13 February 2015

Principal’s Column

Our school has had an extremely busy start to the year with the new students settling in, Leaders’ Retreat, school photos, Swimming Carnival, Scholars’ Assembly, today our Leaders Induction and Music Camp next week. Consequently many of our students at the different events are coming up with some really great ideas that will probably make us even busier in the future. These ideas are filtering through from the SAC, School Captains, Music and Sports leaders of the school. It is great to see students working towards making our school an even better place.

Parents also have the opportunity to share ideas on how we can make our school a better place. Notes, phone calls, being a part of the SHAPE and POPARTS Committees or just coming along to the P & C meetings are all possible avenues to provide input. I encourage all parents to consider taking advantage of these opportunities.

This week I have had great pleasure in welcoming nineteen (19) students from Yinchuan No. 9 High School in north-west China. The students are accompanied by two teachers as well as the school’s principal, who I met last year when I travelled to China representing EQI. It is nice to be able to return the hospitality that was shown to me on my visit last year.

The first P & C Meeting was held on Monday 9 February 2015. The next P & C Meeting will be at 7.00 pm on Monday 9 March. This meeting will include the AGM and March General Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Russell Pollock
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Column

A warm welcome to all our new Year 8 parents. I know that you will have received greetings from your form teachers and also information from the Year level Coordinator, Sheridan Cash. My name is Judy Neilson and I am the Deputy Principal responsible for Year 8 students, Teaching and Learning and International students.

Last year I worked as Principal at QASMT, the Queensland Academy for Mathematics, Science and Technology and prior to that I was Junior School Deputy principal responsible for Year 7, 8 and 9 students. May I take this opportunity to thank the many students, parents and teachers who have made me so very welcome on my return to The Gap State High School, it is a wonderful environment in which to work with enthusiastic students and see them reach their full potential.

As part of my Teaching and Learning role I am currently visiting all Year 8 classes to work with students and their teachers. From each class I am selecting several students at random with whom to have a conversation. My initial question for the students is to ask them to describe their learning goal for that subject, how will they get the best possible results? Parents are able to participate in similar conversations with their students because encouraging students to think about their thinking is one important way in which to support students developing higher order thinking skills.

To this end the Year 8 Information Evening will be an opportunity for parents to gather in the Library at 6.30 pm for an information session on Parents Supporting Literacy, presented by Sue-Belinda Meehan, our Master teacher. I look forward to meeting you all as I introduce Sue-Belinda. The day to day information on the support of your students, I have included as an attachment to this newsletter as it is similar to the information session at the end of last year. You will be able to meet with your student’s teachers at the parent teacher interviews on Tuesday 28 April. Sheridan Cash, Year 8 Year Level Coordinator will also be available for questions.

Year 7 and Year 9 parents will be offered a similar information evening on Parents Supporting Literacy with Sue-Belinda Meehan in the near future. There are also plans for Sue-Belinda to provide additional parent information sessions later in the year.

Dr Judy Neilson
Deputy Principal (Year 8 Students, Teaching and Learning and International Students)

Year 7 Information Evening – Wednesday 18 February

We would like to welcome all parents to attend a parent evening next Wednesday commencing at 6.30pm.
It will be held in the JA Robertson Hall. This will provide an opportunity for parents to meet the core teachers, hear from the Year level coordinators and some Heads of Department. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Year 7 Newsletter**

Please find attached a Year 7 Newsletter to all Year 7 parents. In future this will be sent out via the eDiary Portal. If you have not yet set this up, please follow the instructions and the links below.

**Year 7 Parent Access to eDiary Portal**

The Parent Access to the Student Diary for Year 7s is ready. In the next few days your son or daughter will bring home a parent username and initial password for you to use to access the parent Opt-In Portal. We will also email out the initial settings where parent emails have been supplied.

