Sister school arrangement

During the school holidays one of our teachers, Mrs Chen Takahashi, visited the Kaohsiung Municipal Chianjhen Junior High School in Taiwan. This school expressed interest in becoming a sister school with Sunnybank High during 2012.

The aims of a sister school relationship are to promote inter-cultural understanding and language skills through communication, student exchange and other activities and to facilitate and maintain school to school and community to community involvement on a regular basis. Our students will be encouraged to email or write to students in Kaohsiung Municipal Chianjhen Junior High School. Kaohsiung is a sister city to Brisbane and further details about the city can be located through links on the Brisbane City Council website.

Congratulations to our student leaders who represented our school at the Lions’ Youth Speaks competition. Mohamed, Trang and Betina were great ambassadors for our school. Well done.

Two of our business students, Daniel Vuong and Shahana Cumaranayagam, attended the business breakfast of the Southside Chamber of Commerce when the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Counsellor Graham Quirk, spoke about his vision for the city of Brisbane. Thank you students and Mrs Moodley for accompanying them.

Parents and Citizens’ Association meetings – please note that the meetings have been moved to the third Tuesday of each month as per the refrigerator calendar distributed this week. Prior to the next P&C meeting on 20 March, the A.G.M. will be held, commencing at 6.30 pm.
SUNNYBANK HIGH STUDENTS SHINE IN THE LIONS’ YOUTH OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Mohamad Jama, Betina Telegaru and Trang Tran all participated in this year’s Lions’ Youth of the Year Competition and represented their school superbly.

This nation-wide competition runs in the first few weeks of school each year and is broken into two main parts: an interview and a speech night. To prepare, the students fill in an extensive application form in order to highlight all of their cultural, sporting and academic achievements during their time at school. They are then quizzed during their interview about their achievements and their knowledge of current affairs. This is worth 80% of the marks that go towards deciding the winner.

After the interview, students are invited to attend a speech night where they present two impromptu speeches and one prepared speech. Their performance on the speech night is worth 20% of the overall marks. Although this is undoubtedly the scariest part of the competition, our students were calm and professional under pressure. Trang spoke about the dangers of putting too much trust in new technologies as their effect can be quite negative on youth. Betina discussed the biased representation of teens by the media, and argued that if society is to develop a culture of youth leadership, the media should not keep reinforcing the belief that all teens are thugs and hooligans.

But Mohamad Jama blew the audience away with his inspirational speech that challenged western society not to turn a blind eye to poverty, particularly when the third world produces most of the first world’s food. Mohamad was given a special commendation for his performance on the evening. Although none of our students walked away with the main prize, many members of the audience approached the students afterwards and offered their congratulations.

It really was a night where Sunnybank State High School showed the community just how great we are. The competition is open for all year 12 students and the English department is already looking to target this year’s year 11s to be our year 12 representatives next year.

Jandy Hucks
HOD English

SOSE

Welcome to 2012 from the SOSE faculty. We look forward to teaching your child and to a productive year. By now our SOSE students would have been asked by their teachers about their goals for 2012. They would have been reminded that in order to bring the vision of their goal to reality they need a plan. It is not enough to articulate our goals, we need specific strategies to realise them, for instance, there is a need to actively listen in class, to ask for help when we don’t understand, to be organised, ready to learn and to submit a draft. Of equal importance is the need to take an exercise break along with making good food choices.

Please ask your child to articulate the specific strategies they will use in order to realise their goals because as Thomas Edison put it “…vision (goals) without execution is hallucination”.

In the SOSE faculty we began to make our goal of curriculum relevance a reality when Mr Inglis, Senior Constable Stanley and the year 11 Legal Studies students recently attended the Supreme Court in order to experience first hand the procedures used in trials of indictable offences.

Law Court visits are designed to extend and enrich the educational experience for our students, beyond the classroom. These visits offer them insights into new ways of thinking about the world and challenge them to create and compose responses which require depth of analysis and higher order thinking. According to psychiatrist, Dr William Glasser, “We learn 80% of what we experience”, and for two hours the students experienced the proceedings of actual court cases, observing as they moved between trials and courtrooms. Feedback from the students indicated that they enjoyed the excursion, finding it informative, practical and thus valuable in furthering their knowledge of the judicial power of the Supreme and District Courts.

