



From the Principal

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Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to Semester 2. The first two weeks of this term has seen students involved in a range of activities already. The data from Semester 1 reporting has shown significant improvement academically by many students and that has been achieved through hard work.

Staff changes:

We welcome four new staff to our school this term.

- Mr Will Curthoys has re-joined staff at Pittsworth as Head of Department HPE & Arts
- Mr Jeremy Haaksma has commenced as HPE/ Maths teacher
- Mr Raymond Donohue has commence as English/Humanities teacher
- Mr Troy Smith as Teacher Aide in the Manual Arts faculty

I extend a warm welcome to all new staff and wish all an enjoyable and productive time at Pittsworth High School.

CGen:

Creative Generations is an annual event that showcases the best performers from all Department of Education schools across the State. CGen took place at the Brisbane Convention Centre on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 July. It is a high quality performance by young people in our schools. I was proud to have students from Pittsworth SHS involved in the 2016 Creative Generations. We had 22 students taking part and my congratulations is extended to all. It was a great experience for all students who were involved. My thanks to Ms O'Riordan for her efforts in coordinating.

I have already made the commitment to be involved in 2017 CGen. Network Ten will screen this year's performance on Saturday 15 October 2016 at 1.30 pm. The school will send a notification via Skoolbag App and Facebook closer to that date.

Year 10 Careers Expo:

The Year 10 Career Conference commences on Friday 22 July. Students, along with Year 10 students from Millmerran, will be participating in a series of information sessions and workshops at the Pittsworth Function Centre.

Subject Information Evening

Year 11 subject offerings for 2017 will be distributed to students. The subject selection process will commence the week following the Year 10 conference. Subject information evening will take place on Monday 25 July, commencing at 5:30pm. Subject displays will be located in the Resource Centre.

A subject selection information evening for Year 8 and Year 9 students will be held on Monday 5 September, commencing at 5:30pm. More information will be forwarded in coming weeks.

Queensland Training Awards:

Congratulations to Adam Steffens (Year 11) who is one of three finalists in the Queensland Training Awards for Darling Downs region in the category of School Based Trainee. Pittsworth students have a proud tradition in the Queensland Training Awards having been represented in the finals five of the past six years with three students taking out the award.

I'm sure all will join me in wishing Adam all the best when he along with his family and staff from the school attends the awards ceremony at the Armitage Centre tonight.

Athletics Carnival:

The school Athletics Carnival was conducted on Tuesday 19 July after being postponed from last term due to wet weather. In what turned out to be a warm winter's day, students participated attired in their house colours and records tumbled though-out the day. Notably a 44 year old long jump record was claimed by David Woodbridge.

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2016 CALENDAR ITEMS

July

- 22 - Year 10 Career's Day
- 25 - Year 10-11 Subject Evening
- 25-29 - Brick and Block Course
- 27 - Homework Club
- 28 - Chaplaincy Meeting
- 30-31 - Brisbane EKKA Group 1

August

- 1-4 - Brisbane EKKA PSHS Cattle Team Group 1
- 3 - Homework Club
- 8-14 - Brisbane Ekka PSHS Cattle Team Group 2
- 8 - Year 9 Religion
- 8 - 'Walk Away Chill Out' campaign, Year 12
- 9 - P&C Meeting
- 10 - Astronomy Evening
- 10 - Homework Club
- 12 - Year 7 Open Day

Newsletter #1116 Emailed



Congratulations to Condamine House on taking out the Athletics trophy with a total of 1538 points. Beauraba finished in 2nd place with 1371 points and Yandilla 3rd with 1352 points.

Congratulations to our Age Champions for Athletics:

- 12 Years Eliza Schulz & Mac Flegler
- 13 Years Stephanie Quinn & Jake Trott
- 14 Years Teegan Kelly & Pat McGinn
- 15 Years Morgan Prentice & Nathan Pukallus
- 16 Years Darcie Matthews & Scott Fitzgerald
- Open Regan Bennett & Lachlan Degnian

Pittsworth State High hosted the 13-19 Years Inner Downs Athletics Carnival on Thursday 21 July.

Study Tour:

We welcomed Japanese students and teachers from Ueno High School in the first week of term. Their time at our school came to an end on Thursday, 21 July. Host families and students enjoyed a farewell dinner at Adora Downs on Wednesday night.

We are presently in negotiation with Ueno High School in order to formalise a sister school relationship, with the view to having Pittsworth students visit Japan on a reciprocal study tour.

My sincere thanks to our host families who have opened their homes and taken in our international visitors. Thanks also to Mrs McGregor and Mrs Free for outstanding work that they have done in preparation and organization.