Further details of how to access the portal please visit the school website https://thegapshs.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/News/Pages/Year-7-Diary-Portal.aspx

**Miss C Speers**  
**Deputy Principal Junior Secondary**

**P & C Meeting and AGM – Monday 9 March 7.00 pm**

The P&C Meeting and AGM is fast approaching and will be held on Monday 9 March at 7.00 pm in the Conference Room (upstairs) in the Administration building.

All new and renewing parents must complete an application form which is attached in this newsletter. You can bring it on the night but is might be easier if you complete it now, scan and email it to pandcsecretary@thegapshs.eq.edu.au. Even if you are unable to attend the AGM, the application form is valid for an AGM meeting and your membership will be in place for all other meetings you attend.

Please also note the code of conduct – which can be read in the Appendix of the P&C constitution which is accessible from this link -


**Swimming Carnival 2015**

Last Thursday 5 February The Gap State High School hosted its annual Inter-School Swimming Carnival at Ferny Hills Swimming pool. The night was a great success with many students achieving personal bests, displaying fantastic House Spirit and most of all students were definitely having fun. Thank you to all parents and friends who attended on the night. Your support is greatly appreciated by the students and staff. Special thanks must go Leon Bailey and the Shape Committee for providing an amazing BBQ on the night. Congratulations to RIGEL house who was named the winning house for the 2015 Swimming Carnival.

The following students are students who received 2015 Swimming Age Champions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Years</td>
<td>Oskar Harrison</td>
<td>Alexandra Jefferd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Years</td>
<td>Harry Broad</td>
<td>Alicia Marsden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Years</td>
<td>Thomas Dunn and Michael Smith</td>
<td>Zoe Doolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Years</td>
<td>Cameron Edwards</td>
<td>Natasha Bury</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Years</td>
<td>Travis Ree</td>
<td>Kate Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-19 Years</td>
<td>Liam Noble</td>
<td>Kristie Binskin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A number of our students have qualified for the Northern Secondary Swimming Carnival, which will be held next Tuesday 17 February at Albany Creek Swimming Pool. If parents have any questions or require further information, please contact Miss Kidd in the Sports Hall staffroom. The Gap State High School would like to wish these students all the best in their future swimming events.

**Tutorials**

**Tutorials for Term 1 will be underway next Week**

For students who are interested in improving their results, teachers are offering a range of tutorials, across the subjects. Posters advertising these (see the attached document) will shortly be placed around the school and students will be told about them by form teachers, year level co-ordinators and the morning notices. For your on-going reference, this schedule will appear on our school website under the heading Curriculum/Subjects and Programs.

While some tutorials are exclusively for the students of particular teachers, the majority are open to all students taking the stated subject. Students should see the teacher offering the FREE tutorials prior to the stated time to indicate their interest in attending. They may attend as many of the tutorials as they feel are worthwhile. Please continue to encourage your students to work hard and strive for improvement. Perhaps attending a tutorial could be an additional way, that they take responsibility for their own learning and success in 2015.

**Enrolling in Mathematics and Science Competitions 2015**

Students are invited to participate in the following Mathematics and Science Competitions for 2015, offered to students throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region.

The competitions are an opportunity for all students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external examination situation. They provide schools with a computerised summary of results and give helpful information regarding their achievement. The questions are designed to cater for the complete spectrum of abilities.

All students entering the competitions receive a Certificate and an Analysis of Results. These documents are suitable for inclusion in the student’s portfolio. The analysis indicates which
Questions the students answered correctly together with the average success rate, statewide, for each question. The analysis is also useful for highlighting the student’s strengths and weaknesses in the skills and processes of Mathematics and Science. Medals are awarded by the organising bodies to the top student(s) in each year level.

Entries must be handed in at the Office together with payment and the entry form below indicating competitions chosen. If paying by BPay please send form to the office at the time of payment, stipulating the chosen competitions. Entries can only be accepted if the entry form is handed in by the deadline. No late entries will be accepted and no refunds will be payable as the school is required to prepay these entries. Please see attached list.

