Principal’s Report

Who is responsible for getting the best learning outcomes for your children? Obviously your child’s teachers play a huge part in that, and of course, so do parents and carers and the wider community. At the recent Principals’ Conference that I attended in Brisbane, the Parent and Community Engagement Framework was launched. This framework, which can be viewed at: [http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/parent-community-engagement-framework/](http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/parent-community-engagement-framework/) provides a guide to how we can work together better.

“The research tells us that the most meaningful partnerships are those where schools, parents, students and the community work together to focus on student learning. Parent and community engagement that is effectively focused on student learning can deliver powerful outcomes.”

The 5 elements are Communication, Learning Partnerships, Community Collaboration, Decision Making and Participation. It is common that parental involvement drops off once students leave primary school – this is very unfortunate for us in secondary schools! I will be doing my best to encourage your active participation in helping us – there is an old adage that it “takes a village to raise a child”. We need your input, your skills and passion for the development of our most precious resource – your children. Think about how you might be involved and discuss it with us.

For starters, please come to our Parent & Citizens meetings. They are friendly and positive meetings where we are looking for feedback and innovative thinking. Most of all, it is about being part of our ‘village’ and contributing to the better education for Home Hill students. We are also looking for a new Treasurer for the P&C, so please consider helping us out by nominating or suggesting it to someone you know.

Of course, parents are crucial in improving student results. At the conference, Dr George Otera outlined how something as simple as playing family board games once a week, can make a significant impact on student outcomes in: increased social interaction, critical thinking, communication, numeracy and literacy, team work, sportsmanship, as well as strengthening family bonds. It shows that education comes in many forms.

As mentioned at our inspirational Senior Leaders’ Investiture, I am also working on developing our Home Hill Educational alliance. This collective of Gumlu SS, Home Hill SS, Home Hill SHS and Osborne SS, will work together as one to drive the educational agenda in our town, gathering ideas and developing programs for the benefit of our young people. We will look at how we can share resources, and plan for the very important phase of year 7s entering high school in 2015. I am very much looking forward to meeting the communities of each of our primary schools in the very near future.

Meanwhile here at school, I have been visiting classrooms regularly and enjoying the quality of instruction and engagement that happens every day. I have reminded students that it is not far away from the first reporting session for the year, and that they need to be on top of their work and assessment. I look forward to seeing the rewards consistent with our motto “The End Crowns the Work”. All the best.
Leaders’ Investiture

On Thursday 21 February, parents and friends were audience to a well-executed Leaders’ Investiture ceremony at the Burdekin Memorial Hall. Our students conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and should be proud of the way they represented the school. This year we welcomed a number of special guests, including Mr Richard English, NQ Regional Director, Mayor Bill Lowis, Mr George Christensen, Federal Member for Dawson, Mrs Rosemary Menkens, Member for Burdekin, P&C President Mr Steve Postma and Principal Mr Steven Miskin. We also welcomed Principals and Student Leaders from the following primary schools; Home Hill State School, St Colmans State School and Osborne State School.

Badges were presented to our Seniors, Student Council Executive, House Captains and finally, School Captains Courtney Woods and Laurance Papale. The national anthem was proudly led by Reece D’Alessandro, while Cassady Howie wowed the audience with her rendition of Birdy’s *Skinny Love*. At the end of the proceedings, a scrumptious afternoon tea was provided by Mrs Kerr and her hospitality students.

Thank you to Miss Nicholson, assisted by Miss Horan, for the difficult job of organising the ceremony and to all our guests for making the time to come along and be part of the presentations. Your presence was greatly appreciated.
The Australia Day ceremony at Home Hill High School this year was both informative and entertaining. As the United Nations has declared 2013 the Year of Water Co-operation, Home Hill High was exceedingly lucky to secure the talents of local expert, Mr. David Sartori as their guest speaker. Mr. Sartori delivered an informative and illuminating speech addressing our need to be aware of water conservation and co-operation in our own community.

