**Year 7 News**

15th July 2013

Congratulations! Your child has successfully completed their first year of High School. Something they can look back on as a huge accomplishment, considering they are amongst the first of our Year 7s within Queensland to attend High School.

With Semester 1 behind us we can only look forward to what lays ahead. New Semester = Clean Slate. Our expectations remain the same this Semester. We have seen a huge improvement in behaviours since the beginning of the year and look forward to seeing this continue. Please remind your child that manners go a long way in receiving what they want.

Thankyou!

Ms Hutton

**Important dates for Term 3**

- **Regional Shield**      Jul 11/12
- **Netball**               Jul Fri 12
- **Regional Shield**      Jul 11/12
- **Rugby League**         Jul 11/12
- **Parent teacher Interviews**  Jul 16

What a flying start!

Congratulations to both parents and students on their first semester of High School. The semester sure went fast as we continue to reflect on how to continue to make High School better for students, especially our newest arrivals.

What I have enjoyed most about our year 7 students is their friendliness with staff, their eagerness to share their latest story or what happened on the weekend. It is great to see the confidence grow in the students as they settle in with students literally singing and dancing during lunch breaks. It sure makes work a pleasure to come to.

The confidence of students has shown through students Challenge Choice subject. The 20 odd drama students who held the play for all year 7 students was fantastic. Hearing and seeing the joy of students who get cut materials or work with turtles gives credit to the program and something that we will continue to grow and strengthen, offering a wider range of challenges. We look forward to surveying students about what other interest areas they have in order to meet their needs.

Student Report cards will have been received over the holiday break. If you did not receive your child’s, please contact our office. I have heard mixed results from students so my message to them is that during semester two they will have to lift their effort and ensure all their work is complete. Along with the report card was a parent survey asking questions as to how best we can improve to ensure your child receives the best education possible. If you could please complete this and return it to the teachers/Class teacher or the office that would be appreciated. I look forward to working with you and your child over the next semester and building on the progress we have made thus far.

Matt Newell

A/Head of Department Junior School

**Anti-bullying and social skills**

Last term we conducted a series of lessons on identifying bullying however even in the short time that we have been back, I have seen a number of bullying incidents. Please speak with your child about this topic. Evidence has shown that the most powerful person in a bullying situation is the bystander. If we can get more students to stand up and say that bullying is not acceptable it would go a long way in stopping it. However in no way am I saying that a child should put themselves in danger.

**A reminder!!**

Please remember to pay your Student Resource Scheme which was due for payment on the 28/2/13. The Resource Scheme aids in meeting the cost of instruction, administration and facilities for the education of students. The purpose of the scheme is to provide the you with a cost effective alternative to purchasing textbooks and/or resources elsewhere, through reduced prices gained from the school’s bulk purchasing practices. The Scheme also ensures that students have consistent personal resources for their education, and saves the parent time and money in sourcing the prescribed materials elsewhere. We do have a payment plan to assist families in meeting this responsibility. Please inquire at the office with regards to this.

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Volume 2, Issue 2
**News from:**

**Mrs Louttit**

A warm welcome back, everyone. Here we are half way through the first year of Year 7 entering into High School. Firstly, to you the parents and carers, I would like to say thank you for your support to your child’s learning.

Congratulations to all students on their tremendous efforts and achievements over the last six months. It has been a pleasure to see the students grow as individuals, both socially and academically. For many students the following quote from Fritz Perls sums up the learning and experiences we have shared together - “Learning is discovering that something is possible.”

I am looking forward to another productive and exciting six months.

Collette Louttit

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**Mrs McBow**

Welcome back. It’s hard to believe we are into the second half of the year already. There seems to be lots of interesting events to look forward to this term. The Junior School is getting ready for their Hip Hop Dance and I hope to see many of you there.

For science this term students will be investigating the relationships between the Sun, Moon and Earth as well as seasonal effects on communities. I’m sure there will be parents or grandparents who will be able to recall and share their experiences through some of the disasters such as cyclones, earth tremors or floods. I have lots of interesting activities for Challenge Choice – Myth Busters and we will be investigating the unusual.

This is a good time to check that your child has all that they need for class in order to work effectively. In particular, for Maths and Science, they need the correct book, a calculator, scissors and glue, pencils and ruler. Your child’s learning is important to me and I look forward to a very busy term.

Cheers Lois Mcbow

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**Challenge Choices Term 3**

This term we have an exciting selection of Challenge Choices for the students.

- **Dance/Media studies**
- **Rugby League**
- **Music making instruments**
- **Mythbusters**
- **An environmental study**

Challenge Choice allows our students to choose a subject that they have an interest in. The subjects are related to the Arts, Technology and Health areas of our curriculum. If students choose an Arts choice one term then they are encouraged to choose from the other offerings the next term and vice versa.