P Barbarossa - G Dellit
HOD Mathematics - HOD Science

Hiring or purchasing a Graphics calculator for Maths B and/or C

If your child has elected to study Mathematics B and/or C in Year 11, 2015. It is a syllabus requirement that a range of technological tools be used in the learning and assessment experience. This can range from rulers to measure, to computers and/or graphic calculators to model data. During their Mathematics B and/or C course students will be expected to use a graphics calculator.

As not all students will continue to study Maths B and/or C the school offers you the option of hiring or purchasing a graphics calculator.

To HIRE for up to 2 years, you are required to make a one off payment of $50 which includes a working calculator (including the lid). This payment must be made at the office with this signed form. Due to limited stock please return the attached form as soon as possible.

Hired calculators are to be returned at the end of Year 11 after the Term 4 Maths exam for a check-up and continuing students will be reissued with calculators at the commencement of Year 12.

To PURCHASE a graphics calculator, you have the option to purchase your own calculator from any supplier (** preferably a Texas Instrument graphics calculator). If you choose to purchase from ABACUS (our supplier) via the internet www.abacuscalculators.com.au see the attached form detailing the procedure and ensure you enter the school ID first to get the full discount. All orders to be placed by Friday 20 February (TINSPIRECX-CAS graphics calculator) for quick delivery.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ring me 3511 3816.

Mr P Barbarossa
Head of Mathematics

News from the Science Department

Welcome!
My name is Amanda Ross and each week I will be highlighting a particular year level(s) looking at the topics and activities students explore in their Science class.

Science is a large and diverse department covering all year levels. Science is a compulsory subject for all students in Years 7-10. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) is offered as an elective in Year 9 and 10 while in the senior years students can choose from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Science 21.

Safety whilst doing experiments is paramount so any students with incorrect footwear will not be able to participate (closed-in, leather shoes required). We also require that students with shoulder-length (or longer) hair always have their hair tied back.

Though only the end of week three, we have had great start to the year with Year 10s extracting DNA from strawberries, Year 11 Biology students attending the Mt Coot-tha Botanical Gardens to learn about classification and Year 9 STEM students dissecting lamb brains! In the subjects of Physics and Science 21, Year 12s are busy planning their Extended Experimental Investigations while Chemistry students in Year 11 are gaining an appreciation for materials and their properties, and those in Year 12 are delving into polymers. Phew! Has it really only been three weeks!

For our year 7 and many of our year 8 students, it is the first time they have had the opportunity to do science in a laboratory. The year 8s are in fact working on getting their license and will soon be authorised to drive…a Bunsen Burner!

I look forward to showcasing the excellent work that your students do in Science throughout the year.

Yours in Scientific wonder

Amanda Ross
Senior Science Teacher

From the Science HOD

This week I have had the pleasure of visiting classes to welcome students back to science for 2015. We have 51 science classes from Years 7 to 12 but I am pleased to say I have, so far, seen a consistent and thorough approach to scientific method throughout all the classes. Students will also be encouraged to participate in science competitions and other “outside classroom” science activities. I encourage you to
check with your child to keep up-to-date with the science topics they are studying. I also recommend Amanda’s regular science reports in this bulletin as a way to see what students are doing in science throughout the school. Thanks to Amanda for her efforts and we look forward to an exciting and challenging year in science at The Gap State High School.

Gordon Dellit
Science Head of Department

NAPLAN Numeracy

Students in Year 7 and 9 Mathematics have commenced preparation for the 2015 Numeracy component. NAPLAN testing will occur in Term 2 week 4. During Maths lessons students will experience similar questions and become familiar with the style of the test. As most students will have experienced previous Year 3 and 5 tests it shouldn’t be too unfamiliar. To assist with Numeracy preparation I would encourage your child to attend Maths Tuition on Wednesday mornings in B05. Students will need to meet with me prior to attending.

Mathematics Extension Program

Mathematics Extension focuses on the challenging Mathematics questions from competitions held throughout the year. The competitions include the Mathematics Team Challenge competition and The Australian Mathematics competition to name a few. Teachers will volunteer their time and assist students. Students who are interested just need to turn up and join in.