Similarly our new principal Mr. Steven Miskin captivated the whole student parade with his inaugural Australia Day speech. Mr. Miskin delivered a witty and insightful Australia Day address that articulated superbly how unique it is to be an Australian.

The parade was chaired by the new Student Council Executive member Nikki Thomson while other Student Council Executive members, Mark Barbagallo, Courtney Woods and Laurance Papale presented a fascinating speech that addressed the history of Australia Day and what it means to be an Australian today.

In keeping with our school’s long held tradition, Dorothy McKellar’s poem, *I Love A Sunburnt Country* was recited by senior students, Kirsten Marano and Amos Lipsys. At the conclusion of the parade, year 12 Art student Amelia Wallace presented the Principal with the 2013 Australia Day artwork which was inspired by this year’s theme, “The Year of Water Co-operation”. Following the official ceremony two year 8 students, Julian Falco and Lily Woodlock planted a fruit tree to commemorate the day. The morning was concluded with a delicious morning tea served in the school Resource Centre that had been decorated by the wonderful Library ladies to celebrate the Australia Day theme.
Swimming Carnival

On Friday 1 March, the Home Hill Swimming Pool was flooded by students keen to start the annual swimming carnival. As usual, each team had a fancy-dress “Theme”. This year’s themes were 80s bright and tight (Upstart), Beach Party (Beachmount) and Pirates (Inkerman). There were several records broken on the day, all by the Falco girls Mackenzie and Dana. Well done girls!

After a very hot and gruelling day the final results were in. Inkerman came in third place with 463 points, followed by Upstart with 677 points. This meant Beachmount was once again too strong and took out the 2013 title with 752 points.

This event would not happen and run as smoothly without the hard work and dedication of Miss Allyce Murphy. On behalf of Home Hill State High School I would like to give a big thanks to her and also to all the other teachers for making this day possible. Another thanks has to go to Sharon and Peter from the pool and also to the Home Hill Swimming Club for allowing us to use their equipment.

Age Champions were as follows:
Boys 13 years — Jared Thorley
Girls 13 years — Naomi Loizou/Kyla Falco
Boys 14 years — Rory Heatley
Girls 14 years — Dana Falco
Boys 15 years — Chris Previtera
Girls 15 years — Ashleigh Dwyer
Boys 16 years — Josh Previtera
Girls 16 years — Mackenzie Falco
Boys 17 years — Joel Hanson
Girls 17 years — Kimberley Bourke

Records broken on the day:

Mackenzie Falco
Open 100m Freestyle   1:05.97 Previously 1:10.31
16 years 50m Freestyle 30.02 Previously 30.22
16 years 50m Butterfly 34.0 Previously 34.85

Dana Falco
14 years 50m Backstroke 35.14 Previously 35.19
14 years 50m Butterfly 32.65 Previously 33.97
Japanese

Japanese classes have started with a bang in 2013 with the introduction of year 9 Japanese at Home Hill State High School and Japanese classes for years 6 and 7 at Home Hill State School. The year 8 classes are continuing as well so in just its second year, the Japanese program now encompasses four different year levels across two schools.

Already the new students are doing well – they have written their names in Japanese, created their name tags and can already listen and understand several greetings and classroom expressions in Japanese!

Fortunately this term we also have a Japanese student, Emma Walker, who is joining us from Tokyo. Please welcome Emma, try to talk to her whenever you see her in English and also greet her in Japanese if you can! It would be a wonderful cultural experience for both you and Emma.

I am also seeking expressions of interest from families who would be interested in hosting exchange students like Emma so if this is something you would be keen to do, or you would like more information about the program, please feel free to contact Ms Shirakoma at the school. Thank you to the families who have already replied. 😊

Here is a brief introduction from Emma...

