Principal’s Report

You would have heard about the Great Teachers = Great Results action plan in the media recently, and you will hear more as times go on. One thing that Home Hill SHS has consistently been recognised for, is exactly that – great teachers and great results.

So how are we going about maintaining that reputation and building further on it? First, we have our Explicit Improvement Agenda – this is how we go about targeting those things which we believe will drive our school forward to even better results. The “Big 3” for 2013 are:

- Teacher pedagogy (how we teach)
- Literacy
- Data Literacy - Understanding all information available to us about students, and catering for their needs.

Of course, there are more priorities and other important areas, but these three areas form the fundamentals around long term successful outcomes for students. The first one is about our program to ensure we have Great Teachers. Our teachers are constantly examining their practice and this year we are in the process of formulating a framework which underpins this. For example, your students would know about “Learning Goals” – this is one part which we already implement which forms a natural part of our pedagogy. It is about ensuring students know exactly what they are learning and then knowing whether the students have attained those goals.

Our professional development in pedagogy will be continuous, as our teachers learn, discuss and share practice which will fit within the structure of our “Home Hill” pedagogical framework. We always remember why we are doing this – to provide the best for your children and to get Great Results.

I am pleased to give you an update on our Apostrophes project, where we had a school wide focus on improving the apostrophe usage (information is on our website). The results were very good, with the actual results 12% higher on the second test. The tests were not easy but every class made improvement – 11A English topped the school moving from 89% to 98% accuracy! Brilliant! So next time you need help with apostrophes, ask your children!

I was delighted to attend the Drama Festival performance on Friday evening – what a wonderful performance by our students. Our students were received very well and had a great time doing it. Thanks to our staff who put in many, many hours preparing for this. And well done parents for having such great kids who are willing to have a go!

Finally, please keep your children’s attendance up – just one lesson away can disrupt your child’s learning. Recently, I have been working with a small group of Year 9s to help boost their numeracy levels and it struck me how difficult it was when one or two of them were missing from school. So, please minimise school absences wherever possible.

All the best
Steven Miskin

Next P&C Meeting

The May meeting of the P&C will be held Tuesday, 14 May at 7.45 pm in the Staff Common Room. All are welcome to attend.

Dates to Remember

- 14-16 May NAPLAN
- Sunday 19 May – Grower Race Day Clean-up
- Tuesday 21 May – NQ Cross Country
- Friday 24 May – FETE
- Monday 3 June – QCS Parents Information Night
- Wednesday 5 June – Science Competition
THE QCS TEST

What is it?
- QCS stands for the Queensland Core Skills:
- The QCS test is a common state-wide test for year 12 students.
- It is an achievement test, not an intelligence test nor an aptitude test.
- It is grounded in the Queensland senior curriculum.
- It is accessible to all year 12 students, regardless of individual differences in subject patterns.

What does it test?
- It tests the 49 common curriculum elements (CCE’s) of the Queensland senior curriculum.

What is the purpose of the test?
- It provides individual results reported on a five point scale (A-E)
- It provides group results for comparing the achievement of students in different subject groups and different schools in order to calculate Overall Positions (OP score)
- It provides group results for calculating Field Positions (FP scores) – up to 5 per student, depending on subject choice.

Who sits the test?
- All year 12 students may sit the test.
- If you are eligible for an OP score you must sit the test.
- If you are not eligible for an OP score you may sit the test but your result will not contribute to the calculation of OPs. Your test result will be recorded on your Senior Statement.

When is it held?
- Tuesday 3 September & Wednesday 4 September this year.

What is in the test?
- There are 4 papers: Writing Task, Short Response, and two Multiple Choice papers.

What preparation is useful?
- Work being done every day in class helps prepare students for the QCS Test because the common curriculum elements are generic skills.
- At Home Hill SHS the Year 12 students will participate in a special program designed to assist them to be as prepared for as possible. This program will begin towards the end of Term 2 for year 12 students and continue weekly until the QCS test in early September.
- This in-school preparation will include practice tests using past QCS test papers which will be marked by teachers at the school using answers supplied by the Queensland Studies Authority.

