PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last year I wrote about one of the biggest myths surrounding secondary education, namely that parents had little role to play in their children’s school lives once they reached high school. Some parents have recently shared their opinions with me on a few other matters which are often misunderstood, so now seems like an opportune moment to clarify some other common misconceptions.

The HSC is not for everyone – Admittedly, there are situations where the school system doesn’t work for some students. I think of the “square pegs in round holes” analogy, with the traditional school being a particularly immutable hole. This way of thinking is being increasingly confined to the past. The hole is changing shape, accommodating individual student needs, and there is now a pathway for every student, regardless of ability, towards what is essentially the minimum educational qualification in today’s world. A student entering adult life without a HSC is significantly disadvantaged, more so because it is eminently achievable by all.

Suspension does not achieve anything – Suspension is not intended as a punishment. It is usually the last option when other alternatives have failed. It highlights parents’ responsibility for taking an active role, in partnership with the school, to modify the inappropriate behaviour of their child. It allows time for the school to plan to support the students on their return. All suspended students are expected to continue with their studies and are issued with work which must be completed. We must also recognise that no-one should be allowed to interfere with another student’s right to learn, and that schools must be free of violence, illegal drugs and serious misbehaviour.

Uniform has no bearing on education – On the surface this is true, but dig a little deeper and you will see the widespread consequences of ignoring the community expectation that school students should wear uniform. A surprising number of parents judge a school on how it looks, rather than how it performs, and enrol their children accordingly. Lower enrolments reduce the incentives for students to reach higher levels of achievement, and result in fewer curriculum options thereby limiting the breadth of elective courses on offer. Another obvious effect is the change uniform has on a student’s mindset. Like a chef’s apron or rugby jersey, it signals that there is a job to be done and renews focus on the task at hand. The decrease in student output on out-of-uniform days is measurable. Uniform also plays a role in ensuring student safety, allowing teachers to easily account for students on excursions and identify those who have no legitimate reason for being on school grounds.

Bullying is common in public schools – One would believe so on reading media coverage of a University of Melbourne study published last month. It was reported that students were twice as likely to be bullied at public schools than at private schools. The report actually surveyed parents, not students, and was based on perceptions rather than statistics of actual incidents. In truth, there is a scarcity of data on the difference in rates between education sectors. As evidenced by news reports, data can be cherry-picked to prove any point of view. A wider range of other studies indicate the percentage of students reporting bullying across all schools is between 10% and 15%. I would still argue that 15% is too high. Importantly though, a 2011 study concluded that bullying quickly stopped in 67% of cases when it was reported to and acted on by a teacher, reinforcing the need to confront the problem head on. If people tell you to just ignore bullying behaviour, they are wrong.

Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal
On the last week of school Term 2, **Kateia Barenaba** and **Emerson Hall** travelled to Sydney for the CHS Volleyball. They versed a New Zealand team called Oceania each day for the whole week. Sadly however, they were beaten in four out of five games. The girls then participated in Schools Cup where they came runners up against Oceania. Kateia was awarded MVP of the tournament.

**Braieta Barenaba** has made the NSW u16’s All Schools Volleyball team, where she will be travelling to Sydney in August to compete in the School Sport Australian National u16’s Volleyball Championships.

**Kateia Barenaba** has made the NSW u17’s Volleyball team where she will be travelling to the AIS in September to compete in the Australian Junior Volleyball’s Cup. Kateia is also captain of her team.

Congratulations girls!

*Claire Mathie*

*PDHPE*
Congratulations to the group of students who made the trip up the mountain to compete in this year’s Regional Athletics Carnival on Friday, 31 July.

Our students were happy to be met with blue sky’s after snow covered the track at last years event. Competition was fierce throughout the day with impressive performances seen across both track and field events. Notable performances came from Ethan Thomas in the u14 800m with a strong placing 3rd and Kalem Davis-Wighton in the u14 High Jump, who despite narrowly missing a place, jumped with great style among the place getters.

Congratulations needs also to be awarded to all track runners who had to familiarise themselves quickly with using starting blocks as a requirement on the synthetic surface.

Guy Smith
On Sunday, 26 July, 20 Year 11 students, Mr Hall and Ms Saunders, departed from Batemans Bay to attend the annual Year 11 snow trip. We stayed at Bungarra Alpine Lodge in Jindabyne. The camp instructor, Jason, was fantastic and had us all organised with our gear, lessons and anything else we needed. We enjoyed three days on the snow, skiing and snowboarding.

Monday started off with a two hour lesson which showed everybody their level of skill. That afternoon we had another lesson and continued working on our skills. After our snowboarding and skiing experience we kicked back and relaxed at the indoor pool in Thredbo.

Tuesday and Wednesday both consisted of one, two hour lesson and free time for the rest of the day. Tuesday was definitely the day for minor injuries and sore and weary muscles. By the time Wednesday came we were all carving up the mountain! Some of us also made the most of the trip by checking out the amazing scenery and having fun in the snow. Overall everyone got the hang of it and really began to show off their skills.

On behalf of the 20 Year 11 students we would like to thank both Ms Saunders for organising the fantastic trip and Mr Hall for showing off his snowboarding skills and putting us in our place. Thanks also to Rixon’s coaches and Mal and Ernie, our awesome coach drivers, Ali (who organised our on snow experience) and Bungarra Alpine Lodge for our food and accommodation.

We highly recommend future years to attend the trip. It is a fantastic learning experience in so many ways.

Year 11 Snow Trippers
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2. Make sure you agree to push notifications
3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search THEN select your school

For more detailed instructions go to schoolstream.com.au/download

P&C MEETING
School Library - 7pm

**SUNDAY MARKET BATEMANS BAY**
Batemans Bay High School
P&C Markets
3rd Sunday Each Month

Corrigans Beach, Batehaven
Sunday, 16 August 2015
hsbbsundaymarket@gmail.com

**Learn Safe**
FREE WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND SUPERVISORS OF LEARNER DRIVERS

Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshop
Wednesday, 26 August 2015
6 - 8.00pm

Dr Mackay Community Centre
Page Street, Moruya

For more information
Call ESC Safety Officer 4474 1347

School Matters