Hi, my name is Emma Walker and I am from Tokyo. I will be studying at Home Hill State High School until the end of the first term. Though I have only been in Australia for two weeks, I have already come to love Australia through spending time with my friends, teachers and home-stay family who are very nice and supportive. I especially liked the high school disco! (We do not have school dances like that in Japan.)

In Japan, I am a member of the wind orchestra and I play the trombone so I am joining the music class here in Australia. I also belong to a local baton twirling club in Japan – but I am not sure if you have this in Australia!

Though my English is still very basic (so please be patient with me) I am looking forward to making lots of friends in Australia.

Thank you very much – Arigatou gozai masu.

Les ‘Lock n Load’ Sherrington

Former Home Hill High student, Les ‘Lock n Load’ Sherrington, has been confirmed by the World Boxing Organisation as holding the number 8 position in the World rankings. You can watch his continuing rise to the top when Les fights Argentinean Esteban Ponce in Townsville on Friday 15 March. If you are interested in seeing the fight, see Teacher-Librarian, Lisa Todeschino about tickets.

Les attributes much of his success to his loyal supporters from Home Hill High and looks forward to seeing you at the fight!

REPORTS

The school issues a mid-semester report half way through Semester 1. Students will be issued with their reports on 19 April, and it is an expectation that the parents sign the report card, and that the students show their form teachers the signed report so that we can be certain that parents are aware of how their child is progressing. Parent teacher interviews will be conducted on 7 May at the Greek Hall. Prior to this date students will be given an appointment schedule so that parents can book a meeting time with any of the teaching staff. More information about the parent teacher interviews will be provided closer to the date. Please direct any concerns or queries about reporting to Mrs Ros Gall.
FORMER HOME HILL HIGH STUDENT RECEIVES BENDIGO BANK SCHOLARSHIP

At the end of 2012 students in year 12 were encouraged to apply for the Home Hill Community Bank Branch Scholarship. The scholarship provides $10,000 to the successful candidate, $5,000 of which will be paid at the start of their first year of university, with a further $5,000 to be paid at the start of their second year.

Branch Manager, Mrs Karen McKaig, says that the scholarship is intended to give rural and regional students who may not be able to attend university due to the additional costs associated with living away from home the chance to pursue their academic goals.

“The Home Hill Bendigo Community Bank® Branch is extremely proud of being able to provide this scholarship and we thank all our customers and shareholders who have made this possible,” stated Mrs McKaig.

On behalf of Home Hill State High, I would like to congratulate Lauri Greenough on her successful application. Lauri completed year 12 at Home Hill High last year and intends to go to university to pursue a career in Law. She received high academic results and consistently showed a willingness apply herself to her studies. Below is Lauri’s account of her plans for 2013, and how the scholarship will help her with her studies.

“On the 13th of February I received a call from Karen McKaig, the Branch Manager of Home Hill’s Bendigo Bank to announce that my application for the Home Hill Community Bank Branch Scholarship was successful. The scholarship will assist me with the expenses incurred in relation to my Bachelor of Laws at James Cook University, such as textbooks. The generous scholarship provides me with $5,000 this year and another $5,000 next year. At present I am living in Home Hill whilst working at Woolworths in Ayr. Next week I will begin commuting to Townsville for my 3 days of uni, staying two nights with my brother Keelan.

Prior to receiving the call from Karen, Mr Gall came into work and said he had great news. He stood there quiet for a while building the suspense, then told me that I had been short-listed for the scholarship. I was very excited but never imaged that I would become the grantee. I would like to sincerely thank Mr Gall for being my referee in my application. I hope that future year 12 students apply for the scholarship because it is worth the time and you never know you might be granted $10,000 to help with uni fees, like I have been. Lastly, I’d just like to say good luck to the Year 12’s of 2013!” Lauri Greenough

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

On Monday 18 February, eight year 12 students participated in the 2013 Lions Youth of the Year Quest. This year’s participants included Laurance Papale, Amos Lipsys, Kirsten Marano, Nikki Thomson, Paul Zamperoni, Mark Barbagallo, Ashleigh Attard and Courtney Woods.

