<td>Sport – Day 3</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
<td>Southport SHS Open Afternoon</td>
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<td>Immunisations – Yrs 8 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Yr 12 QCS Practice</td>
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<td>Easter Vacation</td>
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<td>ANZAC Assembly</td>
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<td>Homework Centre re-opens</td>
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<td>Yr 12 QCS Master Class</td>
<td>Sport – Day 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews</td>
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Each week the Junior and Senior Performance teams review attendance and letters are sent home for students with unexplained absences of more than 15%. If you consider that means at least 15 days out of every 100 a student is not able to participate in the program of learning, this will affect learning. For post compulsory students i.e. Year 11 and 12 students this may lead to the cancellation of enrolment.

Once again I encourage you to support us in recording your student’s attendance accurately and to advise us as soon as possible if there is an absence reason. The attendance line attached to a message bank is downloaded several times daily.

Mrs Robyn Marconi
Deputy Principal Senior School

From the Deputy Principal

UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Term 1 reports will be emailed to all parents with an email address on Friday 28th March. If you have changed your email address or need to add one please send an email the school office office@southports.hs.eq.edu.au to update our records. I urge you to think about getting an email address as we do send a lot of information to parents using this medium. Not only does it save us money and time, but also saves paper which assists our capacity to be more environmental.

Parents without an email address will have reports mailed, which may take several days to arrive. With 1430 students, our on-line booking program PTO for the Parent-Teacher-Student interview evening on 30th April, may have filled quickly and therefore limited places may be available by the time the paper copy of the report arrives.

ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

Southport State High School is committed to making every lesson every day count for teaching and learning. Each day the official roll is marked between 8:50-9:00am, even on whole day sport days. Once this data is entered into our attendance system, the parent/guardian of the student with an unexplained absence receives a text message.

By far unexplained absences are the greatest percentage of total absences. We certainly appreciate those who respond to the text with an appropriate explanation. We encourage parents to have a conversation around the absence text message and to encourage your student to get to school on time and if not, sign in at Student Services.

VET is a Valued Pathway

(Extract from VETNetwork Australia Media Release)

VETnetwork Australia, the peak body representing the broad vocational education and training in schools (VETiS) sector, welcomes comments made by Assistant Minister for Education, Sussan Ley, to key stakeholders at a TAFE Directors Australia dinner recently about a future commitment to increasing participation in programs aimed at getting young people job ready.

According to Sussan Ley “Schools must provide a high quality vocational pathway that engages students and prepares them to take on the high-skill and high earning roles our economy demands. To address these trends, we need a first-rate VET in Schools system.”

VETnetwork Australia CEO, Ms Lori Hocking, couldn’t agree more. “This statement from Assistant Minister Ley represents a significant shift in Commonwealth Government recognition of the importance of VETiS in creating skills based pathways for young people moving from school to working life. This is very formal and focussed recognition that is long overdue.”

VETnetwork Australia will work with Sussan Ley in whatever way it can to support her initiatives – we welcome the review of the now dated National Framework for VET in Schools and hope that it will reflect the excellent work schools and Departments of Education have undertaken since 2001 to enhance VETiS programs around Australia. We hope it will also signal new ways of encouraging the 30-40% of young people completing senior secondary schooling and who are not university-bound to take on an Australian School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship or participate in an entry-level training program/s that include/s substantial workplace training time’ says Ms Hocking.
At Southport State High School we also value the VET pathway. In the Senior Secondary school, as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) we offer a variety of VET Certificates across Sport & Recreation, Construction, Hospitality, Business and Information Technology that students can complete at school. In addition, students can undertake School-based Traineeships or Apprenticeships, which on completion add to the 20 credits needed for the issuing of the Queensland Certificate of Education. GCIT, our TAFE College also offers a variety of entry-level certificates for students to complete whilst still at school. For more information contact our Industry Liaison Officer, Karen Hall or Industry Liaison Support Officer, Ros Alcorn.

