

with Mr Ray Johnston

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### The Place of Year 10

The nature and purpose of Year 10 is evolving. Increasingly in Qld schools, Year 10 is seen as the entry to or beginning of Senior Schooling, rather than the “end” of Junior schooling.

For example, as part of our Curriculum Review Implementation this year, Year 10’s have selected subjects in Semester 2 that better mirror year 11/12 subjects. Students can begin “banking” credits towards their Qld Certificate of Education whilst in Year 10.

90% of Year 10 students return to Year 11. For this reason, from this year, we will no longer be issuing Year 10 Certificates (which Year 10’s historically used to seek employment). Instead, Year 10’s will receive a report card, in the same style as Year 11. (Similarly, we no longer have a Year 10 social that traditionally celebrated the “completion” of Junior – *see inside*).

### Attendance is Important

I saw some interesting data recently at a seminar. It showed the very direct relationship between results at school AND attendance at school. On average, it is very clear, the more you are at school, the better chance you have of obtaining good results. This is common sense, isn’t it... but it was clearly backed up by the hard facts in this recent research. Attendance is a bigger factor than any other e.g. socio-economic level, home circumstances, and so on, in achievement.

### Finishing Dates

Students are expected to attend up to an including their last day of attendance: for Years 10 and 11, this is Friday 28 November; for Years 8 and 9, this is Friday 12 December. Students will not be “doing nothing”, they will not be “just watching videos”, learning activities will be organised by teachers for all scheduled lessons.

### Congratulations

Well done to the following staff members who recently learned they had received promotions to Head of Department (HOD) positions:

Mrs Narelle Cleaver, HOD Pedagogy, Tannum Sands SHS

Mrs Pam McMaster, HOD Mathematics, Gladstone SHS

Mrs Melissa Daniels, HOD Special Education, Gladstone SHS

The HOD Pedagogy is a new position for our school in 2009, created to further increase our focus on the quality of the teaching in our classrooms.

### Doorways to Civil Construction

Congratulations to all Year 10 students who graduate from this program on Wednesday night. Sorry I can’t be there due to a clash with the Senior Graduation Formal.

### Awards Night

It was very satisfying to witness the well-deserved accolades being given to over a hundred talented young people at last week’s Awards Evening. These students, whether in Year 8 or Year 12, have worked diligently this year to achieve success in academic pursuits, sport, culture or service. Thanks go to our Guest Speaker, Ms Lesley Sutherland, Gifted Education coordinator from AB Paterson College, who enlightened us about different types of intelligence. Natalee Williamson, our Highest OP 2007, sent us a lovely DVD message, telling us about life beyond school in her medical studies. The audience was kept entertained by acts as diverse as “The Ballet Boys” in their pink tutus, and a wonderful male choir who performed “As Long As You Love Me” by The Backstreet Boys.

The main prize for the night went to Hirruthyaa Manivasagan, who received Student of the Year for her all-round success in academic, cultural and service pursuits in her final year. A full Honour Board of our major prize winners is on page two.

Congratulations to all!

### The Class of 2008

Lastly, this week sees the graduation of our 2008 Seniors. I wish to sincerely wish them all the best for their futures. They have been a talented and awesome group, and deserve all the best for life beyond school. Stay safe, stay happy!



*CQU Bursary winner  
for the Highest  
Achieving Student The  
Arts – Jason Smith*



*Our Boys Choir  
“Reaching for the Stars”*



*Bursary and Special  
Awardees*



*Gladstone Youth Music  
Bursary Awardees  
Kassandra Buckle and  
Hirruthyaa Manivasagan*

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COMING  
UP

Wednesday  
19<sup>th</sup>

**SENIOR  
FORMAL**

Arrivals  
commence at  
4:10pm

## AWARDS NIGHTS HONOUR BOARD

<i>AWARD</i>	<i>SPONSOR</i>	<i>RECIPIENT</i>
Snr Students intending on studying in Mathematical & Science fields	Queensland Alumina Limited	Erin Sharry and Hirruthyaa Manivasagan
Highest Achieving Student studying The Arts subjects in Year 12	CQ University	Jason Smith
Highest Achieving Student studying Technology subjects in Year 12	NRG Gladstone	Ellinor Johnston and Cassandra Buckle
Gladstone Youth Music Bursaries	Gladstone Youth Music Council	Hirruthyaa Manivasagan and Cassandra Buckle
McGregor Summer School Scholarship	CPA- Gladstone Branch	Jessica Adie
Highest Achieving Student studying Business in Year 11	LJ Hooker Boyne Island	Stevie-Anne Smith
Indigenous Students of the Year		Josh Brown- Snr Marnie Machin- Jnr
Sportsman of the Year		Dylan Nankivell
Sportswoman of the Year		Courtney Watt
School Spirit & Involvement		Ellinor Johnston
Student of the Year	Central QLD Port Corporation	Hirruthyaa Manivasagan
Highest OP from 2007	Rio Tinto	Natalee Williamson

## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR DEPARTING STUDENTS

Any students who are not coming back next year, could you please collect a Departure Form from the Office and return it ASAP.



