Welcome back to Semester 2! We had a brilliant first semester at Home Hill High, with so many fine achievements inside and outside the classrooms. I congratulate our students on their dedication to their studies, and to the wide range of extracurricular activities which make this school a very special place.

This is a big term, particularly for our Year 12s as they aim to maximise their results to ensure they leave our school with the best possible results to secure that university place, TAFE position, apprenticeship or work placement. I have been talking with the Year 12 group about maintaining their focus right to the end of the year - throughout my career I have seen a number of cases of Year 12s stuck in party mode way before they finish and as a consequence, pay the price by not getting the results they are capable of. At the same time, we are all very conscious of the pressures on our Year 12s and our school community needs to work together to support and encourage them. It is a wonderful time for these students, and I look forward to congratulating their successful completion of secondary schooling. Go for it Year 12s!

One of our priorities in North Queensland schools is maximising attendance. The reason is simple – student achievement and attendance are directly related. I ask all parents and carers to ensure that absences from school are minimised. I was very pleased to send out Platinum (100% attendance) and Gold Awards (less than 3 days absent) to our students who demonstrated outstanding attendance in Semester 1. Of course I recognise that legitimate illness can strike anyone at any time and we certainly do not want sick children attending school. However, we need to ensure that where possible, other activities (including family holidays) are organised outside of school time.

Since being here, I have been pleased that most students understand the significant risks of skin cancer and wear their hats regularly without reminder. Having had my first skin cancers cut out recently, I am very aware of how critical sun safety is. We have a simple rule here and that is that students are to wear hats when on the oval – we need to ensure that all students have the HHSHS hats with them each day, especially when students have HPE. If your child does not have a hat, please arrange for the purchase of one as soon as possible and nag them to take them to school.

Our focus for this term remains squarely around learning, with special attention on literacy (reading comprehension) and our pedagogical framework (how we teach). We also will be preparing in earnest for our Golden Anniversary which is next year – I am interested in hearing from school community members who may be able to actively assist in these preparations.

I look forward to another fantastic semester in what is truly a very good school indeed. My message to our students is to value learning and know the benefits that will come from actively engaging in their studies, and that is reflected in our motto “Finis Coronat Opus” or “The End Crowns the Work”.

Steven Miskin
Principal
Visit from Ex-Principal, Barry Donaghy

Barry Donaghy, principal from 1989 to 1991 dropped in for a visit recently to catch up. It was great to see Barry and we are sure many parents will remember him. He had many stories to tell, including how the roof of the Home Ec building came off during a cyclone. It was great to catch up with him, and has prompted us all to think about the Golden Anniversary next year and how we have to keep touch with our past students and staff.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

A reminder that parent teacher interviews will take place at the school on Tuesday 23 July, from 3.20 until 5.30pm. More detailed information has been given out with student report cards, which were issued on 21 June, together with an appointment card. It is important for parents to remember that the student should be contacting their teachers with the appointment card if an interview is required. Parent teacher interviews provide the opportunity for parents to ask questions of their child’s teachers and to hear feedback about their child’s progress. We look forward to seeing many of you on the 23 July.

Youth Conservatorium

We were pleased to receive advice recently that Reece D’Alessandro was successful in being nominated for the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University State Honour Ensemble Program for Voice Baritone. Reece will participate in the program in Brisbane from 3 to 6 October. We were also advised that Courtney Woods was selected as a reserve in the Voice Soprano program and may well end up in Brisbane as well. This is fantastic recognition for both students – well done!

Fete Raffle Winners

First prize – Sam Marano - 4 Cowboys tickets + accommodation in Townsville
Second prize – Mark Liessmann - 2 nights’ accommodation at Rose Bay Resort Bowen
Third prize – Malcolm McArdle - 1 night’s accommodation at Broken River Mountain Resort

Thanks to all those that supported our raffle this year.
Great Opportunities for Students

You have to be in it to win it……..

