2 February 2015

Principals Report

The school year for 2015 started with introducing Year 7 and 8 students to Maryborough State High and welcoming back our year 12 students who have a jam packed year ahead of them.

Having our two day orientation program at the end of last year ensured that Year 7 and 8 students had a smooth transition, parents and students knew where to go, they had already met their teachers, in most cases, which reduced some of the anxiety.

Despite the hot weather, during the breaks, students played table tennis, handball and soccer with some of our Year 12 students joining in. During the next few weeks there will be many activities organised by our Year 12 students during the breaks.

Principal
Karen McKinnon

On Friday we have our leadership induction ceremony which is the first of many celebrations we hold throughout the year. This year we have the pleasure of inducting our first junior secondary prefects, captains and vice captains, along with our senior captains, vice captains, prefects and our sports captains and vice captains.

During the holidays the school was a very busy place with a lot of work being completed while students were out of the school, much of this work has been finalised. However we are still trying to alleviate the rising damp in A block. Unfortunately this means there is a lot of digging around the front of the building and sometimes the office is unable to be accessed through the front but can be accessed through the side or back of the building. We apologise for any inconvenience. In addition to the plumbing work in the next few weeks, our Science block will undergo some refurbishment, which will mean some room changes for students. We will ensure a minimum disruption for students.

Our library has had a face lift. At the completion of the 2014 year, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Challacombe reorganised the library and with a coat of paint along the back wall and some air-conditioning, thanks to our P&C, the library will be a welcome place for students to access for study and reading while the outdoor area, allows students to work in groups.

This year our new staff members include Year 7 teachers Mr Michael Baldwin, Mr Richard Jeffers, Mrs Kaye North, Mrs Melissa Ethell, and other new teachers include: Miss Nicole Archdall, Dance and Drama teacher; Mrs Cathy Briner and Simeon Burt, HPE and Science; Mrs Kylie Genich and Mr David Callaway, Science and Maths; Mr Andrew Menon, Head of Department Maths:: We welcome these teachers and acknowledge the expertise they bring to our school.

Our senior students did very well last year with two of our students gaining an OP 1 and thirty five students overall gained an OP 1-15. 100% of our senior students received a Queensland Certificate of Education, an OP or achieved a Vocational Education Certificate. We are very proud of the achievements of these students.

Every year, it is important for us, as teachers to assess our achievements as a school and strive for improvement, just as it is important for our students to continue to strive to do their best. This year our focus is on excellence in teaching and learning and literacy and numeracy. Last year, our specific focus on numeracy, ensured that our Year 9 students did exceptionally well on the National Literacy and Numeracy test, NAPLAN, with our students exceeding the national numeracy benchmark.

To ensure that your child receives the very best education, both parents and the school need to work together. There are many ways for parents to be involved; helping in classrooms; coming to events held by the school; being part of the parents and citizens association or just coming to meet with teachers, the deputies or myself. To initiate the first meeting we have a “Meet and Greet” for our junior secondary students which will followed by an information evening for our Year 11 and 12 senior students on 11 February.
Junior Secondary Update

Tuesday, 27 January 2015, marked a very special occasion for Maryborough State High School and other high schools in Queensland as we welcomed the first cohort of Year 7 students to secondary education. After many years of preparation it was wonderful to finally meet our Year 7 students and new staff who will be undertaking this journey with us. In addition to the Year 7, we also welcomed our new Year 8 cohort to high school as well. Two year levels at the same time will be keeping us very busy.

Junior Secondary at Maryborough State High School will consist of Years 7, 8 and 9 this year. Key contacts include:

- Mr Tom Bates (Junior Secondary Deputy Principal – tbate9@eq.edu.au)
- Ms Sharyn Thomas (Dean- Junior Secondary – smorr108@eq.edu.au)
- Mr Thomas Hopper (Year Level Coordinator for Year 8 – thopp9@eq.edu.au)
- Ms Kate Berwick (Year Level Coordinator for Year 9 – kberw1@eq.edu.au)

Please remember that if your student is having difficulties adjusting to high school life, we have many people available to help. In addition to the above staff, we also have access to Guidance Officers, School Chaplain, School Nurse and Youth Support Worker.

A key date coming up for Junior Secondary is the Prefect Investiture. This will occur on Friday 6 February at 10:00am in the school gym. Usually, this is an event for Senior School, but this year for the first time it will include Junior Secondary to induct our Junior Secondary Captains, Junior Secondary Vice Captains, Junior Secondary Sports Captains and Junior Secondary Prefects. Parents of these students are invited to attend the event, which will have a morning tea following.