Capricornia Region Representatives for Sports Awardees

## YEAR 9 CANBERRA TRIP

Australian Government assistance for National Capital excursion

Year 9 students from our school will soon be undertaking an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participate in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program, and hope that the excursion is a rewarding experience for all students.



*Tannum Sands Year 12 students were busy last week finishing off assessments, and tying up loose ends before school finally finishes this Friday. Amongst some of the nicer tasks this week for some, was finishing off their Christmas cakes!*

## TRANSITION WEEK REMINDERS

Parents are reminded:

- Please model safety outside the Community Centre e.g. keep off the road!
- Please don't call graduates over from the red carpet, as this holds up the tightly timed procession
- Please arrive by 6.20am for Friday's Valedictory Breakfast so we can begin promptly at 6.30am
- All parents are welcome at our Formal Assembly on Friday morning

## OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Students have been reminded recently about...

- Giving notes to their House Group teacher if out of uniform
- Unacceptability of graffiti or damaging of school property
- Not having items such as chewing gum, marker pens, lighters at school
- Showing respect to other people – not spreading rumours or falsehoods
- Behaviour in public places e.g. litter and traffic safety in Bevington St

## BSL ZENITH – OUR GIFTED PROGRAM



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Passports (2008)

We were privileged to have Mrs. Lesley Sutherland (Gifted Education Mentor from A. B. Patterson College, Gold Coast) attend and be the main presenter on Awards Night. She spoke in regard to Fluid and Crystal intelligences. A new way of thinking for a lot of us. Prior to the night she conferenced with some of our Heads of Departments (HOD's) in regard to what her school has been doing. She also gave teachers and other staff the opportunity to observe her lesson on the 'Future Problem Solving Program.' ([www.fpspi.org/topics.html](http://www.fpspi.org/topics.html)).

Lesley's enthusiasm for this particular method of teaching was evident and students responded with great excitement and discussion. BSL Zenith Students who attended this lesson experienced a taste of Action-based Problem Solving where they were asked to think outside the box, make decisions, prioritise solutions and consider ethical ramifications to a future scenario. The topic was connected to future technology and the potential social problems that this may incur. Thinking creatively, developing an active interest in the future, working cooperatively in teams, learning about complex social trends and developing critical judgement of research is all part of the emphasis of this interesting program. Those who attended saw our students thoroughly engaged, with them challenging themselves and others. Feedback received from the students rated this experience as an 8 - 10. It was great to see the minds whirling.

## YEAR 10 SOCIALS

I would like to reprint an article from last year's newsletter...

In the past, Year 10's have had a Social in term 4. This practice will cease next\* year [*that is, this year 2008*]. The reasons I have made this decision are:

- The change in our education scene in Qld. The Qld Studies Authority has made an in principle decision that Year 10 will be part of the senior stage of learning. Both their syllabuses and our new timetable will reflect this decision. That is, Year 10 is not the "end" of anything any more. Unlike twenty years ago, 90% of our students continue to Year 11

- The practice that seems to have developed of some students organising "after parties". From what I am told, these at times involve excessive or binge drinking and sometimes poor behaviour. Although the school is not connected with these events, we do not wish to set up a "pretext" for such activity for young people who are often still at a very vulnerable and naïve stage of their development

- The rising costs for parents. Increasingly, some Year 10s, especially the girls, have apparently felt the need to go out and purchase new outfits for this dance, even though we have stressed it is a "casual dress" evening. Parents have enough expenses, including the Year 12 Formal

I know that some current Year 9's may be disappointed by this decision, but I am sure they understand the reasons behind this decision. Normal school dances will still go ahead.

Lastly, I would like to stress that this decision has been a long time coming and is NOT taken as a result of the misbehaviour of five boys at this year's Year 10 Social, where 99% of our students were incredibly well behaved and had a great time.

Recently, I was approached by some Year 10's about this matter. However, last year's decision still stands. There will be no Year 10 Social.

