Welcome back for Semester 2! I am very pleased to report that our Semester 1 results show very real improvement in student outcomes at our wonderful school. In 2 years, our pass rates are up to 87%; an improvement of 6%. This is great news, and shows our student performance improvement agenda is well on track. Overall, behaviour is at 97% C or better (up 4% in 2 years), with almost one half of our students attaining an A rating. Well done to our students, and to their teachers who are working very hard to maximize student performance.

There is much on the calendar for this semester, with these events for starters: Parent/Teacher Interviews; Parent Information Nights (Junior & Senior); Interhouse Athletics; QCS preparation and the all important QCS test; and finishing off with LPC Week in week 10 (Year 9 Camp, Snowies, Work Experience and Year 8 Program). Of course, there is much more, so please check our calendar of events on our website, or through the QSchools App. All these events, a combination of Learning, Performance and Citizenship activities, help to shape that very positive and high performing nature which characterises our school. Much work for staff, students and parents, but so well worth it.

This semester will see us finalising our preparations for the arrival of our year 7s, and recently we had our first Junior Secondary Committee meeting where parents and teachers work together to gather ideas, discuss issues and plan. We will be having parent information evenings for both year 7 and year 8 enrolments in week 9 this term. This is an exciting time, with so many opportunities for new ways of doing things and being able to bring out the best in our students from year 7 through to 12.

We are also working on: classroom practice observation for staff; our QSR (Quadrennial School Review) which will be a comprehensive review of our school with planning for the next 4 years; our laptop program including “Bring Your Own” devices; and facilities development. We just received great news that we will receive $32000 from the Gambling Grants for new sheltered eating areas for students.

Of course, we are still working hard on fund raising for our Multipurpose Shelter and we encourage parents and community members who have innovative ideas on fund raising or community access to the facility, to come forward and talk to us. Shortly we will be unveiling our “Pledge Board” to acknowledge the financial contributions made – we have already had donations of $1000, and a number of $250 donations. This, coupled with our fund raising efforts, should see our total exceeding $30000 in the near future.

All the best for a great Semester 2!

Steven Miskin
Principal
CSIRO Visit

On Thursday 5 June, the CSIRO Lab-on-legs visited the year 8 and 9 students.

9SCIA has been studying Earth Science and how the movement of tectonic plates can cause events such as a tsunami. In the session Natural Disasters students were able to investigate the science behind natural disasters and extreme weather events.

This term in Science the year 8 students have been learning about Geology and Mining. The session Rocks to Rockets allowed students to analyse rocks and minerals and investigate mining and mineral processing technology.

Solar Day

On Friday 6 June, Home Hill High was host to Stephen Ramsden – a solar Astronomer from the USA. Mr Ramsden completed workshops with all of the year 8, 9 and 10 students and some year 11 students. Students were able to view the sun using several different filters.
Spark Engineering Camp: Life as a Sparkie

Mikaylah Wall

Earlier this year, when I put in my application to go to the Spark Engineering Camp, I didn’t realise exactly what I was getting myself into. Sitting on a plane by myself to Brisbane, with no idea who would be picking me up on the other end, other than that they would be wearing bright blue, I started to get an idea. After discovering the people seated next to me on the plane were also heading to the camp and finding our driver when we arrived at Brisbane Airport, I thought the hardest part of the week was over, boy was I wrong.

We stayed at St John’s College on campus at the University of Queensland. I can’t believe I managed to not get lost the whole week as it’s mammoth-sized. We were split up into teams and we faced many challenges throughout the week from building a robot out of Lego, egg drops from seven stories without parachutes, bridge building and breaking, climbing the Brisbane Story Bridge, visiting CSIRO, meeting graduate engineers and CEOs and learning everything about what it’s like to be a Uni student and how to get there and it was one of the most remarkable things I've ever had the chance to experience.

On the last day we had a Teamwork Challenge where the staff thought it would be educational to get twelve of us to glad wrap our legs together and complete a twelve-legged race, send us across campus chanting about bananas, make us form and untie a human knot, fry our brains with hard codes, clues and mind games, answer trivia questions and dance. That's right all fifty of us students had to learn a dance specifically choreographed for us and I hope I never forget it.