From time to time there are great opportunities for students to attend programs or events or to gain a financial scholarship. There are currently 2 great opportunities that you could consider applying for.

University of Queensland Young Scholars Program

This is a five day (four night) residential camp open to Year 11 students. It will be held in November and costs $595. Selection is based on academic excellence, leadership achievements and/or significant contribution to school or community. Students apply by sending their Semester 1 report card and writing a 300 word personal statement. Families with financial hardship can apply to have fees waived and also to be assisted with the cost of travel to Brisbane. Nominations are due by August 9. Further information is available at: www.uq.edu.au/youngscholars.

RSL Youth Development Program

Year 10 and 11 students can apply for a grant of $2500 (or $5000 for the top 10% selected). Students can receive grants in any of the following categories: academic achievement (including Arts, Drama, Dance, Media); sporting achievement; community leadership and civic participation. Students have to choose a category, identify and verify achievement, get a letter of support from a RSL sub-branch member, get a letter of reference from someone who can verify achievements (eg Principal, sports coach, community leader) plus write an essay about the importance of the RSL and ANZAC values to Australia’s youth. Applications close November 11. Recipients also can apply for a scholarship worth 50% of tuition fees at Bond University. There were 200 grants awarded in 2012 but you have to be in it to win it!

Further information is available from: www.RSLyouth.com.au

If you would like more information, please contact Steve Buttsworth, the Deputy Principal on 47905666.

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BURDEKIN SHOW

Home Hill State High Learning, Performance and Citizenship on display!

The excellence, diligence, hard work, talents and successes of students and staff from Home Hill State High School were on display in the Burdekin show pavilion during the school holidays. The pavilion supervisor Robyn Hewson was most pleased to have our school involved in the show and noted that Member for the Burdekin Rosemary Menkens, Mayor Bill Lowis, along with many show patrons and visitors, were particularly impressed with the achievements of our school.

Teacher Librarian, Lisa Todeschino, wishes to thank all students and staff who contributed work for the display.
Holiday Reading Competition

Students who borrowed books to read over the holidays and returned them first day back at school this term went into a prize draw. Congratulations to Samantha Burbidge (Year 9) who had her pick of the Library prize box.

A variety of brand new books are currently available for loan and the Resource Centre ‘Horror Stories’, ‘Jungle Fever’ and ‘Manga Madness’ themed displays also provide some ideas for great books to read!

Spirit of the ANZAC Competition winners

The Resource Centre/Library ANZAC Spirit competition was won by Mark Barbagallo (Year 12) with his charcoal drawing of Mr Alan Finn, representing the Lighthorse, leading Home Hill High students in the community parade for ANZAC Day and Karli Linton (Year 8) who wrote a series of letters written from the front line during World War 1. Both students received prizes from the Library Prize box.

Mark also entered the Army Museum of North Queensland Spirit of the ANZAC Competition and placed second among the 85 entries from schools around NQ. Mark was awarded $30 and four books for the school Library/Resource Centre.

Congratulations Karli and Mark!

NAIDOC – ‘Shake a Leg’ with Boori (Monty) Pryor!

On Wednesday 17 July, all Year 8 and Year 10 students, plus the Indigenous students of the school, will partake in a participatory program with award winning author and performer Boori (Monty) Pryor. The session may include a combination of dance, didgeridoo, body-painting, Dreamtime stories and personal stories from Monty’s life, followed by discussion. Boori will visit the school from 9am-10.10am at the stage area. All parents are welcome to attend the session. Please sign in at the office on arrival.

Boori’s visit ties into the school’s NAIDOC events this week. The Resource Centre has a display celebrating Aboriginal and Islander culture. If any families have artefacts or artwork to loan to the display please bring to the Library/Resource Centre by Monday 15 July.

A limited number of autographed copies of ‘Maybe Tomorrow’, co-authored by Boori (Monty) Pryor, are available for purchase at the school. Please bring payment of $27.99 to the office ASAP to secure your copy.

