Welcome back to the beginning of our final term for 2014. In this term we are continuing to aim for “many ways to excellence” ensuring that all students are fully engaged for the whole term, planning for next year as well as celebrating your student’s successes and recognising the hard work of our staff.

Our Awards Evening is our opportunity to recognise the work of our top academic, cultural and sporting students and also acknowledges students for their service to our school community. This year it is being held on Wednesday 22 October commencing at 7.30 pm and all parents are welcome to attend. Students who will be receiving awards will be informed this week and staff are currently considering the recipients of leadership and service awards.

Student Leadership for 2015

Our year 11 students have been engaged in applying for the senior leadership positions in 2015. The process for the selection of leaders requires students to write an application outlining their achievements and strengths, then present a speech to their full year 11 cohort. Students from year 11 then vote for those they wish to undertake the leadership roles. Staff are involved through having the opportunity to vote for students they believe best fit the positions. Following both the voting processes students are interviewed by a panel of staff who combine all the selection information and the successful students are then offered their positions. The announcement of leaders for 2015 will be made at Awards Night. I believe it is a very fair and thorough process.

Students from other year levels will soon begin to consider their representatives for the 2015 Student Councils. Next year we will continue both our Senior Student Council with years 10, 11 and 12 and the Junior Student Council will include the year 7 students with years 8 and 9. Thank you to all students who have accepted the challenge to become involved in their student forums.

Congratulations to KYABRA Limited Hours Child Care Centre

Well done to Pat and the team of KYABRA Limited Hours Child Care Centre on their being named Queensland Small Employer of the Year at the recent Queensland Industry Training Awards.

Our Early Childhood Studies students are privileged to work with KYABRA to undertake their practical component of their studies.

QATSI Foundation

Congratulations to the Indigenous students who have received a scholarship through the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation to support them in their studies next year. These students are Brandon Roberts, Domonik Lowe, Glaise Neale, Isaac Taylor-Ford, Jason Packer, Morris Hill, Mulan Gesa-Fatafehi, Norman Freeman, Shanaya Butterworth and Nicholas Williams. Well done students.
Welcome to our new School Based Youth Health Nurse Jen McKinnon. Jen is at the school on Tuesday and Friday each week and alternate Wednesdays. Jen is employed by Queensland Health and students and parents are able to make an appointment to speak with her at her office at the end of block 2 adjacent to our International student offices or telephone the school and ask to be transferred through to her on the days she works.

Changes to the Senior Assessment/Overall Position (OP) and tertiary entrance system

I recently received the following information from Mr Chris Rider, the Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority (previously Qld Studies Authority). It outlines the recommendations that are being considered by the Government in relation to proposed changes to the senior assessment processes and tertiary entrance procedures.

“The final report of the review of senior assessment and tertiary entrance processes has been received by the Queensland Government. A copy of the recommendations may be found on the Australian Council for Educational Research’s website at www.acer.edu.au/queenslandreview.

The reviewers have acknowledged that our current system has strengths, including the role of teachers in making judgments about student work, but that there is scope for redesign. Their recommendations challenge Queensland’s education community to work together to reinvigorate our system by building on these strong foundations.

The Government will now consider the reviewers' recommendations before developing its response. In the meantime, Queensland’s students and their parents and carers need to be confident that our system delivers fair and equitable outcomes, and that any changes will be introduced over an appropriate period, building on the foundations of our current system…..

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority looks forward to continuing our partnership with schools to ensure Queensland’s senior assessment, certification and tertiary entrance processes run smoothly in 2014. We are committed to maintaining this partnership through any transition period and beyond.”

I believe parents and schools can be confident that any changes that eventuate will not disadvantage students currently enrolled and in a timely manner so that our school community is well informed.

Diane Hicks, Principal

The Arts

Year 10 Clowning at Algester SS

On Thursday 18 September our year 10 took their Clowning skills to Algester State School to showcase their talents as actors and educators. The students performed to one hundred excited and loud Algester Prep students. The Prep students were a fantastic audience for the budding clowns, who absorbed the energy and put on a great show. There was dancing competitions, balloon animals (thanks to Jessica Chai), laughing, screaming and fun!

