

with Mr Ray Johnston

Graduate Data

The achievements of our 2008 graduates were excellent again. I would like to share some data with you:

- Erin Sharry created an OP1 - congratulations!
- Five students obtained an OP2, including...
- Hirruthyaa Manivasagan who will study Medicine at Monash this year
- 14% obtained OP1-5
- 68% obtained OP1-15
- 91% of tertiary applicants received first round offers
- 65% received their first preference
- More than 25 Year 12's secured an apprenticeship
- 81% achieved C or above on QCS, bettering state average

Why Mail This?

We have mailed this week's newsletter because Edition 2 contains very important information. In future, newsletters will be sent home weekly with students. *Please read our newsletters* – they are the most important part of communication we have with you!

School Directions 2009

As a school, we like to be clear where we are going. Please find *inside this edition* the main priorities on which are going to work this year to further enhance our school.

Behaviour, Dress and Presentation

Please see insert re clear statements about these matters, for the benefit of all in our school community.

Important messages: Year 11/12

- Early morning classes (7.30am) began this week for some students. A note was sent home about this, outlining the rationale for, and the non-compulsory nature of these classes.
- Please note arrangements for Monday 23 Feb for Years 11 and 12 students (*see inside*).
- If a Yr 12 student is currently sitting on LA or VLA and changes subjects, s/he may be eligible for two "concessional" credit points towards the Qld Certificate of Education. However, leaving changes until June will be TOO LATE.
- Only Yr 12 subjects with "pass" results attract QCE credits – consider subject changes NOW!

Sport

Thanks to our PE and Sport Department, which is busy organising a large number of Port Curtis trials – see calendar inside last week's newsletter. Lots of reminders have been going on Student Notices. *Enquiries, especially for confused or timid Year 8s, or their parents, can be directed to the PE Department.*

"For the Fridge"

It's a small piece in each newsletter... but really important. Parents are strongly encouraged to transcribe these dates. From time to time, we hear, "We didn't know that was on" - despite dates having been advertised in quite a number of our previous newsletters. We really like families to have as much warning as possible about school activities.

P & C

If you are from interstate, the QLD term is "P&C". P&C meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of every month in our school Resource Centre. We would love to see maximum parent participation. Getting involved can be fun... and a great way to know the school from another angle. The school relies heavily on advice from the P&C, and in return endeavours to give a fulsome report each meeting.

Our current International students are enjoying studying in Australia and learning about our culture.



Our 2008 Year 9 students went to Canberra in December.

See inside for more details.



NRL FEVER HITS TANNUM HIGH

Tannum High played host to three Rabbitoh's players Rhys Wesser, Shannon Mc Pherson and Nigel Vangana as part of NRL's Community Carnival. Students had the opportunity to ask questions of the players ranging from how much fitness work they do on and off season, who their mentors were at school and what career they would have chosen if rugby hadn't worked out. Andrew Morris Central Queensland's Development Officer also stressed their mantra of Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well, was transferable to many parts of students lives, impacting on attitude to studies and how we co-operate with others.

Cowboys Development Officer, Dean Payne, also paid a visit to our school this week, running a training and skills session for Years 10, 11 & 12. "The students were enthusiastic and really enjoyed both the information session and the physical training side of these visits. We really appreciate the time that the NRL takes with regional centres". Organiser & English Teacher Mr Russ Maynard commented.

Thursday 12th
P&C Meeting
@ 7:30pm

Wednesday
18th House
Challenge



YEAR 9 CANBERRA TRIP By Monique Cook & Vicki Stegink

At the end of last year a busload of year nines survived the 24 hour drive to Canberra. Over the five days we visited all the important places in and around Canberra. This included Old and New Parliament House, The National Gallery of Australia, The Australian Institute of Sport, CSIRO, Dubbo Zoo, Questacon and many other exciting places. We all enjoyed it immensely and we hop the tradition of the Year 9 Canberra Trip continues for many years to come.

Students were priviledged to many exciting displays and participated in many great activities.



Ben Wenham playing out a part in the High Courts in Canberra.



