



Quirindi High School/ Weekly Newsletter

5 December, 2014 – Issue 38

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Message from the Principal

Thank you to all of the local businesses, families and staff who have supported Year 10 work experience this week. Students have been working in town, all over NSW and interstate, and have gained an authentic insight into the world of work. I would like to pass on a huge thank you to Kerri Saunders for her diligent organisation of this massive task.

This week we welcomed our incoming Year 7 group for a fantastic orientation day where students had a 'taste' of what high school will be like. I would like to pass on our thanks to these students for the outstanding efforts they made in classes and in getting to know each other. Thank you also to the huge group of parents who attended our information evening and sample classes. Building close partnerships between home and school is essential in maximising opportunities for your child.

Our rewards excursions are underway next week. Thank you to our Year Advisers, who are taking students who have demonstrated appropriate behaviour all year to the Gold Coast, Sydney, Port Macquarie and Broken Bay. I expect that our students will have a fantastic time and will represent our school with pride wherever they go.

Congratulations to Mr Chris Jackson and our 'small school' partner schools on your amazing concert, held in our school MPC this week. By all accounts it was a quality evening that showcased the talent of local students from small schools. The quality of school leadership in our Liverpool Plains community of schools is outstanding in its support of opportunities for children.

Have a great weekend

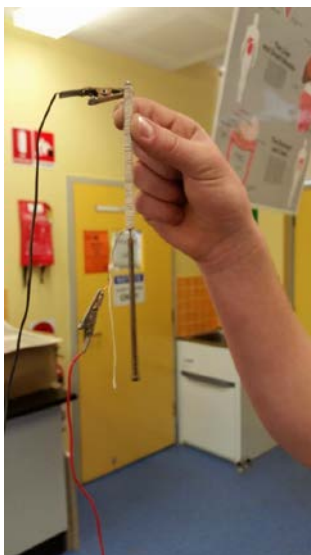
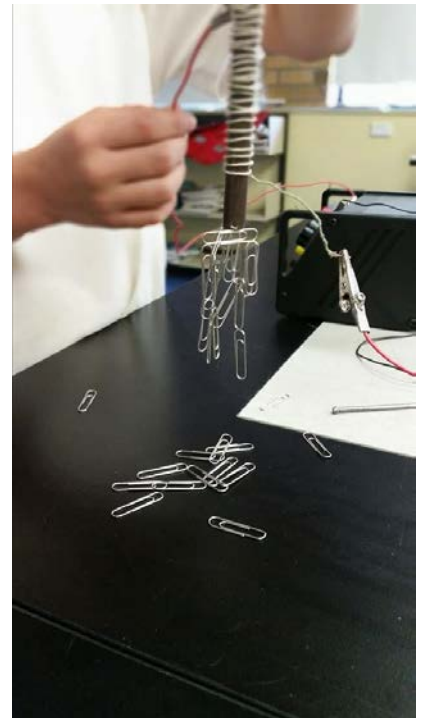
Meghanne Clarke
Principal

Science News.....

This year Science has been lots of fun for our current Year 7.

The year is almost over for them, but there is still lots more learning to be done in the next couple of weeks.

Year 7 have been doing various scientific experiments, Mr Roberts' class have been making their own solar oven to toast marshmallows on. Some of these need a bit more work, but they would cook up a good feed of marshmallows on a hot day. Miss Herron's class have been making electrodes. Some of these managed to pick up a large number of paper clips, whilst another could hold a nail.



CONCESSION CARDS

All concession cards expired on the 31st March 2014. Students wishing to update their concession card or any students requiring a concession card for the Christmas holiday break are asked to complete an application form available from the front office and return it as soon as possible.

Please don't leave it until the last minute.



Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31st December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

Students who require a TFN need to arrange for a Birth Certificate or Passport as soon as possible and present a copy to Ms Saunders before Friday 12th December so she can help complete the application form.

Otherwise from the 1st January 2015 the Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Quirindi High School wins Indigenous Art Award

On Saturday 29 November 2014 Ms Kerri Saunders and Mrs Lindi Owen had the privilege of attending the Young Australian Art and Writers' Awards at the Bayview Eden Hotel in Melbourne, to accept the Whitehaven Coal Indigenous Art Award, on behalf of Quirindi High School students.

This artwork was created by a group of Quirindi High School students under the guidance of Ms Kerri Saunders and Mr Adam Field. We would like to acknowledge and thank all the teachers and teacher's aides who were involved in helping to create this beautiful piece of art.

