Principal’s Message

MUSIC FEST

The Concert Band, led by Mr Dennis Ilott, has returned triumphant from the Brisbane Music Fest with a Gold Award. This competition pits us once again against some of the best school bands in Queensland.

The band performed magnificently on stage in Brisbane and their behaviour throughout the whole excursion was first class. They played to the absolute limit of their ability and many achieved “Personal Best’s”.

Thanks to our Head of Department – Helen Lomas for her organization, supervising teachers – Robyn Everitt, Gailyn McCaul, Deb Addison, Rogan Clancy and Chaplain Aaron Schick for their calm but firm supervision and to the Admin team for its support to enable the trip to go ahead.

Congratulations to all Concert Band members for your continued dedication and commitment. Congratulations also to Mrs Everitt and the String Orchestra who were awarded Bronze.

A call for a crazy tea set for HIGH TEAS

We are hunting any old tea cup, saucer and plate sets that are rose pink or light green in colour or have pink roses on them. (Gold trim is OK.) We are making up a crazy tea set – odd cups with the same theme – to make up a High Tea set for our school restaurant.

Any donations of your treasures will be much appreciated and we promise we will look after them well. If you can contribute to this wonderful project please drop your treasures into the front office at any time. Nothing is too old or odd.

Judi Newman
School Principal.
Well, we departed, we arrived in Japan, we conquered and we limped back to Australia carrying our heavy suitcases although our wallets were considerably lighter! The Japanese economy is considerably invigorated as a result of our visit. No change in numbers either way which is a good outcome!

It was a wonderful trip in every way. A good balance of cultural exposure as well as 'retail therapy' and of course, there was Disneyland! Highlights included Disneyland, Hiroshima with the Peace Park, Sadako’s statue and the Atomic dome and in particular Miyajima Island where the tame deer were a great hit. Also – the shopping - everywhere, did I mention the shopping everywhere? Some of our young ladies also spent several hours in Kyoto being transformed into traditional Maiko (Trainee Geisha) and the result was incredible as you can see from the photo. Can you guess who they are I wonder?

My thanks to Shane Newell and Helen Thompson for sharing the load in so many ways to ensure that our students had a safe but very fulfilling and memorable visit to Japan. The trip was not without some misadventure but nothing serious (group photo..what group photo?? – you’ll need to ask one of the participants about that).

Thanks also to every one of the students who accompanied us. What an incredible group of young people. At no time were there any issues and their behaviour was exemplary always. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to get to know all of them a little better. They certainly represented the School magnificently. In addition, our excursion shirts were a great hit wherever we went and drew many favourable comments.

For my part, many lessons were learned and I am already looking forward very much to the next trip armed with more knowledge and more skill with regard to negotiating our way around the country. (JR pass…what JR pass?? another ‘in-group’ joke!). The group is collating a ‘photographic story’ which will be made up of photos contributed by all participants and a copy of which will be given to each of them. This will be presented to the whole school group some time before the end of the year.

Finally, my thanks to the parents and carers who entrusted us with their children. No small thing to see them travel off to distant lands (and no small expense either!). I am gratified by your support and trust. Please know that you have allowed them an experience that will stay with them always, will have widened their worldview and hopefully have instilled in them an affection for Japan that will endure and may well result in them travelling there again in the future.

Ja mata
Chrissy Dunphy

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**DATE CLAIMERS**

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**World Teachers’ Day**

Last Friday we celebrated the great work of our teachers on World Teachers’ Day. The quality teaching in effect in our classrooms every day has a powerful effect on students’ performance. Visit [http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/world-teachers-day.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/world-teachers-day.html) for more information.
One Night Only

Congratulations to all students involved in our One Night Only concert at the Pilbeam Theatre on Friday 11th October. After a day of rehearsal, the show came together brilliantly. Special thanks to our comperes Michael Cassidy, Harry Rowe and Sam Lennox who capably hosted the show, while our backstage crew kept the show running smoothly. The Concert Band’s performance was excellent, as always. Taylor Spicer presented a moving monologue she wrote herself and Jamae Fraser stunned us with her beautiful singing of Alicia Keys’ Falling. The Yr. 11 Art students looked spectacular on stage in their amazing Wearable Art pieces. Year 9 Drama students, many on stage for the first time, delivered powerful interpretations of the Greek legend of Medea. Petra Barnbaum and Katelyn Burton sang a duet from their favourite musical, Wicked and Katelyn also danced a solo piece. The Brass Quintet and the Stage Band sounded great and the String Orchestra played beautifully. We watched experimental films from Film and TV students and saw some gruesome special effects makeup from Media Studies students. Peta Raine sang Punk Rocker awesomely. And finally, our Dance Troupe filled the stage with fun, energy and colour without two items; Happy Days and Afro Circus.

