Dear Parents/Guardians

Senior Graduation

Before the next newsletter is published our current cohort of Year 12 students will have graduated from Pittsworth State High School and moved on to the next phase of their lives. I would like to wish the graduands all the very best for their graduation ceremony and hope that whatever comes next, that they are proud of their efforts throughout their school lives and their memories of Pittsworth High are fond ones.

Awards Night

On Wednesday, 2nd November the Pittsworth State High School Annual Awards Night was held at the Pittsworth Town Hall. It was a wonderful evening that unashamedly shone the spotlight on the schools best and brightest. These events give parents and caregivers a chance to see a result for all of their hard work as well.

Can I take this opportunity to thank the Admin staff for their amazing efforts in putting the whole event together, this willing band of workers contributed largely to the success of the evening. I would also like to thank Mr Rob Michel for his coordination of the student MCs and the running of the night itself.

This event is significantly supported by the community in terms of sponsorship and presentation of awards and I would like to acknowledge that support also.

Thankyou also to the parents of the school for attending on the night and supporting your children and also for the awesome supper afterwards.

Acting Principals Awards Night Report

Good evening to parents and supporters, invited guests and most importantly to the crème de la crème of Pittsworth, our award recipients for 2016. It is a great pleasure to be able to acknowledge the toil put in by students and families throughout the year by taking a moment to celebrate. I would particularly like to thank Tony Kennedy for taking the time to be with us tonight, it is in great part his leadership and hard work over the past years that finds Pittsworth State High School the envy of many in this region.

As I have said to many people since I have been in the role of Acting Principal this term, coming in to a school at this time of year is a little like trying to get on to a moving train. Schools at this time of year have significant momentum as they begin the process of farewelling the current senior cohort while simultaneously preparing for the arrival of a new year with new year 7s (and this time a new Principal) and all of the work that entails. It is a credit to the staff at the school how willing they have been to ‘patiently show me the ropes’ at a very busy time, as well as being prepared to respond to my ‘outsiders’ incessant questions and I would like to thank them for that.

I have taken time, while asking lots of questions and listening to staff, both teaching and non teaching to parents and members of the community, through the P&C and the Jubilee committee, to try to wander around the school and just ‘pay attention’ I would like to share a couple of my observations with you.

The school has a positive ‘feel’ walking around, students are happy to engage in conversation, most are playing sport or sitting under the shelters or trees chatting comfortably even listening to music (actually today I was wrapped to hear John Denver rather than 50 Cent) while not seeming to be a big thing, this does NOT happen everywhere.

The recent Arts week and evening is another major school event I can comment on, the numbers of students (and staff) involved in this particularly on the evening was extraordinary from cooks, to volunteers and performers, all was amazing, and again this does not happen everywhere.

There seems to be a real sense amongst the students that they are there with a purpose and this is not an accident, parents and the community are hugely important in this, and none of it would
happen without the efforts of the staff of the school and their commitment to the students.

My observations seem to be supported by the numbers, while I am not a huge believer in data being the whole truth it can give some indications. Here are a couple from this year:

• At the end of semester one this year 89% of the students results were a C or better with 92% received a C or better in Effort and 97% a C or better in class behaviour, a great result.

• Out of last years Year 12 group over 90% achieved a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) many of those with a Certificate 1, 2 or 3 and having completed or begun a traineeship or apprenticeship. Of that same cohort in destination surveys nearly 90% are in post school education and training or full or part time work, again an excellent result,

• And in this years student section of the School Opinion Survey: 91% responded that they liked being at school 92% that Pittsworth High is a good school and importantly 93% said that their teachers motivate them to learn which is a lovely stat,

• While in the parent part of the survey 92% indicated that they felt their child was safe at school, 97% that their child was making good progress while 100% indicated that they could talk to their childs teachers about their concerns.

All of this would appear to indicate that Pittsworth SHS is an excellent school. I know though that the school is not resting on its laurels there are exciting developments to come in 2017 not least of which will be 50th Jubilee celebrations later in the year, computer rooms and the Kitchen are being refurbished, there is the further roll out of the BYO device initiative and a change to a vertical school structure in which our Seniors will have further opportunities to be role models every day as always another very busy year ahead.

GenR8 Graduation
I accompanied our VET coordinator Maree Holmes to a ceremony held at TAFE Southwest where Adam Steffens received an award for completing his GenR8 course which is a Certificate II in Transport and Logistics. LandMark have employed Adam throughout this course and have offered him work in 2017.