On Wednesday, 11 February, we will be holding a Junior Secondary Meet and Greet event from 4:30pm – 5:30pm in the Junior Secondary Precinct. It will give parents and caregivers an opportunity to meet some of their student’s teachers and other key staff. A Senior School “Meet and Greet” will follow on directly after this event in the Library Courtyard should you have students in the Senior School as well. Week 3 will be a busy week with the school’s swimming carnival on Monday 9 February.

Welcome back to all previous students entering Year 9 and a warm welcome to high school for our Year 7 and 8 students. We look forward to a productive and exciting Term 1 with you all. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.

Sharyn Thomas
Dean – Junior Secondary

Senior Secondary Update

Welcome back to school for 2015!

There is a large group of staff at Maryborough High here to help support your senior students. Some of the key people include:

- Dean of Senior Secondary: Miss Chelsea Donaldson cdon@eq.edu.au
- Year 10 Co-ordinator: Mr Allan Smith asmith631@eq.edu.au
- Year 11 Co-ordinator: Mr Peter Schluss pschl4@eq.edu.au
- Year 12 Co-ordinator: Ms Lena Plaatsman lplaa1@eq.edu.au
- Work placement Officer: Mrs Vicki Laben vlaba1@eq.edu.au

If you have questions please don’t hesitate to contact one of the above people.

Welcome to Senior BBQ

Maryborough High is holding a ‘Welcome to Senior’ BBQ for families with students in Year 11 and 12 in 2015. It is an opportunity for you to meet your students’ teachers and Year Level Coordinator. We will also be providing a short information session about the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), Overall Positions (OPs), QTAC applications, VET courses, and School based traineeships and what to expect in the senior phase of learning. A note went home late last week regarding this but unfortunately the date published was incorrect. The date of the BBQ is Wednesday 11 February starting at 5.30pm in the Library Courtyard.

Assessment

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for assessment calendars that are being sent home with students. These will provide specific details about due dates for assignments and exams. If students are having issues with completing assignments, it is important that they speak to their teachers as soon as possible. SAT LATE forms are available from Student Services if there are legitimate reasons for students not being able to complete assessment. These forms need to be completed prior to the due date of the assessment.

Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are undertaking a Certificate I in Digital Media and Technology. The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to complete a Vocation Education (VET) subject at school and to earn two points towards their Queensland Certificate of Education. Students will be working towards completing this qualification one lesson per week during semester one. They will be required to do some work on this at home and can access the course from an eStudio on the Learning Place.

QCS Preparation

Year 12 OP-eligible students are continuing to prepare for the QCS test during semester one. Thank you to Mr Hanna, Mrs Wallace and Miss Molloy, who are working hard to prepare our students for the test. QCS dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 1 September – Writing Task and Multiple Choice I
I hope students have enjoyed their first week back at school for 2015 and I am looking forward to working with them this year.

**Chelsea Donaldson**  
**Dean – Senior Secondary**

**Library News**

Please be aware parents and carers, that there are still items outstanding from 2014 that need to be returned. Overdue notices will be going out to those students this week so please check with your student. If you find books around the house with Maryborough State High School stamps, stickers and or barcodes please return items to the school. They may have been switched accidentally and be out in another student’s name. Your assistance is appreciated.

**Thanks**  
**The Library Team**

**Music News**

Any students interested in joining the Strings or Concert Band programs at Maryborough High should ensure they see Miss McKaskill (L block staffroom), Miss Franklin or Mrs Richardson. Learning an instrument not only helps develop qualities such as initiative, creativity and perseverance, but is also a great way to meet new people. Our students are involved in school events and concerts as well as the annual music tour.

We are holding a “Meet and Greet” for families on Wednesday 4 February in A block hall from 5 - 6pm. Please contact the music staff for more information.

All lessons begin in Week 2. Strings morning rehearsals begin in week 2 and band and choir rehearsals begin in week 3. Lesson days and rehearsal times are as follows:

- **Monday** - Senior Strings (Year 10-12) rehearsal 7.30am.
- **Tuesday** - Junior Strings (Year 7-9) rehearsal 7.30am.
- **Lessons rotating for all strings students through Monday and Tuesday.**
- **Thursday** - Stage Band rehearsal 3pm.
- **Friday** - Concert Band rehearsal 7.30am.

