From the Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians

STOP PRESS - Principal 2017
The new Principal for Pittsworth State High School commencing 2017 will be Mr James O’Neill. James comes to us highly recommended from Sandgate District State High School. I have spoken to James and he is very excited about his appointment to this great school. He will endeavour to visit Pittsworth before the end of the school year to meet people.

Formal
Attending the Formal for the graduating year 12 group of 2016 was a great experience for me. I had heard that it was a major event, but was amazed at the way the town turned out to support the graduates. The arrivals on the red carpet where students could be admired and seen in their finery by the community was a highlight, as was the function and meal.
Many thanks again to Mrs Fing for organisation of this event, it was a great success.
I would like to wish all of this years graduating students the very best in their future endeavours and am sure that over the next couple of years we will hear great things about them.

Millmerran visit
Last week a group of Year 10 students from Millmerran came for an orientation visit, they were welcomed by myself and Mr McKenzie. We talked about life as a Senior student and the importance that no matter what their chosen or intended career, attendance and hard work are the keys to success. Current Year 11 students from Millmerran took them on a tour of the school, answered any questions, cooked them a sausage sizzle and mingled with other Pittsworth students. I hope the visiting students the very best in their future endeavours.

Industry Breakfast
On 30th November Pittsworth State High School will be hosting a breakfast for people and organisations that support the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Program here at school. This program is a vital part of providing as wide a range of options for our students as possible and could not be done without the help of wonderful employers and training organisations.
It is through this program that Pittsworth State High School has one of the highest number of students involved in School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships per head of population in the state.
Maree Holmes is the schools VET coordinator, and her efforts organising and supporting our students in this program are exceptional. I thank her for her efforts on behalf of students and their families.

Pop up Police Station
On Wednesday 23rd officers from the Darling Downs Crime Prevention Unit set up a display during the lunch break for students. The officers spoke to students about a range of things from Cyber Safety to Careers in the Police. Students were able to walk through the van that was on display and ask questions about the equipment on display.
The officers were very complimentary about the students that came to talk with them, in particular they noticed how well mannered Pittsworth High School students were. It was great opportunity for our students, and I am sure that more of these visits will be organised in the future.

Business as usual
Students in Year 10 and 11 finish their 2016 school year today, Friday 25th November. Exams and assignments have been finalised and staff are busy marking. I hope their efforts are rewarded.
I wish them a safe and restful Christmas break and that they all come back in 2017 fit and ready for another year.
For Years 7, 8 and 9 students it is business as usual, classes are in learning mode and all students should be studying for exams and completing other assessment. Being organised is key to success.

CALENDAR ITEMS
November
25 - Years 10 & 11 last day
29 - Year 7 2017 Transition Day
December
8 - Years 7, 8 & 9 Gold & Silver rewards
9 - Years 7, 8 & 9 last day
January
23 - First day of school 2017
26 - Australia Day holiday
2017 intentions
At this time of year the school is busily planning for 2017. A very complex timetable is nearly complete and this hinges on us knowing students that will be attending next year.
If you are planning on not sending students to Pittsworth State High in 2017, please contact us either by phone on 4619 8111 or via email to the.principal@pittsworths.eq.edu.au

John Lofthouse
Acting Principal

Deputy’s Desk

Year 6 Transition
Preparations are well underway for Tuesday’s second transition day where Year 6 students joining us in 2017 will engage in activities designed to familiarise them with high schooling life. The day will commence at 9am and finish by 3pm. Parents are most welcome to attend an information session in the Auditorium from 2:30pm. There will be a BBQ lunch and the tuckshop will also be open. Year 6 students will receive their Year 7 transition shirts and Junior Secondary leaders will be on hand to assist them throughout this day. Please contact the school for an enrolment interview if you haven’t already done so.

Year 8 Leadership
12 of our promising Year 8 students have made us particularly proud today whilst presenting leadership speeches on Junior Secondary parade. As noted by Mr Lofthouse, standing up in front of one’s peers is no easy feat; a challenge these students met with considerable enthusiasm. Voting is open to all current Year 7, 8 and 9 students along with staff. Successful candidates will be acknowledged on Monday morning’s parade and will play an important role in working with Senior Prefects to build house culture across the school in 2017.

Louise Mahon
Deputy Principal, Junior Secondary

Deputy’s Desk

2017 Timetables
Students going into Year 11 in 2017 received their timetables today. These are an indication as to which subjects students will be in. The teachers and classrooms listed will still change – new copies will be issued on day 1 2017. Students who did not attend today will need to collect their timetable from the school office.
I envisage that timetables for students going into years 9 and 10 will be distributed on 2 December, or early the following week.