For further information contact Teacher-Librarian, Lisa Todeschino.
Woolies Earn & Learn

Thank you for your support of Woolies Earn & Learn!! Last chance to send stickers in next week!

Last year HHSHS claimed 15650 points worth of resources including books, games, stationary, indigenous resources and teaching aids thanks to Woolworth’s Earn & Learn Program. This year we are close! Sticker sheets will be sent off next week so please send them in to the Library or office ASAP!!

CYPERSAFETY REMINDER

Cybersafety is a broad term referring to appropriate and responsible behaviour online – it covers privacy online and information protection, good manners and behaviour online, and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues.

Cyberbullying is when technology, such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms and social networking sites, are used to verbally or socially bully another person. Bullying is an ongoing abuse of power to threaten or harm another person.

Home Hill State High School, together with Education Queensland, remains committed to ensuring the safety of all students. Students and parents can access more information about cybersafety on the following websites:

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

SPARK ENGINEERING CAMP

In the first week of the school holidays Ben and I (Ryan Attard) left for Brisbane to attend the Spark Engineering Camp for 2013. We were fortunate enough to be selected from over 400 students across Queensland and New South Wales to travel down to Brisbane and live at the University of Queensland at St Lucia for a week. 64 high school students in Years 10, 11 and 12 were chosen to participate in this camp, whether we had chosen engineering as a future career path or not. Spark demonstrated to us what engineering was all about and the multiple streams of engineering we could elect to study. The 64 of us were separated into eight groups, where we all engaged in numerous engineering related activities and information lectures and sessions. We were presented with many practical and hands-on challenges which consisted of bridge building, water purification, constructing robots, designing and building a parachute to safely land an egg, powering small cities and many more engineering based challenges. We also visited the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology as well as CSIRO and DSM Biologics. Not only did this camp focus on engineering, but on university life as well. Ben and I were able to experience first-hand what it’s like to live at university and how different it is to life back in Home Hill. As part of this camp we had the chance to climb the Story Bridge which was an amazing experience. Both Ben and I had made great friends from Spark and it was a once in a lifetime opportunity that is not to be missed.

By Ryan Attard and Ben Walters
Being asked, “What do you want to do when you leave school?” often causes confusion and uncertainty. With Year ten coming to an end and our senior years fast approaching, our future is one of our main focuses here at Home Hill High. What do we want to be when we leave school? Do we want to go to University? What courses does it supply? Would we be able to afford Uni? With all these questions floating in our minds, we grow confused of the path we wish to take in our future career. So when the three of us (Sophie Liozou, Samantha Carrett and Matilda Benz) were accepted into the JCU Year 10 Residential Camp in Townsville, we were excited to finally have these questions answered. The camp was held in the second week of the holidays between 1 and 5 July and was aimed towards those confused about university life or unsure about the finance and courses.

Monday afternoon we arrived at St Mark’s College in Townsville along with around 100 other students from 38 different schools within Queensland. Once we finished unpacking, we began the week with team building activities which involved getting to know people and work with them in teams. In one of the activities we had to carry a kayak, a tire, sandbags and rope through an obstacle course consisting of crawling under a tarp, over and under hurdles and through two poles with string attached to them. If any objects or team members came into contact with the string on those poles there was a penalty of one push up for the whole team. Some teams, including ours, had to do a total of 52 push ups! Later we moved on to one of the lecture rooms and then we were given a welcome to St Mark’s. As the sun began to set, we finished the day with Speed Friending, this was a great way to end the day and meet many interesting people with different hobbies and personalities.

We woke up bright and early Tuesday morning and began the day by being split into groups of four. These were called our Tutorial Groups and we would be doing most activities within them. We each filled out our booklets on career choices and short and long term goals, a great tool for future planning. Then we moved to our first subject taster, Physics. This was one of the most interesting events of the week as we watched awesome experiments and learnt things through participating in experiments. Then we moved on to the aquarium where we covered a bit about marine biology and got to see some fish (we found Nemo!). Then to end the day, we participated in hula hooping, a drum circle and a drama workshop.