I have made so many memorable friends and even though I'm still not sure if I want to do Engineering at Uni, I now actually understand what Engineering and Uni are. The accommodation was great, the staff were extremely nice, the food was great and the experience was once in a lifetime and parents, you don't have to pay. My week as a Sparkie was something I will never forget.

**CHANGES TO STUDENT ASSESSMENT CALENDARS**

Shortly students will receive their assessment planners. This semester there has been a change in the way the assessment planners are created, so that we are able to individualise the course/assessment planner for each student. Not only will the planner have details of the assessment students will have over the semester, the planner will also include a week by week outline of the topics students will study in each of their subjects. This extra information will help students to plan their work more effectively, and also helps to keep parents informed about the types of topics students are covering in their subject areas. One added bonus is that students can access their own course/assessment planners from home by going through their OneSchool login.

School Opinion Survey for Parent/Caregivers

This year all families are invited to have their say about what your child’s school does well and how it can improve. Participation is anonymous. Your eldest child will bring home the necessary codes to complete this survey online. Surveys open on July 21 and close on August 3. Thank you in advance for your participation.
GROWERS VIDEO COMPETITION

What: Growers (and/or their families) are invited to prepare and submit a three minute video explaining a science/technology innovation or concept used for successful food production.

When: Competition closes 20 August 2014
Judging by panel of students, teachers and scientists

Where: Submit on USB to Home Hill State High School
Format: MP4, AVI

Who: Commercial farmers, Graziers, Backyard ‘green thumbs’...

For more information see below and for Ts & Cs visit the school website
www.homehillshs.eq.edu.au
Background:

National Science Week is an annual festival of science that takes place in August each year. This year’s theme, *Food for our future: Science feeding the world.*

In schools around the nation, thousands of teachers and students from early childhood to senior secondary levels contribute to National Science Week celebrations by organising and participating in a diverse range of activities and events.

This celebration aims to raise the profile and increase the public understanding and public appreciation of science, innovation, engineering and technology, and their role in maintaining and improving our society, economy and environment.

It provides an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Australian scientists’ to the world of knowledge. It also aims to encourage an interest in science pursuits among the general public, and to encourage younger people to become fascinated by the world we live in.

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**Fete Raffle**

The major raffle was drawn at the June P&C meeting.

Winners were:
- 1st prize – Matt Barnett - State of Origin package (2 tickets and 1 night’s accommodation)
- 2nd prize – Rhegan Falco - Rose Bay Resort accommodation (2 nights)
- 3rd prize – Shenead Gelling – Broken River Mountain Resort (1 night’s accommodation)

Thanks for buying and selling tickets. Your support was much appreciated. For those who didn’t win……..there is always next year.
Limiting Screen Time Yields Multiple Benefits

Parents may not always see it, but efforts to limit their children’s screen time can make a difference. A new study, published in JAMA Paediatrics, found children get more sleep, do better in school, behave better and see other health benefits when parents limit content and the amount of time their children spend on the computer or in front of the TV.

Douglas Gentile, lead author and an associate professor of psychology at Iowa State, says the effect is not immediate and that makes it difficult for parents to recognize. As a result, parents may think it is not worth the effort to monitor and limit their children’s media use. But Gentile says they have more power than they realize.

“When parents are involved it has a powerful protective effect across a wide range of different areas that they probably never would have expected to see,” Gentile said. “However, parents aren’t likely to notice that putting limits on the children’s media is having these effects seven months later.”

Considering that children average more than 40 hours of screen time a week, not counting time spent on a computer at school, even small changes can make a difference, researchers said. They are not suggesting parents completely eliminate screen time, but find a healthy balance.

The study found there is a ripple effect associated with the benefits of limiting both screen time and media content. Gentile is not surprised to see a direct impact on sleep, academics and behaviour. However, limited screen time also indirectly affects body mass index. The study found that children got more sleep if parents limited screen time, which also resulted in lower risk of obesity. Parents limiting exposure to violent media resulted in increased prosocial behaviour and lowered aggressive behaviour seven months later.