Mr Johnston addresses the Year 8's while (below) Ms Carey welcomes her new Year 8 students into her house group



STUDY DAY FOR YEARS 11 / 12

On Monday 23rd February approximately one-quarter of our teachers will be attending District Panel Moderation meetings in Rockhampton. These panels examine samples of student assessment from all over our region, for quality control purposes. It is not possible to run normal classes for Senior students that day. Hence, Year 11 and 12 may study at home that day with parental permission. Any parent who wishes to advise his or her student IS to attend that day, please ring Helen Duhig or Erika Davis in our school office, so a roll of attendees can be compiled. "Truancy Call" text/phone messages will not be sent home that day for these grades.



PRIORITIES FOR 2009

- Building upon our already strong **academic** performance *e.g. in QCS, OP Scores, Uni Entrance, National Testing*
- Continuing the implementation of the Qld Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework (**QCAR**) *e.g. Essentials, QCAT's*
- Monitoring our 2008 **Middle Phase** Review changes
- Using data, including National Literacy/Numeracy test results, to decide how to further improve our students' **numeracy and literacy** levels
- Trial the "**Multilit**" program as another literacy enhancement to "Success Maker" and "Lexia"
- Expand the **acceleration** opportunities offered by our BSL-Zenith **Gifted** program
- Focussing more on the **education of boys**, especially via teacher in-service
- State more explicitly our school's **pedagogy principles**
- Commence **classroom observation** program for non-probationary teachers
- Continue to educate students, staff and parents about the **Qld Certificate of Education**
- Maintaining and enhancing our school's ethos, practices, **reputation and successes**, whilst being open to change/ further improvement in all areas
- **Work consistently**, and as a team, on behaviour management, uniform and high expectations
- Expanding our **international students** program to more countries
- Embedding new **information technology** *e.g. trialling new One School modules, using teacher laptops in classrooms, National computer scheme*
- Enhancing our **environment** *e.g. sustainability, facilities, litter/grounds*
- **Communicating school policies** even better to parents *e.g. homework, assessment*
- Communicating and **enacting** our recently-reviewed **anti-bullying policies** (*incl. communication to staff, students, parents*)
- Planning for sustainability of **off-site campuses** established in industry
- Enhancing further our excellent **website** and expand **e-newsletter** distribution
- Developing further our **staff skills** for teaching, leadership, support and self-reflection
- Rolling-out annual **performance and development plans** for middle-leadership and teaching staff
- Providing corporate and staff-requested **professional development** *e.g. behaviour management, literacy, computers, website enhancement.*

BSL ZENITH OUR GIFTED PROGRAM



On **Wednesday February 25th**, we will be holding an information afternoon tea in the Performance Centre at 4.15pm. All interested parents and students are invited. If you would like to attend, please phone the school office. *For any enquiries please contact Heather Moller or Julia Cook on 49799777 or email to jcook83@eq.edu.au.* Some new students this year that we have identified have been invited to attend this information session, however, **ALL** interested parents and students are more than welcome to come along! We have lots of new and exciting activities in store for this year.

The **BSL Zenith activities room** is now open at 2nd break on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All students are welcome to come and interact with other students in various activities.

Great website for Students who like a challenge and a quiz.

For those students interested in Maths, Science, Geography, etc <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/evk/index.asp?flash=true>

Also a game on probability called 'Chance' <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/chances/index.asp>



EGYPT BOUND

Year 12 student Lauren Reardon jumped at the chance to travel to Egypt when she was selected by Oasis Endeavours Committee, a charity formed by Tannum local, Mary Briggs. The charity was established to provide loans to underprivileged women to support their families. Lauren's responsibilities will involve her meeting with administrators of the Egyptian Government helping set up various co-operative business groups for women.

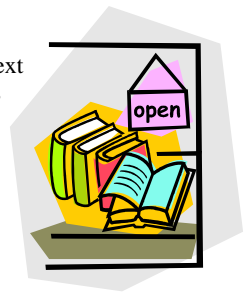
"It's the experience of a lifetime, I still can't believe it's happening," Lauren said.