Throughout the day, each senior student was interviewed by a panel of community representatives before delivering a prepared speech and two impromptu speeches in the evening. Prepared speeches included topics such as ‘Poverty,’ ‘Drugs in Sport,’ ‘Stem Cell Research’ and even ‘Mirror, Mirror.’ The judges were most impressed by the entrants, commenting that, each entrant had his/her own set of strengths.

Courtney Woods was declared Lions Youth of the Year for 2013 and was named winner of the Public Speaking category. Courtney progressed to the next round of the competition which was held on 2 March (details next month).
YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP CAMP

Who would have thought Tappy could get up so early? We all knew our camp would be an excellent experience, beginning with the early morning departure on Monday morning at 5:00am.

After a five hour bus trip, with a leaky air-conditioner and ‘Cookie’ the bus driver, we finally arrived at our new camping destination at Mungalli Falls in the Atherton Tableland.

After arriving at Mungalli Falls, we had some time to settle in, eat lunch then begin our first day at camp with a search and rescue activity. This activity was undertaken in the camp’s obstacle course where each group had to get their injured teacher to safety. Our rescue stretchers proved invincible, lifting many a teacher including ‘screaming’ Mr Pearson. Our first evening was full of excitement with the "P" Night celebrations. Pirates, Priests, Personal Trainers, Punks, Pokémon and even a Pumpkin made the dinner very entertaining with Japanese tourists stopping to take photographs.

On Tuesday, after a morning full of leadership activities, we were able to do our outdoor recreation option of choice: a Water Falls Tour or Tubing, Gold Panning & Rock Hopping. The Water Falls Tour was where we would do a "hop on, hop off" tour of the local waterfalls, which included a swim at one of the waterfalls. Tubing, Gold Panning and Rock Hopping included a leisurely float down the Beatrice River rapids in tubes and skipping from rock to rock to cross the obstacles in the river to continue to make our way down the river. There was also the option to pan for gold in the river. On Tuesday evening the annual B & S Ball (opposite’s night) was attended by a lovely Mr Scalia aka Roberta, and hosted by Dame Edna herself.

Our final day consisted of more organised activities and senior action planning for what to expect in the impending year. We were also able to do our second day of outdoor recreation activities which was either Canoeing or Get Hooked. The adventure of Canoeing was done on the Mighty Lake Tinaroo, which offered us an opportunity to take in a variety of flora and fauna with beautiful scenery around us. Get Hooked was a fishing activity at Tarzali Lakes which is a fully operational aquaculture farm with over 50,000 fish on 40 acres in several large ponds, where you are guaranteed to catch a fish! I think it was the first time Tara had caught a fish while even the pro Aaron couldn’t catch a Barra… just 36 perch. Wednesday evening brought about an amazing display of performances by the students and the teachers. The best part of the night was when Miss Horan, participating in one of the group’s performances, was scared by Bradley’s head, which was hidden underneath one of the boxes she had to lift. By the end of the night we were all amazed and very entertained by the talents of each group.

Come Thursday morning, we had all discovered leadership qualities we thought we never had. We formed close bonds with each other as a grade and with the teachers. When it came to 8:00am we were all back on the bus heading back home.

Thank you again to the staff at Mungalli Fall Recreational Camp and to the teachers that made sure we behaved ourselves. Miss Clark, Mrs Kerr, Mr Scalia, Mr Pearson and the teacher who made it all possible, Miss Horan. The camp was a great success and we all had an excellent time

“now whose up for some umcha”

Jack Betteridge
The National Youth Science Forum is an excellent program designed for students moving into year 12 who are contemplating a career in Science, Engineering or Technology. I was first introduced to the program while in year 11 by Mr Scalia, my Physics teacher, who suggested that I should apply. After the selection process, I was one of eight successful applicants from the Townsville region.

