

27 February 2015

Principal's Report

Learning

Together, we take learning very seriously at Sunnybank State High School to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed and achieve their personal best. Students recently participated in their first MAAP lesson whereby they reviewed their achievements from semester two, 2104 and used the SMART goal planning process to set personal and academic targets for the semester ahead. This is a valuable activity that allows students to set goals that are realistic and achievable. We work with each individual student to identify specific strategies they can use to make a difference in their results. We encourage families to discuss the goals and strategies with your children. As we approach the mid-point of the term, these conversations are very timely as students prepare for upcoming assessments and exams. Homework club operates each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in the Library and teachers also offer additional tutorials for students.

Over the course of the upcoming weeks, every year 12 student will attend an interview where their educational path is reviewed and monitored to ensure they are on track to achieve their QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education) by the end of 2015. It is important that students understand their need to achieve at least a Sound level of achievement in their subjects to gain their 20 points.

Attendance

One of our key priorities for the school year is attendance. It is vital that students attend school on time for every lesson of every day to ensure they have the best opportunity to succeed. Our attendance rate for the start of the school year is on par with the State average and we should be proud that together we are on track for learning every lesson.

Please note that students who are not attending school every day, or who are arriving to school late may be at risk of further disciplinary consequences.

We ask that communication to the school is timely in the event of student absences or a late arrival to school. Please contact us 3323 8111 or have students bring a note in the event of absences. Likewise, as a school, we have committed to clear,

consistent communication to our parents and caregivers to ensure every child can attend school routinely.

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy and Numeracy is a core focus at Sunnybank State High School. To support continued skill development, we have committed to:

- The upcoming commencement of a Master Teacher to support whole school Literacy and Numeracy
- The employment of two coaches for Literacy and Numeracy
- Additional Teacher Aide time and classroom support
- FLI (Focussed Literacy Intervention) lessons in Junior Secondary for identified students
- NAPLAN booster activities and preparedness programs
- Professional Development of Staff in programs such as Reading to Learn, QCAA Mathematics courses and Teaching English in the Mainstream (to support EAL/D students)
- Inclusion of Numeracy strategies such as polya's problem solving
- Extension and enrichment programs for identified students such as U2B project
- Data informed teaching and learning culture (supported by the employment of our Data Coach)

Great Results Guarantee

Our school will receive approximately \$400,000 under the Great Results Guarantee funded by the State Government to improve student outcomes in Literacy, Numeracy and/or QCE attainment. Through rigorous review and consultation, our school has committed to a concerted focus on Literacy, Numeracy and student pathways. Money will be used to engage and employ relevant staff, build capacity and capability, implement whole of school programs and ensure our students have every opportunity to remain on track to achieve their personal best.

Year 7 and 8 Family Barbecue

We had an outstanding turn up to our year 7 and 8 family barbecue last Thursday evening. Thank you to the parents and

staff who attended. The school was a hive of activity, with games led by seniors and junior secondary buddies. Our year 7 Co-ordinator presented important information to parents in the Library and the evening culminated in a barbecue and performance by our drumline students. It was good to have the opportunity to meet many of you and share your dreams and goals for our students.

Sunnybank SHS Shines at Principal Conference

Last week our school hosted a Regional Principal's conference with up to 30 delegates in attendance. It was an opportunity to showcase our school. Our student leaders greeted those in attendance, our library was a hive of bustling activity and learning and we received many positive accolades from Regional staff and Principals. We are proud of our school.

Parents and Citizens' Association

Many thanks to the parents who attended the monthly meeting last Tuesday evening. The next meeting will be Tuesday 24 March commencing at 7.00 pm in the school Library. All are welcome.

Ms Tracey Cook, Principal

Deputy Principal's Report

Learning Environments at Home

To build students' independence and growth mindsets to learn alone it is essential that their learning extends to settings well beyond the classroom. One of these learning environments is at home. For students to reap the maximum possible benefits from their learning at home, a special place to study is highly desirable. Just as we have specific work areas in our workplaces, this area to study should ideally be used only for that purpose. Over time, their brains will build patterns that associate that place with study, thus developing it as a habit and reducing barriers to getting started. Plenty of colour in this area stimulates students' brains; splash it with colour.

Many families find space a problem and a special study area very difficult to provide. In these cases, the best scenario is to create as many of the features for an efficient learning/study area as possible, for example:

- well lit, quiet, warm and comfortable,
- a copy of their personal timetable and a forward planner on the wall,
- well-resourced with stationery and a computer, away from distractions, especially TV, mobile phones and loud music on their iPod,
- quiet rhythmic music can actually enhance learning.