The programme will operate at The Gap State High School from 8.00 to 8.30 am every Tuesday and Thursday morning in B06.

On a regular basis the group will also enjoy a session in the computer room and investigate a range of computer applications. At the end of the term we always enjoy a pancake morning to celebrate the end of the term.

Students will receive a flyer displaying all the Mathematics and Science competitions available for 2015. Please encourage your child to enter some or all the competitions and attend the Maths Extension program.

Please contact Peter Barbarossa pbarb2@eq.edu.au for competition and Numeracy enquiries.

An update from the International Student Department

2015 has seen seventeen (17) new students enrolled with us in Years 9 to 12. These students are both long term graduate students from China, Japan and South Korea as well as short term Study Abroad students from Brazil. They have all settled in well, attending the Swimming Carnival last Thursday as well as participating in a welcome get-together at Southbank last Friday afternoon.

On Saturday 19 February we welcomed nineteen (19) students from Yinchuan No. 9 High School in north-west China. The students are accompanied by two teachers as well as the school’s principal, who our principal Mr Pollock visited last year on a tour with a marketing representative form Education Queensland International (EQI). Mr Pollock is very happy to reciprocate the warm welcome he received when visiting No. 9 High School.

The students have been welcomed by their school buddies and are here until Sunday 15 February. We wish them many happy memories of participating in classes with their buddies, rock climbing in the LTC, making air rockets and painting boomerangs to take home as souvenirs.

School Based Apprenticeship Traineeship Listing 11 February

Below is the link to the School Based Apprenticeships Listings for this week.

Alert for Students and Parent/Guardians – MEM20413 Certificate in Engineering Pathways Program – places available

Axial Training is proud to be delivering the MEM20413 Certificate II in Engineering Pathways Program at the Brisbane North West Trade Training Centre.

Places are available in the two programs being delivered this year:

**Friday program**
- 1 day a week from 8 am – 2 pm
- Designed for new students
- Completed within the school year

**Wednesday program**
- 1 day a week from 8 am – 2 pm
- Designed for students with existing experience in engineering or related fields, who have partially completed another qualification and/or competencies and may be fast tracked.
- Fast paced program that is completed within 6 months

**Where:** Brisbane North West Trade Training Centre, Mitchelton State High School, 754 Samford Road, Mitchelton Qld 4053.

**When:** Students can start immediately following their registration.

**Cost:** This is a VETiS (VET in Schools) funded programme and for eligible students there are no fees for participation. Further information on VETiS and eligibility is located at www.training.qld.gov.au/training-organisations/funded-programs/vetis.html

To meet PPE requirements, students must wear:
- Long cotton drill pants
- Long sleeve cotton shirt
- Steel capped boots
Enrol: Contact Axial’s Administration department on 3340 9999 or email: trgadmin@axial.com.au

MEM20413 Certificate II in Engineering Pathways Program

This VET in Schools funded program is a great opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students who are interested in pursuing an engineering trade career to become better prepared for entering a School-Based Apprenticeship or a Full Time Apprenticeship once they have graduated from school.

Participants of the program will gain the entry level skills and knowledge needed for jobs in an engineering or manufacturing environment, while completing engaging theory, practical and project based units.

For further information about the MEM20413 Certificate II in Engineering Pathways Program please call 1300 729 425 or visit Axial’s website.

SHAPE Committee News

Thanks to all who supported the BBQ at the swim carnival and thanks to the volunteers who helped cook and serve, and special mention to Dr Nielsen and Mr Bertrand for their organisation.

Don’t forget the AGM this Monday at 7.00 pm in the Sports Hall, all are welcome and we would love to see some new faces.

We have a number of students from the school who will be attending state athletics in March, more on this next week.

