6 November 2020

From the Principal

This is the final Newsletter for 2020. There will be many places to farewell the departing Year 12 cohort, but of course we wish them all the best for the future.

Next Step 2021

Year 12 graduates, don’t forget to participate in this survey next year.

School Watch

We need everyone to look out for after-hours crime in our school. No one can access the school grounds after hours without written permission from the Principal.

If you see anything suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number - 131 788.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between the Department of Education, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. Let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

Holiday Wishes

As the 2020 school year draws to a close, I reflect upon a most interesting 2020. We are living through a pandemic, we introduced a new system of assessment into Year 12 and through it all this fantastic school kept powering from strength to strength.

Thank-you to my wonderful staff, I hope you have a restful and relaxing break. Thank-you to our dedicated P&C. Thanks to all of our families who create the community feeling in our school, and thanks to our lovely students. We are blessed to work with you every day.

See you in 2021.

Rob Slater
Principal

Acknowledgement to Country

Welcome,

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today, the Wulgurukaba peoples and to the surrounding custodians, the Bindal people.

We pay our respects to the elders, past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Thank you
**Coming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/11/2020</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting 6:30pm RSVP 4721 8777</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/11/2020</td>
<td>Year 11 and 12 Awards Night</td>
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**Message from our year 7 and 10 Deputy Principal**

**2020 AWARDS CEREMONY – Monday 26th November**

On Monday 16th November, the school will celebrate the excellence that our students have displayed this year in the areas of academia, arts and community service. In such a disjointed year, it will be fantastic to have the opportunity to recognise the outstanding achievements of our students and that all their hard work has not gone unnoticed.

This year, due to Co-vid restrictions our awards ceremony for 2020 will be a little different. Instead of being held in the Civic Theatre, they will be held in our school hall. Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will have their awards ceremonies during school time. Unfortunately parents will not be able to attend these events due to restrictions on numbers. The Year 11 and 12 ceremony will held at 7pm, with a maximum of two guests per student being allowed. Tickets will be issued to students winning awards, and these must be presented on the night. The school will also live stream the ceremonies for people who are unable to attend.

**2020 Student Engagement and Wellbeing Survey Pilot**

This term students participated in a Student Engagement and Wellbeing Survey. We know that wellbeing and engagement are important parts of your child’s life at school. Our school, and the department, want to support students in the best way possible and are looking at improved ways to accurately collect information on these important topics.

The Student Engagement and Wellbeing Survey pilot is a new tool designed to measure how Queensland students view aspects of their wellbeing and engagement. Results from this survey will provide an indication of our students’ levels of wellbeing and engagement, allowing us to determine how we can best support our students and meet their needs.

This is the first pilot of the survey and is only available to select schools across Queensland, Townsville State High being one of them. The survey measured many aspects of students’ wellbeing, engagement and experience at school. It included questions about resilience, school climate, sense of belonging, motivation and perseverance, academic self-concept, personal social capabilities, general life satisfaction, future outlook and aspirations, relationships with peers, with teachers and at home, and general health.

**Message from our year 8 and 11 Deputy Principal**

2020 is certainly moving along at a rapid pace and our year 11 students have reached a significant milestone.

In week three, they completed their unit two work and have now commenced unit three. Unit three is the first unit that could be considered to be “Year 12”. It is summative work which means that it counts towards their exit result.

At our recent year 11 parade our year coordinator Ms Margo Johnson spoke to the students about this. Students have been encouraged to create an individual study plan to ensure that they are working steadily towards their goals. Having a plan ensures that they are able to meet their deadlines without becoming overwhelmed, anxious and stressed.

Our Guidance Officer Ms Katrina Weathered has assisted a number of our students to develop their plans. She is keen to work with others and all students should be encouraged to make an appointment to work with her.

If you have any questions please contact the school on 4721 8777

**Message from our year 9 and 12 Deputy Principal**

Year 12s are currently sitting in external exams and have been working really well and so far have coped well with managing their time and coming prepared to each exam. Mr Askin and I are looking forward to seeing them all dressed up and arriving at formal very shortly!