On 20 January, I travelled down to Canberra to the Australian National University, which would be my ‘home’ for the next two weeks, to attend this experience of a lifetime. This whirlwind adventure consisted of visits to research and industry facilities, such as the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Pathology Unit at the Canberra Hospital, Australian Institute of Sport and Parliament House. As well as the scientific aspect, there were numerous social activities, like our day trip to Pine Island, science quiz, bush dance, sports evening, disco and culminating concert.

The live video conference with CERN (The European Laboratory for Particle Physics) was definitely a major highlight of this program. The brief lecture on particle physics was excellent, as I did not know much about the topic before then. It was remarkable being able to talk to one of the scientists who worked with the Large Hadron Collider, who was on the other side of the planet in Geneva, and I feel very privileged to have been provided with this opportunity.

While away, all participants were expected to attend a number of formal events; the official opening held at Parliament House, Rotary Dinner and a Science Dinner at which we met Australia’s top scientists, including Australia’s Chief Scientist Professor Ian Chubb.

Over these memorable 14 days, I had experience living on campus in a university college with 150 like-minded students, took part in a variety of personal development workshops, visited numerous research facilities and had a lot of fun along the way. Most of all, I have formed an amazing support and friendship network with peers around the country that I know will endure far beyond the forum. I strongly urge any year 11 students interested in the field of science to apply for this amazing opportunity.

Ashleigh Attard
The Engineering Link Group- China Experience 2012

After attending a three day engineering camp at James Cook University, students are open to an international opportunity known as The Engineering Link Group (TELG) China Experience. This camp is both cultural and educational, and is a once in a lifetime event for those who are lucky. Last year I was fortunate enough to be involved in such an experience.

As part of TELG, ten students and seven adults made the sixteen hour flight from Australia to China last year from 27 November to 11 December. We spent two fun-filled weeks touring China and visiting some of its biggest cities and greatest landmarks. The first week saw us travelling through Beijing and Xi’an. On one of the days it was so cold that the highest temperature was -1°C, quite the change from the hot Australian summer! Straight away upon arriving in China we were challenged with the task of trying to eat everything with chopsticks. Not an easy feat for a group of Australians who were used to using a fork, knife and spoon.

It wasn’t all eating food and touring the vast country, however. A few days after our original departure from Australia found us at East China’s Jiao Tong University (ECJTU) – a highly esteemed university dedicated to the study of Engineering and Technology. There we started work on our assignment for the trip. We were given the task of designing our own railway track through a select area on a map of Australia. From here we had to account for the railway’s structure, including all physical technicalities and all of the costs associated with it. Our final product was then presented to a panel of ‘company members’, who were interested in what we had to offer them. All four teams did exceptionally well and were granted a contract, meaning we all designed suitable railway lines. While at the well renowned university, we were also lectured by the university’s president, as well as experienced engineers. Our Australian engineering group stayed on campus and were able to get a taste of life as a university student in China. An unforgettable performance night was also held for us where many Chinese students showcased their incredible talent by singing, dancing and acting. We even joined in on the cultural fun with our own rendition of ‘Waltzing Matilda’.

After finishing our Engineering course with ECJTU, we then continued our journey to Shanghai where we were surrounded by flashing lights and the fast paced city life. There were countless people, and hundreds of markets to barter goods from. Throughout the trip we were treated with hotel after glamorous hotel, as well as countless restaurants and shops. When we weren’t living like royalty, we spent our time touring the many landmarks and wonders of China. Some of the major highlights of the trip would include riding a chairlift up onto the Great Wall of China, walking along it for kilometres on end, and then tobogganing back down by the mountainside. Another one would be hiring bikes out and riding fourteen kilometres along the Xi’an city wall, and even being carted around in tuk-tuks by Chinese locals.