Important Dates for Year 12
Just a quick reminder to our recently finished year 12 students and their parents of the following key dates:
• QCS Grades became available online at 9am 16 November
• OP Results will be available online from 9am 17 December
• Senior Education Profiles (including OP/ QCE statements) will begin arriving in the mail from 19 December
For online information students should go to https://studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au/ and login with their LUI number. If you are having difficulty accessing your information please contact me.

Scott McKenzie
Deputy Principal, Senior Secondary

Layer Chickens For Sale
15 layer chickens for sale
$11 each - 3 months old
Contact: PSHS Office 4619 8111

Drones Program
Drones are now being used to photograph crops, help manage water, survey crops and precisely dispense chemicals across the agricultural landscape, and the list of tasks they can carry out is steadily growing. These devices are undoubtedly one of the biggest new developments to sweep the industry.
Toowoomba registered training organisation Ag Training is teaching the next generation to embrace this new technology with its new Certificate II in Rural Operations – Drones. Ag Training in conjunction with Pittsworth High are offering students the opportunity to complete this Certificate through the VET (Vocational Education Training) system.
A number of students from PSHS have taken up this opportunity, committing one day per week of learning for seven months in order to obtain the qualification. With more and more industries taking up the use of drones in the workplace, having this qualification is bound to open doors for many.

Position Vacant
Matt Follington Upholstery in Pittsworth has a Full Time Apprenticeship available within his business. This is a fantastic opportunity in a niche industry. You will learn how to make swags, tarpaulins, reupholster cars, boats and truck interiors, furniture and much more. If interested, see Maree in 4B as soon as possible.
Year 10 Visual Art
This term the Year 10 Visual Art class have been exploring different printmaking techniques such as lino printing, screen-printing and etching. The students have been printing on to fabrics and paper, and are creating a folio/artist’s book featuring their work. It’s been really great to see the 10s creatively investigate relief, intaglio and stencil printing techniques, to make individual designs. I am excited to see what our 10s will make in their senior art classes next year!

Year 11 Visual Art
Transition - the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.
The Yr 11 Visual Art students have been making artworks based on the theme of Transition this semester. Their personal focuses have been widely varied; from themes such as evolution, emotional and physical journeys, the night sky, life and death, spiritual change, and metamorphosis. The students have investigated a wide range of materials, including paint, origami, pastels, digital animation, collage, photography, and sculpture. I am very proud of their efforts, and I am looking forward to seeing their creativity and skill really flourish in Year 12 next year.

Year 8 and 9 Art
During Terms 3 and 4 the Year 8 and 9 Art class have been considering the impact human beings have on their environment, and have consequently designed and made their own Lino Prints that explore different environmental issues. Some of the issues included deforestation, litter, air and water pollution, animal cruelty and global warming. The students were incredibly hard working during the making of the pieces, and I am really pleased with the resulting artworks. Well done 8s and 9s!

Mrs Audrey Williams

Visual Art and Art happenings

Found: Brown Plate
There was a dark brown earthenware plate left at the Town Hall after Awards Night supper. The plate is currently housed at the office in the Admin Building at Pittsworth High School. If this is your plate, please come and collect it or let us know.
Safe Partying
Safe Partying - Ten Tips for Parents
This time of year is often a time to celebrate the end of school year and get together with friends from all year levels within the School not only for our Year 12 students!

Parties are an important part of teenage life. They provide opportunities to socialise, relax and have fun. For many teenagers parties are synonymous with alcohol and other drugs.

Some points to remember:
• It is not easy to give your teenagers the freedom to run their own parties.
• It is not easy to watch your teenager step out of the front door to go to someone else’s party.
• It is natural to worry as to whether they will be okay
• They don’t want to be told what to do or to be cross examined
• You want them to make sensible decisions about what they are going to do.

However, they might be okay about you checking out a few safety issues with them, here are some tips:
1. If you are concerned, contact the host parents and discuss if there safety measures in place to deal with sickness/intoxication if it occurs, or other measures such as collecting car keys from those driving.
2. Encourage your teen to go out with trusted friends and leave the party together.
3. Ask what venues they plan to visit.
4. Ensure they have a quick and safe way to leave the party at anytime. Offer to pick them up.
5. Ask them to let you know of any change to their plans while out.

If they intend to drink, recommend that they:
• Set a limit to their drinking and stick to it.
• Never leave their drink unattended or let others pour a drink for them.
• Eat before leaving home, and space their drinks with non-alcoholic drinks and food.

These guidelines won’t always be easy to follow. But, attempting to establish reasonable guidelines can benefit you, your young person and the entire community.