Special thanks to Mr Inglis and Senior Constable Stanley for organising this experience for our year 11 Legal Studies students.

Gemma Finney
HOD SOSE

MISS LUCOCK TO TAKE ON THE WORLD

This Friday Miss Lucock will be travelling down to Adelaide for the Australian Athletics Tour.

The Australian Athletics Tour is held from January through to March and involves both Australian elite Track and Field athletes and invitational international athletes. Athletes travel to each state to compete, cumulating in the Australian Olympic trials.

Last year Miss Lucock was Australia’s number one ranked pole vaulter. Since last year, Miss Lucock has been battling injuries but is now back and ready to take on the world. We wish her all the best.

Jandy Hucks
HOD English

SKI TRIP

The trip will run during Ekka (mid August) week and will cost approximately $1000. Only open to year 10s and 11s. Pay $50 deposit to the Finance office as soon as possible. See Mr Jackson for more details.
QATSI FOUNDATION
Educational Bursaries and Scholarships Recipients
On Thursday 16 February, six students were invited by the QATSI (Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Foundation to be a part of their launch in acknowledging the numerous students from across Queensland who were successful in receiving a scholarship.

The event was held at the State Library of Queensland in their Kuril Dhagun room. In acknowledging the recipients, a number of distinguished guests and parliamentarians spoke of the importance of education and young people in Australia and the importance of supporting young people in their studies.

QATSIF is an independent public trust established to provide young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders with a secure funding source for educational bursaries and scholarships.

QATSIF recognises the vital roles that successful completion of schooling and the availability of opportunities through higher education have in building a foundation for employment and better quality of life. However, it is equally aware that senior education is a resource not easily accessed by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Sunnybank State High School community, staff and students congratulate Narikah Orchard, Shakiah Riley, Kyle Gibson, Sim-E Fatafehi, Shakira Little and Kaea Sellars on receiving this scholarship. Well done.

READING REVOLUTION
AT SUNNYBANK SHS
Sunnybank High has recently undertaken a number of initiatives to increase the amount of reading that students are doing for pleasure. As part of the library update, the ever enthusiastic and often costume-clad teacher librarian, Elaine Cobb, has placed a number of bright red reading couches in the fiction section so that students can read in the library or have a comfy place to discuss books.

Stop in and have a lounge around in the sofas and bean bags, and have a quick look at the new books Ms Cobb has brought in. Remember what former US president Harry Truman said: “Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers”.

BOXING SUCCESS
Congratulations to Justis Huni, year 8, who has just returned from Tasmania, where he won the 2012 National Boxing Championship for his age and weight division.

Over the years, Justis has won every title in his age division but the most notable ones are the three consecutive State Titles and the Golden Glove Champion, which he won twice. His goal is to one day compete in the Commonwealth or Olympic Games.

STOP HARASSING ME POSTCARD
On 27 January, Senior Constable Nathan Vaughan attended Sunnybank State High School and spoke to students about the “Stop Harassing Me Postcard” Project. The postcard is a proactive project being implemented at Sunnybank State High School as a response to cyberbullying — that is bullying via the internet, by text or by phone.

Cyberbullying is an offence under the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 and can be reported to the police. However, if a student is a victim of cyberbullying and does not wish to make a formal complaint to police, the student can speak to a deputy principal, school based police officer or guidance officer about the harassing messages. The postcard is then given to the offender by the deputy principal or school based police officer.

For more information about this project, please contact the Sunnybank School Based Police Officer, Senior Constable Shane Stanley on 3364 3210 or 3323 8106.

ST BERNARD’S NETBALL CLUB
1823 Logan Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt
Places still available in 8, 10, 12 and 16 year old teams.
Contact: Jacqui 0402 520 913 or Email: stbernardsnetballclub@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL
Parents wishing to receive the school eNewsletter please contact Bronwyn Webb - bwebb4@eq.edu.au and notify her along with your details.

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