Overall the experience was definitely one to remember. The Engineering Link Group’s China Experience is something that all Home Hill High students are open to, and should consider going on; especially those who are considering a future in engineering. I am currently the second student from our school that has had the chance to go on this trip. Without a doubt, anyone who is given the opportunity should take it, as it is incredibly worthwhile and truly life changing experience.

By Nikki Thomson

2012 Coronas are still available from the school office for $22 (cost price).
Physics – Rockets

3... 2... 1... Blast off! Yes, it’s that time of year again. The year 12 Physics students, led by chief rocket scientist Mr Scalia have been working all term assembling their model rockets and last week was the long awaited launch date. The rocket launches that take place every year in term 1 are part of the summative assessment for year 12 Physics students and involves constructing a model rocket and launching the rockets to determine the effect of changing a certain variable – in this case the shape of the nose of the rocket. After the launch, the data obtained is analysed and a full report is written on the launches. For the sake of science, everyone hauled themselves out of bed early (some more willingly than others) and were on the school oval by 6am for the launch. Mr Scalia even got to do this three times, once for each group, and we all know that deep down he really enjoyed the early wake up call. Mrs Rita Papale has also become an honorary rocket scientist as she has participated in the launches each year since 2010. Congratulations Rita!

There were students responsible for assembling the rocket and equipment for each launch, pushing the trigger to launch the rocket and spotters to find and catch them. The rocket launch attracted an audience of keen parents and younger students and it was wonderful to see everybody getting involved and showing an interest. Despite looking a little worse for wear being up so early, the launches were a great success and it’s safe to say everyone involved had a blast. It was even worth trudging around in a sleep-deprived state for the rest of the day. Now for the not so fun part, the prac write up!
Well what a busy start to the year it has been. I have enjoyed getting to know our new grade 8 students. I do hope it has been a smooth transition for them from primary school.

Other than getting to know the new grade 8s of our school and supporting students in need of support, I have also been busy running brekkie club again. So far this year we have had a pancake breakfast, a sausage sizzle breakfast, and a bacon and egg burger breakfast. The feedback I get from many students is great and it just reinforces to me that brekkie club is a real worthwhile activity in this school. For those parents who are new to this school, I offer a free breakfast for the entire school community once a week on a Tuesday morning. This is a chance for students to come to school early and have breakfast with their mates and/or teachers. It is a great way of building school community and care for each other. The breakfast is sponsored by local businesses and churches. And while, I am on the topic, if any parents have any eggs or fruit they wish to donate to brekkie club, it would be greatly appreciated. Or if any parents would like to come and help prepare and cook the breakfast on a Tuesday morning, than please do not hesitate to contact me. The more help, the better. Brekkie Club is about building school community and parents are very much part of the school community.

Also later this semester, I am running two lunch time programs. The first one is the ‘Girls With A Purpose’ group. This is a voluntary lunch time program for up to 10 female students once a week. Each week we look at various issues in relation to building self-esteem, self-development, goal setting, communication skills, peer pressure, etc. I ran this program last year with a group of girls and the feedback was fantastic. It offers students a fun way to learn more about themselves and what they want out of life. If you think this program would be beneficial to your daughter, than please contact me so that we can discuss the possibility of this.

The second lunch time program I will be running is Chappies Chillax room. Later this term we are doing a Just Dance competition. Last year students loved coming along and having a dance in the lunch break. There are also great prizes up for grabs each week. Chappies Chillax room is just a way of providing a fun structured activity for students to do in the lunch break.

In addition to running programs and brekkie club, my main function at this school is to support students and staff in any way I can. I often get students come to see me because they are upset and need to talk. Sometimes students self refer and other times, teachers or parents ask me to catch up with a student to see how they are doing and chat with them. I talk to students about a variety of issues including, anger management, anxiety, goal setting, peer pressures, bullying issues, self-esteem issues, depression and self-harming behaviours. I draw from my previous experience doing social work with adolescents for 11 years and my Arts degree in psychology and counselling, when dealing with many of these issues with students. I am now in my 6th year of working at this school as the school chaplain and I must say that I care very much for this school community and its students and greatly value what an awesome school it is. If any parent/carer wishes to talk with me further in regards to their child and ways I can support them, then please do not hesitate to contact me at the school on Tuesdays, Thursday or Fridays.

