20 February 2015

Principal’s Column

We are now approaching the midway point of this term, next week will be week 5 of a 10 week term. With this in mind parents should be observing students completing regular homework, study and assignment planning. There should be regular conversations at home about assignments, due drafts, completion dates and upcoming tests. All students should be receiving their semester assignment planners shortly and also be familiar with the whole of school Assessment Policy which is available on the school’s website.

In 2010 the school started trialling the web-based “Turn it in” program that checks and provides a report to students in regard to plagiarism. Students are advised by their teachers which assessment items are to be checked by “Turn it in” and before they submit their assignment for marking. In our school there are also many other ways that students are being supported academically.

- Tutorials – this term’s schedule is on posters around the school and on the school website.
- Study Skills presentations were held at school last week for Years 8 and 9 students.
- 2015 Student Planner (diary). There are many useful learning strategies contained in this book.
- Learning Assistance/Enhancement Program – for students who require additional help with their schoolwork or assessment.
- Student Learning Improvement Program (Years 8 & 9) – for students who have not been successful in one or more subjects.

Information Evening for parents of Year 11 and 12 students

There will be an information evening for parents of Year 11 and 12 students next Wednesday 25 February from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm. Year 11 parents are to go to the Auditorium and Year 12 parents to the J A Robertson Hall. The senior curriculum, assessment, moderation and certification processes are necessary elements of knowledge to support students through these important years of their education. At 7.35 pm there will be a Question and Answer in the J A Robertson Hall for Parents of Year 12 students who are completing a Vocation course and are Non OP.

Russell Pollock
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Column

It was a privilege to join the staff at The Gap State High School from the beginning of 2015. My name is Tony Degnian and I am the Deputy Principal responsible for Year 10 students and School Operations including the Special Education Program and our Student Support Services. I must take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff who have made me feel so welcome and have eased my transition into a new school environment. I am most appreciative, thank you.

I arrived at The Gap after spending the last two years at Calamvale Community College as Deputy Principal of the Middle Years program. Prior to that I have spent many years in administrative roles across state primary and high schools in regional and rural Queensland.

While there are many aspects to the operations of a school like The Gap State High School let me highlight just two for your attention.

Learning Assistance Program

The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) at The Gap State High School is an integral strategy to support students to do well and achieve their potential. Mrs Barbarossa and Mrs Bennett have been hard at work identifying potential students who will benefit from LAP. Letters of offer have been sent home to those students and staffing arrangements to support these students is being finalised.

This year, LAP in Years 7, 8 and 9 will support student’s literacy and numeracy skills to ensure that students have the foundations to be successful across the range of curriculum
areas. As in previous years, students will come out of their scheduled classes to receive this support with teachers on a regular basis each week. All students will be receiving their LAP support from next week.

However, in Years 10, 11 and 12 students will be supported through online material available to them through the basic and key skill builder (BKS B) program. Students in English Communication and Pre-Vocational Mathematics will interact with the program as part of their classes each fortnight. While the Year 10 students involved in BKSB may access it through their English and/or Mathematics class. However, all students involved in BKSB have 24/7 access to the online suite of tools to enable them to development their independence as learners. Mr Muir will be the main point of contact for any queries with BKSB.

**Attendance**

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in Years 11 and 12.

It is important that students arrive on time, prepared and ready to commence class each and every day.

Two Days a Week Doesn’t Seem Much But……

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Missed</th>
<th>Amount Missing</th>
<th>Weeks to Complete</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>10 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 15 weeks per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 minutes per day</td>
<td>30 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1 month per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 hour per week</td>
<td>Nearly 4 weeks per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hours per day</td>
<td>2 hours per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year and 4 months</td>
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</table>

**Does Your Child Have a Chance of Being Successful?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misses:</th>
<th>That equals:</th>
<th>Weeks:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>10 Days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 Days per year</td>
<td>Nearly 15 weeks per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 Days per year</td>
<td>Nearly 2 months per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 Days per year</td>
<td>Nearly 3 months per year</td>
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**Humanities Students of the Week**

The History/Senior Humanities Student of the Week Award is an acknowledgement that, in their classes or year level, students have excelled in some way. As the first recipients of this award for 2015, we are pleased to commend the following students to the whole school community:

- 7A - Jaquin Holden
- 7B - Ulf Kerdijk
- 7C - Oskar Pearce
- 7D - Naomi Dowling
- 7E - Callum Parker
- 7F - Tyler Wallis
- 7G - Katie Herder
- 7H - Alex Reeves
- 7I - Joel Burgess
- 7J - Ewan Christie

Year 9s: Laura Askew, Alex Barnett, Courtney Cummings, Harry Drury, Kyla Hunter, Oliver Meehan, Finn Merrick and Elliot Phelps.

Year 10s: Zac Buerckner, Xiyu (Charlotte) Chen, Samantha Cleland, Cate Cuscombe, Zoe Lazarus, April McQueen, Duncan Mills and Tom Tait.

Year 11 Humanities Student: Luke Craske

Year 12 Humanities Student: Eva Morahan

Excellent effort, students. Congratulations.