Fiona Fiegler
School Youth Health Nurse

Mini Christmas Market
The Year 8/9 Business class experienced what it is like to be in business yesterday after both organising, promoting and running a Mini Christmas Market at school during first break.

Students worked hard in preparation for the event, offering items like choc filled baubles, tea lights, brownie in a bottle, choc chip cookies and gift tags for sale.

The market was well supported by students and some members of the public who came along to purchase items from the students.
Year 7 & 8 Basketball

Year 7 & 8 Darling Downs Champion Basketball School

On the Sundays of November 6 and 13 two Pittsworth High teams participated in the Year 7 & 8 Darling Downs Champion Basketball School competition.

Students involved trained during lunch times during the weeks leading up to the competition. The girls team with only five players for each game did exceptionally well to continue running during all games without a sub, finishing the competition in third place. A determined effort that resulted in the girls only just missing out on making the grand final by a few points.

The boys’ team played four games over the two days, finishing with two wins and two losses. We came up against some tough opposition over the course of the tournament, however, the boys stood up and tried to the best of their ability in each game. An amazing effort that made the coaching staff very proud.

All students represented Pittsworth High with great pride, showing improvement with each game played.

Final week program

The last school week for 2016 will consist of numerous educational activities run by the various faculties at Pittsworth State High School.

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>Robogals, Quiz, Making ice cream/sherbet, Card games, Board Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Indonesian Treasure Hunt, Trivia Mania, Puzzle Brain Drain, So you think you can act, Hour of Code</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Swimming Instruction, Preparation for Swimming Carnival, Learn to Swim, Lifesaving skills, Outdoor games, Movie</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Design Task, Key Hook Design, Christmas Crafts, Festive Foods, Cattle Work</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Each period will consist of an activity run by faculties and administration.</td>
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Yr 12 Prevocational Maths

More than Mathematics

This year some Year 12 students have learned well beyond their previous misconceptions about Mathematics. Their Prevocational Mathematics classes have encouraged students to overcome previous anxieties to develop practical mathematical skills, mental computational abilities, use and increase their knowledge of mathematics, problem solve and communicate their answers in as many different ways as possible.

Some examples include:
1. International Travel
2. Statistics in Sport
3. Buying a Car
4. Going to the Movies
5. Taxation
6. House Design
7. Geometry

This year has shown students how mathematics teaches patience, discipline, and step-by-step problem-solving skills. For those with a substantial background in mathematics, an unlimited number of career opportunities are available.

Mrs Deborah Burton
Subject Area Coordinator
(Prevocational Mathematics)
Well done to the year 11 VAP class who recently raised over $125 for the Cancer Council! This term, Mrs Rickard’s year 11 Visual Art in Practice (VAP) class explored a range of jewellery making techniques, utilising recycled materials. Their goal was to create several pieces to sell, in order to raise money for a charity. This year’s group were passionate about supporting the Cancer Council and worked hard to create, price, display and sell their work. The students hosted an official opening, with several parents, staff members and representatives from the Cancer Council attending. Gail Parish, a representative of the Cancer Council, recognised the contribution students were making and awarded them with formal certificates. She passed on their appreciation and provided great feedback to the students. The stall was then open to the school community later in the day.

Congratulations Oscar, Elise, Amber, Brent, Mariah, Alix and Aedyn! Through art, you have contributed greatly to the broader community!

Mrs Chloe Rickard
Year 11 Visual Arts in Practice Teacher

The Term 4 social was held at the Pittsworth Show Pavilion on 8th November with the theme of “Beauty and the Geek” or “What I want to be when I grow up”.

This was the final social for the Year 12 cohort where they were presented with a rose and a block of chocolate by the current Year 11 students as a farewell gift.

The QParents web and mobile application provides a more convenient, easier way for parents and legal guardians of Queensland state school students to interact with their child’s school. Parents will have secure, online access to their child’s student information, anytime, anywhere, through a smartphone, tablet or computer.

QParents allows parents to connect instantly with their child’s school to access and manage their child’s student information, including:
• Attendance and absence details, as well as the ability to notify the school of an absence
• Academic report cards
• Class timetables
• Viewing unpaid invoice details, payment history, and making payments online
• Viewing and updating personal student details and address
• Enrolment details

QParents will assist both staff and parents in sharing and responding to information in an efficient and effective way.

QParents won’t replace the traditional ways you communicate with our school, but it will provide another way to communicate with us. Instructions on how to register for QParents see the attachment with this newsletter.

More information about QParents can be found at https://qparents.qld.edu.au/#/about