These courses are a great opportunity for our Year 12 students and we encourage students to become involved. If you are interested please see Maree Holmes.

John Lofthouse
Acting Principal

Awards Night 2016
On 2nd November, Pittsworth High held its 50th Annual Awards Night where achievements of an amazing number of students were celebrated. It was great to see so many students being recognised for their efforts.

A full list of award winners can be found on the school website. Another momentous part of the evening was the announcement of the 2017 Prefects. Congratulations to the following students on their appointment to leadership positions for next year:


Thanks all those who attended and all who support our students every day. Encouragement and support at home makes a noticeable difference in the motivation levels of students at school.

Robert Michel
Deputy Principal, Curriculum

Deputy’s Desk

Transition
Preparations are now well underway for our Year 7 class of 2017. Enrolment interviews should now be complete. Their second transition day is fast approaching - Tuesday 29th November. This is an excellent opportunity for students to meet new peers and teachers whilst familiarising themselves with the high school setting. We wish them all the best as they embark on a rather daunting, but exciting journey.

Count Down
With less than half of the term remaining, there’s no doubt that students, parents and teachers are tired. Having said this, it’s vital that all assessment is finalised by the end of Week 9. Alongside our core business of learning, our Year 8s are preparing to take up leadership opportunities in 2017 while the 9s will attend a Transition Ceremony to mark the start of their Senior education. Students will engage in a series of skills based activities throughout Week 10 in preparation for 2017. The Gold and Silver Level Rewards trip will be Thursday 8th December. Parents and guardians are asked to check that their child is up to date with their work before permitting early holidays. The Junior Secondary schooling year does not end until 3pm, Friday 9th December.

Louise Mahon
Deputy Principal, Junior Secondary
Food hampers for farmers

I’m extremely proud of my 11A Care Group; this week they raised $388 to purchase food for the hampers for our Queensland Farmers who are struggling due to the effects of long droughts. Pittsworth IGA were also very generous in giving us an additional $100, so we could purchase additional goodies for our hampers. These hampers will be wrapped and distributed in the next week alongside of some additional 200 hampers to farming families who need our hope and kindness. Thank you very much to the community of Pittsworth for your valuable donations and generosity.

Thanks for your valuable help and donations,
Mrs Deborah Burton
Year 11A Care Group Teacher

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Celebrating Schoolies

Schoolies Week is a great time to enjoy parties with new and old friends and celebrate completing their schooling whether it’s at the Coast, camping or wherever they end up……but before they leave here are a few important things to remind them of:

1. Remind your teen to know where they are staying. This may seem obvious but if you’re from out of town and you can’t remember the name of your apartment, it might be hard to get home. Suggest, when they check in to their accommodation, ask for a brochure or card and keep it in their wallet or place details in their phone.
2. Remind them to put the taxi service number in their phone.
3. Never leave your drink unattended! This includes allowing someone else to make/pour you a drink.
4. Do you know what to do if you or a friend become sick or injured? Do you have your Medicare card details in your wallet?
5. In their phone, under ‘ICE’, save the name and number of the person to be contacted In Case of Emergency (ICE) – this is advised by Qld Ambulance Service.
6. They are in control and are responsible for setting the limits and sticking to them! The choices made will determine whether your Schoolies is one to remember or one to forget.

Schoolies 2016 make it one to remember, not one to forget!

Fiona Flegler
School Youth Health Nurse

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GenR8 Program

Year 12 student Adam Steffens has added one more Certificate to his list of achievements for this year.

Earlier this year Adam was successful in being one of the top three school based trainees in the region reaching the Regional finals of the Queensland Training Awards. Adam then enrolled into the GenR8 Program where he successfully completed a Certificate II in Logistics. This course is an initiative of the Department of Education and Training.

Adam attended TAFE Southwest to complete the theory components of the course and his twenty days of structured work placement was undertaken at Landmark Pittsworth under the direction of David Milne. Adam’s excellent work ethic and attitude to work has earned him fulltime employment with Landmark after completing Year 12.

Adams graduation was held at TAFE Southwest on Monday night where he received his certificate.

Twenty students from schools in Toowoomba and surrounding districts enrolled in the GenR8 Program this year and they all have come away with either full time or casual employment, an apprenticeship or traineeship.