More information?
- Come to the QCS information evening on Monday 3 June.

S. Buttsworth
Deputy Principal
**NAPLAN - Information for Parents**

What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

What will be tested, and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The Writing task requires students to write a persuasive text.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task can be accessed on the NAP website: [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or the principal. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How is NAPLAN performance measured?

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. Each test scale has ten bands and all year levels are reported on the same scale. Six bands are reported for each year level for each test. One of these bands will represent the national minimum standard for students at each year level. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia.

What happens if my child is absent from school on test days?

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 17 May.

Will I receive a report on my child’s performance?

A NAPLAN report will be issued by your school later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. If you do not receive a report, you should contact the school. Individual student results are strictly confidential.

How are NAPLAN test results used?

- Schools use results to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching programs and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- Students and parents may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help them better identify students who require greater challenges or additional support.
- The community can see average school NAPLAN results on the My School website.

What are the test dates this year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Tuesday May 14</th>
<th>Wednesday May 15</th>
<th>Friday May 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td><strong>45 minutes</strong></td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy - <strong>Calculator</strong> 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td><strong>40 minutes</strong></td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
<td>Numeracy - <strong>Non-calculator</strong> 40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will have at least 20 minutes between tests on Tuesday and Thursday.

What do the students need?

Students require:

- 2B or HB pencils (or black or blue pen for the Writing test)
- An eraser
- A sharpener
- A calculator for the Numeracy – calculator allowed test.
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

This year the Commerce Department introduced a new subject in year 10 called Vocational Education. Embedded in this subject are two certificate courses, the first of which is Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology. Students have been working hard, and the majority of them have now completed their first certificate. This will entitle them to two QCE points which they can bank towards the end of year 12.

Congratulations to the following students on receiving your Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology: Renee Connors, Nakoma Coutts, Bridgette Hill, Katherine Hookey, Sophie Loizou, Rachel Marano, Gina Papale, Christina Postma, Brontie Rea, Connor Sibson, Jaymi Tait, William Thomson, Aden West, Jarred Whitman, Samuel Woodlock, Daniel Zamperoni.
Dear Parents and Students,

- Preparations for the 2013 Home Hill High School Fete are well underway. In order for the night to be a success we need your help.

- Students in various year levels have been asked to donate items for the fete:
  - year 8s: Treasure Tray prizes
  - year 9s: Bottles
  - year 10s and 11s: Cake Stall - items or ingredients
  - year 12s: Cent Sale prizes
  - ALL: grocery items for the wheelbarrow raffle

- Parental assistance is also required for the smooth running of the fete. We need parental help in a number of areas including:
  - Working on the cake stall
  - Helping prepare salads for the hamburger stall
  - Helping at the BBQ preparing and selling burgers
  - Selling raffle tickets on the night
  - Helping to set up on Friday and clean up on Saturday.

If you are able to assist in any way please contact the school (47905666)

REMEMBER TO LEAVE FRIDAY 24 MAY FREE

COME ALONG TO THE SCHOOL FETE AND HAVE A GREAT FAMILY NIGHT OUT

ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO COME ALONG

SEE YOU AT THE FETE
Since the school’s inception almost 50 years ago, Home Hill High students have remembered the ANZACs through their participation in class, school, community and Australia-wide Anzac Day Commemoration activities.

2013 was certainly no exception. Home Hill High’s Anzac Day Ceremony, led by the Student Council, was even more moving this year with the inclusion of a poppy laying procession to place a poppy on the school’s Anzac Memorial Garden’s stone in memory of a family member who served our country. A large number of students, staff, parents and special guests paid a solemn tribute to the ex-service men and women of Australia while the heartrending song “ANZAC (We Will Remember You)” by Perth Blues musician, Rick Steele. Mr Steele personally gave permission for the students to use the song during the ceremony.