**Interhouse Swimming Carnival**

The annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be held on **Wednesday 19th March** in the school pool. The carnival will start at 3:30pm and will wrap-up by about 6:00pm. Students will be swimming for Age Champion points and for points towards the House Swimming Trophy. There will be strong focus on house participation and we will cater for all levels of swimmers. The event promises to be a lot of fun and gives students a chance to go fancy dress or in their house colours. Parents and friends are most welcome to come along and join in the cheering. Hope to see you all there.

**Swimming Success**

**Broadwater Swim Trials**


Congratulations to our swim team who competed at the 2014 Broadwater Swim Trials. Our team had a very successful meet with all swimmers performing admirably and swimming great times. Special mention goes to Kai Edwards and Tanya Stovgaard who dominated their age groups with numerous first placings.

Congratulations to the following students whose performances on the day saw them qualify for the South Coast Swim Trials: - Stacey Kearns, Madeline Baldock-Mcllhatton, Kyla Major, Matthew Major, Kai Edwards and Tanya Stovgaard.

**South Coast Swim Trials**

Team:- Madeline Baldock-Mcllhatton, Stacey Kearns, Kyla Major, Matthew Major and Tanya Stovgaard.

Congratulations to our students who swam at the recent South Coast Swim trials. All swimmers recorded personal bests and gave it their all against some very high level competition. Stacey Kearns had a particularly good meet placing top 4 in most of her events and breaking the record when winning the 14 Girls 50m Backstroke in a time of 31.96secs. (old record 32.46)

Tanya Stovgaard totally dominated the 14 Girls age division and was easily the best swimmer at the meet with five 1st places and a 2nd in the 7 events she competed in, along with setting 4 new South Coast records. Tanya’s new records were:-
14 Girls 50m Freestyle - old record 27.92secs, Tanya’s new record 27.72secs.
14 Girls 50m Butterfly - old record 29.50secs, Tanya’s new record 29.34secs.
14 Girls 100m Backstroke - old record 1.09.76, Tanya’s new record 1.09.44secs.
14 Girls 200m Butterfly - old record 2.28.87, Tanya’s new record 2.25.64secs.

We wish our swimmers the best of luck at the State Titles.

**Sports Department**

**Happy Smiles from Student Leaders**

2014 is off to a brilliant start at Southport State High School, with new enrolments still being processed each and every week. With the large amount of new enrolments, we have seen our Junior Leadership team – Years 7 to 10 – grow and thrive with the contributions and ideas we have been offered from our new members. We have already started piecing together ideas for upcoming fundraisers and events, in particular, the Easter Raffle, which will raise required funds to sponsor the T.A.G. You’re It Program, which ran recently for Year 9 students. The Easter basket is the biggest the school has ever seen and tickets are on sale every lunch break under G Block from Monday 10th March. The winning ticket will be drawn during the last week of this term, so there is plenty of time to buy big and support a very worthy cause.

As well as the success in our Leadership Programs, we have been able to run workshops and information sessions for Year 9 students as part of the One Punch Can Kill Campaign, which helps students in gaining a better understanding of the consequences of physical violence. With the help of our school-based Police Officer, Constable Di Knapton, we have also been able to run sessions for Year 7 and 8 students on Cyber Safety, and using their iPad devices responsibly. These assemblies have benefitted the students in various ways, opening their eyes to the consequences and possible damage physical contact can cause, and the importance of Cyber Safety when using the internet.

2014 is set to be full of wonderful opportunities for our school community, and we look forward to sharing these experiences with you and your student in the months to come.

**Taylor Carlson**

**Year 10 Student Leader**
**Art Excursion to GoMA**

On Friday 14\(^{th}\) February, Junior Art Excellence students and Senior Visual Art students travelled to the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) with Miss Jade Sleight, Mrs Deb Bench and Miss Lauren O’Toole. The excursion aided students in developing an awareness and understanding of contemporary and ancient art in modern society. Teachers and students experienced many fascinating artworks including the ‘Falling Back to Earth’ exhibit by Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang. One of the artworks in this exhibit was *Heritage (2013)*, which displayed 99 life-sized artificial animals drinking from a large pool of water and surrounded by pristine white sand. Another extraordinary artwork created by Guo-Qiang was *Head On (2006)*, which shows the paradoxical nature of the wolves’ actions as they leap through the air and cascade down, crashing on a sheet of glass. Students and teachers left feeling inspired and in awe of the incredible artworks and ingenuity of the artists.

