Dear Parents/Guardians

It has been another highly productive year at Pittsworth State High School. The school has embarked on many endeavours designed to better equip the students of this community with knowledge and skills that will stand them in good stead for their future.

The most obvious of these is the ongoing connection between the school and employers where our students are able to access a wide range of Traineeships and Apprenticeships.

This year Pittsworth SHS has implemented the STAR program in which students work toward a Certificate II in Agriculture with focus on the use of Drone technology, this program is expanding in 2017.

Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow is a program aimed at our junior schools best and brightest in which classes of students use coding and robotics to solve real life problems for a ‘client’ business, this too will expand in 2017 providing opportunity to more students.

21st Century Fluencies is an approach to teaching and learning that seeks to provide students with thinking skills that enable them to solve problems independently. This approach has been part of the schools strategic planning and again will form an important part of how the curriculum is delivered in 2017. More information can be found by googling 21st Century Fluency or by visiting: https://globaldigitalcitizen.org/21st-century-fluencies

One of my personal highlights this term was Arts Week and its culmination, the Arts evening and Market. It was lovely to see so many students, staff and community enjoying an evening of entertainment and art provided by the students.

New Principal
Mr James O’Neill has been appointed as Principal of Pittsworth State High from the commencement of the 2017 school year. James attended the PSHS 2017 planning day last week, where he had an opportunity to meet and interact with the leadership team of the school for the morning. James and his wife Nicole are very excited about moving to the area and becoming involved in the life of the community. He said that he is also eager to investigate the Pittsworth Golf Club and the Saturday Parkrun.

Professionally James has worked as an English teacher, Head of Department and Deputy Principal across Brisbane, Logan and Charleville.

Holiday
On behalf of all at Pittsworth State High School I would like to wish all a relaxing and happy time for our families over the Christmas holiday period. Keep safe and be ready for an exciting 2017.

Thankyou
I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Pittsworth SHS this term, and would like to thank all staff, parents and students for making me feel so welcome.

I wish James all the very best for his Principalship of this great school.

John Lofthouse  
Acting Principal
Deputy’s Desk

2017 Staffing

As you will be aware, our school is lucky to have dedicated staff that all work together to ensure the success of our students. Sadly, the end of 2016 sees the departure of several staff members. Some staff are planning to take leave next year and will return in 2018 while others are saying farewell. We wish them all the best in their new adventures.

We sincerely thank the following staff for their contribution to the school:

- Ashvin Harrison
- John Lofthouse
- Sharni Masters
- Jenny Pierson
- Chloe Rickard
- Amanda Sapolu
- Kay Solar
- Robyn Telford
- Sarah Wells

These staff members will be missed by students, colleagues and the wider school community.

On a more cheery note, we welcome several new and returning staff members to the school in 2017 including:

- Cheryl Burnwood
- Tiffany Hirning
- Tara Lugg
- Jack Murphy
- James O’Neill
- Ruth Prust
- Michelle Stewart
- Mark Wallace
- Siobhan Yorkston

The school’s leadership team for 2017 will be:

- Principal - James O’Neill
- Deputy Principal of Senior School - Scott McKenzie
- Deputy Principal of Junior School - Louise Mahon
- Deputy Principal of Curriculum and HR - Robert Michel
- HPE/Arts Head of Department - Will Curthoys
- eLearning/Humanities Head of Department - Alisa McErlean
- Technology Head of Department - Anthony Murphy

2016 Reflection

It’s hard to believe that yet another year has whizzed by; an opportune time for reflection. Our Junior Secondary leaders have continued to build positive relationships with their peers and transitioning Year 6 students; an initiative we’d love to further strengthen next year. Semester 2 saw the introduction of a Grade Point Average system making the tracking of student achievement far more effective. Gold and Silver students will continue to be acknowledged when effort and behaviour reaches 4 or higher out of 5. We’ve worked hard to encourage such exemplary conduct with various rewards activities throughout the year. Those falling under 3 are considered ‘At Risk’ and have engaged in Student Improvement Plans designed to shift mindsets and therefore results. Refined versions of these initiatives will be pursued next year. Sincere thanks to our students, parents and staff for their incredible work and support throughout 2016. We truly do belong to a fantastic school community.

2017

Our Jubilee year is already looking grand with considerable preparations underway. This milestone will also be marked with some fine tuning of school processes. House Co-Ordinators: Zoie Keys - Condamine, Pam Tandy - Beauaraba and Justin Brown - Yandilla, will work closely with student house leaders to build house culture and engagement of students in a wide variety of pursuits. Care Groups will become vertical Home Groups with a selection of students from each year level in a house based class for morning roll marking and notices with the intent of strengthening house spirit. Our Student Representative Council will be the hub of our student body through which ideas and decisions are driven. Junior Secondary leaders for 2017 - Deanna Macdonald and Cameron Cooper - along with House Leaders; Lani Collins and Jamie Kelly - Condamine, Ariella O’Sullivan and Meg Fowler - Beauaraba, Amy Sturgess and Jordan Cunningham - Yandilla will play an important role in maintaining momentum with our young students. Students can expect to be accountable for their reporting data and we look forward to celebrating their many successes come 2017.