We were very fortunate to have a number of special guests attend our school ceremony. Guest speaker for the ceremony was Flying Officer Ben Southey, a Logistics Officer from 1 Airfield Operations Support Squadron at the Royal Australian Air Force Base in Townsville.

Principal, Mr Miskin also gave a thought provoking address for those assembled.

Other guests included Federal Member for Dawson, Mr George Christensen; Mayor of the Burdekin Shire, Vietnam Veteran, and Patron of the Home Hill RSL, Mr Bill Lowis; President of the Home Hill RSL, Mr Herb Lennox; Secretary of the Home Hill RSL, and co-compiler of the book ‘Home Hill Remembers’, Mr Allan Petersen; and parents, Mrs Nyree Woods and Mrs Lara Brotto.

Ken Hall, from Anzack Tradings Home Hill, dressed in authentic World War II uniform of soldiers based in the Tropics, Darwin or New Guinea. Mr Alan Finn, represented the Australian Light Horse in full regalia. Mr Finn’s Grandson, year 9 student, Thomas Sibson also represented the Australian Air Cadets and stood at attention in his camouflage uniform during the ceremony.

The Student Council Executive capably ran the Anzac Ceremony with the introductions and the Prayer. The last post was played by HHSSH Music Teacher, Mr Leon Stucas who served over 24 years in the Royal Australian Navy. One minute’s silence was then observed followed by the playing of Reveille by Mr Stucas and the Lament by Mr Bill Christie, a retired Vietnam Veteran who has played the Lament on the pipes at the Anzac Day Dawn Service and others since 1973.

Students, staff and guests proudly sang the Australian National Anthem led by Reece D’Alessandro and listened intently during the New Zealand Anthem.
The magnificent Anzac Day Display in the Resource Centre surrounded those involved in the school’s Anzac Day Ceremony during a special morning tea. The display created by Library staff, Josie Harper and Josie Wood, with assistance from students of the school, features genuine artefacts, memorabilia and uniforms from many war campaigns kindly on loan from students, staff, the Home Hill RSL, Lavarack Barracks and the local community, in particular, Mr Ken Hall.

The Anzac Day display was also available for parents to view during the Parent-Teacher Interviews this week, and will be open to the public during the Home Hill High Fete on Friday 24 May. It is certainly something worth seeing!

The following day Home Hill High students attended the Dawn Service, Cemetery, Mass, RSL breakfast and the main parade. Around 90 students and staff walked during the parade and attended the community ceremony with year 11 and 12 students from Home Hill High as flag bearers at the forefront.

For several years Home Hill High students have been involved in a variety of activities to remember those who have and are currently serving this great country of ours. These include: messages to the troops via email and mail, postcards to the troops, Christmas cards and care packages to the troops; Remembrance Day class activities, student’s involvement in the preparation of the book Home Hill Remembers, prepared by member of the Home Hill RSL, selling of poppies, ribbons and coins for the Home Hill RSL, ANZAC Spirit activities and competition; Library/Resource Centre Displays by staff and students, Anzac Memorial Garden and memorial stone, descendants research of war service records, curriculum implementations with relevance to campaigns of war.

Home Hill High remembers....

Lest we forget.
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Steven,

Re: Commemoration of ANZAC Day.

As April 2013 closes, I am pleased to send this brief note to pass on our community’s appreciation to you, the school’s staff and students on an excellent effort with this year’s ANZAC Day commemorations.

Late in February, Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch launched the book ‘Home Hill Remembers’ to coincide with Home Hill centenary celebrations.

Research behind the Honour Boards will help many of our residents understand the character of people who contributed to the very beginnings of the district and the town of Home Hill in 1912-1913. Those people were of course men and women who endured hardships as well as World conflict.

As Patron and Trustee of the Home Hill RSL, I was extremely honoured to have senior students from Home Hill High take part in the book launch along with RSL members, dignitaries, descendants, and the general public. They are all fine upstanding young people who conducted themselves extremely well and who shared quality time with interesting characters.