Jennie Dowie (aka Chappy)
WATER - TAP INTO IT!

Soft drinks, cordials, energy/sports drinks, fruit drinks and flavoured waters often contain large amounts of sugar and energy (kilojoules). A regular can of soft drink can contain around 8 teaspoons of sugar!

Sugar is a carbohydrate and can be found in a variety of foods and drinks. While carbohydrates provide energy to working muscles and are essential for concentration, they are best consumed through foods rich in other nutrients. ‘Added sugar’ refers to sugar that is added to food or drinks to increase the palatability and desirability, these foods and drinks are often of poor nutritional value.

Fruit juice and milk also contain significant quantities of sugar. The type of sugar found in these drinks is naturally occurring, fructose is fruit sugar and lactose is the sugar found in milk. Both of these drinks are better choices nutritionally than soft drinks and other sweetened beverages, because they also contain vitamins and minerals.

However, keep the serving size of fruit juice small; ½ cup (~125mL) of fruit juice contains the equivalent amount of energy from 1 medium sized piece of fruit. Milk, like fruit juice, also provides vitamins and minerals (especially calcium); however it is unique in that it is also a good source of protein.

*The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating* recommends children and adolescents consume 2-3 serves of reduced fat dairy foods per day. 1 serve is equal to: 1 cup (250mL) milk/1 small tub of yoghurt/2 slices cheese (40g). Having too much sugar in the diet can contribute to overweight and obesity and tooth decay. Some high sugar drinks are also high in caffeine (e.g. energy drinks), and due to their addictive nature these products are not recommended for children.

**A note on diet drinks…**

Artificially sweetened cordials and soft drinks and not recommended as they encourage children to develop a taste for and habit of drinking sweet drinks. Diet soft drinks can still contain acids (phosphoric and citric) which can cause erosion of tooth enamel and promote dental health problems. When it comes to choosing the best drink, tap into water first!

Source Nutrition Australia

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**Earth Hour 2013 Show your support**

A WWF initiative, Earth Hour is a simple idea that’s quickly turned into a global phenomenon.

Hundreds of millions of people switching off their lights for one hour, on the same night, to signal their care for the amazing planet we call home.

Starting from a one-city initiative in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour now takes place in more than 6,950 cities and towns in 152 countries and territories around the world.

The Home Hill State High School community is encouraged to switch off lights and electrical devices for an hour from 8.30pm, on 23 Saturday March and pledge to switch at earthhour.org.au, to show their commitment to a better future for our planet.

Make the pledge to switch on to renewable energy - go to earthhour.org.au or add a QRReader App to your smartphone, iPhone, iPod or iPad and scan the QR code above for a direct link to the Earthhour website.

Lisa Todeschino
HHSHS Environmental Footprint committee
Clean Up Australia Day

Thirty-five keen Home Hill High School students returned to school on Sunday 3 March to participate in Clean Up Australia Day. For many years now, Home Hill High School has joined in this Australia wide community event to work to remove rubbish from our precious environment.

Despite the intense heat, the motivated group collected much rubbish from the school grounds and the streets that surround our school. Along with many pieces of paper and empty cans the students managed to gather a collection of old sporting balls. Sam Gibson from year 8 found a dirty golf ball and a ruined cricket ball. Naomi Loizou was lucky enough to unearth a fully functioning handball and ping pong ball. However it was Gina and Laurance Papale who gave the most graphic description of weathered jar of Nutella that proved the most interesting and entertaining story of the day.

Following the clean-up, students were rewarded with pizza that had been supplied by the Student Council and a cold drink donated by McDonalds Family Restaurant. All of the students involved would attest to the fact that whilst there were hot and humid working conditions, there was also a lot of fun and laughter heard during this worthwhile activity.