Update on School Facilities:

Upgrade to bandwidth:

- We are presently undergoing an upgrade to Bandwidth
- As Telstra sets configuration to enable new service. There may be a small outage of approximately 1 hour at the school.
- When the cutover from Business Grade Fibre 10 Mbps to Business Grade Fibre 20 Mbps occurs there will be a small outage of up to an hour at the school
- This should be finalised within the next week

Painting:

- Painting of B Block commenced last week and will continue for approx. 6 weeks.

Sail Shelters Installations:

- To be installed in the Junior Secondary Precinct in front of D Block and in the Senior Secondary Precinct near B Block.
- D Block shelter to be installed shortly
- B Block shelter to be installed after painting has finished
- Addition outdoor furniture has been procured for student use under these shelters

School Infrastructure Enhancement:

I am pleased to be able announce that Pittsworth SHS has been allocated \$500,000 under the SIE (School Infrastructure Enhancement) program to upgrade the Hospitality and Kitchen facilities and the adjacent Computer Rooms in C Block. Design and planning for this commence in the first week of August.

Uniform:

At last weeks P&C association meeting a proposal to introduce a school track pant and school sports shorts was discussed. Presently students are requested to wear navy blue shorts or track pants as part of the uniform, with the Canterbury style being popular.

The design of the proposed shorts and track pant are styled on the current Darling Downs school sports uniform albeit in our school colours. Initial costing indicates that these items, if adopted would be somewhat cheaper than the current options.

The P&C Association has also proposed a new, more contemporary sports/polo shirt, similar to that of the present senior shirt. This would be more hard wearing and more resistant to fading as well as being more UV resistant than the present shirt.



The P&C Association meets next on 9 August and will most likely be making a decision on these changes. I would stress, that should these proposals be adopted that the current uniform shirt can continue to be worn and changes to uniform policy for shorts and track pants would be phased in over the next two years.

I commend the P&C Association on their timely review of our uniform, as the school enters its Jubilee year. Feedback on these proposals is welcome. The proposed designs will be posted on the school website (along with a survey link) and on the school Facebook page next week, where comments may be posted.



School Technology Platform:

Earlier this year, I raised via newsletter my concerns over the school's digital presence. In part, this is due to changes initiated by the Department of Education to the school website and associated with cessation of computers being provided by the Department of Education for student use. This has led to some aspects of the current technology platform being inadequate.

A significant amount of work has been done in formulating a way forward in the following areas:

- Integrated social media
 - Investigating an integrated cloud based system which allows parents and students instant access to all student information, time table, attendance, messaging and intranet
 - QParent portal for access to school accounts, reports cards and class schedules
- Reinvigorate technology in the classroom
 - BYOX: parent can provide student with their own device to join the school network
 - Lease arrangement: a proposal to lease personal laptop device from the school including all software and accidental damage warranty. Initial costing works out at approximately \$70 - \$75 per term. Leased devices to be replaced every three years.
 - Have technology used actively in all classes across all year levels
 - Maintain specialist computer rooms within the school
 - Provision of technology mentor in the school to work with teachers and students
 - Aim for all students to have access to mobile technology in 2017 to assist in their learning
- Facebook & website
 - Continue to develop promoting aspects of school on Facebook

and webpage

- Possible redevelopment of the school webpage

• Upgrade broadband access

- Near completion

There will be an online survey distributed within the next few weeks to seek opinion of parents and students. Following that information, forums will be conducted to discuss and develop a technology strategy for our school. I would encourage parents to engage in this process.

Tony Kennedy
Principal

S.O.S.

REMINDER: Parent School Opinion Survey closes on 29 July 2016.

A reminder to complete the survey posted to families on Monday 11 July and have your say about what your child's school does well, and how it can improve. Participation in the survey is anonymous and all information that you provide will be treated confidentially.

The survey will be available until 29 July and should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Deputy's Desk

Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection and Information Evening

A reminder to parents of students currently in year 10 that there will be a subject selection evening held on Monday 25 July. The evening will commence at 5:30pm in the Auditorium where information will be provided around senior schooling processes and Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) attainment. This will be followed by subject displays in the resource centre. During the subject displays there will be the opportunity to speak with Heads of Department and teaching staff to find out more about subjects on offer. At the subject selection evening students will be given a booklet containing an outline of senior subjects on offer and a list of subjects to choose from.

Subject choices will need to be completed by Friday 29 July, 3pm. Students enrolled at PSHS can complete their subject selections online at <http://oslp.eq.edu.au> and students who will be joining us from Millmerran SS will need to complete their selection on the paper copy provided. I would ask that once students have picked their six subjects they should also pick two "backup" subjects, as this will assist with timetabling should subjects become too full or not gain sufficient interest/numbers to be a viable class.