Lessons rotating for all band students through Thursday and Friday.

We look forward to a great year of music at Maryborough State High in 2015.

- Miss Franklin, Strings - rfran102@eq.edu.au
- Mrs Richardson, Band - srich94@eq.edu.au
- Miss McKaskill, Classroom mmcka44@eq.edu.au

**The Music Team**

**School Immunisations**

During 2015, Year 8 and Year 10 students can have their age appropriate immunisations at school.

The School Immunisation Program provides free vaccinations for all Year 8 and Year 10 students.

The students have been given information packs including consent forms. Read the information, then complete and sign the consent form and return it to the school by 13 February 2015.

Year 8 students are offered protection against chicken pox (also known as varicella), Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

For full protection against HPV, there are three doses of vaccine spread throughout the year.

Year 10 students are offered the vaccine against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

The school will notify you of vaccination dates. Make sure you note these in your diary. Encourage your child to have breakfast on the morning of vaccination.

Please sign and return Immunisation Program consent forms!

Only students with RETURNED forms will be vaccinated at school. You may choose to take your child to your own doctor.

If there are any questions contact the School Based Youth Health Nurse; Trudy Hawkins on 0408769044 or Council immunisation section on 1300 79 49 29.

Regards

**Trudy Hawkins**  
**School Based Youth Health Nurse**

**Student Services’ News**

**Emergency Contacts**: Parents/guardians please take the time to ensure the school has current and correct emergency contacts for your students. Two or more would be fantastic. If you are not confident the emergency contacts on file at school are correct please take a minute to either phone directly (4120 9350/4120 9340) or write a list for your student to bring into Student Services. Quite often the school is unable to contact parents because numbers are no longer current or the single provided contact cannot be reached. As you can imagine in an emergency situation this is stressful for your student, the staff and parents.

Last year’s report cards need to be collected from Student Services as they will not be posted out.

**Year 12 News and Information**

**Investiture Reminder Friday 6 February 10am**

Don’t forget, the School Investiture Ceremony will be held on Friday 6 February. We will begin at 10am in the Gymnasium with family members treated to morning tea in the Library Courtyard afterwards. This year we look forward to Junior Secondary members participating in the ceremony for the first time. Junior School Captains, Vice Captains, Sport Captains and Sport Vice Captains as well as Junior Prefects will be accepting badges, signing the investiture forms and saying their oath alongside the Seniors. The whole school will be in attendance, as well as a number of special guests and representatives from the community including The Mayor, Mr Gerard O’Connell. Please RSVP as soon as possible so that we can cater for you.
Senior Voice

2015 MSHS Prefects

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students who have successfully been selected as a Prefect for 2015; Greta Cherry, Kelsey Elliott, Rhiley Ellis, Georgia Emmett, Tyson Head, Jack Humphrey, Danni Macklin, Lance McLeod, Keeley Nicholls, Samantha Pincham, Ynes Thompson, Lauren Smith, Jake Ward and Liam Wendland. These students are our leaders for 2015. They will be inducted at the Prefect Investiture on Friday 6 February. During the ceremony, our new school captains and vice captains will be presented with their badges and blazers. The school captains for 2015 are Jack Humphrey and Samantha Pincham and the Vice-Captains are Liam Wendland and Lauren Smith. Congratulations to all of our student leaders!

Late Arrivals/Early Departures/Attendance

During Year 11 and 12, students are under enormous pressure with home and perhaps employment commitments as well as school studies and of course their social calendar. It is vital that students aim to attend 100% of the time so their studies are not compromised and the pressure can be controlled. Students must take the responsibility to contact their teachers, collect missed work and ensure it is completed in a timely manner.

All attendance outside of regular hours including late arrivals and leaving early must be done through Student Services.

Formal and Graduation

There is a slight change to Formal and Graduation arrangements this year. I will be organising graduation and the Formal will be continued to be organised by Mrs Taylor and Miss Donaldson. The dates have been set so get your calendars out.

- Formal will be held on Wednesday 18 November at the Brolga Theatre
- Graduation Ceremony will be on Friday 20 November, also at the Brolga Theatre.

Students will receive more information on both of these major events as the school year progresses. Committees made of Year 12 students will be established so that those interested can help assist with the planning for these two major functions.

Up Coming Events

There will be a Welcome to Senior BBQ held on Wednesday 11 November at 5.30pm in the Library Courtyard. This will be followed by a short information session. It would be great to see as many as you there as possible.