Researchers analysed the media habits of more than 1,300 school children who were recruited to participate in an obesity prevention program. Students and parents were surveyed about everything from screen time limits, to violent media exposure, to bedtimes and behaviour. Teachers reported grades and commented on student behaviour and school nurses measured each student’s height and weight.

Data were collected at the start of the program and seven months later at the end of the program. By looking at these factors collectively with a group of children over a school year, it was easier for researchers to identify patterns that are hard to recognize in individual children.

The Talk

I know some parents have difficulty in having “THE TALK” to their kids. I have received a hand out to make these conversations a little easier.

If you are interested in receiving one of these information handouts please give me a call on 47905614 or my mobile is 0428825565 or email me on lgeor61@eq.edu.au and I will get it out to you.

Talk to you all next time.

Leah George

SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

Tuesday and Wednesday
COMMERCE STUDENTS RECEIVE VET CERTIFICATE

Eighteen Commerce students recently completed their Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology as a part of the Vocational Education subject they opted to take in year 10. The Certificate contributes towards two QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education) points, and, as part of the Australian Quality Framework, it is a nationally recognised training qualification.

The students will now undertake further vocational education training in the form of Certificate I in Business.

Congratulations to the students: Crystal Baillie, Jamie Betteridge, Amanda Bourke, Samantha Burbidge, Mathew Coughlan, Madeline Fabbro, Andi Gelling, Emilee Gibson, Daniel Hamilton, Tahnee Hanlon, Juanita Kelly, Bradley McConville, Steven Millington, Toni-Lee Sawyer, Jarrod Vassalini, Mikaylah Wall, Bryony Williams and Samantha Gosling.

GUEST SPEAKER

On Friday 21 June, year 12 Commerce students were given the opportunity to learn some financial life skills when Mrs Lyn Collins from the Queensland Country Credit Union gave them a presentation on money management. Topics such as credit card awareness, how to instigate a savings plan and understanding money management were all presented.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Years 10, 11 and 12 students will be given the opportunity to participate in our annual Work Experience Program in the week September 15-19. Shortly after the mid-year holidays, students will be given out a preference form where they will be asked to nominate the business they would prefer to visit for work experience. Every effort is made to give students their first preference, with year 12s getting placed first, followed by year 11s and then year 10s. Our list of work experience providers is given to students. These employers have agreed to take our students, and therefore it is important that students sourcing their own work experience employers do not try to make private arrangements with those employers on our list. However, if students wish to go to a workplace that is not on our list of work experience providers, they are welcome to organise this, supplying us with the contact details of the employer’s name, workplace, address and contact phone number. Once placements have been finalised, students will be advised on where they are going, and they will be given a contract that must be signed by parents and the student, as well as the workplace employer. If a student fails to return the contract to the school, they will not be able to go out on work experience. Work experience is seen as a valuable program that helps to bridge the transition from school to the workplace, and as such participation in the program is compulsory, with the exception of those students going on the year 12 Snowy Mountain experience. Further information about the program will be provided for parents in Term 3, but if you have any questions you may contact Mrs Ros Gall or Mrs Megan Barbagallo.
Former Origin Greats Career Expo Day

by Ollie Henaway

On Tuesday 20 May, a group of Home Hill High School students travelled to the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre to be a part of Former Origin Greats (FOGs) Indigenous Employment and Career Expo.

Indigenous job seekers and school leavers had the opportunity to talk with exhibitors in a relaxed environment about career, education and training opportunities available in a wide range of industries and personally meet a host of current Queensland State of Origin Greats.

Professions on show included: Nursing, Child Care, Building and Construction, Police, Defence Forces and more.

Students had a chance to connect with the providers and get information they need for their career pathway.

2014 Early School Leavers survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of students who left school in years 10, 11 and prior to completing year 12 in 2013. The Early School Leavers survey is a brief, confidential survey that provides a picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school leavers in the year after they left school to understand why young people leave school early and to help early school leavers make positive career choices.

Between July and August, our students who left school in years 10, 11 and prior to completing year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Early School Leavers survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

Queensland Sport

Congratulations Elly Caspanello who recently captained the zone Under 15 Queensland football team in Coffs Harbour, NSW. The team finished a credible third. Well done Elly!
Shaky knees, sweaty palms and a racing heartbeat; whether it’s presenting a speech in front of the whole school or simply answering a question in class, the thought of public speaking is terrifying. Research states that a fear of public speaking is number one on the leader board of all phobias; it even dominates the fear of death! But why do we get so nervous speaking in front of an audience and how can we control it?