Ms Saunders and Mrs Owen would also like to thank The Children's Charity Network and Whitehaven Coal for this amazing opportunity. It was a fantastic evening, celebrating the incredible talent of young Australians from across Australia.

We encourage all Quirindi High School students to get creative and enter their writing and artworks in the 2015 Young Australian Art and Writing Awards.



RSA and RCG Training for Senior Students

On the evenings of Tuesday 11th November and Wednesday 12th November senior students from Quirindi High School had the opportunity to undertake their qualifications in Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) and Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG).

We would like to acknowledge and thank Quirindi RSL Sub-Branch for their kind generosity of \$1000 that alleviated the financial pressure and allowed students to undertake both courses at a reduced cost.





Library Happenings!

Reading Challenge

Have you challenged yourself to read a book each month yet?

Pick up a book and you just might

“ **Discover or rediscover the joy of reading** ” !



**Need a Book to Read?
Come and browse the shelves and try
out our Reading Chair!**

Presentations at the Formal Assembly Friday 28 November 2014

ASCA Certificates

The Australian Speech and Communication Association (ASCA) is an organisation which promotes and helps to develop oral communication and listening skills. It promotes competence, rewards effort and encourages excellence.

This year it was fantastic to have 14 students participate in the ASCA examinations. Under the guidance of Mrs Scott, these students attended workshops to help them prepare for their exams. Thank you to Mrs Scott for her dedication to the ASCA program. She was instrumental in introducing Quirindi High School to this program a number of years ago, and it will continue to be an important part of the extra- curricular activities provided at Quirindi High School. Mrs Scott presented the ASCA Certificates to the following students.

Quirindi High School students received the following excellent results:

Senior Grade 1	Lia Robertson	High Distinction
Senior Grade 1	Josephine Saunders	High Distinction
Senior Grade 1	Jenna Lawlor	Credit
Senior Grade 1	Lakara Martin	Credit
Senior Grade 1	Jake Cropper	Distinction
Senior Grade 1	Casey Clarke	Distinction
Senior Grade 1	Chase Clarke	Distinction
Senior Grade 1	Aaron Bender	Distinction
Senior Grade 3	Kaitlin Brabant	Distinction
Senior Grade 3	Wade Clarke	Distinction
Senior Grade 3	Brittany Beveridge	High Distinction
Senior Grade 3	Mauhgan Wellham	Credit
Senior Grade 5	Robbie Hartigan	Distinction
Senior Grade 6	Hanna Davis	High Distinction
Senior Grade 1	Aaron Bender	Distinction



Thank you Mrs Scott and congratulations to these students on their excellent achievements.

Premier's Reading Challenge Certificate

The Premier's Reading Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student in Years 7 - 9:

- to read
- to read more
- and to read more widely.

The Challenge is that students read a minimum of 20 books, of which 15 must be from the Premier's Reading Challenge Book List. They have from March to August to complete this challenge.

This year I would like to congratulate

Joshua Redgrove

on completing this challenge.

I look forward to lots more students getting involved in this challenge in 2015.

Any books you have read from September this year can count towards your tally for the 2015 Premier's reading Challenge, so start recording your books.



Spelling and English Competition Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who received their certificates and reports for their involvement in the Spelling and English Competitions during Term 3:

Lakara Martin

Christine Garey

Gemma Hawkins

Sasha Mackay

Lia Robertson

It is great to see these students challenging themselves and working towards upgrading their skills.



Study Skills Tip for December

Ten Top Tips to Make the Most of the End of Year School Report

1. **Before the report arrives home**, a useful exercise would be to ask your child to write their own school report. Make up a grid similar to this (below) for all subjects, and ask your child to pretend to be the teacher and write about themselves. You could also create a grid that simulates your child's previous school report.

Subject	Grade (A-E)	Effort (A-E)	Teacher's comment
English			
Maths			

This gives your child the opportunity to reflect on his/her own performance at school. It can provide parents with a useful insight and can be a reference to compare the teachers' perspectives with your child's viewpoint. It is also a good discussion point when the school report arrives home. And a discussion **should** take place to help your child reflect and evaluate the report *with* you.

