PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

9 November 2012

Timothy Sharp, in his book 100 Ways to Happy Children (A Guide for Busy Parents), writes ‘One of the constant challenges for parents is finding a balance between consistency and flexibility. There is no easy solution to the problem of when to stick to our guns and when to bend a little, but as long as you understand the need for balance you’ll probably hit the mark. As parents, we need to remember we won’t get it right 100 per cent of the time! This is also true for teachers managing students. Issues can arise for both parents and teachers because consistency does not mean that we have to treat all children the same. We all know that each child is unique and sometimes they may respond differently to certain approaches and consequences for actions. However, basic approaches and the core values which underpin the adult responses should not differ significantly, and this is perhaps the best way to achieve a form of consistency with the required flexibility.

In the last two weeks, at Awards Night and Sport Awards Evening, we celebrated a broad range of achievements - the achievements of our music groups were demonstrated by their performance; the sporting efforts and triumphs of our students were relived, the academic focus of our school was highlighted with the awarding of subject awards and commendations for overall academic excellence, and the value of contribution and participation in the broader extra-curricular life of the school was also acknowledged. Congratulations to all who received awards and bursaries. The major award winners are listed below:

**Year 8 P&C Bursary** – Paige Beazley and Zuberi Salim

**Year 9 P&C Bursary** – Benafsha Hamid and Mekha Sakaew

**Senior P&C Bursary** – Stephanie Hopper (Yr 12)

**Graham Perrett – Literacy Award** – Jaiden Savage (Yr 10)

**Year 10 USQ Community Award** – Joseph Muller

**ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award** – Joseph Muller (Yr 10), Stephanie London (Yr 11), Jessica Wright (Yr 12)

**Daunt Hannifey Memorial Bursary** – Tim Cummings (Yr 11), Muse Abdi Mohamud (Yr 12)

**Shirley Huang Memorial Bursary** – Daniel Brown, Shahana Cumaranyagam, Betina Telegaru, Didier Uyisenga (Yr 12)

**UQ Prize** – Mohamed Jama (Yr 12)

**ATSI Student of the Year** – Narikah Orchard (Yr 12)

**Commitment to Studies, Leadership and Service to the School** – Trang Tran (Yr 12)

**Billy Sing Bursary** – David Ngiam (Yr 12), Mei Zhang (Yr 11)

**Caltex Allrounder** – Jessica Wright (Yr 12)

This is my last newsletter as Principal at Sunnybank SHS. I have enjoyed the last five weeks in this school, with good students and great teachers seeking many ways to achieve excellence for all students. Mrs Hicks will return on Monday 12 November to see the final week for the current year 12 students. Thank you to all who I have spoken to for your support for the school.

We are now experiencing the ‘lasts’ for year 12 students - last lessons, last assessments, last assembly, and the lists of lasts goes on - and it is a time of mixed emotions for seniors with the excitement of new beginnings combined with the end of school and day-to-day contact with friends. This time of ‘lasts’ for year 12 students is also a very busy time for all year groups (and parents) in the school calendar.

At this time of year, we particularly take the time to recognise the work of our year 12 students who will leave us this week to commence the next stage of their study and work. I want to thank them for their contribution to the school. They have been excellent role models for the younger students. I feel confident that many of our 2012 year 12 students, whether or not they held formal leadership positions in their final year of school, will be the future leaders in their chosen fields in society and we will continue to hear of and celebrate their achievements and endeavours. I wish all our departing year 12s and their families the best for their future.

**Year 12 Graduation** is Friday 16 November at 10 am in the school hall. All students must attend the final day of school in full formal school uniform from 8.45 am. The ceremony will begin at 10.00 am and conclude by 11.30 am.

Mr Glen Donald
Acting Principal
**SOSE EXCURSION**

On 18 October, students from the year 8 SOSE class visited the Abbey Museum on Bribie Island as part of our History study of the Middle Ages. It was an enjoyable and educational experience which was well received by the students.

The visit began with a tour through the recreated Medieval Chapel which has a wonderful display of stained glass windows. The Abbey’s educational officer, Damien, explained to us the significance of the images portrayed as well as the very complex process which goes into making a stained glass window.

After numerous questions and sketching, it was then time to meet Sir Matt and Lady Edith. Sir Matt was very entertaining and informative as he took us on the journey that a boy of the Middle Ages would travel, in order to become a knight. He has an amazing collection of artefacts and was kind enough to allow the students to dress in his armour.

Sir Matt and Lady Edith then taught us how to use a bow and arrow, and with Sir Matt as the target, the students fired at will. Much to our delight the session ended with a sword fight between Sir Matt and Lady Edith. The final session of the day was spent in the Museum with Damien who explained to us the ancient art of making a manuscript. We were then given time to wander through the museum, learning about various periods of history via the magnificent collection of artefacts housed by the owner of the Abbey Museum.

Ms Gemma Finney
A/HOD SOSE

**BUSINESS AND COMPUTER EDUCATION**

This year, for the first time, a group of year 9 students enrolled in the National Computer Science School Challenge run by The University of Sydney. This is a challenge where students get an introduction to computer programming using Python, a programming language. The Challenge ran for five weeks from 6 August to 9 September during which time the students gained an insight into the precise and logical nature of programming. Students who submitted solutions each week received a Participation certificate and one student, Meleika Gesa-Fatafehi, was awarded a Credit.