Issues and Events

I will do my best to have information regularly updated on the school website, newsletters, notes and the school Facebook page so that you are kept informed of relevant issues and/or events. If you have any issues or questions please let me know.

USQ Events

To kick off the year, USQ is offering students the opportunity to be involved in Indigenous Connections and the Change Makers Forum. Registration forms can be downloaded from the website. To secure your place at these events, please register by 6 February.

Indigenous Connections is an event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students designed to excite and inspire them to persevere with school so they can pursue careers that require a university education.

USQ’s Change Makers Forum is an event attended by high school students to launch Change Makers: USQ’s Young Leaders program. The day brings together young Change Makers to participate in activities with an aim of building individual capacity and equips them to build the capacity of their wider community.

USQHub@Maryborough Head Start Courses

Two introductory Head Start courses will be offered through the USQHub@Maryborough in Semester 1, 2015 in Education and Nursing. These will be available in an exclusive Head Start offering to high-achieving year 11 and 12 students looking to undertake university study. To find out more information visit the Head Start webpage or contact USQ today.

Miss Lena Plaatsman
Year 12 Co-ordinator
iplaa1@eq.edu.au

Sport News

Sports Captains for 2015

Our Sport Captains for 2015, are still being finalised. The Junior Vice-Captain (Year 7 or 8), Junior Captain (Year 9) will be announced next week as Yr 7 and Yr 8 are only new to the school and have only just received their application forms. A full list of all the House captains will be in next newsletter. All Sport Captains will be recognised at the Investiture on Friday 6 February.

If a student does not belong to one of the school houses below, they need to see Ms L Mitchell at the PE staffroom.

The house colours are: Barton Hyne – Blue, Glasgow Horsburgh – Green, Melville Russell – Red & Morton Harrington – Yellow.

Swimming Carnival

Our school’s swimming carnival will be held on Monday 9 February. This is a normal school day and all students are expected to attend. An information note concerning the school’s carnival was handed out on Friday (30th January) in House Meetings. Notes only need to be signed if permission is NOT given to attend these carnivals. It is a fun, relaxing day and sign on for this will be also held during the house meetings.

SUMMER SPORTS TRIALS: Tuesday FEBRUARY 10

The MDSS summer sports trials are being held on the Tuesday February 10. All sports are held in Maryborough. The sports are as follows: cricket, volleyball, touch will be physical trials. Tennis ( with ranking and signed by coach), squash, surfing and softball are by paper nomination only. Students have been asked to sign on indicating their commitment to the trial day. Each student should request a medical form as well as a ‘venue
information’ form that includes costs and transport arrangements from the teacher in charge of each sport. Any problems see Ms Mitchell at the PE staffroom.

Ms Leonie Mitchell  
Sports Co-ordinator

PALMA Magazine

We still have a number of PALMA Magazines to be collected. If you have paid for one please collect it from Student Services.

Community Notices

Discover Bellydance

Discover Bellydance! Check out the studio and enjoy a FREE Bellydance Taster!

All ladies of every age, shape and size are welcome!

You can check out some of the costumes we wear, our traditional and modern props, Bellydance mags, pictures, music, and more! Then enjoy a FREE Bellydance Taster session with Marta.

Please come along, bring your friends and try out this beautiful dance created by women!

Hope to see you there :)

WEEKLY CLASSES

Children’s Class - Tues - 3:30pm
Beginner Basics - Mon - 3:45pm
Advanced/Performance - Tues - 5:00pm

New ladies ALWAYS welcome - You can also contact me directly via phone/email/Facebook to sign up :) 0439789745
Art_from_Marta@hotmail.com

BMX Sign On Day

BMX NATIONAL SIGN ON DAY at Maryborough BMX club will be held on SATURDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2015. TIME: 3:00pm till 5:00pm.

The BMX Australia National Sign On Day provides the chance for anyone in the community to come and try the thrill and excitement of BMX racing, free of charge. The National Sign On Day is supported by our National Advertising Campaign, to be aired all around Australia. It’s a fun and exciting day for all participants. The day will include BMX riding, coaching and games. If you enjoy the day, you can become a member of BMX Australia.

What do participants have to bring along?

Participants can ride on any 20” or 24” bike. Officials and Coaches must do a check of the bikes before they are allowed on the track.

For safety reasons all participants must have a full face helmet, long pants and long sleeve tops. They must also wear gloves, flat soled shoes and socks that cover their ankles. For more information contact club Secretary Angela on 0409588804.