Studying in front of the TV is a total waste of time, because very little, if any, of the subject matter will be absorbed by students and embedded in their memories. Their brains' attention cannot compete with the brightness, noise and movement on a TV screen. Also, studying in bed is not beneficial. Firstly, the brain relates bed to sleep, not study, and efficient learning won't occur. Secondly, studying in bed will effect sleep patterns and reduce the students' quality of health.

Students absent from Immunisations

Students who have handed in their consent form but were not present for vaccination during BCC Immunisation Services scheduled visit due to illness etc. will receive a letter in the mail addressed to their parents, along with a copy of their consent form and the BCC free infant clinic schedule. The letter will explain to parents what they are required to do in order to receive any outstanding vaccinations. Please note that parents will have a limited time to catch their child up through BCC free infant clinics in order to fit back into the School Based Vaccination Program, due to drug dosage time frames.

If the parent has further questions please direct them to phone the Brisbane City Council Call Centre and to ask for Immunisation Services (07 3403 8888).

David Becker, Deputy Principal

Year 7 and 8 Barbeque

It was an exciting afternoon at the year 7 and 8 BBQ. The expected rain was not enough to keep away our year 7s, year 8s and parents from the afternoon activities and BBQ on Thursday 19 February.



The afternoon consisted of the year levels playing games within roll mark challenges. The year 7s were busy playing dodgeball, tug of war and handball, ably assisted by our year 11 leaders Zuberi, Zaino, Zin, Sarah, Tayla, Inderaj, Mulan and one of our school captains, Lubna. The year 8s were also hectic within their roll marks playing basketball, volleyball and indoor touch football. Thanks to the many year 12 student leaders who helped out with the activities. The activities were a great opportunity for the students to interact with their peers and parents to interact with the teachers. Many thanks to all who helped with the BBQ; it was a hub of excitement and energy.

Ms Kalamafoni and Ms Finney, Year Coordinators

Terra Nemo Theatre Company

Terra Nemo is a Brisbane based theatre company that is in its third season. Terra Nemo seeks to support artists who are stepping outside their comfort zone - whether that's writing their first work, entering into a new role or simply taking the initiative to work independently. Their focus is on developing practice of Brisbane's young artists. There will



be additional opportunities on offer later in the year for students through *Bare Essentials* and *The Chinese Room*.



Last year Terra Nemo came to Sunnybank SHS looking for new talent to become part of their company. One of our current students, Abdul Salman year 12, and a recent past student, Anastasia Chistiakoff, were selected to be part of 2015 company. The company will consist of four shows, which were launched at The Roundhouse Theatre on Friday 13 February. We congratulate Abdul and Annie on becoming part of this creative team and hope that other students will take up the opportunity to be a part of Bare Essentials and The Chinese Room. It is fantastic to see our Sunnybank SHS students shining on the stage!!

Ms Kalamafoni, Drama Teacher

Business and Humanities

Again, in 2015, there are a lot of exciting and worthwhile learning experiences being planned for our students. Already this year, the year 12 Accounting class attended the annual BEAQ Accounting forum at QUT. In addition, five year 12 Business students have been selected to attend a special programme at Griffith University. Next month, ten year 11 Business students will participate in the Ambassador programme, also at Griffith University. In the Humanities area, we are also planning excursions to the Abbey Museum, the MacArthur Museum and the Gold Coast. Of course, there are also plans afoot to commemorate 100 years since the ANZACs landed at Gallipoli. There will be more information about all of these activities in future newsletters.

With assessment items well underway it is also timely to remind students about the need to maintain a printing balance so that they can print class and assessment work when it is required. If the student is printing several pages, they are able to select the option to print on both sides of the page. This will save a few cents each time and is an environmentally friendly choice. Each student is given a printing balance at the start of the year and additional payments may be made at the finance counter before school or during first break. The student will be given a code which they enter into PaperCut in order to add this extra amount to their printing balance.

Many students use memory sticks (USBs) in order to transfer work from home to school or to back-up their work. These devices are extremely useful and reliable; however, sometimes students forget to remove them from the computer when they log off. Students should make a point of double checking that they have removed the USB and they should also label the device with their name.

Ms N Stable

HOD – Humanities, Business, Computing and Library

Breakfast Club

A huge thank you to YMCA and the businesses that support the Breakfast Club at our school. Each Wednesday morning students are able to access a healthy breakfast from the hall kitchen. Thanks to the many volunteers who assist. This work is very much appreciated.