On Wednesday, we had a ball! We went to a seminar, that taught us about the costs of uni and the grants and scholarships that you can apply for. For the test of the morning and afternoon, we went to course on sea snakes, media arts and we made “Jitterbugs”. The sea snakes course was mainly information about the endangered species. In the media arts course, we got to do photo shopping and learn what the course was about. The “Jitterbugs” were old CD’s that had pipe cleaner legs and motors on them to make them “jitter”. In the evening, we had our fancy dress night and we had to come dressed as our favourite career. The careers ranged from hairdressers to Hogwarts students. Samantha came dressed as a business women, Sophie as a news reporter and Matilda as a doctor. That night we also had a talent show. The talents were mainly singing and dancing, but there was one girl who licked her elbow... anyway it was a great night.

Thursday was mainly about getting our “student” finished so we could present later that day. The presentations were great and the group of 110 bonded a lot more. This night was the most exciting night, because it was our graduation! This consisted of dressing ‘smart’ and listening to inspirational speeches. When graduation was over, we had an ‘after party’ which involved really awkward twerking coming from the ambassadors and really awesome music and heaps of fun!

Friday was the day to say goodbye to all the friends that we made and head on home.

Thank you so much once to the teachers involved in selecting us, as well as everyone involved in the running of the week camp. This Uni camp was exactly what was needed to give us the extra motivation to remain focused and move forward through the rest of high school. It was a fantastic week filled with information and fun!

Samantha, Sophie and Matilda 😊
As Term 2 was coming to the end, both the Year 11s and Year 12s showed great fortitude participating in the 2013 Burdekin Relay for Life. The two Home Hill SHS teams, 12 Sharp and Legs 11, were exceptional models of the calibre of students here at Home Hill State High School. Relay for Life is becoming a well-known tradition in the life of the senior’s calendar and one in which they can experience the community spirit come alive. Many students experienced their first Candle Lighting Ceremony and Survivors Walk, no doubt with a few tears shed.

The walking flowed on into the night with Bradley Free being the first to complete 100 laps by 9pm. Congratulations Bradley for your determination. The theme for this year’s state-wide major fundraiser for the Qld Cancer Council was “Nursery Rhymes”. Overall the event went off without a hitch. At the time of writing, the 11s and 12s have raised more than $1500 through money boards and chocolates.

Congratulations to the students for their outstanding participation and community service. We also couldn’t have done it without the supervision of Miss Murphy, Mr Pearson, Mr Jackson, Mrs Kerr, Mrs Barbagallo, Mrs Karagkiozis, Miss Clark, Mrs Musumeci, Mrs Edwards and Mr Gall saving the day with his timely arrival at 4am and walking for nearly 5 hours straight!

Lucky it wasn’t cold at ALL! ;-)}
Each year, Home Hill State High School students come together for the annual World’s Greatest Shave event. The World’s Greatest Shave is a fundraising campaign created by the Leukaemia Foundation that aids in the fight against blood cancers, which are the second leading cause of cancer death in Australia.

This year’s event was held on the last day of term two, in which students participated in a free dress and crazy hair day where gold coin donations went towards the total fundraised. On this day five Year 12 boys, Mark Barbagallo, Aaron Cockburn, Amos Lipsys, Ayden Marano and Bradley Sibson volunteered to shave their heads, while one brave teacher, Mrs Thomas, cut her long locks into a short bob so her hair could be donated for this worthy cause. Over the last few weeks of term two, our school’s Interact Club, particularly its Community Service Directors, Nikki Thomson and Ashleigh Attard, organised and encouraged students to donate to this charity event.

Home Hill High’s 2013 World’s Greatest Shave was a success and everyone’s combined efforts saw a total of $1700 being fundraised, which was then donated to the Leukaemia Foundation.