Welcome to Term 4. The last term of the school year is always filled with many activities and opportunities for students. Year 12s will leave us at the end of this term as they take the next step in their futures, Year 11 students will vote to become next year’s School Captains, Year 10s get ready to enter the compulsory participation phase of schooling, and the Years 7, 8 and 9 students have their alternative activities week at the end of the year. That’s just a small list.

However, learning must remain our priority.

It sounds very simple, but to learn what is being taught at school, students need to be here. They need to attend.

The good news is that 269 (out of 730) of our students have attendance rates of 95% or better so far this year. That’s excellent! When we look at 90% attendance we have 446 students meeting, or beating, that. In total, 537 students are meeting the expectation of 85% attendance. Good work!

The bad news is that 117 students have attendance rates less than 80% - that’s equivalent to missing one day per week or more. I can see no possible way that a student can learn to their full potential when they are missing that much schooling. There is no one year-level that stands out in this list (apart from Year 12 who have very few students with such poor attendance), there appears to be no common reason for the absences.

I struggle to understand how that many students can be absent that much. I know there are a few students who have chronic health issues or similarly significant reasons for being away. It is the others that I don’t understand. I fully believe in the education that Townsville SHS offers to students. I fully believe in the opportunities that we offer. Students who attend here have teachers who care for them and work hard to help students achieve their potential. I can’t grasp how a student, and their parents, would not take full advantage of this wonderful school.

To the 537 students that I mentioned earlier, and their families, please keep up the good work. For the other students and their families, I hope that this article gives you a moment to reflect on our school and the great things we achieve, and hopefully you will come and talk to us about improving your attendance.

Have a great term.

Rob Slater
Principal
Important Information for All Parents

We continue to have issues with parents accessing the front administration car park to drop off or collect their child/children. Please note the sign on the front gate which clearly states that **THIS IS NOT A PICK UP OR DROP OFF ZONE**.

All pick up and drop offs must occur in the designated areas (beside the school near the Chinese club, along Boundary St in front of the school, in First St behind Stanton Lodge).

We value your child’s safety and request you adhere to the designated pick up and drop off zones.

The Townsville State High School P & C are holding a Car Boot Sale on October 22nd from 7 am to midday. Bookings are available for $15 for a 6 x 6m space. If you would like to book a space and get rid of some old ‘junk’, please contact the P & C at pnc@townsvillesh.eq.edu.au or the school on 4721 8777.

Payments must be made prior to the event and must be paid by 10th October.

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/10/16</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 6:30pm Administration Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/10/16</td>
<td>School Captain Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-15/10/16</td>
<td>Instrumental Music &amp; Vocal Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/10/16</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-26/10/16</td>
<td>Helping Friends</td>
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<td>27/10/16</td>
<td>ArtzExpo</td>
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<tr>
<td>28/10/16</td>
<td>Sports Award Parade</td>
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<td>28/10/16</td>
<td>Canteen Red Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/11/16</td>
<td>Awards Evening – Civic Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/11/16</td>
<td>Year 12 – All resources to be returned to the Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payment of 2016 Textbook and Resource Hire Fees

Participation in the 2016 Student Resource Scheme requires payments as follows:

Yr 7-9 $170.00; Yr 10-12 $195.00

Plus some subject specific costs for Year 10/11/12 students.

Payment may be made in full as a single payment or by instalments.

Please refer to the Participation Agreement Form forwarded with the invoices for 2016. If you do not have a copy of the Participation Agreement Form you can collect a copy from the school office.

Please elect to participate or not participate in the scheme on the Agreement Form and return to the school as soon as possible. Non-payment of the participation fee by the designated payment date(s) may result in debt recovery action being undertaken for the overdue participation fee which may result in extra costs being incurred by the parent/carer.

Non-payment of the participation fee will also result in withdrawal of students from extra-curricular activities some examples include: school camps, afternoon sports, NQ Sports, Vocal and Guitar Lessons, use of the School buses, Yr 12 Formal, Senior Jerseys, School Magazine, posting out of school reports.

For your convenience, the school office has Eftpos facilities and can be processed either in person or over the phone. The school also accepts payment via Direct deposit to the school’s bank account – BSB 064-819; Account 00090292 and stating the student’s name and invoice number.

Townsville State High School Facebook Page

Our Facebook page has been active since late last year and it is terrific to see the amount of content about our students and school programs appearing on the site and being updated on a daily basis. To view the page and post a message, please access via this link and once on the page, hit ‘like’


We are following a clear and strict set of guidelines related to Facebook usage by schools and our ‘gatekeepers’ are currently doing a fantastic job of monitoring content!

