21 March 2016

Principal’s Report

As the term closes, it is important to take stock of how far we have come in term one. Our attendance data has increased, all year levels have improved by at least 5% from this time last year and the number of major behaviour issues has decreased from this time last year. Staff are commenting on the positive nature of the school environment at present.

Exciting things are unfolding at Maryborough State High School, the student leaders and Prefects have established committees based around Fundraising, the Environment, our Community and Creative Industries, these are shaping the future of our school. The new Student Representative Council are identifying key areas for improvement (including our electronic device policy and Tuckshop menu) and will outline school policy for consideration early next term. Students have a clear voice in our school and are demonstrating maturity, consideration and respectful planning for improving our school community.

One of the recent points of discussion with the SRC was the junior school uniform. A proposal was presented and approved at the last P and C meeting for the addition of a junior formal uniform. The new formal uniform will be available from our suppliers from mid-2016 and we are negotiating with our suppliers to keep costs to a minimum. Junior and Senior formal uniforms will be worn one day a week from January 2017 which will contribute significantly to our students’ personal appearance and pride in our school. This will only become officially part of the school uniform from January 2017 in order to provide maximum time for families to purchase the uniform.

Photographs of the new formal uniforms, as well as minor modifications to the Junior School casual polo shirt, will be available soon.

This week, I will be presiding over the opening of the Maryborough State High Art Gallery. This is a proud initiative of Mrs Clout and her Arts Faculty and I know she is very excited about the opportunities this space will provide our students to display their work and showcase their talents.

Our school is working with each of our students to help develop their mindset in a more positive way. We are currently working with the Growth Mindset model. This is a deliberate strategy that ensures every student is given the opportunity to succeed and be better than they were yesterday. For a quick three minute overview, please follow this link:

As part of our school improvement agenda, I have asked every student to be mindful of their absences. In preparing our students for work, I have asked students to think of their days off in terms of how this would happen in the workplace. You are given a number of sick days when you begin your working life and you need to manage them wisely. To maintain a 90% attendance rate, students can only have five days off in a term. Every day counts and students need to do everything they can to maximise their time at school. I can proudly say students have risen to the challenge and we’re currently sitting as a school at just over 90% attendance for term one. Well done, Marvellous Maryborough!

I wish all members of our school community a relaxed and rewarding Easter. A reminder that school returns Monday 11 April for all students.
Senior Secondary Update

OP Predictions

Last week students received their first round of OP predictions. A reminder that these are only an estimate as a result of semester two (end of Year 11) results. Students will receive another prediction after semester three and after verification results are determined at the end of term three. Students should be working as hard as possible to improve their individual class results to help improve their OP.

QCE points for Year 12 students

After students receive their interim reports at the beginning of term two, we will be providing an update about predicted QCE points. Students are welcome to see either Miss Donaldson or Mrs Laban at any time to get an update about their points.

Attendance

Congratulations to the Year 12s for the excellent attendance. If you know that you have unexplained absences for term one please see Miss Aisthorpe or Mrs Cronau in the main office with your notes explaining the absences. All unexplained absences are documented on your interim report and it is best to have this sorted out prior to them being published. If you would like to check your attendance please see either Miss Aisthorpe or Mrs Cronau.

USI Numbers – Year 10 students

Many Year 10 students still have not registered for a USI number. A student can create a USI online at home using the website – see link below. If created at home the student will then need provide the USI to the school for our records. If it is not possible for this to happen at home, we will assist the student to obtain a USI at school. For any further information please contact/visit Vicki Laban, Senior School VET Office, C Block.


In order to create a USI the student must have suitable identification through one of the following:

1. Medicare card
2. Birth Certificate (Australian) – please note a birth certificate extract is not sufficient
3. Passport – without Australian Birth Certificate

Chelsea Donaldson
Dean – Senior Secondary

Assessment and Reporting

All students are currently working on assessment tasks for their subjects. A reminder that 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 need to be completed prior to the due date. Report cards will be issued early in term two and details about booking parent-teacher interviews will be provided at the same time.

Cross Country

Good luck to all students who are running in the school cross country this week. Check out Facebook for the photos.

Junior Secondary Update

It’s been a very busy end to the term for our Junior Secondary department, with camp, Marine Studies excursion, assessment, the Solid Ground Departure Ceremony, vaccinations and cross country.

On Wednesday 2 March to Friday 4 March, nearly 100 Maryborough State High School Year 7 Students and a dozen teachers attended our annual Year 7 Camp at Hervey Bay. The focus of the three days was for students to get to know each other, their teachers and to have the chance to experience personal growth during team and individual challenges. Highlights included two birthdays, human foosball on the beach, sand sculpting, swimming time, stress exercises, yoga, beach boot camp, trivia and our dawn trip to the beach for self-reflection where we were joined by the dolphins. A very exciting, but tiring, three days indeed! A huge thank you to all the staff who attended the Year 7 camp. The camp proved to be a success with students providing good feedback to us last week.

Maryborough State High School has proudly invested in our social-emotional education program, Solid Ground, for many years. Our program aims to give students the skills and knowledge to successfully transition from being an adolescent into a young adult. Students who have well developed social skills and emotional awareness are likely to do better both socially and academically. They become attached to school and motivated to engage in their studies, work well with other children and demonstrate good citizenship, and handle both stresses and daily responsibilities more effectively. On Thursday 17 March our program launched with the Departure Ceremony. Parents and students from Year 7 were invited into the school to discuss the program and share with their children the experience of leaving childhood and heading into the phase of becoming a young adult. Many thanks to Mr Yates for being the driving force behind our Solid Ground program, and also to our Chappy, Big M, for his commitment to the process as well.

