Principal’s Report

Well, what a year that has been! When you suddenly find yourself in December, it is a sure sign of how busy a school life we have here!

It certainly has been worth it, as our students have had an outstanding year with success after success coming our way. I am very proud of the effort that our students have put in and the way they have conducted themselves throughout the year. At the academic and sports awards evenings, we celebrated the highest levels of performance and encouraged our students to achieve their best.

In a range of sporting activities throughout the year, Home Hill High has shown its calibre—never giving in and showing the bigger schools what we can do. I believe that is something that makes this school so great—we may be small but we step up to the challenge and deliver. It is this great attitude which will see our students continue to excel.

Community and cultural events this year have been a strong feature of school, as our students deliver on the Citizenship agenda. The leadership and commitment to service ideals in this school are strong and I am constantly refreshed by the positive and caring attitude our students bring to school.

But, behind all this success is our wonderful staff. I keep telling our students that what goes on in this school is not the norm. My staff are amazing and they just do what they do, to the nth degree, because they want our kids to have the best opportunities and for them to be their best. The level of commitment they show to improving student outcomes is admirable and the extent of extra-curricular activities is incredible. I do believe that most of our students recognise this and that recognition from students and parents, encourages us all to keep working hard.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your excellent support this year. In particular, I wish to thank Mr Steve Postma, Mr Stephen Fabbro, Mrs Annemaree D’Alessandro, Mrs Julie Bourke and Mrs Allyson Falco who I have relied upon on many occasions for a range of things. I hope that our P&C continues to grow stronger, as more parents and carers become involved. All in all, the P&C had an excellent year, with many positive developments in the school. And finally to all parents and carers, thank you for having such great kids!

I ask that all of our school community continue to spread the good word about our school. To tell the great stories of success and why Home Hill SHS should be the school of choice for all secondary students who live in our area. I believe what we offer students is second to none. Modest enrolment growth is one of my priorities, as it ensures we continue to get the level of staffing and resourcing we need to deliver the best for all students. In our Golden Anniversary year of 2014, we want the Home Hill community to be firmly behind this wonderful high school and set the stage for the next 50 years of success.

May you all have a very merry Christmas and an excellent New Year. I wish our students the very best for a safe and relaxing break, so that they may return full of ambition, enthusiasm and desire to be the very best they can be.

Steven Miskin
Wednesday 27 November was an historic day for Home Hill SHS and the Home Hill community. A special Flag Raising ceremony was conducted at the school with special guests and the school community attending. For the first time in the school’s history the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags now fly alongside the Australian and Queensland flags at the school. Home Hill High Indigenous student Katherine Hookey told the gathering how much the school’s inclusion of the Aboriginal and Islander identity meant to her saying;

“As an Indigenous student at Home Hill High School, I feel honoured that we are able to display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flag at the front of our school for the first time in 49 years history. By having the flags flying alongside the Australian and Queensland flags shows the school community and the Burdekin district that Reconciliation is a priority within our school.”

Student Council Purchases New Outdoor Seating

Two new outdoor table and seating units have been purchased by the Student Council of 2013. These recently acquired picnic table settings are proving very popular with the students during lunch breaks. The 2013 Student Council voted unanimously to utilise their funds to buy this low maintenance, aluminium furniture for the benefit of all students at Home Hill High.

Corona Orders

Order forms for this year’s Corona have been sent home with students. The cost this year is $23.

Order forms can also be collected from the school Office.
Spectators were treated to some very entertaining Twenty-Twenty cricket action at the Home Hill Cricket Club over the past three weeks. Home Hill State High, Burdekin Catholic High and Bowen State High were involved in the annual interschool competition. Home Hill High remained undefeated and was given the chance to take out the competition for three consecutive years. It would prove to be no easy feat with Bowen High keen to stamp their mark.

The final was played on Monday 4 November and proved to be a real spectacle. Players were given the opportunity to play on a glorious turf wicket and outfield prepared by Scott Richards and Bob Ross.