Contact us at SHAPE@thegapshs.eq.edu.au

Leon Bailey

Date Claimers

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 February</td>
<td>Leaders Induction in Sports Hall at 8.45 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 16 February</td>
<td>Music Camp departs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Tuesday 17 February | Music Camp District Swimming  
Year 7 The Hurting Game 9.05 am in J A Robertson Hall  
Year 8 The Hurting Game 10.40 am in J A Robertson Hall |
| Wednesday 18 February| Music Camp  
Year 7 Parent Information Night - J A Robertson Hall  
Year 8 Parent Information Night - Auditorium |
| Thursday 19 February| Music Camp                                                             |
| Friday 20 February  | Music Camp returns  
Student versus teachers volleyball game – lunchtime – Sports Hall |

Wednesday 25 February Year 11/12 Studies evening for parents and students in J A Robertson Hall and Auditorium Regional Swimming

Thursday 26 February Elevate – Time Management – J A Robertson Hall Regional Swimming

Friday 27 February Year 10 Elevate – Study sensei  
Year 11 Biology students to Nudgee Beach Field Work Excursion

Monday 2 March Year 7 Camp Maranatha, Yandina Recreation and Education Camp  
P & C Executive

Tuesday 3 March Year 7 Camp Maranatha, Yandina Recreation and Education Camp  
Year 11 Ancient History Excursion to Abbey Museum  
Year 9/10 English Excursion to Theatre  
W1 SE Queensland Futsal

Wednesday 4 March Year 7 Camp Maranatha, Yandina Recreation and Education Camp  
W1 SE Queensland Futsal

Thursday 5 March W1 SE Queensland Futsal

Friday 6 March W1 SE Queensland Futsal  
Super 7s Netball

Monday 9 March P & C Meeting and AGM in Conference Room – A Block  
W2 SE Queensland Futsal

Tuesday 10 March W2 SE Queensland Futsal

Wednesday 11 March W2 SE Queensland Futsal

Thursday 12 March W2 SE Queensland Futsal  
Year 12 Economics students RBA talk at Marist 9.30 am  
Year 11 SOS students to UQ

Friday 13 March Futsal finals  
Year 11 Physics Excursion to Dreamworld  
Trivia Night

Spikezone Mini Volleyball for 8 to 13 year olds

Spikezone Mini-Volleyball is starting at The Gap, Mondays from 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm in The Gap State High School Sports Hall for 8 to 13 year olds. For more information: www.brisbanevolleyball.org.au/spikezone
Lunch time Futsal

Come along and join the fun with lunchtime futsal competitions in the Sports Hall.

- Weeks 4 to 6 (Monday and Tuesday) – for Seniors (Years 10 to 12)
- Weeks 7 to 9 (Monday and Tuesday) – for Juniors (Years 7 to 9)

Community Notices

Are you a parent of a child with type 1 diabetes?

Every day, thousands of Australian children suffer the effects of type 1 diabetes and families struggle with illness management and children’s behavioural and emotional adjustment.

Positive Parenting for Healthy Living is an adaptation of the successful Triple P- Positive Parenting Program offering practical ideas and support for parents of children with type 1 diabetes. This innovative group program is designed to help parents manage their child’s illness, assist children in coping with their illness and emotions, and prevent and manage difficult child behaviour.

Over the next few months and for a limited time only, parents of 2-10 year old children with type 1 diabetes are able to access Positive Parenting for Healthy Living Triple P as part of a University of Queensland research project. Parents will be able to attend the program free of charge, and will be asked to complete 2 sets of assessment measures (questionnaire and family observation) over a 6 month period, as part of the study. Contact Aditi Lohan on (07) 3346 7689 or email diabetes.healthyliving@uq.edu.au, or visit https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/t1diabetes for more information.

The Gap UC’s Garage Sale Information

The Gap Uniting Church is having its Annual Garage Sale again on Saturday 21 February, from 6.00am till Noon at the Uniting Church (1050 Waterworks Road). Kitchenware, Furniture, Electrical Items, Sporting Goods and Garden Tools are just some of the many items for sale. Come along for great finds and fantastic bargains. Donations are being accepted at the Church from 8.00 am to Noon on Saturday 14 February. For more information contact The Gap UC Office on 3300 2712 or visit www.thegapuca.org.au