Lauren travels overseas to Egypt in June, and we are all keen to hear an update when she returns.

RESOURCES HIRE

Most students now have their text books and other resources required for their specific subjects. Some students still need to return books from 2008. Invoices will be mailed home this week for outstanding returns.

It would be pleasing to have a quick response to this, as those texts are now required for the next year of students. After talking to students on parade, we have had a flurry of found books, so please encourage your student to find any outstanding texts. This often brings some quite funny stories about where books are actually found in those homes! But, of course, this is always preferable to having to pay for lost ones. For those who have not yet joined the Resource Hire Scheme, we ask you to do so as quickly as possible. The school offers a part payment scheme which we would urge you to utilise. If there are problems with accessing sufficient funds at this stage, please call us (Mrs Heron, our Business Services Manager) so we can reach an agreement. It is very important that students have access to their texts from the very beginning of the course of study. PLEASE NOTE: The Resource Hire Scheme covers a lot more than just text books. Students bring some text books home all year but use many more at school (class sets). The Scheme covers also many other things e.g. photocopied booklets and notes, consumable items, ID card, organiser, internet costs and some sporting items. A full list is available from our office.



ROAD SAFETY

A reminder that the safest way to cross Coronation Drive in the busy after school period is by using the tunnel. Teachers on gate duty will be instructing students to use the tunnel, and parent support in ensuring this would be greatly appreciated. We also recommend to parents the "Delay by 5" initiative which helps alleviate the traffic congestion at 3.10 pm. Parents are asked to delay pick-up of students by 5 minutes. We also insist that students are collected from outside the school grounds, as it can become very busy in the turn around outside the office. This should only be used if visiting the office or in some cases if collecting sick or injured students. The speed limit within the school grounds is **15 km/hr**. Students have also been addressed on parade about road safety when crossing the road, particularly in the Bevington Street area.



Visiting Rabbitohs – Nigel Vangana, Shannon McPherson & Reece Wesser



UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform Shop Hrs: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:15-11:15am

Enquires to Monique Toner on 4979 9752

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Shirts | \$36.00 | Shorts | \$20.00 |
| Hats | \$12.00 | Windcheaters | \$40.00 |
| Track pants | \$25.00 | Box Pleat Skirts | \$38.00 |
| Panelled Jacket | \$45.00 | Calculators | \$27.00 |
| Posture Tuff School Bags | \$60.00 | | |

ALL UNIFORM ITEMS ARE CURRENTLY IN STOCK.

STUDENT ABSENCE DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE

We have a direct line for the reporting of all student absences. Please telephone **4979 9767** to record your child's absence. Should this line be busy, please leave a message including your child's full name, house group, date of the absence and the reason for that absence. The Automatic Absence Notification System diverts to the above telephone number. If you have changed your telephone/mobile numbers, please advise the school as soon as possible.



Please note: Please reply to current messages only. Replies by text message can only by returned on the day of the original text message being sent to you. We are unable to access this information should you reply after the original date by texting (so please ring 4979 9767 instead if a day or more has passed.). For the same reason, please do not save this mobile number. Instead save the direct line 4979 976 7 in your contact list.

CANTEEN ROSTER

16th Rhonda Johnsen
17th Heather Dunn
18th Vicky Baldwin

19th Lyn Rosser
20th Annie Williams

If you can help, please phone Cath Brice on 4979 9735.

FOR THE FRIDGE

FEBRUARY 09

Thurs 12th RioTinto Alcan Intro session for Indigenous students
Wed 18th House Challenge
Mon 23rd Year 11 Monitoring, Year 11/12 Study Day

Wed 25th BSL Zenith Launch 4.15pm @ Performance Ctr
Sat 28th Lion's Club Youth of the Year 12.30 to 10.00pm in Resource Centre

This Newsletter can be emailed directly to parents on request by forwarding an email to lflet30@eq.edu.au.

We are happy to add or remove your email address from our email list at any time.

The Newsletter is also updated weekly on our school website <http://www.tannumshs.eq.edu.au>.