Thank you to our production team; Mr Ilott, Mrs Everitt, Mr Clancy, Mrs Addison, Miss Carte, Mrs McCaul, Mrs Housman, Miss Woodward and Mr Neibling. Your work with our Arts students is outstanding. The Pilbeam staff, as usual, were very helpful in bringing the show together. Thanks must also go to our P&C for financial support and to teachers and parents who attended. It was a truly enjoyable and entertaining night. If you’ve never been to a North Rocky High “One Night Only”, come along next time. You won’t be disappointed!

ARTS TRIP

This year, extra arts students came on the Brisbane trip. Mrs McCaul, Mrs Addison and Chappy Aaron had a wonderful time at the Art Gallery, Museum and Southbank before supporting our musicians at the competition. After a fun morning at MovieWorld, 75 students and 7 very tired teachers returned home to Rocky.

Thank you also to Miss Carte and Mr Clancy for assisting with the Arts trip.

Math Moments

On Thursday 15th August, 39 intrepid students and 4 keen, enthusiastic teachers jetted off (i.e. bused it) overnight to the Gold Coast for our annual Maths B, Physics and Biology excursion.

Under the guidance of Mrs Melinda Graham, Mr Clinton Dodd, Mr Michael Zimmer and Miss Melissa Hunt, the senior Maths B, Physics and Biology students had the opportunity to experience and apply scientific and mathematical principles learnt in the classroom out in the real world through the fun of theme parks.

After the arduous journey, our group arrived at Dreamworld for the Physics education program. Much to the students ‘dismay’ they HAD to go on the rides to collect data!! Students were divided into groups to go on The Claw, The Cyclone, The Vortex, The Tower of Terror, Wipeout, The Buzzsaw and The Giant Drop. The students used the app program ‘Sparkview’ which has an accelerometer, a special device that collected the data of the students in 3 directions! Once they collected the data, it was graphed and analysed to help students understand how physics principles applied to what they had experienced while on the rides. After lunch, students had free time to explore Dreamworld further.

On Saturday morning the students went back to Dreamworld for a Biology education program which was an exclusive talk with tiger handlers from Tiger Island. At 10:30am, our group then went to White Water World where they completed the Mathematics Education Program. They had to collect data on wave motions and volumes of multiple apparatus – and yes, they had to go on the water rides for their assessment 😁

After a busy two days at the theme parks, Saturday night was when our group went to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for the final educational experience for Biology. Here we went on a night tour of the sanctuary where students had the rare chance to see some nocturnal animals like the Tasmanian Devil. We also participated in a nature walk through the Kangaroo enclosure where we were surrounded by friendly kangaroos and emus during feeding time.

All students participated extremely well in all of the education programs at these venues and are a credit to themselves. Everyone had an enjoyable experience – can’t wait till next year!

Who says Maths can’t be fun?!

Nadene Housman
Head of Department – Maths Department.
Maths/ Science Challenge Gladstone 18- 20 October 2013

Mr Atkinson, Nickolas Peters and Ryan Kyriazis travelled to Gladstone to take part in a Problem Based Learning (PBL) activity which was to design and build real world tasks and present their findings in three days of intensive instruction and group work.

They were taken through career options in Engineering, hands on slime making, vinegar rockets and the PBL the students selected. This enabled students from years 10 and 11 to take part and display applications of their skills in Maths, Science and Technology.

The students were very impressed with the projects and the skills acquired during the weekend and mixing with other students from Gladstone High Schools. Both students were fine ambassadors of the school by their respectful, responsible and application of the academic skills gained during classes in a practical way.

News from the Hospitality Training Centre.

The centre has been buzzing with many functions of late. This week we hosted the region’s Principals Meeting and the World Teachers Day breakfast, which was catered for by a group of Year 11 and 12 Hospitality Students.

Every week this term will see Mrs Sands and her professional team catering for various functions in the centre, including Awards Night on 7th November.

Speaking of Mrs Sands, she managed to spend several hours of her valuable time working at the Frenchville Sports Club ensuring the most up to date professional processes are being used in training the students in our Hospitality Training Centre. Well done Mrs Sands.

Hospitality students Amber Levitt, Raelee Newton and Kaitlin Sinclair (Year 10) attended the Schools 2 Jobs funded Hospitality Industry tour which incorporated several major hospitality venues in the region. The tour presented these students with a broader view of what is involved in the industry which they were extremely appreciative.

Year 9 Home Economics Term 3, 2013: Beef Competition

During Term 3, all Year 9 Home Economics students were actively involved in learning the skills of cooking red meat. “Why Beef is Good for You” is an interesting and practical unit designed to develop knowledge and skills when cooking beef to restaurant standards. Two classes were involved in a cook-off in class time and four students were selected from each class to part in our “Beef Masterchef Competition”.

The results were fabulous! The students involved excelled over two lessons and produced a range of modern, cultural meals including Sushi, Beef and Noodle Stir-fry, Individual Shepard’s Pie, Beef Puffs and Beef in a Parcel.

The Judge on the day was Mrs Melissa Graham and she carefully examined all the plated meals and made the difficult decision to select Montana Philpot as the overall winner. Second place was given to Katelyn Curtis-Flynn. The remaining students all received highly commended or commended certificates for their efforts.