Although the conditions were windy and most probably suited the away team, Home Hill broke through with some early wickets. Adam Zabala ended up with figures of 2-7, Ben Walters 2-1 and Mitchell Price-Wilson 3-9 while Ryan Attard took a great catch to dismiss Bowen’s inform batsman. Bowen’s batsmen amassed a final score of 9-51. Home Hill did not respond well with the opening batsmen being dismissed cheaply. Troy Shand and Ben Walters formed a great partnership with Troy top scoring with 13 not out. A jubilant Home Hill won the game with ten overs to spare.

Presentations followed the final where all players were commended on their sportsmanship and Home Hill High was presented the shield. Mr Ross was thanked for his efforts in coaching the Home Hill boys as well as his contributions to the preparation of the fields. Bob also donated medallions for the ‘Player of the Series’ and ‘Umpire Awards’ which acknowledged the player who showed enthusiasm and played in the true spirit of the game. This was another highlight of the presentations. The player of series was awarded to both Druce Becke and Adam Zabala from Home Hill State High while the umpire awards went to Mitchell Price-Wilson from Home Hill State High, Hayden Palmer from Burdekin Catholic High and Matthew Jenkins from Bowen State High.

REMEMBER!!
The school tuckshop will not be operating in the last week of school.

Link to Golden Anniversary Facebook page
As the school year draws to an end, the Science Department has been very busy.

Year 11 Biology completed their excursions to Beachmount, Wunjunga and Bowen while the year 11 Physics students launched rockets in anticipation to next year’s extended experimental investigation.

A large solar flare was viewed by year 10 students with the help of Mr Rob Black and his solar scope.

The final Astronomy night for the year allowed students, parents and staff to use the new 20 inch telescope that Mr Black generously donated to HHSHS. We are all very excited to have this incredible telescope at the school and it will definitely be beneficial in the teaching of astronomy units and linking content from the Australian Curriculum to the ‘Wonders of the Universe’. During the night we were able to see many planets and stars. The Tarantula Nebula was extremely impressive. We are very appreciative of all the time and effort Mr Rob Black has put in this year to help extend our Astronomy and Solar Science activities.

Cardio Tennis

What do you get when you cross dance music, tennis and a pedometer? Cardio Tennis!! On Tuesday 3 December, many of the 8s and 9s had a chance to try cardio tennis for themselves. Cardio Tennis in Secondary Schools is an innovative program dedicated to increasing the health and fitness of students; an energising workout to music that engages the entire class. Students wear pedometers and average 5 000 steps per student in 40 minutes. Mr Sam Bradshaw from Tennis NQ made several visits to schools around the Burdekin. Since the induction of the pilot program less than 6 months ago the HPE department has been able to incorporate the Cardio Tennis into both the HPE and Recreation Studies programs. As you can see it was well worth the trip and the kids had great fun.
Dear Nishihara Junior High School, Thank you very much for your letters!

Nishihara Junior High School (which is in Chiba prefecture in Japan and takes about an hour from Tokyo by train) has sent hand-written letters to the students of Home Hill State High School as part of a cultural exchange activity. It was exciting for everyone to read the letters from the Japanese students and learn a little about the things that they liked (and did not like so much)!

The Japanese classes are currently busy writing replies to the Nishihara Junior High School students and by doing so; they are able to put into practice some of the expressions that they have learnt. We are working hard to get our replies to the Japanese students before Christmas!
Japanese Trivia Quizzes and Reflections

As the year is drawing to a close, Year 8 and 9 Japanese students reflected on the skills that they have developed through creating a trivia quiz about Japanese language and culture. Here are some examples of some of the interesting questions the students created, and why the students created them.

Q1: What does ‘slurping your noodles’ mean in Japan?
A) Rude B) Disrespectful C) An appreciation D) Never want to try it again

I noticed that Japanese rules and manners (when it comes to eating) are a lot different to Australian rules and manners. Manners at the dinner table are different such as when Japanese people slurp their noodles, it is a sign of appreciation and gratefulness for the food. By Erin Grimbaldeston

Q2: What take-away food is traditionally eaten in Japan on Christmas Day?
A) Sizzlers B) KFC C) McDonald’s D) Subway

Although it may seem strange, the following tradition was born under the American’s tradition of eating turkey for Christmas. The Japanese did not originally celebrate Christmas and so having no traditions of their own adopted the turkey eating one. However, this changed when KFC launched a campaign called KFC for Christmas where they would eat KFC chicken instead of turkey which was both cheaper and easier for Japanese people. It quickly became more popular and now you can even pre-order your KFC for Christmas. This is very different to Australia where seafood is commonly eaten on Christmas Day instead of a hot meal because of the hot temperature. By Mikaylah Wall

Some other interesting student reflections were...