Ms N Stable, HOD – Business and Computer Education

**NEWS FROM THE INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE**

**Abbey Museum Excursion**

On 18 October, four year 8 ESL students joined with other SOSE students to visit the Abbey Museum on Bribie Island, as part of the term’s studies on the Middle Ages. Our first experience was visiting the Abbey. It is full of medieval leadlight which was purchased in Europe and brought back to be re-assembled as part of the Abbey windows.

The students were given a very informative background brief on the Abbey’s frescoes, statues and artefacts by the education officer. Afterwards, students enjoyed the highlight of their day: listening to and participating in the practical aspect of medieval society. They learnt about the clothing, weapons and behaviour of a knight and his colleagues. Students learnt the names of weapons and accessories and got to manhandle and try on these items. There was a lot of fun later, outside, when students were allowed to shoot an arrow at the ‘knight’. There was further enjoyment when the ‘knights’ conducted a mock sword fight. The excursion was wrapped up when we went through the museum. School excursions play an important role in learning in Queensland schools. The students who attended learnt a great deal about the Middle Ages.

Mr Carlos Batista
Teacher, ESL and SOSE

**Murri students host a Barbeque for African students**

A group of Murri students will host a barbeque for Murri and African students in the Auditorium during Lunch 1 on Friday 9 November. The barbeque will be an opportunity for students to socialise and celebrate their achievements together. Thanks to indigenous support teacher, Mr Hatcher, and Community Liaison Officer, Mr Deng, for organising this event and to the Murri students for their hospitality.

Ms Gemma Finney
A/HOD SOSE

**ESL Enrolments for Year 8 in 2013**

Parents can contact Mrs Goldman (33238185) about enrolments for ESL students in year 8 in 2013.

Mrs Laraine Goldman
HOSES (ESL Program)
About Grief and Loss

Below is some information written by author and grief expert, Doris Zagdanski, about grief and loss. I feel it may be helpful for some of us who may be experiencing grief or who may be supporting a loved one going through grief.

“There is no easy way around grief. It is a natural response to the loss of someone special or something we value. The words death and grief often go together. But we need to think in terms of loss and grief – we can grieve when a marriage or relationship breaks up, when we lose our job, when we are diagnosed with a health issue, when we move house, when dementia changes a person we once knew… the list of losses is almost endless. Grief is about more than tears and sadness. It affects us on four different levels – our feelings, thoughts, behaviours and physical wellness. Grief is not well understood in our society and some people try to deny it, postpone it or dodge it. Basically, however, when someone close to you has died, there will be big and small adjustments which have to be made in your life – and these could bring uncertainty, frustration, fear, sadness and change as each new day comes along. You will change. Your routine will change. Your moods will change. All of this is called ‘grief’. It’s really about adapting to changes in your life, your thoughts, your hopes, your beliefs and your future.

Yes, whether we like it or not, loss in its many forms cannot be avoided. Whilst we all know that death is a natural part of living, when it happens to someone we know, we are often shocked and believe it’s unfair. We may ask ‘why?’ over and over. But grief is a teacher – through loss we can grow in courage and wisdom and learn to appreciate the pain of loneliness of others. It also presents an opportunity to develop our values, beliefs and relationships as we work out just who and what really matter in our lives. Yet, it’s a hard way to learn. We may not like it. It can be a frightening and lonely experience. But if we choose to love someone, we must also be willing to let that person go when their life comes to an end.”

www.allaboutgrief.com

For more information on receiving support, visit the website indicated above or feel free to contact me on the contact details below. The Chaplaincy service is here to support both students and their families.

Contact: 07 3323 8184
Office: 2nd level of block 4 - room 401
Office Times: Monday to Friday, 8 am - 4 pm
Lucy Lim, Chaplain

 RESOURCE CENTRE

November is National Novel Writing Month so if you’ve ever thought you’d like to write fiction, now is your time to begin. Be one of more than 200,000 people around the world to register and track your progress with your story. To help you, there will be write-ins, with activities and prizes for writers, held in the Resource Centre every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon throughout November, from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. See Ms Cobb in the Resource Centre for details on how to register.

The end of the year is not far away. Students are reminded to return books promptly. Overdue books and other resources being returned can be placed in the returns chute inside the main entrance. The library now has a new printer. Students are now able to print in colour, photocopy, scan and email using their papercut account. Please ensure you have sufficient funds in your account. Instructions for use are posted at the printer.

 NOW FOR SALE

Sunny Stories: An Anthology of Student Work, 2012
View a sample on the website. Purchase your own copy for $10.00 from Financial Services in the Administration block.

“Sunny Creations” Cookbook can be purchased by the public directly from our Uniform Shop at a cost of $15.

With Christmas just around the corner, the books would make wonderful gifts for family and friends.

 MT GRAVATT PCYC

Get energised for new Learn to Hip Hop Dance classes, running every Thursday afternoon from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm, for 12 to 18 year olds. We also run regular holiday programs for young people 9 to 16 years of age, with a variety of fun and exciting activities. For more information please visit our website at mtgravattpcyc.org.au, like our Facebook page or call us on 3420 4655.

 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.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF IMPORTANT DATES

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