As Mayor of the Shire I had opportunity to attend the school commemorative ceremony conducted the day prior to ANZAC Day which was well planned and conducted. Students’ attention to detail and observation of our national day was most impressive and the library display in presenting past memorabilia reflected much thought and information relative to ANZAC.

Finally, I would respectfully ask that you congratulate all students who participated in the Home Hill ANZAC Day March and ceremony dedication. Many played a direct part as flag bearers; others honoured us by just being there.

On behalf of the Burdekin Shire community and Home Hill RSL Sub-Branch, I congratulate the school on an extremely well presented ANZAC commemoration.

I wish all students success from endeavour.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Lowes
Mayor
Cross Country

2010-Beachmount, 2011-Upstart, 2012-Inkerman. The running of the Cross Country in the last three years has been a gruelling battle between the houses and each time the result has been very close. This year it was anyone’s game. The battle begun in period 7 and 8 and continued until thirty-five minutes was up... or the last student passed the line. Some students even opted for mind game tactics, sprinting at the start to scare the competition. Students’ knees were shivering when Mr Miskin and Mr Postma stepped onto the track, swapping dress shoes for joggers.

With Brianne gone and one of the Previsera brothers out of action, it seemed Upstart was out of the running and it was to be Inkerman’s year again. However, with a consistent effort from Beachmount, we reigned supreme yet again. Beachmount’s House Captains Joel Hanson and Cailin Betteridge proudly accepted the Inter-House Cross Country trophy on behalf of their house. All students ran incredibly well considering the day was very hot. All teachers are to be thanked especially Miss Murphy for doing a great job on organising the event.

Mark Barbagallo

Netball

Both the Under 15 and Open teams finished the 6 week competition undefeated and therefore minor premiers. The Open girls met a very determined Bowen High in the finals and although they led 6/4 after the first quarter they fell into a bit of a hole in the second and third quarters. The Bowen defence really rattled the Home Hill shooters Madalin Vassalini and Nicole Hudson. With only half a minute to go in the last quarter Home Hill were down by one goal. Nicole Hudson came through to score the levelling goal just before the full time whistle. This left the score 13/13 going into 10 minutes of extra time. Fortunately Home Hill settled a little and got in the lead early, finally winning the match 18/17. For Home Hill, Kate Neal in centre court played an outstanding game and was player of the grand final. She was well supported by Cailin Betteridge who moved from goal keeper to goal defence in the last quarter and was able to hunt down a lot of intercepts. Congratulations to these girls, Emily Poli, Cailin Betteridge, Madalin Vassalini, Nicole Hudson, Kate Neal, Nicola Williams, Kimberley Bourke, Shenead Gelling and Mackenzie Falco.

In the Under 15s Home Hill were to play BCH in the final. BCH and Bowen had been equal second but BCH won the right to play in the final on a count back of goals. Unfortunately BCH did not make it over to the final and our girls won the final unopposed.

Congratulations to these girls for their great games throughout the competition; Alana Swindley, Ashleigh Dwyer, Jacklyn Walters, Andi Gelling, Dana Falco, Savannah Cannavan, Cassandra Loizou, Naomi Loizou, Elly Caspanello and Amanda Bourke.
NQ Selection

Congratulations to Callan Sunderland who was recently selected in the NQ Open Cricket team. Callan will travel to Bundaberg in October for the State Trials.

Getting it Right the 1st Time

TORGAS the Apprentice and Trainee Specialists are proud to announce our mobile careers expo and apprentice retention project “Getting it Right the First Time”.

This project is unique as it is tailored to engage year 11 and 12 students directly. It is intended that this project will put current year 12 students on a clearer career path as well as putting year 11 students in a tracking pipeline which will motivate them to strive consistently at school so as to achieve their career aspirations.