TOASTMASTERS COURSE 2013

Burdekin Toastmasters are once again offering year 11 students a chance to improve their confidence, communication, and leadership skills. The Toastmasters Youth Leadership Programme has been conducted at Home Hill High every year since 1980, and has always proven popular and successful. This year’s course will commence on Monday 22 April, at 7.30pm, at the High School. Because it is a “learn by doing” programme, the actual duration of the course will be six or eight weeks depending on the number of participants. By “learn by doing” we mean that, apart from the first night, the students do almost everything on the programme. They elect their own President who chairs the meeting, they evaluate the progress of their peers, and do whatever else is needed. It is definitely not a case of “talking heads” trying to convey information, and it is conducted in a friendly and non-competitive atmosphere.

More information will come home to the year 11 students soon, but start your planning now so that your son/daughter can be involved in what could be the highlight of their school year.

Phillip Scuderi
YLP Co-ordinator.
U15 & OPEN NETBALL

Both the U15 and Open girls had an outstanding start to the competition this year. Home Hill played their old nemesis, Bowen High in the first round. Bowen has always fielded very strong teams in the past.

The Open girls, with capable shooters Madalin Vassalini and Nicole Hudson proved too strong for Bowen, winning 20/10. Kimberley Bourke and Cailin Betteridge strongly defended Bowen’s shooters while Kate Neal, Emily Poli, Mackenzie Falco and Nicola Williams were all competent in centre court.

The U15 girls also gelled well with players from years 8, 9 and 10. Experienced shooters Ashleigh Dwyer and Alana Swindley had no trouble in the attacking circle, while newcomer Naomi Loizou proved to be a formidable defender along with Savannah Cannavan and Cassie Loizou. Centre court was well covered by Andi Gelling, Dana Falco, Jacklyn Walters and Elly Caspanello. The final score was 27/17 to Home Hill. Congratulations Girls!

Rugby League

The U15 and Open boys were faced with an unfriendly draw seeing them play last year’s winners, Bowen High School in the first round. Despite limited training and the oppressive weather, all the boys gave 110% and will be better for the run.

The U15 boys had a full complement and fought hard to keep the scores respectable. Notable performances came from Boydie Spalding, who scored our only try and Druce Becke who played an outstanding game.

With several of the senior players unavailable, the Open boys struggled to field a full-strength team. Bowen High proved too strong with a solid victory but the boys will be looking for revenge when they visit Bowen in a few rounds time.

This game was the first to use the brand new goal posts (which double as soccer goals).
BSSS UPDATE

Congratulations to the following Home Hill High School students who made NQ teams for their chosen sports. Mackenzie Falco and Kimberly Bourke, Open girls water polo; Mackenzie and Dana Falco, Swimming; Adam Walton and Jacklyn Walters (shadow), Tennis; Kate Neal (shadow), Touch.

Good luck to the students travelling away for Burdekin Soccer and Rugby league Thursday 7 March. I know you will do the school proud.

The next set of NQ trials are set for Monday 18 March for Netball, AFL, Rugby Union and Squash.

Remember to keep listening to the morning notices for trial dates or See Miss Horan for more details.

Miss T HORAN
BSSS Co-ordinator

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Disco ❤️

On 5 February, Home Hill State High School made their way down to the Greek Hall for the first disco of the year. As always, the theme revolved around Valentine’s Day and the year 11 Disco Committee came up with ‘Farmer wants a Wife’. Lots of wives and farmers filled the dance floor and showed off their best dance moves. Best dressed went to Madalin Vassalini and Bradley Free. Thank you to Mrs Thomas who organised the Disco, the teachers who supervised and helped make the night a success and to Mr Neal who provided police supervision on the night, and of course thank you to those of you who turned up and made it a great night. We hope to see you all at the next disco to be held next term.

The Disco Committee.