## VACANCIES

**Junior Office Administration Traineeship** and Accounting traineeship both commencing Feb. 2009 with well established Gladstone firm, Kaye Cooper & Assoc. If you are interested see the Career Board for information and send your resume to: Attention: Practice Manager, admin@coopersaccountants.com.au or PO Box 5099, GLADSTONE QLD 4680.

**Traineeship Local Government** - includes customer service, finance, HR and general administration. University fees covered. Contact Gladstone Regional Council Employment Section 49758109 or email [employment@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](mailto:employment@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)

**Civil Construction Traineeship** - includes plant/equipment operation, civil construction and maintenance. Contact Gladstone Regional Council Employment Section 49758109 or email [employment@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](mailto:employment@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)

**IT Traineeship** - includes help desk support, installation of applications and hardware, and supporting the Manager Information Service. Contact Gladstone Regional Council Employment Section 49758109 or email [employment@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](mailto:employment@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)

**Apprentice Plumber** with local plumber Blue Water Contracting. Send resume and cover letter to Blue Water Contracting, PO Box 3296, Tannum Sands, Qld. 4680. Applications close 26th November.

**Vacancy - School Based Traineeship (Retail) 2009 at Tannum Sands Coffee Club.** Interested students must hand deliver a cover letter and resume to Tracey Bourke or Duty Manger. A work experience trial during the last two weeks of school this year may be required for possible December 2008 start. Applications close Monday 24th November.

## 2009 TAFE (New & Continuing)

Students wanting to enrol in TAFE courses at CQIT in Gladstone must see Mr Comrie and enrol now. Places are limited in some courses, while others may not run if numbers are not confirmed by year's end. Continuing students must re-enrol to secure your place for 2009. In both instances, your "Confirmation of Enrolment" given to you on enrolment must be given to Mr Comrie, so timetable adjustments can be made in 2009. To collect a letter needed for enrolment or for more information please contact Todd Comrie.

## QTAC & OP & QCE

Parents and friends of Year 12 student please store this information away for when they start to ask you; "When do I get my OP? When will I get my QTAC offer?"

Dates to remember:

OP - Will be sent by the QSA and will arrive with QCE (if you qualify) and Senior Statement information around the 20th December 2008, depending on mail delivery service.

QTAC major round offer - Will be out 15th January 2008 (Unless they applied for creative or performing arts courses or Bond Uni - 17th December 2008.)

For further information please access the following websites or make contact with the Guidance Officer or Todd Comrie.

Websites: QTAC- [www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au), OP - [www.smartop.qsa.qld.edu.au](http://www.smartop.qsa.qld.edu.au), QCE- <http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/certificates/589.html>

## SIEMENS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE 2009

# C A R E E R S & L E A R N I N G

The Siemens Science Experience will once again be hosted by CQUniversity at the Rockhampton Campus from Tuesday 20th until Thursday 22nd January 2009. The event is open to any students commencing Year 10 in 2009, and will showcase careers in the Science, Engineering and Health fields, as well as give students the opportunity to participate in group activities and hear guest speakers. Registration costs \$105 and covers meal costs, but does not cover transportation or accommodation.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.scienceexperience.com.au](http://www.scienceexperience.com.au).

## "STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS" SEMINARS- JANUARY 2009

In the January holidays Learning Performance will be holding the popular "Strategies for Success" seminars. There will be four-day seminars for students in years 10-12 and two-day seminars for students in years 8 and 9. Three main areas of learning covered are:

1. Learning skills that help students to learn easier and develop more efficient methods of approaching study. These include organisational skills, essay planning, note taking, memory skills and speed reading (speed reading for the four-day workshop only).
2. Motivational skills. A close look at how self motivation works. Learn how to get motivated and stay motivated.
3. Stress management. Simple techniques for relieving stress, especially at exam time.

Quality materials are used, alongside films, group activities and lectures. Cost of the four-day seminar is \$410 and the two-day seminar is \$215 (GST included).

Seminars will be held at Q.U.T. Gardens Point Campus in Brisbane and Bond University of the Gold Coast.

For more information and a free brochure call 07 3281 1400 or contact Narelle Cleaver at the school (Staffroom 4).

## FOR THE FRIDGE 2008

### NOVEMBER 2008

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Formal - Arrivals commencing at 4:10pm  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Year 12 Pyjama Day  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Year 12 Graduation Breakfast & Formal Assembly  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Last Day for Years 10 & 11 students

### DECEMBER 2008

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> P&C Meeting - Commencing @ 6pm at Breezes  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Last Day of School for 2008.