2. **Read your child's report *with* your child.** This immediately indicates openness, and provides direct encouragement and support to your child. Wherever there are positives, in either comments, grades, effort and so on, point them out to your child first. Most students will have areas to commend and should be acknowledged by the parent.
3. **The report *should* be viewed as a vehicle to move forward,** and not be perceived as a final judgment of a child's ability - because it is not. It's a "screenshot" and not the whole story. It is important students know they have the ability to modify and change their work ethic or study strategies, and they can improve. Reinforcing that the report is an opportunity to highlight strengths and weaknesses, which will happen throughout their working life through appraisal or performance reviews, can help the student develop goals for next year.
4. **Compare the yearly report to the Semester 1 report and last year's report.**

This can be useful to identify specific subject areas where there has been an improvement or a decline. If grades improved, celebrate this achievement. If the grades declined, ask your child why this may be the case. For example, Semester 1 report grades may have been based on assignments and not exams. This could flag that exams were either not fully prepared for and study skills should be reviewed, or your child needs exam practice as they are a very different mode to demonstrate knowledge, or perhaps new concepts were introduced in Semester 2 and these could be weaknesses to work on!
5. **Don't just look at grades, focus on effort also.**

A child's performance is not measured solely by grades. Not every child will receive an A or B, in fact the average child would mostly like achieve a C grade (which typically represents the middle 60%). Effort grades however can reflect the teacher's perspective on how hard your child worked, his/her commitment to fulfill homework, assignments and contribution in class. A child who achieved a C grade, or 55%, yet gained an A for effort should be congratulated. Again, as the report should be viewed as a discussion and evaluation, if the effort grade is lower, ask your child why this might be the case, and make a note of this to form one of the goals for next year.
6. **Consider the "year average" mark or grade.**

Many schools will include the year average grade as well as your child's grade. This is important to consider. If your child attained a 75%, and the year average was 62%, then your child is well above the average. Celebrate this.
7. **Teachers' comments.**

The teachers' comments are valuable when discussing the report with your child. Ask him or her if they agree with the comment, or why, if they don't. Encourage your child to consider the teachers' comments. Obviously if there is a consistent thread from multiple teachers, this needs to be addressed. For example, if many teachers comment on your child's lack of concentration, or need to focus on answering the question, then the comments suggest a specific area of weakness. Similarly, if multiple comments commend your child on commitment, determination and diligence, it suggests your child's attitude to school is solid.
8. **TALK to your child about the report, and LISTEN.**

Help your child not to blame someone or something that resulted in a disappointing report. Blame does not lead to action. If there are extenuating circumstances for a disappointing report (such as a difficult family situation like parents separating, or relocation or demanding co-curricular activities etc), acknowledge these may have affected your child's focus and give understanding. However help your child accept that they perhaps did not put in the effort, or had not established an effective revision program, or had not given the required commitment. Asking your child what they could do next year to improve or maintain excellence is a good start. Again, it would be worthwhile jotting down your child's comments to establish goals. Reinforcing that a yearly report is a vehicle to move forward is vital.

9. **Grades varying between subjects, and compare exam results with assessment results.**

Identify specific subjects where grades were 'low' and where others were 'high'. It is not uncommon for students to have strengths in some subjects and weaknesses in others. Few children excel across all subject areas, particularly in Years 7 – 10 when they have not yet been able to refine their academic program to areas of interest or strength. Talk to your child about why grades may vary, as there could be good reasons. For example, if your child's report grades range from 98% to 62%, ask why? Most students would be able to articulate the divergence and it could be simply that they did not study for a subject at all, or had misread a heavily weighted question. Again, make a note of your child's comments, to form goals or strategies for next year. Similarly **compare exam grades against assessment grades**. If your child's exam marks are noticeably less than the assessment grades, it could easily identify a weakness in exam technique and/or revision, and not be a reflection of ability or understanding. Remember, examinations are just *one* medium for determining a child's knowledge.

10. **Establish goals for next year and consider a holiday review program** (even if only 1 hour a week).

The report can, and should, be read as an instrument to create goals for next year, and possibly plan a holiday review program. As students in December typically focus on the long summer holidays, freedom and unstructured days, it's natural for school work to wane. However, now is the time to create goals for next year, whilst the academic year remains in their recent memory. It is more difficult to establish goals in February. Goals are best determined by the child, yet parental input after discussing a yearly report is prudent and can provide direction. Identify 3 – 5 goals for Semester 1, 2015. The goals should be in response to you and your child's discussion of the report, **and** teacher recommendations. Some goals could be:

- Focus on reading the question in assignments/exams carefully to ensure the question is answered.
- Ensure I make summary notes when I finish each topic.
- Do at least 30 minutes reviewing what I learned at school each day, in addition to homework.
- Ask the teacher if I don't understand a concept.
- For example, if Maths is a weakness, spend 1 hour a week doing extra Maths practice.