Students who are already signed up to a School-Based Apprenticeship/ Traineeship will be entitled to a study line (often referred to as a spare) to assist with completion of book work associated with their course. Unfortunately there is no capacity in the subject selection system to pick a study line. In this instance, students will need to pick six subjects and two backup subjects then, in the notes section, type a message that indicates which subject they will drop for a study line (eg. I have picked Chemistry on line 6, I would like to have my study line here instead of Chemistry).

Should you be unable to make it to the information evening, subject selection packages will be available from the student services office from Tuesday 26 July. Should you have any further queries regarding this process, please feel free to contact me.

Scott McKenzie
Deputy Principal, Dean of Senior Secondary

Tuckshop Roster

July	August
19 - <i>Help Required</i>	1 - <i>Help Required</i>
20 - <i>Help Required</i>	2 - Brenda Gillespie
21 - <i>Help Required</i>	3 - <i>Help Required</i>
22 - Tina Morris	4 - <i>Help Required</i>
25 - Dawn O'Sullivan	5 - <i>Help Required</i>
26 - <i>Help Required</i>	8 - Kristy Bradford
27 - Jillian Pukallus	9 - Dianne Steffens
28 - Deirdre Degnian	10 - Cathy Cronin
29 - <i>Help Required</i>	11 - <i>Help Required</i>

Home Ec Happenings

Last week we welcomed our Japanese visitors into the Home Economics Department where they were involved in both garnishing activities (with Mrs Tandy) and lamington making (with Mrs French). They enjoyed these experiences in the kitchen. Later in the week they will complete a textile project with Mrs French, with assistance from Tour coordinator, Mrs McGregor.



Our Jubilee banners are progressing with the Commemorative Banner in its final stages. Mrs Peck used her creative talent with fabric paints, to bring a piece of yellow fabric into a reality as a Rising Sun. We are yet to add the poppies, (so generously made by many people) as the finishing touch to this beautiful banner.



We welcome a new group of year 7, 7D to Home Economics. They are learning about sewing notions and beginning hand sewing skills in order to decorate a pencil case. Parents should have received a letter with subject specifications for the term.

Year 10 students about to embark on subject selection processes should consider Home Economics as a choice for year 11 studies. Home Economics is an OP subject and although it has a rigorous theoretical element, this is balanced by some real life practical projects. Especially consider this subject if you have not decided on a pathway after school. See Mrs French if you have any questions about the senior Home economics course.

Mrs French
Home Economics teacher

Hockey success

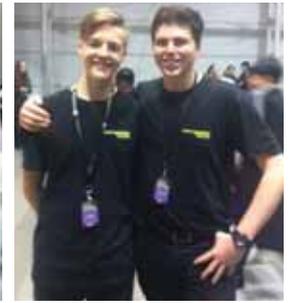


Pittsworth High School year 8 student Lani Collins recently represented Toowoomba at the Queensland State Championships in the sport of hockey. The championships were held at Hervey Bay during the June/July school holidays.

Lani has since been selected to play for her state in the U13 Queensland girls "Embers" team. She will represent her Queensland at the State Hockey Centre in Perth 29 September through to 8 October 2016. This event coincides with the Australian Hockey League, which will give Lani the chance to meet some of Australia's elite hockey players.

Photo courtesy Annette Andrews Photography

Creative Generations: State Schools on Stage



A large contingent of Pittsworth High students travelled to Brisbane last week to take part in the incredible production, Creative Generations: State Schools Onstage. After a monster week including long rehearsals and five performances, the phenomenal show; themed "Celebrate our world" is now over for another year.

This year we had twenty one students participating; and of that two of our students were featured: Alexavier McEwan, a featured vocalist and Ella Williams, a featured dancer. Being selected as featured in their respective fields meant these two students had to dedicate a large portion of their time travelling to Brisbane continually over the past few months for rigorous rehearsals prior to the production.

Students involved in the massed dance group ranged from years 7 to 11: Emily Cavanagh, Lucy Rohde, Mikealee VonHoff, Holly Pearce, Meg Fowler, Meg Rohde, Abbey Markey, Tori-Rose Postle, Bonnie McKinlay, Cassidy Jocusen, Chloe Bradford, Jade Brose, Montana Milne, Kirby O'Shea and Tahnee VonHoff.

Our wonderful massed choir members were: Keanna-Leigh Krause in year 7, and Lachlan Birch in year 8. With the hardworking backstage crew consisting of Addison McEwan in year 10 and Hamish Birch in year 12.