If any present Year 11 students are interested in enrolling in the program or would like some more information please contact Maree Holmes on 4619 8118.
As the year draws to a close it can be difficult for students (and parents) to remain focused and able to prioritise effectively. This is particularly the case for our Year 12 students who will begin the next step in their life journey in less than 1 week. Completing Year 12 is one of those times in life when we leave behind familiarity to take on new experiences, challenges and opportunities. Transitioning from school to “a new world” is one such time, and is filled with excitement, uncertainty and challenges for our young people. Some tips for successful transition are:

- Remember that you will start off as the ‘little fish in a very big pond’ until you establish yourself again. Be mindful of the different attitudes, ways of doing things, and generational differences that may present themselves. Everyone has the right to an opinion but remember opinions require mutual respect and positive communication … this can start with you.
- Ask questions both at school and when you are out in the “the world” … remember that no question is a trivial question and ‘smart’ people always ask.
- Naturally, it’s important to listen to others but think for yourself – deciding on your career direction is not a group decision, it’s your decision … be true to yourself and consider the career direction that is most appropriate and achievable for you.
- Smart people ask for support and help when faced with education, budgeting, personal or living challenges … there is no shame attached to asking for help and receiving assistance.
- Transition is real … It takes time to feel comfortable in the world outside school. You will be learning heaps of new, personal, life and career skills and when developing any new skill, practice makes perfect. Be patient with yourself, acknowledge small issues and take timely and considered action before they become big problems.
- One’s career decision at the end of Year 12 is not usually for life no matter how sure you are at the time. If your career choice doesn’t turn out like you expected don’t be afraid to make a change after considered thought, thorough research and consultation with people who can support you in making a timely and appropriate career change.
- Networking is one of your most powerful tools … and it’s not all about which school you went to. Adopt a ‘have a chat’ approach to everyone you meet, your fellow students, trainers, lecturers, boss, friend’s parents, parent’s friends, sporting and/or cultural groups, even ‘randoms’ (being mindful of personal safety). You will come across as confident, enhance your communication skills, increase your self-esteem; and you never know who knows who.
- Tips for Parents – this is not as easy and clear cut, as we can sometimes let our emotions interrupt our thinking at times like these.
- • Trust in your child’s ability to make responsible decisions independently, guiding them only when you feel it is necessary. People learn from mistakes, and it is okay to let your child learn from their mistakes (providing they are not risking their safety of course).
- • Choose your battles wisely…Invest your emotional energy when absolutely necessary…Does it really matter if your child leaves the house with their bed unmade?
- • Assist your child in making positive steps towards their future goals through encouragement and exploration.
- • Remember that the next step of the journey is your child’s next step, not yours. We have all heard of the saying “living your life through your child”. Your child may have very different goals and dreams than you, and that is perfectly normal and okay. Try to remain objective.
- • And most importantly, reflect on the journey you have shared with your child as they begin this new chapter. It is important to recognise how far they have come, to help build confidence and resilience to go forward in the future.

I wish all of our graduating students every success for the future and I am truly excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for you all!

Words of wisdom from Dr Seuss…

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who’ll decide where to go.”

Kerri

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From the YSC

Amnesty

A selection of students who were involved in Amnesty activities came along to the Amnesty break up last Friday. It was a chance to farewell the Year 12 students, Nathan Cheetham (Cultural Captain) and Chloe Smith who this year have been a wonderful support to the group. We look forward to further raising of awareness around Human rights issues in 2017 and thank everyone for their support of our events and campaigns throughout this year, especially the 40 hour famine.

From the YSC

7B Geography

Year 7B were given a problem solving task around their current unit of “Liveability”. The students were asked to create a model which represented an environmental factor in relation to making a city “liveable”. Students conferenced firstly and then, with only their own resources, went about representing such elements as Urban design, Architecture and Access to nature. Some wonderful, creative and original designs ensued.

Mrs Theresa French
7B Geography Teacher

Mrs Theresa French
Amnesty Teacher
Home Ec happenings

The senior Home Economics class judged the Best Dressed for Melbourne Cup recently. Thank you to all staff who managed to find their special outfit for the occasion. Best Dressed man was Mr Justin Brown, Best Dressed lady, Miss Sarah Wells and Best Hat worn by Mrs Burton.

A recent visit by Mr Mark Lindenberg was a wonderful opportunity for students to gain knowledge about the aspects of buying and maintaining a car. This is a part of the “Launching and Landing” unit whereby students gain knowledge and skills for life after school. We are grateful for Mark taking the time away from his busy business to deliver these messages.