School Based Youth Health Nurse



Dear Parents

My name is Erica Carne I have worked for 15 years as a Youth Health Nurse and have been a registered nurse now for more than 35 years with a background in midwifery neonatal intensive care and child health.

I am employed by QLD Health and am based at the school on Mondays and Fridays with alternating Wednesdays. Often I am away on Wednesdays due to QLD Health commitments. Students can access me confidentially during the times I am here. I am also available for class room talks to support teachers with their curriculum subjects.

As part of my consultation role I can help young people make healthy choices to improve their physical and emotional health. I can talk with young people about health issues, nutrition, relationships, smoking, alcohol or drug use, feeling unhappy or stressed and where to find specialist services for young people. I am required to keep this confidential unless the young person agrees I can do otherwise or if I determine that the young person poses a risk to themselves or others.

Apart from seeing young people on an individual basis I also work with the school community to identify and act on issues that may affect the health of students and the school community. As valuable members of the school community I would welcome your participation and contributions in helping promote a healthy place in which to learn, work and socialise.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information about my role.

Regards

Erica Carne, SBYHN

Youth Support Coordinator

The role of the YSC has two main objectives, firstly to minimise barriers so students remain at school, and where this is not viable, to support the student in transitioning to an alternative pathway.



The YSC has a key focus of supporting and empowering all students to reach their full potential. The YSC holds meetings each Monday at first break (11.20 am) – all are most welcome to attend and get involved in events each term.

The YSC operates a student friendly room (219), open at break and lunch times where all students are welcome to pop in for a chat.

Darran Miah is a very experienced Youth Worker who strives to do the very best for the wellbeing of others and is very excited about working with all students/families in 2015.

To arrange a time to catch up with Darran, contact details are:

Mobile: 0406 139 207

Email: dmiah1@eq.edu.au

Or contact the school office – 3323 8111

“A problem shared sometimes is not a problem at all.”



Darran Miah and John Filewood

Chaplain

Hi parents and friends,

I pray that everyone has had a great start to the year - we are all now well into the term and the new year.

Today I'd like to tell you a little more about my role as Chaplain at Sunnybank High School. Part of my role is to serve as a member of the school support team, which also includes a guidance officer, school nurse, youth workers and deputy principals, as well as teacher aides and year level coordinators. We have meetings fortnightly to discuss issues to do with behaviour, family, health and what support we can offer to students. This may be home visits, food parcels, mentoring, providing lunches or helping students make friends by introducing them to other students.

I am based in room 219 (our student support room). This room plays a major role. It allows me as school Chaplain, to build relationships by making myself available and to sow positive seeds into the lives of our students. It's great to be a part of a team that supports each other's programs and works together so well. Room 219 is open from Monday to Friday (also in the mornings before school). Brekkie Club which is provided by the

Y.M.C.A. is on Wednesday mornings and lunchtimes. We can have up to 100 students come in for breakfast. It's a great opportunity to connect and get to know the students.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support,

Johno Filewood, Chaplain

Student Services Support



My Name is Gilroy Hatcher and I am part of the support services team. I have over 10 years of teaching experience, which includes time at Brisbane State High School, The Murri School and I have spent time teaching in China and rural Queensland.

I have two main focus areas for my role here at the school. The first is to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. I work within our team to organise events for our students and support attendance and emotional development by connecting with family, community and support organisations. I also track the students achievement levels; assisting with study, traineeships and help to transition them to life after school. We meet informally on Mondays during first break and have a tutoring session once a week after school (usually on Tuesdays). The best way for students to meet with me is come to room 218 or 219 during a break. For parents, the easiest initial contact with me is through the school office but I welcome families with questions or suggestions about their children's education to get in contact with me. I will always make a time to talk or meet.

The second focus area is as an intervention teacher to improve results across the school cohort. I work closely with other teachers to identify and assist with students who need greater challenges and also those who are not achieving the results that they should. Here at Sunnybank SHS we want all students to be able to realise their academic potential and I am here to help to facilitate this.

Gilroy Hatcher, Student Services Support

Frozen Berry Recall and Hepatitis A

For updated information and frequently asked questions from the Victorian Department of Health, go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Important Dates

| Advance Notice of Important Dates | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| March 9 – 11 | Boot Camp |
| March 13 | School Cross Country |
| March 16 – 20 | Harmony Week |
| March 23 – 27 | State Swimming Titles, Chandler |
| March 24 | P&C Meeting 7.00 pm Library |
| April 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good Friday• School holidays commence |
| April 20 | Term 2 commences |