As your child finishes up this term’s assessment, please let us know should you require any additional support or assistance.

Sharyn Thomas
Dean – Junior Secondary

7A English iMovie Trailers

During the week, 7A have been working on creating an iMovie trailer. The trailer had to tell a story about what life is like for a
Traditional Games

ATSIS and RATEP students at Maryborough State High participated in a traditional Aboriginal game "arrekene irremere" (Eastern Arrernte language). The game was taught by a preservice teacher, Stephanie Brown. Traditionally a small cylindrical stick and a longer stick were used in this hitting and fielding exercise. The students had fun and were reminded that 30 minutes of daily physical activity is part of a healthy lifestyle.

Chaplaincy Dinner

Maryborough Chaplaincy Dinner

When: Wednesday 4 May
Where: Maryborough City Hall
Tickets: $25 per adult, $15 per student

2 course meal, entertainment, auctions (accommodation, art pieces, vouchers and MORE)

See how a regular $5 donation will impact local Chaplaincy Services.

Mark Bryant
Chaplain

Master Teacher News

Reading Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read a text accurately, quickly, and with expression. Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. When fluent readers read, they recognize words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluency is one of the key skills that increases comprehension. Fluent readers focus their attention on making connections with the ideas in a text and their own background knowledge. Less fluent readers must focus their attention on decoding and accessing the meaning of individual words. They have little attention left for comprehending the text.

A fluent reader reads in phrases and adds intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression. Fluent readers are more likely to choose to read. Students who do not read with fluency sound choppy and awkward. Those students may have difficulty with decoding skills or they may just need more practice with speed and smoothness in reading.

One of the best ways to practise reading fluency at home is to read and re-read a text. Reading a text over and over and over again builds confidence. Students often pause at the end of a line rather than waiting until the punctuation. Stopping mid-sentence has a negative effect on comprehension. Remind students to use the punctuation in the text.

Student Representative Council

On Thursday 17 March, at our whole school parade, our SRC members were presented with their badges and certificates. They were also invited to a School Representative Council team building afternoon to be held in Gabrielle’s restaurant in Z block on Wednesday 23 March from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. This session is intended to allow SRC members time to get to know each other, decide on how they want to work together and develop a sense of group identity. The students will enjoy an afternoon tea provided by the school and participate in a number of team building activities as well as creating an agreed code of behaviour for how SRC members operate together, both within meetings and other events.

One of the topics that the SRC have already discussed at their meetings includes the review of the current Electronic Device Policy of Maryborough State High School and the implications that could result in the changing of this policy. The SRC gave thoughtful and creative ideas to this discussion and we heard ideas from students from Years 7 through to 11 on this issue. Students discussed both the positive and negative impacts that could occur and listened to each other’s ideas and opinions equally and respectfully.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 April. Keiren Stoneley from the Fraser Coast Regional Council will be a guest at this meeting and will discuss the opportunity of students becoming a Council Youth Ambassador as well as the role that our SRC has within our school community and the Fraser Coast Community.

Tweed Anderson
SRC Support Teacher
Merit Points

Students are allocated merit points by their teachers throughout a fortnight period and students with the most points are placed into a draw on full school parade and receive a tuckshop voucher. Three students are drawn from each year level. Students successful in the draw on Thursday 3 March:

- Year 7 – Makenzee Thatcher, Aden Corke and Declan O’Sullivan
- Year 8 – Corey Charman, Patrick Shelford, Amanda Hanna
- Year 9 – Yannis Barounis, David Fletcher, Samson Yates
- Year 10 – Ebony Rasmussen, Breeanen Warry, Mathilda Riley
- Year 11 – Milly Kilmurray, Jake Braund, Shaquille Ivey
- Year 12 – Dylan Snow, Lisa Muston, Ivan Stanley

2016 Next Step Survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state wide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in the previous year. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate.

Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2016.

Further information on Next Step is available online at or on toll free telephone 1800 068 587.

Maths Tutorials

“Math tutorials are cool”

When: Every Wednesday 3:00-4:00pm
Where: Library
Why: Revision, preparing for tests, going over concepts just covered in class, help with difficult work
Who: Open to all students, Year 7 - 12 are welcome.

Our teachers are constantly focussed on improving!

Andrew Menon
Head of Department - Maths

Sports Tour

A sports tour of New Zealand is being organised for the September holidays in 2016. There will be an information night on Monday 21 March in the school library for interested students and families. In order to make up numbers for the trip, students from other local high schools have been invited to participate alongside our students. Maryborough State High School students will have the first opportunity to be a part of this tour. For more information please contact Mrs Carrie Taylor.

Mrs Carrie Taylor
HOD Science and PE

We also need an emergency contact on your students’ record in case parents/carers are unable to be contacted in an emergency. This person could be a relative, neighbour, close friend etc.

Updating Details

Have you moved or changed phone number?

Please notify the school if you have moved address, changed your phone number or if your student has a medical condition, in particular allergies, so that we can update our system.