Please remember that this page is used to provide all ‘likers’ with information about school events. Any queries regarding enrolments, absences, fees, reports & the like must go through the correct & official procedures – Please call the school office on 4721 8777.
Thank you to those parents who have already attended to payment of Textbook/Resource Hire Fees. Payment of school fees and return of textbooks ensures a fair and equitable distribution of resources. Thank you for your assistance.

Narelle Searston
Business Services Manager

QParents Registration

Thank you to those parents/caregivers who have registered for ‘QParents’, which is a secure online parent portal. The online portal allows you to electronically notify the school of any student absence, check on the attendance and behaviour of your child, view a student’s current timetable and subjects, update contact details and receive any accounts for payment.

THE SYSTEM IS EXCELLENT AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO YOU!

All parents/caregivers should have received a mail package and emails about how to complete registration. Please contact the office if you need any support to register.

From the Rolls Office

Student absences are to be explained by a parent/caregiver to the Rolls Officer stating the reason and dates of absence. This may be done by phoning the school on 4721 8777 or 4721 8756 or by emailing absencesadmin@townsvilleshs.eq.edu.au

Student absences of three or more days due to illness require a medical certificate. Medical Certificates should be emailed to the above email address or hand delivered to the Rolls Office. Your prompt assistance with explanation of absences will be greatly appreciated.

PROCEDURES FOR LATE ARRIVAL/ EARLY DEPARTURE

Should a student arrive late to school, a letter of explanation or a note in the Student Diary from the student’s parent/caregiver is required. This letter or note must be presented to the Rolls Office if the student is arriving at school after 8:45am.

If there is a need to collect your student from school early, you must do so via the front office and sign your student out. A note should be written in your student’s Student Diary, the student then presents the note to the Student Counter before school. A Leave Request will be given. The student will show this to their teacher when they need to leave the class.

Lunch passes will NOT be approved. This applies to students of all year levels.

Students who feel unwell at school must first report to the class teacher who will direct them to the General Office with a note to this effect. During morning or lunch time recesses, students should report directly to the Office.

Facilities for housing sick students are limited. Sick bay is used as a holding station only. Please ensure your contact details are up to date so that we can phone parents and send students home as quickly as possible.

Students late to school

We still have a number of students arriving late to school. Can we please remind you that if a student is late, they need a letter of explanation to be presented to the main office on arrival.

It is important that students arrive to school on time each day in order for them to be prepared for their classes. Many students are missing TAG which means that they are not getting notices and messages from their teachers. This can mean that they are late to classes or miss out on notes to go home.

We value your students’ learning. Please continue to work with us to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child/ren.

Junior Secondary News

Townsville State High School Annual Awards

The Townsville State High School Awards evening will be held on Thursday the 3rd of November 2016 at the Townsville Civic Theatre. This is a wonderful event where we stop and celebrate the success that has been achieved by our students during 2016. The event commences at 7pm and we ask that parents arrive by 6.30 pm in preparation for this. We hope that all students who are receiving and award can be present for the ceremony and the rehearsal held earlier that day.

Enrolments are now open for Years 7-12 for 2017

Please contact the school office on 4721 8777 for an enrolment pack and to organise an interview appointment.

Tanya Nelson
Junior Secondary Deputy Principal

Welcome back to Term 4!

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful break and is ready to get back into what promises to be an exciting final term of 2016.

One of the most important things to be aware of in the Junior School is that we have started the process to find our 2016 Junior Student Captains, with current Year 8 students invited to submit an application for a position. We will have one boy and one girl Junior School Captain in 2017, and students who are interested in developing their leadership skills should apply. This is an invaluable opportunity that allows students to represent their school and cohort, be an active voice in student leadership, and lead a range of school events. Interested students have been given an application package already and the outcome of the process will be announced in November.
As the final term, it is important that our students recognise the importance of attending school every day to get the best possible results. Research shows that student attendance is one of the best predictors of academic achievement, and for this reason I want to impress the importance of students coming to school every day with all of the necessary equipment. The last day of the term is Friday 9th December.

Last term, I was fortunate to attend James Cook University for a ‘Junior Experience Day’ with a small group of Year 7 and 8 students and Mr Williamson. Students were shown the ins and outs of university, explored a range of different course options, visited high tech science labs, and watched a fascinating sea snake presentation by leading world expert, Dr Blanche D’Anastasi. Students were extremely well behaved and were fantastic representatives of Town High. Thanks to all students who attended the day!