Delicious picnic foods were chosen and prepared by 7C students last week. Some items included, egg and lettuce sandwiches, scones, pancakes, quiche and a variety of biscuits. Thank you to parents who have supported their student with ingredients for weekly cooking. Students now complete the textiles component of the term by learning hand stitching skills, knowledge of notions and will decorate a pencil case. A reminder that $2 is needed for purchase of the pencil case.

P&C happenings

A thank you afternoon tea was held today, Friday 11th November for the wonderful volunteers who come along and help out at the tuckshop. Many thanks to you all for your support. Huge thanks also go to Kaye, Karen and Courtney for their tremendous efforts throughout the year.

A commemoration presentation celebrating Pittsworth State High School’s 50 years is being considered for the first day of school 2017. More information will be made available on this closer to the date.

Finally, the Pittsworth State High School P&C would like to wish the Year 12 students the best of luck for their new life journey upon the completion of their schooling.

Jeanna Lee
PSHS P&C President

State Champs

Pat McGinn travelled to Brisbane recently to compete in the Track & Field Queensland State Championships as part of the Darling Downs squad.

Pat competed in the 200m event, running a personal best time of 24.6 seconds, placing him 24th in the State and a mere .4 second off qualifying for the semi final.

Lions Markets

Pittsworth Lions are holding their November market at the Pioneer Village in Pioneer Way, Pittsworth on Sunday, 20th November from 8.00am - 12 noon.

We look forward to having a wide range of stalls, so whether you want home cooking, honey, plants, woodcraft, toys, or a wide range of gift ideas for Christmas, you’ll find them. Lions Christmas cakes and puddings will be available for sale. The Trash and Treasure stall might have just the thing you’ve been looking for. Lions’ Lyn and James Evans will be organizing it again, so if you have goods you would like to donate for the Trash and Treasure, please contact Lyn and James on 4693 3337.

Many of the stallholders are local people who appreciate the support of the community at the markets, so come and see what a range of talents Pittsworth and the Downs can produce. Hughie Stone and Ron James will be entertaining with their music for those who like to relax over morning tea, and the Lions will provide a BBQ and soft drinks.

Come and join us for a great morning.

For more information please call Wilma Proudlock on 4693 3308 or email wproudlock@bigpond.com

You're invited

The year 11 Visual Art in Practice class invites you to attend the opening of our jewellery stall.

All items will be available for sale, with proceeds to be donated to the Cancer Council.

9.30am, 16th November, D14 Gallery, PSHS

Mrs Theresa French
Home Economics Teacher
Year 11 Leadership Camp

On Wednesday 26th November, 33 of our Year 11 students boarded the bus for a three day Leadership Camp that was held at Noosa North Shore Retreat.

Camp began with the camp co-ordinator giving the group team challenges to complete. These challenges ranged from getting all students through the spider web, to crossing the lava field, to makeshift generals navigating their blind tanks to safety.

Throughout the rest of the week all students engaged with and participated in many and varied leadership challenges. It was great to see the students working together beyond the class room to solve problems as a group. These challenges allowed many to step up and demonstrate leadership skills while also moving outside their comfort zones. The group learned that mistakes are not failure but a part of the process that just requires another approach.

Stand up paddle boarding, canoeing and raft building provided more opportunities for students to work together with others to reach a common goal. With commitment to the goal often resulting in students capsizing and becoming stuck in the mud.

In between activities students also demonstrated their willingness to help others during meal times with many volunteering to serve and clean up. Camp finished on a high on the giant swing with almost all students participating in releasing themselves from a 20 metre high swing after their peers had lifted them up using a pulley system.

Based on the many and various displays of leadership shown during camp, Pittsworth State High School looks to be in safe hands with the Senior Class of 2017.
UPHOLSTERY APPRENTICESHIP

Matt Follington Upholstery in Pittsworth has a full time apprenticeship available within his upholstery business. A fantastic opportunity in a niche industry. You will learn how to make swags, tarpaulins, reupholster car, boat and truck interiors, furniture and much more. See Mrs Holmes in 4B as soon as possible if interested.