TORGAS representatives will visit each secondary high school in Townsville, Ayr, Home Hill, Ingham and Charters Towers to explain the resources available, activities to be provided and to build relationships with students whilst linking employment opportunities with industry.

Students are invited to participate in school visits which include virtual presentations, mini career expos, educational and promotional merchandising and the opportunity to speak to mentors in their chosen careers. Additionally students will be encouraged to register their interest in the project by applying through our school portal website www.torgas.com.au/schools. Each student who applies will take part in a recruitment and selection process.

Successful applicants will be placed in structured work experience through the TORGAS employer network. Students will receive personal protective equipment to prepare them for their chosen work environment and receive regular site visits from TORGAS representatives and/or mentors.

It is expected that the outcomes for participating students will be conversion from work experience to a school based apprenticeship or a full time apprenticeship/traineeship and a greater understanding of workplace expectations which help guide the students to employment in an area that is best suited to their interest and capabilities.

Limited positions are available. We encourage Indigenous students, women in non-traditional trades and disadvantaged backgrounds to apply.

For further information contact our School Project Officer Nicole Gillespie on 4759 0000 or email ngillespie@torgas.com.au
Year 8 Japanese

Origami – it is good for improving your coordination!

Students in year 8 Japanese classes made origami last term. It was the first time for some of them, but they were good! Some of them even made origami cranes which are quite challenging. Well done!

Year 9 Japanese

Last term the year 9 Japanese class was fortunate to have a three native Japanese people join the class: Emma, a Japanese student, Takayuki, a guest Japanese speaker and Yuuki, a Japanese assistant teacher. The students had discussions with Emma and Takayuki about differences between Australian and Japan regarding schools and high school students. Emma and Takayuki were impressed with how lively and active Australian students are and also their ability to speak up and express themselves.

As a part of cultural study and reward the students also had a nice experience making Japanese buckwheat noodles.

Here are two of the students’ comments...

- “Cooking osoba (buckwheat noodles) in Japanese class was fun and the soba was yum. I had a fun time!” - Michael Baker.

- “The food was fun to eat and make as everyone worked together so well. The food tasted great and so different! I have never had anything like it before and it was really nice! I can’t wait to have it and more Japanese food again!!” - Tiarn Barton-Ilic.

As a part of a cultural study, Japanese student Emma also taught calligraphy.
This year’s Burdekin Interschool Drama Festival was an outstanding success. The three local high schools gave stellar performances of their one act plays to a sold out audience on Friday 3 May at the Burdekin Theatre in Ayr. Miss Clark, Mrs Viero and Mr Jackson were very proud of the cast and crew.

Home Hill’s performance of The Night of the Cryonic Dead revolved around Girl and Boy Scout camps that were set up close to the Cryonic Frozen Protection Storage Facility for the Future Living. On a moonlit night, the depraved caretakers thawed the bloodthirsty corpses and released them to terrorise the scouts... and members of the Burdekin. But the creatures were subdued with garlic, pantyhose and the Harlem Shake. This pop culture music enticed them back to the ‘facility’ Pied Piper style. It was a hysterically funny show that had a large cast and crew and included memorable characters such as Damon, Ivy, Rusty and Vic. Thanks to our special guest stars Mr Gall and Mr Buttsworth, and of course, the Scouts and Cryonics... or were they Zombies?

Congratulations to Aaron Cockburn who received the Best Actor Award and to Reece D’Alessandro who was awarded Best Supporting Actor. Special recognition was given to Mark Barbagallo who received the Director’s Award for his professionalism and dedication to the play.

The Drama Festival is an annual event and we encourage all students, especially seniors to consider taking part next year. Being part of a school production, whether as cast or crew, is a memory you will treasure for years to come. We are very fortunate in the Burdekin to have such hands-on access to the theatre and all of its equipment. Students are responsible for both sound and lighting on the night and are taught technical skills by industry professionals.

A heart-felt thanks to all those involved in the ongoing production of this play.