**Formal - Watching Arrivals**

Due to Covid-19 Regulations, we are limited to a maximum of 100 people to watch arrivals. Due to the size of our year 12 cohort, each student will receive two tickets to provide to a family or friend to watch the arrivals. Only people with an official ‘Arrivals Entrance ticket’ will be permitted to stand in the designated area. Guests in this area must be maintaining social distance requirements. Students are also allowed to have one guest come in with them to the grand ballroom, and these tickets will be given to the students on the morning of the rehearsal. Students who do not attend the rehearsal will not receive their tickets.

**Dancing**

We were really happy to hear that dancing is now allowed at graduation events, and we are looking forward to the dancing at formal now that the students can let loose and enjoy their night.
Attendance
Throughout this term, we have been speaking constantly to the year levels about keeping their attendance above 95%. There are many reasons for this, but the main one is that there is a clear link between increased attendance and improved achievement. With this in mind, students are being strongly encouraged to attend every day in order to ensure they are giving themselves the best chance to succeed.

Final subject changes- Year 9
Students will have one more opportunity to change their electives for 2021, and this will be in week 8. This change will begin in 2021, and students are unable to change this term.

Important Information for All Parents
Throughout this term, we have been speaking constantly to the year levels about keeping their attendance above 95%. There are many reasons for this, but the main one is that there is a clear link between increased attendance and improved achievement. With this in mind, students are being strongly encouraged to attend every day in order to ensure they are giving themselves the best chance to succeed.

We have continued to have recent 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 Street in front of the school, in First Street behind Stanton Lodge).

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

Townsville State High School Facebook Page
Our Facebook page has been active since 2015 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!

Payment of 2020 Textbook and Resource Hire Fees
Participation in the 2020 Student Resource Scheme requires payment.

There are also some subject specific costs for Year 10/11/12 students.

Call the office to find out how much. 4721 8777

Payment may be made in full as a single payment or by instalments. An invoice and Participation Agreement Form was posted out to you recently.

If you do not have a copy of the Participation Agreement Form you can collect a copy from the school office or click on the link below:

Please elect to participate or not participate in the scheme on the Agreement Form and return to the school. 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, for example: school camps, afternoon sports, NQ Sports, Vocal and Guitar Lessons, use of the School buses, Year 12 Formal, Senior Jerseys, School Magazine and posting out of school reports.

For your convenience, the school office accepts cash and has Eftpos facilities that can be processed in person. The school also accepts online BPOINT payments as well as direct deposit payments to the school’s bank account – BSB 064-819; Account 00090292 (please state the student’s name and invoice number).

Thank you to those parents who have already attended to payment of the Textbook/Resource Hire Fees. Payment of school fees and return of text books ensures a fair and equitable distribution of resources. Thank you for your assistance.

NEW PAYMENT METHOD
We can now offer parents the ability to pay invoices over the phone using BPOINT IVR (Interactive Voice Response). Parents call 1300 631 073 and enter their CRN, amount and credit card details to complete payment. At the end of the call you will be provided with a unique payment receipt number. The school office is no longer able to take credit card details over the phone as this is not Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard compliant.

PROCESS FOR PAYMENT PLANS
We now have a new process for payment plans using BPOINT Electronic Direct Debit Registration.

If you are unable to make a full payment of an invoice by the due date you need to contact the Business Manager, Narelle Searston to arrange a payment plan. You will negotiate with the
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 Administration 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 their Student Diary from the student’s parent/caregiver is required. This letter or note must be presented to the Administration Office if the student is arriving at school after 9:00am.

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 Diary and the student then presents the note to the Administration Office before school. A Leave Request slip 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 Administration 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. Your student needs to know a contact number so that we can phone parents and send students home as quickly as possible.

**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 Administration Staff stating the reason and dates of absence. This may be done by phoning the school on 4721 8777 or 4721 8709 or by emailing absencesadmin@townsvilleshs.eq.edu.au

**Message from the Senior Schooling Department**

**Important Notice for Senior Students**

Students on their P's are not permitted to transport other students unless they are siblings. **Given concerns from the school community, students are not to park within the school grounds, and must find alternative and suitable parking elsewhere.** Students must also 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 Ms Maynard.

**Unique Student Identifier (USI)**

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 (e.g. 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.

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.


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
- Citizenship Certificate
- ImmiCard

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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**2020 Queensland Schools Constitutional Convention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students**

On Tuesday 20th October, four students from Year 10 and 11 participated in the 2020 Queensland Schools Constitutional Convention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students. Students were engaged in a virtual conference consisting of various guest presenters and student speakers.