Later this term we will be welcoming our new enrolments for our Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day on 30th November. We will open our doors to Year 6 students who have enrolled at Town High for 2017, and students will be provided with ‘a day in the life’ of a student at Town High. This event provides our incoming juniors with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school environment, to get to know our staff, and to make friends. This is also a great time for our current students to help out as guides and peer mentors. We are looking forward to meeting our new students!

Welcome back! Let’s make Term 4 our best yet!

Tom Harvey
HOD – Junior Secondary

Important Notice for Senior Students

Student on their P’s are not permitted to transport other students unless they are siblings. Students who drive to school are also reminded that they must comply with all parking provisions within the school and they must not leave school grounds during the day. Failure to follow this policy could result in school disciplinary action. The safety and wellbeing of all students is a priority for our school. If you have any questions regarding this policy please see Mrs Miladenovic.

Kaylene Miladenovic
Deputy Principal Senior School

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

ALL STUDENTS YEARS 10, 11 AND 12

If applying for a USI at home complete the Student Form - USI Collection and Verification to record this information and return to the front office.

From 1 January 2015, the Australian Government requires all students studying Vocational Education and Training (VET) to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). This includes students who are studying VET in schools. Townsville State High School must have a valid USI for a student before issuing a qualification or statement of attainment.

What is a USI?

From 2015, anyone undertaking a Vocational Education and Training course (eg: through TAFE or other training providers, but not University) will need to have a “Unique Student Identifier” (USI) - this is a bit like an account number made up of letters and numbers and is allocated to you. It is used to identify you when undertaking any vocational training from 2015.

This USI allows you to login to your training account and see all your training records and the results of all your courses. You can also print out all your results to take to an employer when you are applying for a job or to any training provider when you are doing any additional courses.

You should have this Unique Student Identifier before you can commence any courses and must have it to obtain your certification or statement of attainment. If you don’t already have one, you can create one at the link below:

http://www.usi.gov.au

At Townsville SHS we will be assisting students with the application for their USI. Students’ must provide suitable identification through one of the following:

- Driver’s licence
- Medicare card
- Birth Certificate (Australian) — please note a birth certificate extract is not sufficient
- Australian Passport
- Visa (with Non-Australian Passport) for international students
- Certificate Of Registration By Descent

**2016 Year 12 Formal**

The Year 12 Formal is Monday 14th November at The Ville Resort Hotel and Casino Ballroom 1 & 2.

Students will arrive from 6:00pm at The Ville with photo upon arrival. Parents and family friends are invited to view the arrival of students at the venue from 6:00pm, have photos taken with their son/daughter and attend the Formal Introduction of Students commencing 7:30pm sharp (the latter requiring tickets for parents/family friends). Due to limited seating, initially only two tickets will be allocated per attending student. There will be Formal Dancing at 8:15pm in the Ballroom which will include the parents’ dance. After this, family and friends will depart and the Formal Dinner, for students and staff, commences at 8.30pm.

A photo DVD of the arrivals and night’s activities will be available to pre-order from the school office before 2/11/2016, and will be delivered to a home address.

Formal ticket cost: $95
Parent/Friend viewing ticket: $5
Photo DVD: $20

All purchased at the school office

***All Year 12s will need to clear any outstanding school fines/fees incurred and return all library books prior to the purchase/collection of their Formal Ticket***

Welcome back! Let’s make Term 4 our best yet!

Tom Harvey
HOD – Junior Secondary

Senior Secondary News
Each learner at Townsville State High School will either be required to provide their existing USI (if not already on record at the RTO) or apply for a USI. Students can access the USI Fact Sheets from the school’s web page and also the school’s curriculum network.

Each student who enrolls in a VET course will need to complete the following:

**Action 1. The student applies for a USI at home**
- The school sends home information about the USI and what the process will be for application and provision through Newsletters and Parent Information letters
- Students obtain a USI at home via the website www.usi.gov.au
- The student provides the USI to the school using the USI Collection and Verification form
- The school verifies the USI via the website www.usi.gov.au
- The school records the USI, inputs this information into the Student Management System or record in the USI Register

**Action 2. The student applies for a USI at the school**
- The school sends home information about the USI and what the process will be for application and the types of identification that will be required by the learner
- Students apply at the school during a set class time with the assistance of the staff
- Students will record their USI and provide the number to the teacher using the USI Collection and Verification form
- The school verifies the USI via the website www.usi.gov.au
- The school records the USI, inputs this information into the Student Management System or record in the USI Register

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**New Zealand Biannual Ski Trip**

Every second year, the school takes a group of students from Years 12, 11 or 10 on a trip to New Zealand to try skiing or snowboarding.