Straight after performing, the year 10s turned from actors to facilitators. Sixty students from year 6 were participants in workshops lead by our year 10 students on movement, stupidity, trickery, and mimicry and clown character. The year 10s ran workshops for two groups over a 45 minute period. They were experts in their workshops and really showed their knowledge to the younger students.

It was an enjoyable day for Algester students and an eye opening day for our students as performers and facilitators. Well done year 10 Drama on being such ambassadors for our department and Sunnybank SHS.
On Thursday 10 September, the year 12 Drama class performed Dallas Winmar’s ‘Aliwa’ at the Arts Seen Evening. The play begins with three sisters in the present day. The youngest sister Jude is keen to discover her past and her identity. Begrudgingly, Ethel and Dot walk through the past and their stories and remember their mother Alice Davis and her struggles within the time of prejudiced government.

Rhyanna McCoombes, Leah Kung and Tina Fonoti worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to the performance to bring to life this story of a mother and her family. Having a small cast presented many challenges but the girls persevered and in the end gave a great dress rehearsal performance to their fellow year 12s and at Arts Seen.

Ms Kalamafoni, Drama Teacher

Thursday Live!!!!

at the Amphitheatre between Music and Art blocks — every Thursday first break!!!!

Over the past nine months we have witnessed the steady growth of emerging artists here at Sunnybank due to the introduction of weekly concerts called THURSDAY LIVE! These concerts provide students with the opportunity to develop performance skills performing the repertoire of their choice on the instruments of their choice in a relaxed concert atmosphere to a supportive audience. Staff are thrilled with the exposure of talent this school has to offer and visiting teachers from neighbouring schools have been very impressed with the quality of performances they could hear as they attended meetings in the Admin block – wishing that they could join us at the Amphitheatre!

Congratulations to the following performers and ensembles who have entertained us so far – Chen-telle, Mary, Tisi, Lio, Rose-Ann and friends, Jeremy, Khristia, Carlo, Mykka, Philip, Songkran, Jai, Yuri, Cindy, Burghin, year 10 Music class, the Thai Rock Group, Wind Ensemble, Staff performers – REM and REML, Johnno’s Rapper and Life Massive for their performance and organisation of activities with give-aways.

Thanks to the year 11 Music and Music Studies class for setting up for this event each week and special thanks to the sound boys – Ahmed, Nguyen, Jai, Carlo, Dean and Philip who look after the sound and dismantle the equipment after every performance. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Term 4 looks to be another interesting program! If any student (or group) would like to be a performer for the remainder of the year, please register your name with me in Performing Arts staffroom, block 8, and be ready to audition to secure your place!

Thanks to our audience members who have been welcoming and supportive. May you continue to enjoy Thursday Live!!!!

Date Claimers

22 October – Awards Night – Wind Ensemble, Vocals and Vocal Trio performing.
20 November – Christmas Carols at the Pharmacy for the Aged Care Residents - Vocals.
6 December – Channel 10 at 2.00 pm – Creative Generations State Schools on Stage Show.

Miss Matthews, Music Teacher
Year 11 Geography Excursion

On Friday 15 August, the year 11 Geography classes went on an excursion to the Griffith University Eco Centre to study sustainable and energy efficient housing. During the trip, the students were given a tour of the new sustainable building and looked at the energy consumption of multiples of household appliances. We did a treasure hunt looking for sustainable and energy efficient products. It was a fantastic and enjoyable trip and it was very helpful for the report that the students needed to complete.

Ngan Pho, Year 11 Geography Student

Warning for students about location tags

For Facebook and Twitter

Students - be cautious about checking in or tagging your location on social media. Learn how to stay safe online at www.creepquiz.eq.edu.au

Lalitha Kalalaya Dance School

Annual Concert

One of our staff members, Mrs Padmalakshmi, is running an Indian Classical Dance School to promote the Indian art and culture. The dance school Lalitha Kalalaya will be hosting the annual concert on Saturday 11 October, from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, at the Sunnybank State High School hall. This will be an exclusive Indian Classical Dance Show. Performers are Guru Smt. Padmalakshmi Sriram and her young budding disciples.

Casual Cleaners Required

Sunnybank SHS requires casual cleaners. The working hours are 5.30 am to 8.30 am and 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. If you are interested, contact the Business Services Manager, Margaret Richter, on 3323 8110.

Important Dates

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