Each school was required to nominate a speaker to prepare and present a speech. The speech had to demonstrate their understanding of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Imagination Declaration, focusing on the need for change and their personal vision for the future of Australia.

As Town High’s representative, Abbie Ray conducted thorough research into the topics and presented an engaging, informative and passionate speech. Out of approximately 40 schools across Queensland, including seven others from the Townsville region, Abbie was one of seven student delegates selected to attend the Canberra National Schools Convention in 2021.

All students involved are to be commended on their behaviour and willingness to participate. A special congratulations in particular to Abbie on her achievement. We wish you all the best attending and presenting your speech at the National Convention in Canberra next year.
**Message from the Technologies Department**

**Senior Technologies**

With the end of the year looming senior students are completing some great project work. They have worked long and hard to perfect their craft.

Year 11 Furnishing: bedside table made of pine with tapered legs, mortice and tenon joinery and Tasmanian Myrtle inlay

Year 12 Furnishing: wooden deck chair

Year 12 Hospitality: students catered for a ‘celebration meal’ for staff

**TROPICS**

**Tropics represent!**

Queensland School Sport 13 – 15yrs Basketball State Championships were recently held in Townsville. Tropics students were invited to assist with the score-bench.

Here is the happy crew!

Brannen Dale played in the northern Region team. While Corbin helped with scoring.

Championship organisers said the students were great ambassadors for our program and school.

**Learning and Well-Being**

For the next few weeks students will be learning about **Empathy** as part of The Resilience Project. So with this in mind, I would like to discuss the topic of embracing failure. Thomas Edison famously said “I have not failed. I’ve just fund 10,000 ways that won’t work.” If you are interested to learn more about this topic, Maggie Dent who is an author, educator, and parenting and resilience specialist with a particular interest in the early years and adolescence has written the following article:

https://www.maggiedent.com/blog/let-your-kids-fail-often-its-just-good-parenting/

Here are 5 tips for parents from Clinical Psychologist, Jamie Howard

1. When you see that your child is struggling or having a hard time, empathise with them. Be sure not to brush off their feelings.
2. Try using language like “I know you’re really disappointed and that you wanted to do better.”
3. Explain to your child that everyone fails and offer a story about a time when you yourself failed. You can model for your child how to handle frustration and disappointment. Remember, adolescents are always watching and taking cues from parents.
4. Look at failure as a chance to teach your child a lesson about resilience. Talk through what went wrong and use problem solving skills to come up with a plan for what to do next time.
EXTRA CURRICULAR GROUP PHOTOS

School extra-curricular group photographs were taken recently. These groups may include sports teams / prefect groups, bands or other extra-curricular groups and these group images are now available for purchase at the advancedlife Townsville State High School Community Portal. or by following this link - https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=9TR81VFHE

ONLINE ORDER CODE: 9TR 81V FHE

Please Note:
- Extra-curricular group photos can only be purchased online DO NOT return payment to school
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are ordered
- Past years' photographs including sports, extra-curricular and representative groups are also available at your school's advancedlife & your advancedyou photo sites (follow the link above)

Uniform for Senior Students

Please note it is compulsory for all students in Years 10, 11 & 12 to wear the senior shirt, no polo shirts are acceptable.

Smoking Banned 5 Metres Around School Grounds

Smoking any tobacco products or using an electronic cigarette 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.

Got a plan for after school with work and study?

Leaving school after graduation from Year 12 can be both exciting and scary. There are many opportunities for study, work and training, but it can be confusing to work out what you want to do and how to make it happen.

Link and Launch is a school-based program that is here to help you start, stay on track, get support and see results for a successful post-school transition.

Your local Townsville State High School Link and Launch Manager is Andy Slater. She will assist you to navigate a range of post-school education, training and work options in line with your individual goals, aspirations, skills and strengths.

Want some help?

The new Link and Launch program can help you find out what is available and how to get there. Through Link and Launch, we can help you weigh up your options and work with you until you are successfully linked to your future pathway.

Who can attend?

You can! As a recent Year 12 graduate (past two years), if you are looking for support to enrol in further study or training or if you can’t find a job, you may be eligible to join the program.

To make an appointment to discuss how Andy can help, contact:

Andy Slater
Email – aslat47@eq.edu.au