When the goals are listed put them in a prominent place – fridge, bedroom wall, notice board etc.

It would also be prudent to develop a **holiday review program** if there are specific subjects or areas of subjects that are weak. This does not need to be extensive, in fact, shouldn't, however regular practice of specific subjects that *will* be required for cumulative learning next year can make an enormous difference.

Examples of subjects where knowledge learned this year would be assumed knowledge for next year can include Maths, Science, English and Languages – as well as many others!

Holiday review programs can easily be incorporated into your child's vacation plans. For example, if your child sees a movie, they could write a review, or analyse the film techniques. If your child reads a newspaper or magazine or internet site, they could write a short paragraph about bias, purpose, persuasive techniques etc.

LASTLY, if you are very concerned about your child's report, you should contact the school.

Learn more this year about how to set goals and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. You might like to work through a few units over the holidays.

QHS students have direct access to this handbook through the school's Moodle site. They use their DET username and password to access QHS Moodle

Textbook Reminder

Students are reminded to return ALL textbooks to the Library, not to their classroom teachers.



Need Help?

Make sure you ask us for help.
Happy Reading and Studying!

Mrs Owen – Teacher Librarian
Mrs Sweep – SAS Library



Dates to put on your Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
10 B	8 th December Excursion Week	9 th December	10 th December	11 th December	12 th December	13/14
11 A	15 th December	16 th December Presentation Day Starts at 10am	17 th December Students finish for the year	18 th December Staff Development Day	19 th December Staff Development Day	20/21

Term 1, 2015

Year 7, 11 & 12 return Wednesday 28 January 2015

Year 8, 9 & 10 return Thursday 29 January 2015

to Thursday 2 April 2015



quickbeds

Grassroots Fundraising Program

Supporting local sport & community groups

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
**FLIGHT
CENTRE**
TRAVEL GROUP™



Help raise funds for **Quirindi High School P & C**

Next time you are booking accommodation,

Go to www.quickbeds.com

Enter our unique grassroots ID: 1258

By doing this you will be helping our school



Every time **any member or supporter** uses **your unique Grassroots Code** to book a hotel anywhere in Australia or New Zealand, **they raise money for our P&C.**

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Here are four more reasons to book your holiday or business accommodation with Quickbeds...

Best rate guarantee

- If we don't have the best price, we'll beat it. Or you'll stay for free.

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- Get the best rates from over 180,000 hotels, motels, apartments in more in 150 countries.

No fees

- NO credit card fees, NO booking fees, what you see is what you pay. No surprises.

A name you can trust

- Quickbeds is part of the Flight Centre Travel Group, Australia's largest travel company.

Just remember our unique ID: 1258

Plan Ahead This Summer To Live And Study Overseas In 2015



With the end of the year approaching, there has never been a better time to cast your thoughts ahead to 2015. Why not use the holidays to plan your 2015 WEP student exchange program?

Living overseas as an exchange student opens up a **world of opportunities**. For one, you get to experience another part of the world. You'll live and learn in a **culture** that is vastly different from your own. You will also be exposed to a **different style of learning**, which will be useful if you decide to further your studies. Are you learning or want to learn another language? On an exchange program you can morph from **monolingual to bilingual** in a matter of months. There's no better way to learn a language than to surround yourself with it day and night, 24/7! Imagine the moment when you start dreaming in another language!

Okay, so now you're thinking "this all sounds great, but I still need more convincing." Think about the amazing, **lifelong friends** you'll make while overseas. Later in life you may have the opportunity to travel back to your host country and reunite with old friends. When you return from exchange, you'll arrive back in Australia with a **new perspective** on **culture, languages and**

education, better organisational skills, and invaluable **life experiences**. All of these **skills** are extremely attractive to future employers.

And finally, you will most likely find that living as an exchange student in a foreign country will allow you to develop a stronger sense of **independence**. WEP exchange students have the opportunity to **discover themselves** while learning about another culture. A newfound **mature outlook** is one of the most beneficial aspects of participating in a student exchange program.

With over 20 different countries to choose from, deciding where to go is the hardest part! Need more information? Use the holidays to do some research. Visit us online at **www.wep.org.au** to request a free information pack, email us at **info@wep.org.au**, or give us a call in the office on **1300 884 733**.