![Image of students at GoMA](image)

**Skype Darathai**  
Year 8 Art Excellence student

**Instrumental Music**

Instrumental Music has had a very busy start to the year with our program now involving close to 200 students, meaning that many students across the school are playing a Woodwind, Brass, Percussion or String instrument. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our Instrumental Music teaching staff for 2014 and outline the days that these staff members teach at our school.

Kate Shaw as Instrumental Music Coordinator – Monday to Friday  
Andrew Stubbs for Band Instruments – Monday and Wednesday  
Stacey Bray for Band Instruments – Monday  
Jodie Ralph for String Instruments – Thursday

We have six ensembles that have commenced rehearsals for the year. These are:

- **Senior Concert Band** – Monday 7:45 – 8:45am  
- **Year 7 Concert Band** – Monday Period 3, Wednesday Period 2 and Thursday Period 4  
- **Stage Band** – Wednesday 7:45 – 8:45am  
- **String Ensemble** – Thursday 7:45 – 8:45am  
- **String Quartet** – Thursday Recess  
- **Flute Ensemble** – TBA

With such a large and successful group of Instrumental Music students, those involved should be prepared to partake in the successful extra-curricular programs, whilst maintaining high levels with their academic program. There are several upcoming events this term that I would like to draw your attention to. Students will receive permission notes for these events in the coming weeks. These notes need to be returned as soon as possible to our Instrumental Music Coordinator Kate Shaw in L Block staffroom.

- Monday 24\(^{th}\) March – Junior Band Day of Excellence (those students involved will receive letters).  
- Wednesday 26\(^{th}\) March – Open Day (those students involved will receive letters).  
- Thursday 27\(^{th}\) March – String Day of Excellence (all string students).  
- Friday 4\(^{th}\) April – QLD Symphony Orchestra Excursion (IM and Music Excellence).

If you have any questions regarding your student’s involvement in Instrumental Music please do not hesitate to contact our Instrumental Music Coordinator Kate Shaw via email at khsha0@eq.edu.au

We look forward to being witness to the many talents of your students across the year.  

Ms Kate Shaw  
Instrumental Music Coordinator

**2014 Next Step Survey**

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state-wide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.

Technology News

Students are being encouraged to actively check and use their school email account. Students can log in by going to [https://webmail.eq.edu.au](https://webmail.eq.edu.au) and entering their usual network username and password. The intended purposes of the email system are: communication between teachers and students, students to make contact with approved outside resources related school activities, and to allow students to collaborate on school projects.

If a student is unsure of their account name or password they can seek assistance from their teacher who is able to reset their password if necessary and, for additional support, the IT Support Centre in E07.

Teachers will leverage email technology by emailing classwork, homework and other materials directly to students. We’re not abandoning paper but we remain ever mindful of the need to reduce paper use.

Use of the email system is governed by the school's technology agreement which can be found on our website. Students are responsible for all messages sent from their accounts and therefore should ensure that their account passwords are kept secure and not shared with anyone else.

Parents are invited to help students manage their email, including how to identify spam and other unwanted email, not responding to spam and how to stay safe online. A good website to help you with this is the Australian Government site Stay Smart Online.


The Kids & Teens page also contains sound advice on the safe use of social networking sites. We encourage parents to review this free resource with their children to help keep them safe online.

Should you have any questions about technology at school you are invited to contact us by phone or email. ITManager@southportshs.eq.edu.au is the direct email for the IT team.