Louise Mahon
Deputy Principal, Junior Secondary

From the Chaplain

These past couple of weeks we have seen the rise of our new Junior Leaders for 2017. Well done to those who have gained these positions! I’m confident they will flourish in their new roles.

I would like to wish all students and parents a very happy, exciting and safe Christmas break. I look forward to seeing students back next year, refreshed and ready to learn. Thank you for your support of Chaplaincy throughout this year, I am able to support students and their families because of the generosity from our school community and the wider Pittsworth community.

If any students have uniforms they would like to donate to the school’s second-hand uniform shop, please do so through the school office. All donations are much appreciated.

Students and parents wishing to contact me can do so through the school office (07) 4619 8111.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday break and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Jason Beattie
School Chaplain

Junior Secondary transitions

The junior secondary precinct has commemorated two transition days recently. The first was our Year 9 to Year 10 transition ceremony where all current Year 9 students were presented with a certificate and small gift in recognition of their transition into senior secondary schooling in 2017. The following day marked the Year 7 2017 Transition Day where Year 6 students from surrounding schools attended PSHS and got a taste of what is in store for them when they commence High School next year.
2017 Jubilee Project

2017 is an important year in the history of Pittsworth State High School. To celebrate our 50th Anniversary we are embarking on a project to pave part of the school grounds. The designated area is situated between B Block and the Auditorium. This follows in the tradition of the school doing school improvements to mark milestones (Sir Alan Fletcher Open Air Theatre to mark our 25th Anniversary and the town’s project of paving the footpath in Yandilla Street to celebrate the Bi Centenary). We are inviting all who have had an association with the school over its fifty year history to mark the occasion by purchasing an engraved paver as a permanent link to our great school and to start the second fifty years in style.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PITTSWORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL.
2017 JUBILEE PROJECT

In honour of your generous contribution, a personalised engraved paver(s) of your creation will be placed in a paved area between B Block and the Auditorium. This is a major project for the 2017 Jubilee Year.

OPTION 1 - $35
SINGLE PAVER
(up to 3 lines of text)

OPTION 2 - $70
FAMILY/DUALLE PAVER
(up to 6 lines of text)

OFFER CLOSES 1 MAY 2017

CONTACT DETAILS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Name: _______________________________ Phone: _______________________________ Amount: ________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________ Email: _______________________________

Payment Options: (please tick) ☐ CASH ☐ CHEQUE ☐ CARD ☐ DIRECT DEPOSIT

Cheques to be made out to: PITTSWORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Direct Deposit: BSB 064 427 ACCOUNT 00090023 REFERENCE: Use your name - eg., J Citizen

Name on Credit Card: __________________________________________________________ CREDIT CARD NUMBER

☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA

EXPiry

CRC

ORDERS MUST BE RETURNED TO PITTSWORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL BY 1 MAY 2017.

On completion of your order return this form including payment option by post, email or hand in to the school office.

POST: PITTSWORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL, PO BOX 18, PITTSWORTH QLD 4356

EMAIL: jubilee2017@pittsworths.eq.edu.au

ENGRAVING DETAILS – MAX 17 CHARACTERS PER LINE

Please print clearly using CAPITALS. Each box represents a character (letter, number, punctuation mark or space).

OPTION 1 - COMPLETE UP TO 3 LINES FOR SINGLE PAVER

OPTION 2 - COMPLETE UP TO 6 LINES FOR FAMILY/DUALLE PAVER
Home Ec happenings

Recently, 6 Year students who recently visited for their transition day, created an applique of a student figure in school colours and attached it onto a bunting flag. These flags have now been joined together to form a long piece of bunting which will be draped in the C1 sewing room.

7C finished their pencil cases last week with some delightful results and it is great to see the pencil cases now being used by the students.

The next set of Jubilee Banners are well under way. The congratulations wording on one of the banners is now complete with its other half planned for development next year.

A big thank you to all parents and care givers who have supplied their students, across all year levels, with practical materials for projects this year. There were some wonderful creations throughout both foods and textiles areas.

Next year Home Economics will be referred to on the timetable as Foods and Textile Design. The Department looks forward to working with your students next year.

Mrs French
Home Economics Teacher

Cert I Construction Graduation

Recently, 11 students completed the Certificate I in Construction course which is run in partnership between Pittsworth State High School and Downs Group Training Toowoomba.

Students are taught the basic skills of carpentry from trainer Charles White, and these skills are then put into practice as they build their assigned projects for the year.