TAFE COURSES FOR 2017

TAFE is offering three new courses in 2017. Certificate III in Events - on graduation you’ll be job-ready and qualified to work in a number of event-focused roles across the hospitality, sport, cultural and community sectors. 8 QCE Points

Certificate II in Plumbing - this will suit students who like to work with their hands, see a tangible outcome from their work, and tackle different jobs each day! This course, with five specialist areas including water, sanitary, drainage, roofing and gas services, is delivered by passionate teachers with industry-current knowledge, and years of experience. 4 QCE Points

Certificate II in Retail Cosmetics - this course has a strong make-up focus. You will learn how to advise on beauty products and services. Have fun learning how to design and apply make-up, apply creative make-up and make-up for photography with a shoot of your work. Learn how to apply eyelash extensions and much more. Delivered in industry-current and open-to-the-public salons. 4 QCE Points

If interested in any 2017 TAFE courses see Mrs Holmes in 4B.

INFORMATION, DIGITAL MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

Are you interested in a career ICT? If so there is a School Based Traineeship in Information, Digital Media & Technology available in Toowoomba commencing in 2017. This incredible and rare opportunity is available for current Year 9 and Year 10 students.

This qualification provides the skills and knowledge for an individual to be competent in a wide range of general information and communications technology (ICT) technical functions and to achieve a degree of self-sufficiency as a advanced ICT user. The successful applicant will have a keen commitment to completing a traineeship, be completing Year 10 or 11 in 2017, be hardworking and reliable, with an interest in digital media and information technology, and a desire to make a career in the IT industry. If interested in this fantastic opportunity see Mrs Holmes in 4B.

DIPLOMA OF ENGINEERING - DRAFTING

Moore Trailers has an exciting opportunity for a Year 11 or 12 school leaver, a full time Diploma of Engineering - Drafting Traineeship is available in their dynamic business. If you are interested in this position please see Mrs Holmes in 4B.

FULL TIME APPRENTICESHIPS

Full Time Apprentice Chef - Toowoomba
Full Time Apprentice Carpenter - Toowoomba
Full Time Apprentice Fitter & Turner - Toowoomba
Full Time Apprentice Part Interpreter - Dalby
Full Time Apprentice Automotive Mechanic (Light Vehicle) - Toowoomba

Expression of Interest: Administration Traineeship - Toowoomba
Expression of Interest: Apprentice Painter - Toowoomba

If interested in any of these positions please see Maree in 4B as soon as possible.

GENR8 PROGRAM FOR 2017

Are you interested in working within the Transport and Logistics industry? If so the GenR8 Program might just be for you. The GenR8 Program is a school to work transition course which gives you hands on experience as well as a TAFE component to deliver the theory side of your course.

Of the 18 students who graduated from the course this year they all have secured either an apprenticeship, traineeship or full time employment.

If interested in more information please see Mrs Holmes in 4B.

As you may be aware the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will commence in the Toowoomba region from 1 January 2017. This region encompasses a broad geographical area.

Who could be eligible for Funding?

Disability funding and supports could apply to children from birth all the way through to adults who have not turned 65 years. It is important to understand that many children and adults who previously could not get disability support or funding may now be eligible.

The NDIS focuses on the person with a disability across their whole-of-life. For the first time, people with a disability in Australia will get to choose where and how to access support. Funding will go directly to the individual to choose the services they need. A plan is created for each eligible NDIS participant based on specific individual needs and progress goals.

NDIS funding includes opportunities for early intervention services for children from birth.

Funding may provide for things you’d like to access for therapy and assessments, learning, daily living, accom, equipment/assistive technology, health, transport and hobbies and assistance with employment.

For further information on eligibility, you can visit the NDIS access checklist: www.ndis.gov.au/ndis-access-checklist

If you are eligible, the NDIS will ask you to complete an Access Request form. You do not need a referral. You will find more information at www.ndis.gov.au or call 1800 800 110.

Endeavour Foundation is committed to partnering with you and, where relevant, your families and carers to ensure you are heard, supported and have the information you need about moving to the NDIS. Ultimately, however, decisions about your life and your Plan are yours to make.

There are a number of ways that Endeavour Foundation can assist you:

• We have produced a pre-planning booklet, Mapping My World, to make it easy for you to think about the supports you want and need – now and in the future - before meeting with your NDIS planner. Please visit our resources page - https://ndis.endeavour.com.au/ - to download.

• We also have the Discover Guide, an extensive guide to the NDIS, estate planning, guardianship and legal matters. This guide is available free of charge at the Endeavour Office, 88 Russell Street Toowoomba.

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Positions available

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See more info on our website.

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