School Photos & Student IDs

Students recently had their photos taken and photo packages that were ordered at the time will be distributed to students once they arrive from MSP photography. We have received the first shipment of student photo ID cards and these will be distributed to students where the Student Resource Scheme Fee has been paid, or a payment plan established, and students and parents have signed the 2014 technology agreement. Once these two requirements are in order, students are encouraged to collect and begin using their photo ID cards as soon as possible in order to enhance their access to technology within the school. The photo ID cards contain an embedded chip that gives students quick access to printing and scanning facilities and as such their usage is governed by the technology agreement.

Geoff Hodskiss
Technology Manager

Heron Island Experience

On Tuesday 18th February, Year 11 Geography students embarked on the annual Heron Island excursion. This trip involved students participating in a variety of interactive activities such as snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef, walking through coral formations and watching baby turtles make their way down to the ocean. With addition to these amazing life experiences, a greater understanding of the importance of preserving the natural coral environment was gained as well as lifelong friendships with fellow peers. The students who participated in this year’s Heron Island trip would like to thank Miss Sleight and all the other teachers involved in planning and running this amazing experience, which we all sincerely appreciate. We will all be trying to squeeze into the bus next year.

Photo courtesy of our volunteer Josie. Any volunteers for 2015?

Chelsea & Coralie
Yr 11 Geography Students

Gone Walkabout

Watch this space, each fortnight we will keep you up to date with important information and dates, as well as some fun facts and knowledge.

Dates
Week 8 – Friday 21st March Black and Deadly Girls Program

Deadly Words
Each fortnight we will add new words to our vocabulary. These words come from our local Aboriginal Yugambeh Language. Try using these words with your friends or at home.

Penung (pronounced Pen-ung) – Ear
Borrogura (pronounced Bora-gura) – Sea

Did you know - Close the Gap Day is on Thursday 20th March, it is a campaign for Indigenous health equality. Most Australians enjoy one of the highest life expectancies of any country in the world; this is not true for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous Australians can expect to live 10-17 years less than other Australians. For more information
As the Indigenous Education Worker (IEW) I can provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across a range of issues. I am available in the school Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Fridays in F13. Ms. Maddie Hodge is also available in the school Fridays in F13.

Ms Vicki Campbell
Indigenous Education Worker
5509 1243 / vcamp23@eq.edu.au

Marine Excursions

WAVES EXCURSION
On Monday 10th March, 52 students from Year 10 Marine & Aquatic Practices ventured off for the day on an excursion to the beaches at the Southport Spit, Point Danger and Coolangatta. Students learnt how to measure wave speeds, recognise spotting runnels and micro ridges on the beaches. They observed the most dangerous permanent rip on the Gold Coast, which is formed under the man-made sand pumping jetty at the Spit. The students compared the different beach areas and observed what has been done to protect the beaches over the years. This included groynes, rock walls and sand pumping stations.

The experience and practical knowledge that students gain from this type of excursion is exceptionally valuable as they visualise what we have talked about in class lectures and discussions. The students collected valuable data, were of excellent behaviour and had an enjoyable and great day.

Point Danger

The Spit - dangerous rip under the jetty

SAILING AND POWER BOATING
On Wednesday 5th March the Year 11 Marine classes of Mr Russell, Mr Fine and Miss Duguid had the opportunity to go sailing and power boating at the Southport Yacht Club’s sailing centre in Hollywell.

Luckily the weather was amazing and the students quickly rigged the boats and began sailing and power boating around the Broadwater. After a vigorous couple of hours on the water, students were treated to a BBQ lunch. After lunch groups quickly changed over - the sailors went power boating and vice versa.

The aim of this excursion was for students to improve their boating skills and gain the necessary skills to sail upwind and dock a boat.

Basketball

U13 BOYS BASKETBALL
This year we have entered four teams in the boys U13 competition. All the staff involved have been really impressed by the enthusiasm of the boys not only to play, but also to take on refereeing and scoring duties. This helpfulness has also been recognised by staff from other competing schools.

This year the competition is fierce with a number of teams vying for the top spot. After two rounds Southport 1 remains undefeated. Both games in round 2 required the boys to perform at their very best. Improved defence and passing proved to be the key to their success producing their best performance thus far against Miami in a close 27–23 win. There were some outstanding performances, but special mention must go to Ryan Corpuz, Kye Kuncoro and Liam Kiem, all producing their best performances in Southport colours so far.