We are all different and have our own beliefs in how we live. No matter what background we come from however we are united in sharing in each other’s traditions in food, way of life and language, as we live in a multicultural country. By Gabriella Wallace

Samurai is a Japanese word that other languages (such as English) have used instead of creating their own word. Manga is another example of a Japanese word that the English language uses. Japan uses words like boomerang in their language rather than making up another word for it as they do not use the word much as it is an Australia thing. Both languages get words from other countries and languages to use for the same meaning. Usually the words are culturally attached to the country. This could be because of a language’s culture not having a certain item but another culture having it. So instead of making a new word for it, they just use the one already given to it by the other language. By Tiarn Barton-Ilic

Teaching Year 5 and 6 students Japanese at St Colman’s!

Three students from the year 9 Japanese class, Crystal Baillie, Samantha Burbidge and Mikaylah Wall visited St Colman’s and taught a Japanese lesson. This was an excellent opportunity for the students at St Colman’s to learn about Japanese language and culture and for our students to showcase what they have been learning in their Japanese classes.

The year 9 students did a fantastic job and the primary school students enjoyed their session on the day. Shirakoma-sensei is very proud of her students. 😊 Crystal-sensei, Samantha-sensei and Mikaylah-sensei, well done!
The year 8s and 9s were fortunate enough to participate in the “World of Maths” expo on Thursday 10 October. The workshop is internationally acclaimed, touring such countries as Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Ireland and the USA. It is aimed at upper primary/lower secondary such that HHSHS students worked in tandem with primary school students from St. Colmans. The purpose of the workshop was for students to foster mathematical problem-solving strategies via hands-on activities. Students worked in groups, rotating between 17 stations. Areas of mathematics included geometry, proportion, probability and optimisation – with links to topics currently being taught in the classroom. The students are to be commended for their active participants. Judging by their reactions, students found the tasks both educational and fun.

Year 10 Cake Icing

Year 10 Home economics students completed a very popular unit this term where they completed a formal iced cake. Students worked on this over six weeks; firstly they prepared their own fruit cake and then experimented with a number of different icings, plastic icing or fondant, modelling paste and royal icing. The students had great fun moulding flowers, Christmas trees, Santas, ribbons etc. and they enjoyed learning the various skills that can be employed with piping bags and tubes. They created their cakes in various themes such as Christmas, 18th birthdays, or novelty cakes.

The biggest handicap was the long awaited rain but that also allowed them to understand the fickle nature of icing on very humid or rainy days.
A valuable addition to the year 12 valedictory week program this year was the Driver Education Program. This program was generously sponsored by the Home Hill Bendigo Community Bank who organised the day and covered the significant cost of $5885. This was an important educational opportunity for our students, most of whom have just received their drivers licence.

The year 12s had to rise early to catch the bus at 6.45am ready for an 8.15am start at 1300 Smiles Stadium. The team consisted of a driver training school from Charters Towers, the Ambulance Service plus the head police driving instructor who trains police cadets.

Students spent a short time inside where they were instructed on the safety features of a vehicle including ABS (Anti-Lock Braking Systems) and various aspects of safe driving. The Ambulance personnel gave students valuable information about important steps to follow if they witness or are involved in an accident. For most of the day students were split into small groups and worked outside in the stadium car park. They moved around a number of stations where they participated in activities such as changing a tyre safely on the highway.

The driving instructors had three different stations set up. One being a navigation course in which they had to steer through a course of safety cones. Another was a timed egg and spoon race in a car where they had to perform a number of manoeuvres with an egg on the bonnet. The third station allowed students to experience braking distances with cars following another car at various speeds and with the ABS activated. Students were all able to individually navigate the vehicle for these and were then able to be a passenger while the instructor performed avoid and swerve manoeuvres with the ABS activated.

Overall the day was extremely successful and well received by the students, especially the interactive aspect of the program. The school would like to take this opportunity to thank the Home Hill Bendigo Community Bank for their generous donation and we look forward to continuing the program in 2014.