Not everyone is born naturally gifted with the power of excellence in speaking; in fact, even the most experienced of speakers get butterflies when presenting. However, if we learn to control these nerves then the delivery of a speech will be more powerful and the implication of our message will be understood. Although, that’s easier said than done – or is it?

On Monday 28 April, 16 Home Hill High School Year 11 students proudly signed up for the Toastmasters Youth Leadership Programme; an eight week course which teaches students more about public speaking. Not only did the course cover how to control ‘stage fright’, it also gave students an education on hand gestures, volume and tone of voice, stance, visuals/props and use of a microphone. The sessions are held as meetings, where students also get to participate as President, Secretary and Sergeant-at-arms, who then run the lesson each week. In addition to this, there was also the opportunity to take part as grammarian/gruntmaster (the English expert of the evening), speech evaluator, topicsmaster (the organizer of the impromptu speech topics) and timekeeper (which everyone raced to nominate for!).

These eight weeks flew by as our nerves for public speaking shrunk and our confidence bloomed like a bold, red rose. We presented two prepared and multiple improvisation speeches, whilst also practicing how to debate a motion. It was clear, that by the end of the course everyone had majorly improved; these nerves had been clearly overcome as each week the presentations blew everyone away.

Toastmasters isn’t only for ‘the smart kids’ or ‘the greatest speakers’, it’s for anyone and is easily the most beneficial course that you could be a part of. The results are outstanding and it’s always brilliant to see someone smashing a personal goal, like overcoming stage fright.

A big thank you goes to our Toastmasters, Phillip Scuderi, Grace Corica, Lyn Williams, Matt Patane, Charlie Tama, and Lydia Toohey, who taught us everything there is to know about public speaking and helped us gain our self-confidence along the way. We could not have done it without all of you! Heading into year 12, this knowledge we have gained will not only benefit us, but give us the confidence to achieve goals in our lives that we may have once thought of as impossible. - Sophie Loizou
Japanese!

Authentic language and cultural activity

Home Hill students have exchanged letters with Japanese students at Kashiwa High School.

*Kashiwa city has a population of four hundred thousand people and is located about fifty kilometres north east of Tokyo.

Here is some of our students’ work. Well done! 😊
Year 9 Fun Assessment!

Last term year 9 students learned about clothes and fashion. Their assessment was to write a script in Japanese and to be an MC that described their partner’s clothes at a fashion show.

Catania, Erin and Efimia wore Yukata which is Japanese cotton Kimono, Nikola wore a Japanese school uniform and Lily wore cool Japanese Harajuku style boots. (Yes, they are Shirakoma-sensei’s and she used to wear them when she was young! Yes, year 8s you can try them on next year!)

Ladies, your cat walk was... かっこよかったです！

Very Popular Japanese Cooking Class

Year 10 enjoyed making one of the popular Japanese foods コロッケ (ころっけ) Korokke! Thank you very much for visiting our class and being brave to taste it, Mr Miskin. 😊

I thought the Korokke we made was yummy and fun to learn a new Japanese recipe.

By Michael Baker

The cooking class was subarashii (wonderful) and tanoshii (fun)! The korokke was absolutely delicious and I liked the special Japanese sauce that came with it. The most enjoyable thing was rolling the korokke into a ball and putting it into the slimy egg, then placing it into the bread crumbs.

By Toni-Lee Sawyer
Every year across the country the justice departments, in conjunction with the Law Society’s in each state, conduct Law Week. This is a major community event in the national law calendar that builds connections between the legal profession, associated organisations and the community. This year our 10 Business students along with our 11 and 12 Legal Studies classes attended the event in Townsville. Students were given a guided tour of the law courts and were able to view live court sessions. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a mock trial where they took on the roles of defence lawyer, prosecutor, defendant and victim all in a real court room presided over by a real judge! This is an excellent opportunity for students to see what really happens in court and gain an appreciation of the vast network within the justice system.