

Principal's Welcome

Term 1 for 2014 has produced continued improvement in our culture of 'High Achievement in a Framework of High Expectations'. Students are demonstrating pride in their personal presentation and work ethic. There are of course some students who are still striving for lifting their effort in class to their 'A' game – teachers are working hard at contacting parents to offer support in this endeavour. Interim Progress Reports will be issued early in Term 2 with a Parent/Student/Teacher Interview evening then being conducted on Thursday 1 May. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Stanthorpe SHS continues to look at ways to improve in an effort to work more closely with parents and students on our #1 Key Priority – Improved Student Achievement. Our #2 Key Priority – Improved Student Attendance is an important aspect in achieving improved student achievement. We encourage parents to expect that all students

attend school every day unless there is a genuine need not to attend e.g. illness or medical appointment. Our #3 Key Priority in 2014 is – Improved Parent and Carer Engagement. We strongly encourage each and every parent and carer to take a strong interest and role in supporting their child's education. You can do this by:

- taking up the many opportunities to attend parent information sessions.
- contacting teachers directly to let them know when things are going well – this allows them to be confident in continuing to use strategies that work for your child.
- contacting teachers directly immediately you have any concerns about a specific situation – this allows them to work with you to clarify a situation and work with you to develop a suitable strategy to resolve the issue.



- providing time and space for your child to review work on a daily basis and complete set homework and assignments.

As you will see from the content of this newsletter our students have been heavily involved in numerous exciting and interesting activities this term.

Mr Peter Grant
Principal



Key Priorities

1. Improved student achievement
2. Improved student attendance
3. Improved parent and carer engagement
4. Targeted quality professional development with a focus on Explicit Instruction
5. Implementation of and preparation for the Australian Curriculum in the classrooms

School Leaders make big plans

The Year 12 leaders, consisting of our School Captains, House Captains and Prefects held their first productive planning day on Friday 14th February. This session was an opportunity for the new leaders of our school to express ideas and concepts they would like to implement during their final year. Students also had the

opportunity to listen and ask questions of Lawrence Springborg who visited the school to speak to our 2014 leaders about being leaders. The students gained a lot of helpful ideas about how to develop their leadership skills and are very keen to apply them this year. Stay tuned to see their plans roll out over the year.



Busy planning for 2014.



The Year 12 School Leaders for 2014.

2014 Border District Summer Trials

The 2014 Border District Summer Sports trials were held on Thursday 13 February. Twenty-four students attended these trials to test their skills in their

chosen sport. The following students were successful in gaining Border District representation: Katie Draheim, Georgia Williams, Liam Halloran and

Jack Williams (Open Tennis); Dillon Carmody and Natasha Lacey (Open and U15 Touch Football) and Jordan Lanza (U14 cricket).



These students will go on to trial at the regional level in an attempt to gain Darling Downs Representation.

Amazing Shiwa Visit



Tears may seem a strange measure of success, but the tears that flowed as our visitors from Shiwa departed spoke volumes about the strong bonds formed between the students this year. In an action-packed five day stay, 12 students from Japan made and painted boomerangs, made and ate lamingtons (with some of the boys surprised they felt a little full after eating 4...), went to Girraween, Donnelly's Castle, picked apples, sampled local cheese, ice-cream, apple pie and thoroughly enjoyed steak and snags on the BBQ.

Our students did a fabulous job hosting the Shiwa students and as they departed, there was literally not a dry eye among them. Thanks to all staff, students and local businesses who helped in a variety of ways to make this the best Shiwa exchange yet. Thanks also to Jenny Sherrin from the Southern Downs Shire Council who does an excellent job liaising between the school and Shiwa authorities. It will certainly be difficult to top the success of the 2014 tour, but we look forward to the challenge in 2015.

2 *Grapevine*

Students BYO in 2014

One of the new initiatives for 2014 is the expansion of the take-home laptop program to include Year 10's. We have also introduced a BYO or 'bring your own device' program for the year 10, 11 & 12s and a number of students have taken up the option of bringing their own laptop from home to use at school. Students like to BYO as it is their 'own' computer and they can tailor make it to suit their individual needs. A trial program was run in Term 4 last year and due to its success, the program has been introduced this year. If your student would like to BYO, please contact Mrs Melissa Pascoe on 46815888 to discuss options or for further information.

Year 10 students who are participating in both the take-home and the BYO laptop program.