Southport 2 came face to face with Southport 3 and 4 and although it is really difficult to play at your best against your mates, all teams were extremely competitive and played some of their best basketball. Southport 2 made their mark on the competition winning both games in close fought matches. Special mention for outstanding performance and team encouragement goes to Jack Haselam, Toby Harrold-Evans and Taine McDonald. Well done to all boys involved. We are all looking forward to round 3.

Mrs Elaine Whybrow
Basketball Sport Coach
From the Guidance Officer

YEAR 12 STUDENTS
Explore your future in a day at Bond University:
Book in to do a day at Bond Uni – options include:
- Faculty of Business – Friday 9th & Sat 10th May (Commerce, marketing and Management)
- Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine – Friday 9th & Sat 10th May (Biomedical Sciences & Medicine, Exercise & Sports Sciences)
- Faculty of Law – Friday 23rd & Sat 24th May
- Faculty of Society & Design – Friday 30th & Sat 31st May (Architecture, Communication, Construction, Criminology, Interactive Media, International Relations, Film & TV, Planning & Environments, Psychology)

Go to www.bond.edu.au/experience to register.

The final deadline for registrations is Friday 2nd May or unless places are filled prior.

Staff News

STAFF GO TROPPO FOR FARMERS!
Over the last few weeks students studying Year 12 Geography have been learning about climate change and its effect on food production. The recent stories in the media concerning the plight of many Queensland farmers tugged at quite a few heartstrings so we decided to do something about it. To this end, one of the students suggested staff wear Hawaiian shirts and pay for the privilege; the money raised to go to “Buy a Bale”, an organisation that buys feed for cattle and arranges for it to be delivered to farmers in need. At $10 a shirt we hope to raise quite a bit of money.

Mrs Jasmine Dick
Senior Geography Teacher

WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE
Show your support by sponsoring our staff member Lara Cunningham today!
Where: Southport SHS
When: Go to www.worldsgreatestshave.com.au
Details: Search ‘Lara Cunningham’
Contact: IT Service Centre (E07) – 5509 1216

Advertising & Community News

HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP
Scholarships are open to students between 15-18 years and offer the unique opportunity to live and study overseas for a semester or year. Students can also make a saving of up to $1,000 off their exchange program fee with an early bird discount. The deadline for scholarship and early bird discount submissions for all programs departing between October 2014 & March 2015 is Monday 31st March 2014. For more information call 1300 135 331 or visit www.studentexchange.org.au

OCD IN CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS
Does your child worry excessively about certain things or engage in senseless and time consuming habits, routines or rituals or constantly seek reassurance from you? Your child may be experiencing Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Griffith University can help. A research team is offering an OCD assessment and treatment service for children aged 7-18 years. After an initial assessment, eligible children will take part in the OCD BUSTERS Program held at Griffith University which aims to reduce levels of OCD symptoms in children. For further information call 5552 8317 or email ocdbustersgc@griffith.edu.au

‘76YR OLD JUMPS FOR CANCER’
Sponsor Cancer survivor Robert Kendall’s Sky Dive for Cancer on his 76th Birthday!
Mr Kendall is overcoming his fear of heights and asking for as many people as possible to sponsor him on his birthday sky dive by donating to the ACRF. All money donated will go direct to cancer research and donations $2 and over is tax deductible. Money can be donated via this link: https://give.everydayhero.com/au/oldmansmoment
You can watch Robert skydive at 11am Saturday 15th March at Kirra Beach. Meet Rob and join in the ‘public’ birthday celebrations after the jump at the nearby Kirra South Surf Club from 12pm onwards - All welcome.

KIDS HOLIDAY PAINTING
Kids 7-14 years
Learn a skill & have fun painting in acrylics
No experience needed
Blue Card accredited

Learn with professional Artist/Sculptor JULIA GODFREE
BOOK NOW!
Ph: 0468 485 227