

with Mr Ray Johnston

FROM

THE

PRINCIPAL

Jazz Band Visit

Last Thursday, the Jazz Band from CQUniversity's Conservatorium of Music in Mackay called in to play for our students on parade. They were awesome. *Isn't it great that our students are exposed to such a high quality band?* Their drummer, Alex Nesevski, past School Vice-Captain, explained to students how he had gone on to create great musical futures, including a stint studying, breathing and living music in Jazz heartland in the USA.

Awards Evening

Congratulations in advance to all award recipients at our annual Awards Evening, which commences at 7.30pm, Thursday 6 Nov, at 7.30pm.

Sport Prowess – WOW!

Our school has had a stellar year in Sport: five state and 3 national representatives. At the regional level, we have now had 50 Capricornia representatives, including teacher officials. This is the second highest in the region, behind Rockhampton Grammar on 70. This incredible effort, I believe, is due in no small part to the efforts of the HPE and Sport staff at our school, under the leadership and encouragement of Mr Sternberg, Head of Department... and students who are willing to *have a go!*

Rule Reminders

Students have been reminded that, during intra-school sport, students are to be: *actively* playing, wearing a *hat*, at the sport whose roll they are on, and leaving at 3.10, not before.

World Teachers Day

Thanks to the P&C for valuing teachers. The P&C showed its appreciation with a morning tea. Thanks also to those students who took the time, and took the plunge, to say, "Thank you!" to one of their teachers last Friday.

Educational Debate Series...

Lately, I have been trying to give readers some "food for thought." *Debate something educational around your next BBQ!*

This edition... *National Testing*. This can be an enlightening or quite damaging exercise, depending on the purpose, and use (or misuse) of the data. *Inside* are some assumptions that can be made about any systemic testing, that may or may not be correct. *What do you think?*



Jacob Johnston received an award for attaining a High Distinction in the Westpac Australian Maths Competition.



These TSSHS students greatly benefited from the information by Engineering Link



Tune in to next weeks Newsletter for all the fun from Beach Bash

STUDENTS ATTEND ENGINEERING LINK

Once again, TSSHS along with students from other schools, participated in programs run by the Engineering Link Group.

Since its inception in 1994 as a three day camp for Year 11 students, the Engineering Link Group has grown to be the exemplar in Queensland and Australia for introducing secondary school students to the discipline of engineering. They have grown to be state-wide since 1999, and have expanded to cater for Year 11 and Year 12 students, as well as linking teachers with engineers.

The Engineering Link Group offers several programs for secondary school students, aimed at allowing them to explore and better understand the exciting career opportunities available to them.

The Engineering Link Group is endorsed by Engineers Australia, Queensland Division. For further information on this program, phone 0747 258 488, or general information is available at info@telg.com.au

COMING
UP

Thursday
13th

P&C Meeting

Wednesday
19th

Senior Formal

**CHRISTMAS BOXES PACKED
READY TO GO**

On Thursday, students assisted Miss Cooper to finalise all of the Christmas boxes ready to be sent away for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all of the students, teachers and community who contributed towards a total of 77 boxes.



AWARDS EVENING WINNERS

As previously advertised, the RSL and Bond University are offering more than 140 RSL Youth Development Grants to recognise and reward outstanding efforts of high-achieving students, who have demonstrated success in Academic, Arts, Sport or Community.

Applications can be made on line at www.RSLyouth.com.au and close 5PM on 11 November 2008. Applications are open to students completing Year 10 or year 11 in 2008 and are worth between \$2600 and \$5200!

For further information, contact Bond University or ring Max Ricketts, Secretary of Boyne Tannum RSL on 49737458.

LOST PROPERTY

We currently have a bank of used / lost jumpers that we are giving away to parents. These will be located at the front office and available until Friday 21st November. After this date, any remaining items will be donated to Bindaree or the local Salvation Army.