**J Cameron**

**HoD Humanities**

**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 checkup and continuing students will be reissued with calculators at the commencement of year 12.

GRAPHICS CALCULATOR: TINSPIRECX-CAS @ $50 GST included

Payment to Office by Friday 20 February 2015

Agreement:

- Calculator must be in working order with lid.
- Hire fee is refundable pro-rata.
- Calculator to be returned for end of year check up at final Year 11 Maths exam
- If calculator is not returned by last Year 12 Maths exam, replacement fee for that calculator is $185 including GST
- If calculator is damaged beyond normal wear and tear I agree to pay a pro-rata fee.

Student’s Name: ___________________ Student’s Signature: ___________________

Parent/Guardian Name: ___________________

Parent/Guardian Date: ___________________

Signature: ___________________

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.abacuscaldulators.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

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.

School Based Apprenticeship Traineeship Listing 18 February

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

Date Claimers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20</td>
<td>Music Camp returns Student versus teachers volleyball game – lunchtime – Sports Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Year 11/12 Studies evening for parents and students in J A Robertson Hall and Auditorium Regional Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 26 February</td>
<td>Elevate – Time Management – J A Robertson Hall Regional Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27 February</td>
<td>Year 10 Elevate – Study sensei Year 11 Biology students to Nudgee Beach Field Work Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp Maranatha, Yandina Recreation and Education Camp P &amp; C Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 3 March</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp Maranatha, Yandina Recreation and Education Camp W1 SE Queensland Futsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 March</td>
<td>W1 SE Queensland Futsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6 March</td>
<td>W1 SE Queensland Futsal Super 7s Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting and AGM in Conference Room – A Block W2 SE Queensland Futsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10 March</td>
<td>W2 SE Queensland Futsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 March</td>
<td>W2 SE Queensland Futsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 March</td>
<td>W2 SE Queensland Futsal Year 12 Economics students RBA talk at Marist 9.30 am Year 11 SOS students to UQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13 March</td>
<td>Futsal finals Year 11 Physics Excursion to Dreamworld Trivia Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16 March</td>
<td>Year 11 Drama Realism Performance in Auditorium 7 pm SHAPE Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 March</td>
<td>POPARTS Meeting in N Block Year 12 Drama Excursion to Billie Brown Theatre 6.30 pm Open Lions Cup AFL Round 1 to Yeronga AFC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 March</td>
<td>Advanced Ensemble Concert – Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 21 March</td>
<td>Choir with Singapore based choir at St John’s Cathedral</td>
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**Monday Social Volleyball and Spikezone**

**Social Volleyball**

There is social volleyball in the Sports Hall every Monday evening – for details see Brisbane Volleyball Club Website/The Gap for details.

**Spikezone**

Spikezone Mini-Volleyball has started 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. There are still places available. For more information: www.brisbanevolleyball.org.au/spikezone

**SHAPE Committee News**

The SHAPE Annual General Meeting was held on Monday night.

Office bearers are:

Chairperson: Leon Bailey
Secretary: Linda Scofield
Treasurer: Mike Burke

Upcoming dates for SHAPE events:

- 24 April - Cross Country BBQ
- 21 May - TGSFS Open Night BBQ
- 24 July - Athletics Carnival BBQ
- 22 October - Sports Awards Night

There will also be a SHAPE Fundraising Night in the Sports Hall – date is to be confirmed

Congratulations to all who participated in the district swimming carnival on Tuesday. More details to follow.

**Leon Bailey**

**Chairperson**

**Tuckshop News**

We are looking for Tuckshop volunteers for a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings and the fourth Friday in the afternoon. Please call us at the Tuckshop on 3511 3836. Hoping to hear from someone soon!

**Tracy and Vanessa**

**Community Notices**

**Ferny Grove Junior Australian Football Club**

The Ferny Grove Junior Australian Football Club is seeking players aged 5-13 years. The Falcons are a Community Club that focus on developing players’ fundamental skills and game sense abilities by creating an enjoyable and challenging experience for the players to learn. Coaches aim to develop young people into responsible contributing members of society through the principal of NED – Never give up! Encourage others! Do your best! Phone 0435 977 500, e-mail
International Women’s Day Children’s Safety Luncheon

In recognition of the strong connection between women’s and children’s rights, Children’s Safety Australia Inc. is hosting an International Women’s Day Luncheon with a focus on practical strategies to promote children’s safety. Speakers include internationally renowned children’s rights campaigner Professor Freda Briggs, accomplished author Tess Rowley and internet safety expert Brett Lee.

Key topics include:

- the emerging trend of children who abuse other children;
- internet safety tips including how to protect children and young people from various dangers in a rapidly changing online environment; and
- practical strategies to keep children safe, including how to build their self esteem and resilience.

To be held at the Pullman Brisbane King George Square, on Monday, 9 March 2015 from 9.30 am (for a 10.00 am start) to 2.00 pm. BOOKINGS - http://www.trybooking.com/GRXD
For further information contact Kim Jackson via email: admin@childsafety.org.au or mobile 0423 532 868