The students visit Cardrona, a ski field south of a little town called Wanaka for two days learning the basics before travelling south to and then Queenstown for a day on the ski slopes at the Remarkables and some tourist related activities.

While in Queenstown, the students will get to take a Jet boat ride along the Kawarau river. At this time of the year the water is rather chilly and the boat drivers take great delight in seeing how much water they can get on the students.

The students also get to be involved in traditional Maori dances. As staff it is always fun watching our male students attempting a Haka.

At the top of the mountain, there is a Luge ride, which is best described as a go cart with a brake, down a twisty track, which always pleases the students. On our last trip the edges were snow lined and the corners were a little icy making for some interesting cornering.

After Queenstown we travel back towards Christchurch for 2 more days skiing at Mt Hutt, one of the higher slopes in New Zealand.

If your child is interested to coming on this trip, they need to contact Miss Tamara Staub for an expression of interest letter, which includes costs and a brief outline of the itinerary. We will hold a parent information evening to present more detailed information and answer any question you may have.

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**Message from the Guidance Officer**

My name is Melissa Spilsbury. I have come across from another High School where I was working as a Guidance Officer and have many years experience working with students particularly Junior Secondary. I have had a warm and welcoming...
introduction to the school and look forward to working with students, parents and staff of the Town High community in achieving the best educational outcomes possible for each child.

I welcome questions, concerns or appointments can be made by email: mspil13@eq.edu.au or alternatively referrals can be made through your relevant Deputy Principal

Kind regards

Melissa Spilsbury

**Townsville State High School Student Dress Code**

Below we have set out the rules on the school’s uniform policy as per the Student Diary. We expect all students to have the correct attire. If you have any concerns please contact the relevant Deputy Principal.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL (Years 7 to 9)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>JUNIOR SCHOOL (Years 7 to 9)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Girls</strong></td>
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<td>Shirt</td>
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<td>Shorts</td>
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<tr>
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**Boys**

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A hat must be worn at ALL times when outside, including HPE lessons and lunch time activities.

**SENIOR SCHOOL (Years 10 to 12)**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Girls</strong></td>
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**Boys**

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A hat must be worn at ALL times when outside, including HPE lessons and lunch time activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Jewellery &amp; Make-up regulations</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> If ears are pierced one small, plain stud or sleeper per ear, may be worn in the lobe of the ear only. No facial piercings are permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> One plain signet ring may be worn</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> One simple chain may be worn</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> A plain wrist watch and/or a simple, metal bangle or bracelet, no wider than 2cm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> Hair must be of a natural colour and be worn neat and tidy</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Safety Standards**

As required by Curriculum Activity Risk Management, safety standards involving footwear, hair, jewellery, must also be met.

**Hair**

Hair must be of a natural colour and must be worn in a style which meets school community standards.

**Headwear**

Hijabs / head coverings are to be no longer than shoulder length and must be navy blue in colour.

**Winter – Boys and Girls Years 7 to 12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Winter – Boys and Girls Years 7 to 12</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>(a)</strong> Navy blue tailored long pants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(b)</strong> The school jersey or navy blue zip-up fleecy lined or plain navy blue jumper without any logos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(c)</strong> Navy, black or skin coloured tights may be worn under skirt</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students not in a uniform are to carry a dated explanatory note from home and to have this note signed by the relevant Deputy Principal.

**General Items:**

**Safety Standards**
Tattoos
Tattoos are not permitted.

Students representing the school on official excursions/activities are to wear full Representative Dress school uniform, unless notified otherwise.

Acceptable shoe styles

Unacceptable shoe styles

Non-Compliance with School Dress Code

Students not in a uniform are to carry a dated explanatory note from home and must have this note signed by the Tag teacher or Senior Administration.

Community Notices

Smoking banned 5 metres around school grounds

Smoking any tobacco products or using an electronic cigarettes within five metres of any state or private school grounds has been banned. This applies before, during and after school hours as well as over weekends and school holidays.

On the spot fines can be issued by environmental health officers, police or other officers authorised by the local government to anyone found in breach of this legislation. The ban does not extend to businesses or residences that share a property boundary with a school.

Smokers are asked to put out your cigarette and dispose of the litter thoughtfully well before you reach the school boundary.