SYSTEMIC TESTING - THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Assumption	Commentary
<i>That a test tests what it purports to test...</i>	Just because a test is <u>called</u> "Driving Skills" or "Aquatics" or "Broodstock Quality" or, indeed, "Literacy", this doesn't guarantee that the test actually tests <u>that</u> quality – or tests the bits of the topic actually worth valuing!
<i>That it is possible to test something validly using a particular mode of testing</i>	Most people wouldn't accept that an airline pilot could be validly tested by writing an essay – most of us would want a pilot tested by how s/he flies an actual aeroplane. Similarly, someone could be tested by <i>describing</i> what a good essay is, whereas the proof is probably in whether someone could actually <i>write</i> a good essay. In the same way, whilst some aspects of Numeracy (e.g. arithmetic) are probably validly tested in an exam, other aspects (e.g. solving a quite complex mathematical problem in real life) might better be tested by quizzing an individual orally to gain a level of his/her understanding.
<i>That all tests are well-designed</i>	<u>Someone</u> has to decide whether a question is a good one, or a poor one before it is included on a test (e.g. "poor" could mean confusingly worded, too subjective, above year-level, unnecessarily "tricky"). Even committees can agree on test questions that turn out to be poor ones.
<i>That what is tested is all there is worth knowing</i>	One sad outcome of national testing in other countries (e.g. U.K. and U.S.A.) has been that teachers "teach to the test". In other words, instead of teaching a wide range of things that students need to know and understand and be able to do, teaching becomes narrowed to preparing students for systemic testing. Thus, teachers' practice can become "dumb downed" because their intrinsic motivation changes (or is forced to change) from "teaching what is best for the child" to "teaching what makes my/our test scores look good to parents or inspectors or media." No teacher wants to do that!

UNIFORM FREE DAY



Don't forget Uniform Free Day is on **Wednesday 12th November**.

All money raised will be donated to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Type 1 Diabetes affects over 140,000 Australians, and is a chronic, life threatening illness. It is an autoimmune disease that is not caused by diet or lifestyle.

Imagine being a nine year old child, and having to have 8 injections a day to stay alive. His mother gets up to him twice a night to check on his blood readings, and make sure he's alright. This is what a local Tannum boy has to endure every day. His Type 1 Diabetes affects his whole family, and he is only one child of many in the area affected.

Help raise extra money by trying the "Guess the Jelly Beans" jar competition at lunch time next week.




Kierran Sparks and Stevie Irons at their exhibition, 'The Other Side' which was a rousing success!!
The girls had a ball organising and running the event, and described it as fantastic. The comments and praise received were inspirational and congratulatory toward our efforts.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RAYMONT LODGE RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE provides fully furnished accommodation for students undertaking tertiary study in Brisbane, and is located only 4 km from the heart of Brisbane. Information on the facilities available can be found at www.raymont.com.au or by contacting 0733 779 903 and requesting an information kit.

YEAR 12 GRADUATION MASS

St Peter Chanel Catholic Church (next to St Francis Catholic Primary School) invites Year 12 students to the Graduation Mass at 8:00am this Sunday 9th November. Any queries, please contact Susan on 4973 9892.

BSL ZENITH – OUR GIFTED PROGRAM  187 Passports (2008)	OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN WESTPAC AUSTRALIAN MATHS COMPETITION This competition is conducted by the Canberra based Australian Mathematics Trust and is sponsored by the University of Canberra and the Canberra Mathematical Association. This year, hundreds and thousands of students from a record number of schools from a record 42 countries entered. Our school students had another very successful year with three students achieving Distinctions - Catriona Johnston, Courtenay Stewardson & Karyn Paterson. Our Prize winner was Jacob Johnston who achieved a High Distinction. Jacob Johnston who is a second time Prize winner. He received a Lapel Pin and a \$50.00 cheque from the AMT. CONGRATULATIONS JACOB!
	ENGINEERING WORKSHOP – CQU GLADSTONE CAMPUS On 14 th November, twenty Year 9/10 boys with an interest in Science and Maths will be attending the Central Qld University for an all day workshop. The activities will provide learning opportunities with an emphasis on English and Engineering. We are sure the students will find the day rewarding and the experience will assist them in deciding their future careers.