All students represented our school beautifully and clearly showcased the wonderful talent we have on offer. Singers and dancers have been tirelessly rehearsing since April; with special thanks to Beth Wheeldon and Ella Williams. Thank you also to Carol McEwan for her assistance during show week and to all of the dedicated parents who make this week possible.

Highlights from the show will be broadcast on Network Ten on Saturday 15 October at 1:30pm.

The students are already excited for next year's production theme, incorporating the Commonwealth Games. We will begin preparation for this at the end of the year, after we have all had a well-earned break.

Andrea O'Riordan
Creative Generations Coordinator 2016

PSHS Equestrian happenings



Abi Lunney represented Pittsworth State High School at this event in the 12 year age group, placing an impressive third overall in a group of 13 riders.

During the school holidays, Interschool State Championships were held over four days from 26 - 29 June. The Championships included Showcasing, Show horse, Showman, Show Jumping and Dressage. Four riders from Pittsworth State High School competed at this event over four different disciplines.

Akayla Brown took part in the dressage part of the competition, sadly having to withdraw half way through due to her horse being injured.

Jemma Brown competed in the 90cm Showjumping class as one of 50 riders. Jemma represented well for Pittsworth High against some tough competition.

Layne Saal also took part in the 90cm Showjumping class, competing against 49 other riders. Laynee finished the meet 19th out of 50 riders.

Courtney Mason contested in the 1mt class, obtaining a 1st place, a 6th place and a 3rd place, making her Overall Reserve Champion. Courtney has now qualified to represent Pittsworth High School at Interschool Nationals in Sydney later this year.

All students had a great time, showing great sportsmanship throughout all competitions in their chosen disciplines. Congratulations and well done to all Pittsworth High Equestrian riders.

Best of luck to Laynee Saal who will travel to the State Championships in Burpengary to compete in the Pre Intro EVA 60cm interschool one day event this weekend.

St Joseph's Primary School, Millmerran recently hosted the Interschool Horse Sports on 24 June. A total of 120 riders nominated for this event, hailing from 35 different schools across the Darling Downs, Goondiwindi and Brisbane areas. Riders ranged in age from year 1 to year 12.

THE LATEST FROM THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Pageeturners

Our brief last month was to read a controversial novel and I read 'Barracuda' by Christos Tsoalkas. It was only after I started to read it that I discovered it was to be made into a series for the ABC and so have been watching the 'conversion' of the novel into television. So the novel is about a very strong swimmer, Daniel Kelly, from a working class suburb of Melbourne who has to transition into one of the elite private schools as a consequence of a scholarship offered to him by the school. This is difficult. He struggles to be accepted and also discovers his sexuality. The novel descends into quite a gritty tale after Daniel implodes at a swimming meet and later spends time in jail. It was a stomach churning read in places and I may have skipped some passages so as to spare myself the details. We meet again this week and in the light of the recent terrorist attacks, I've decided that the topic will be to read either about France or Turkey so as to gather some sort of insight into these horrific events.

Readers' Cup

Our team of Laynee Saal, Alayna Bourke and Lani Collins, spent some of their holidays reading the novels for the State finals in September. There are 5 novels to be studied and the girls are doing well having covered between 2 or 3 books between them over the break. The girls will also need to put together a trailer for one of the novels. This is worth ten points to our total on the day of competition.

OVERDUE BOOKS

We are in a position where a number of students have some significantly overdue books. We will be doing a final check on the shelves and then we will be issuing bills in the hope of the books being found under beds!

Our Japanese Guests

The contingent of students and teachers from Ueno High School in Japan have been a delightful addition to our Resource Centre. They have been out and about quite a bit but when they have been with us they have been unfailingly polite and very curious about life here in Oz. They leave us on Friday and we wish them all the best for their trip home. Sayonara.

Jenny Sullivan
Teacher Librarian

Athletics Carnival

Congratulations to Condamine house for taking out the Pittsworth State High Athletics carnival for 2016. This win now means each house has had the chance to hold the shield aloft after school sporting meets this year.

Age champions for the day were L – R: Mac Flegler, Stephanie Quinn, Nathan Pukallus Morgan Prentice, Patrick McGinn, Darcie Matthews, Lachlan Degnian, Regan Bennett, Scott Fitzgerald, Teegan Kelly, Jake Trott and Eliza Schulz.

More athletics carnival information will be published in the next edition of High Notes.



Our event this Term will be participation in the 40 hour Famine. It is being held over the weekend of 19-21st August.

By giving up something that matters to you for 40 hours, you can raise awareness and funds to help fight global hunger. You can give up food, technology, furniture or talking- anything that matters to you!

See Mrs French for an information letter to become involved.

Mrs French
Amnesty teacher





Thank You

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