PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

SCHOOL PLAN

Much of Mr Simpson’s communication through “School Matters” last term was centred on the development of our next three year school plan. The planning afternoons held in March were highly successful, with parents, students and community groups eager to attend and offer input. Having seen and been involved in the production of similar plans in the past, I was sceptical that a large group with essentially different points of view could achieve something tangible and worthwhile in the time allotted. There is always the temptation to lose sight of the aims and purposes of the exercise, or spend inordinate amounts of time discussing problems without considering solutions. I attribute the success of the process to the motivated and professional attitudes of all concerned. Parents need to know that the focus was, and will always be, on our students. The result is a document that I can truly call considered, consultative and collaborative.

Now we move on to the next phase. I encourage everyone to read the document which has been published on the school website. At the very least, familiarise yourself with our three strategic directions:

- Engaged, committed and successful students
- High quality teachers and teaching practices
- Enriched and supportive school environments

I want our school community to know these directions like it does our motto “Bridge to the Future” and our core values “Be Responsible, Be Safe, Be Respectful”.

The directions will guide our action in the short to medium term, and therefore have direct relevance to current students and those who will be joining us from the primary and private schools.

Whilst the plan is presentable, it is not yet complete. The next phase of consultation will allow us to refine and prioritise our strategies, and perhaps even investigate new strategies if proposed. We will also need to clarify our targets and ensure they are measurable so that the school can report on its progress, as it does in its annual school report (now available on the school website as well).

I understand the format and language may be confusing for some. You may struggle to make sense of why certain areas have been targeted and others seemingly omitted. Your opinion on the content’s merit may differ vastly from the opinions that have led to the plan in its current form. For those reasons and more, I will be holding a question and answer session on Monday, 11 May at 5:30pm here at school. I can explain the whys, hows and whats behind the school plan and listen to your views directly. Please contact the office staff if you would like to attend.

As pointed out last term, there are other avenues for providing feedback. You may contact a P&C member, email the school at batemansba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, or call the school directly and speak to me. This current consultation phase will conclude at the end of the month.

It’s an exciting time to be part of Batemans Bay High School. This is a once in a generation opportunity for change.

Mr Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
What’s On Term 2

Week 3
Mon 4 May  REACT Interactive Workshop, p1-4
Tue 5 May  AFL Swan Shield
Fri 8 May  NSW Junior Chess
          AIME Bay Campus UOW
          Zone Cross Country

Week 4
Mon 11 May  School Plan Q&A 5.30pm
Tue 12 May  Early Intervention Tackling
          Domestic Violence, p3&4 Year 10
Tue to Thur  NAPLAN Year 7 and 9
12 to 14 May

Samantha Hanlon, Year 9, and Clare Ison and Ben Kennedy both from year 7, attended the Nelligen March on Anzac Day.

Samantha and Clare both placed wreaths at the memorial site. They were wonderful representing Batemans Bay High School and the returned Soldiers were very happy to have high school students present after many years of absence.

Some of our Bay High students and teachers during the march at Batemans Bay on Saturday.

NSW JUNIOR CHESS LEAGUE KNOCKOUT
The Batemans Bay High School chess team started strongly in the first round of the state chess knockout competition. The team played arch-rivals Moruya and was able to maintain its dominance, repeating last year’s four-nil victory. The match was not without incident after the Moruya team forgot they were supposed to be hosting and travelled all the way to Batemans Bay for their own home match. Thankfully Bily Jeffs and Josh Brown won their games with little difficulty in relatively quick time after the initial delay. Not all of the games were easy though, with Kon Katsanis and Corey Thomas winning from what were arguably losing positions.

The next round is away at Vincentia High School and the team is yet to be decided. Our school has a strong pool of players to draw from and pressure will be on everyone to keep their positions.

Mr Greg McDonald
ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) 2015

Writing:
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Writing is an English language writing test perfect for assessing a student’s writing skills. The ICAS Writing assesses students’ ability to write an extended response to a given task. Two forms of writing, narrative and persuasive, are assessed in alternating years. The test is available for all students in Year 7-12.

Sitting dates: Monday, 15 June to Friday, 19 June 2015.

English:
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English assesses reading and language skills in a range of contexts. Students read a variety of texts which narrate, describe, explain, argue, persuade and review. The test is available for all students in Year 7-12.

Sitting date: Tuesday, 28 July 2015.

INTERESTED IN PART TIME EMPLOYMENT?
Batemans Bay High School Canteen is looking for motivated, reliable people to work in our canteen to assist our canteen supervisor, Sammy O’Kelly.

We are looking for people interested in being trained to fill in for Sammy when she is on leave. It would involve undertaking a one day Food Handling course through TAFE with the view of being trained to manage the canteen in the supervisor’s absence.

This person must be available to fill in at short notice and also be available to cover extended periods as required.

This position would be ideal for someone with children attending Batemans Bay High School or will have children attending Batemans Bay High School in the future.

For further information please contact: Janine Smeaton 4478 3600
Certificate III in Horsemanship

Cert III in Horsemanship provides relevant units of competency to equip you with appropriate skills and confidence to benefit horse and rider and promote safe riding and handling practices. Pathways to employment opportunities in the equine industry.

The course can be completed part time, with flexible study and assessment.

Face to face learning, including weekend clinics or online.

To enrol and for more information go to: www.horsecourse.com.au

Financial literacy


MANAGING DEPRESSION

One in four kids over 12 has symptoms of depression. Would you know what to look for and how to help? Don't be afraid, ask your child how they are feeling and keep communicating with them. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children

HELP WITH RATIOS

Homework is full of tricky maths questions. Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. This glossary gives straightforward explanations and illustrated examples. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/maths/maths-a-to-z

School Matters regularly includes community information and advertisements. The School does not endorse or accept responsibility for these activities. Attendance at or use of these services is at the discretion of the students.