Projects for this year were dog kennels and bird houses which were sold at the markets. They also painted the fence at the back of the Manual Arts building in A Block, which the construction students from the previous year had built, and paved the area inside this enclosure.

Anthony Murphy and I attended the Graduation evening along with the students which was held at the Downs Group Training Centre in Duhig Street, Toowoomba.

Congratulations to Darby Manktelow who received Student of the Year, and Billie Fox who received The Most Improved Student Award. Well done to all students who were involved in this successful course. Students are very lucky to have the opportunity to participate in these programs, learning vital skills which will assist students as they transition from school life into the work force.

Maree Holmes
VET Co-ordinator

PITTSWORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

50th Birthday Celebrations

hosted by the Pittsworth SHS P&C

on

Monday 23 January, 4pm

IN THE PSHS RESOURCE CENTRE

RSVP Monday 16 January 2017
Email. office@pittsworths.eq.edu.au - Mob. Jacki 0407 622 253
Industry Breakfast

Last Wednesday Pittsworth State High School held the annual Industry Breakfast at The Pittsworth Motor Inn in recognition of valued affiliated employers, registered trainers and employment and career personnel. It was a great morning attended by around 60 people.

Anthony Murphy, Head of Department - VET & Technology spoke about the value and success of our school based traineeship and apprenticeship program (SATS) at Pittsworth State High School, and the difference this opportunity can make to a student’s life and career pathway.

Four of our students, Courtney Allan (Certificate III Business Golden West Employment and Hotondo Homes and currently undertaking a Certificate III in Floristry at Yandilla Rose), Brittney Allan (Certificate III Retail at Pittsworth Post Office), Kirby O’Shea (Certificate III Education Support at St Stephen’s Primary) and Jock McKinlay (Certificate III Diesel Mechanic Apprenticeship at Pit Stop Pittsworth) all spoke at the breakfast about their chosen traineeships and apprenticeships expressing benefits and experiences gained.

It was also great to see past students Brandon Boyce (Eagle Boys Pizza), Nicole Steffens (Ministry of Movement), Rebecca Imeson (Chatters Coffee Lounge) and Venessa Cronin (Rhythm of Indulgence) at our breakfast, all of whom now own businesses in Pittsworth. All attribute the SATS program at Pittsworth State High School as the stepping stone to where they are today. All their businesses are or have been involved in the program at some point, hosting students undertaking a school based traineeship.

A huge thank you to Joleen and her staff at The Pittsworth Motor Inn for the wonderful breakfast and to all who attended.

Thanks also to our valued employers, without your continued support our SATS program would not exist.

On behalf of Pittsworth State High School I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to working with you again in 2017.

Maree Holmes
VET Co-ordinator

Text book hire

Text books for the 2017 school year may be collected from the bookroom (in the Resource Centre) on the following dates:

- Wednesday, 18 January 10am to 2pm
- Thursday, 19 January 10am to 2pm
- Friday, 20 January 10am to 2pm
- Monday, 23 January 8.30am to 12.30pm

Please note, this scheme operates on a cash sale basis - Student Resource Scheme fee must be paid prior the collection of textbooks unless prior arrangements have been made with the Business Services Manager on behalf of the school principal. Eftpos and credit card facilities are available at the school office.

The Chaplaincy committee operates a second-hand clothing pool for donated uniforms in good condition. Clothing Pool opening dates and times will be the same as textbook collection times. Alternatively, the clothing pool can be accessed during school hours by contacting the school office.

2017 SRS form due NOW

The Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Participation Agreement is required to be completed annually. If you have not returned your form for 2017, please do so urgently.

Should you require assistance with completing this form or have any questions regarding this, please talk to our friendly office staff. Parents who do not wish to participate in the SRS are responsible for providing the student with all necessary textbooks and educational resources as listed on the material listing in the package provided. A form is required to be completed even if opting out of the scheme.

For a copy of the form contact the school by phoning 4619 8111 or emailing office@pittsworth.eq.edu.au

Pittsworth Show 2017

Students of Art and Home Economics classes, please keep your practical work from this year for entry in the Pittsworth Show next year. Listen out on notices for timelines of submitting items to Mrs French for entry in the show.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE COMMENCEMENT DATES 2017

Years 7 and Years 11 will commence the 2017 school year on Monday, 23 January. On Tuesday, 24 January all year levels will attend school.

7B Geography

Mrs Tania Garratt visited the 7B Geography class to share her experiences of her recent holiday. She had many photographs which reflected the living conditions in India and Cambodia. Since students had been studying “Liveability”, this gave them the insight into living conditions of less liveable countries and cities.

Mrs French
Geography Teacher

7B Geography

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Thank You

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YANDILLA CELLARS - YANDILLA PLAZA

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