SENIOR SCHOOLING

YEAR 10 BUSINESS STUDENTS WORK EXPERIENCE

60 students studying Business Management and Business Finance recently exchanged their school room for the workplace, gaining a valuable insight into career areas they had an interest in. Doing real life work tasks and working a full day was both rewarding and challenging. Feedback from both employers and students was very positive with many of the students being able to use the skills they have demonstrated to contribute to their Certificate I in Work Education.

A big thank you has to go to all the employers for their support of our students in offering placements in their workplace.



Josh HaeHae spent the week in the workshop at Berg Engineering



Kyla Sprecher working in hairdressing at Cathy's Scissors



Michael Pope working in customer service at Mitre 10



Rhys Andrew works at Welcon Technologies on CAD documents

POSITIONS VACANT

Central Queensland Local Government Association (COLGA) has a 12 month Certificate III in Business Administration Traineeship on offer.

This is a great opportunity to be trained in a range of activities from accounts and finance, human resources and reception in a regional local government organisation.

Please Note: This position will be based in Rockhampton and Junior wages will apply. Interviews to be held December 2008, start negotiable in January 2009. An information package for the position can be obtained by contacting Toni Underwood on 4927 0111.

Written applications are to be marked "Private & Confidential" and submitted by **14 November 2008** to Ms Jenny Moore, Executive Officer, CQ Local Government Association Inc., PO Box 1624 ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4700

Junior Kennel Assistant for Vet Surgery. Ideally the person should be in either Year 10 or 11, and available to work Mondays, Wednesdays and every 2nd Friday from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and Saturday 8am to 12pm. The main duties include cleaning and hydro-bathing. This is not a glamorous position. Interested persons should contact the surgery on 4972 5100.

Apprenticeships in Engineering (Metal Fabrication and Mechanical) with Mechanical Engineering Australia - Gladstone. See the school's career board for more details. To apply, forward resume and latest school results by 15th November to The Manager, Mechanical Engineers Australia, 5 Soppa Street, Gladstone QLD 4680.



DOES MY OP EXPIRE?

Your Overall Position (OP) does not expire, or change, after you leave school. If you gain extra qualification after you leave school and you apply through QTAC for a tertiary course, you will be allocated a QTAC selection rank – or set of ranks if you gain more than one qualification (e.g. a selection rank for a preparatory course, a selection rank for employment and a selection rank for tertiary study). **Your OP will not change or expire.** Nor will your Year 12 results be combined with your tertiary results.

You must always check with the admissions office of the tertiary institution you wish to attend to find their entry rules. (For example, if you do some university study after school, some universities will use your university results, not your OP, to assess your entry – even if your OP was better than your uni results.) More info? www.qtac.edu.au > Info for Non-Year 12s > Upgrading Pathways. Alternatively, contact our Guidance Officers, Julie Gracey/Nathan Wyer.

CANTEEN ROSTER

November 2008

3rd Rhonda Johnsen/Vicky Balwin	10th Rhonda Johnsen/Vicky Balwin	17th Rhonda Johnsen/Vicky Balwin
4th Tracey Webber-Hanson/ Help Needed	11th Tracey Webber-Hanson	18th Tracey Webber-Hanson
5th Heather Dunn/ Help Needed	12th Help Needed/Help Needed	19th Lyndell Gilson/Heather Dunn
6th Help Needed/Help Needed	13th Help Needed/Help Needed	20th Anne-Marie Johnson
7th Annie Williams/Mandy Gaffel	14th Annie Williams/ Help Needed	21st Annie Williams/ Help Needed

FOR THE FRIDGE

November 2008

Thurs 6 th Awards Evening rehearsals	Thurs 20 th Year 12 Pyjama Day
Thurs 13 th P&C Meeting @ 7:30pm & Student Leadership Conference	Fri 21 st Year 12 Graduation Breakfast/Formal Assembly
Mon 17 th Year 12 Transition Week commences	Last Day for Year 12 students
Wed 19 th Senior Formal	Fri 28 th Last Day for Years 10 & 11 students