L to R: Troy Williams, Sami Rogers, Lily Harding, Kiara Robertson.

Trashy Fashion

The Year 12 Home Economics class experienced their own version of haute couture this week. Given a design brief “to design evening wear from coloured plastic bags and sticky tape in a 40 minute time frame” the students set their minds to the task. With designs inspired from the 1920’s flapper era and 1960’s,

their outfits were creative and interesting though not particularly practical! The year 12’s are now studying the elements and principles of clothing design and culminates in them sewing their own fashion garment later this term. Watch out later this term for these (more sophisticated) garments...



L to R: Ally Thorpe, Gabby Lofts, Shenae Marsden, Breanna Bott.

UQ Young Achievers highly motivated

The six University of Queensland Young Achievers are now back at school and highly motivated after attending their respective camps at UQ recently. The Year 12 students (Amy Williams, Keiren Hutchin and Louise Butler) attended their residential camp before school even started back while the Year 11 students (Kit Morrison, Betty Hawksworth and Tori Foster) returned from their camp last week. When you speak to any of these students the message from the camp is very clear, as Keiren stated “never hold back and go for your goals.” Year 12 students stayed at Emmanuel College at UQ while their Year 11 counterparts were housed at Cromwell College. The aim of the camps was for students to familiarize themselves with the university, teach them how to apply, show them what courses are on offer and what facilities the university has if attending UQ. The students even found some courses they had never even heard about before and it opened their eyes to the opportunities attending university offers. During the 4 day camp they listened to motivational speakers, met mentors and had meetings with life coaches and set goals for their future. Plus they met heaps of students from all over the state.

But it wasn’t all work, in their free time they play board games, card games, participated in talent shows, danced at the disco and completed team building activities. A favourite was the mini Olympics where they had to enter a synchronised swimming routine – but not in a pool!!!

When asked to sum up their experiences Kit Morrison jumped in saying “Everyone was really really enthusiastic.” Betty said “It opened up your eyes to uni being so different but now we know.” “It was amazing – the best opportunity you can ever have,” exclaimed Louise. Amy Williams summed up how attending the camp had changed her attitude to school this year “The fact that it was so motivating was great. When I got back to school I was, “Yes I can do this!”

L to R: Keiren Hutchin, Amy Williams & Louise Butler – Year 12 UQ Young Achievers.



“It was a really good experience” said Tori Foster who is now ready to tackle Year 11 with a newly found enthusiasm.



Indigenous Sport unit

On Thursday 27 February and Friday 28 February Dusty Wilson, an Indigenous Community Sport and Recreation Officer, came to visit the year 8 students. The students played a number of traditional indigenous games; Dusty explained each game and the tradition behind them. Gorri was one of the favourites. This was a game young boys were taught to play by rolling rounded bark in front of them so they could pierce it with their spears teaching them how to hunt. The present day version involved throwing tennis balls at a gym ball.



Students get immersed at the QCWT

Last week 10 students from Year 12 participated in the Young Host – Bar immersion program at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism. During the 4 day program they not only completed 2 units of competency towards their Certificate III in Hospitality, but they also learnt all the facets of bar work. This included pouring beers, serving wine correctly and preparing mocktails. Their skills were tested when they had to serve food and beverages at a High Tea on Thursday afternoon to both staff and parents. They also served beverages to the visiting Shiwa Japanese students and assisted with serving and clearing their meals. The beauty of this program is the real life experience it offers – working behind a real bar and serving real customers. Last year the students completed

a Young Host and Young Chef course and this program follows on, further developing their industry skills and knowledge.



Jaden O'Donnell serving drinks.



Travis Appleby clearing plates.

Swimming Carnival



	Age Champion	Runner Up
13 yrs	Jake Burnell (Fi)	Josh Wren (Wr)
	Georgia Williams (La)	Macy Patti (Wi)
14 yrs	Hayden Klemm (Fi)	Connor Bott (Fi)
		Nathan Chapman (Wi)
		Byron Thompson (Wi)
	Jacqueline Cantrel (Wi)	Samantha Gianini (Fi)
15 yrs	Jeremy Bell (Fi)	Jack Draheim (La)
	Brooke Robertson (La)	Jamie Buckley (Wr)
16 yrs	Jesse Wallace (Wr)	Matthew Williamson (Wi)
	Linsy Armbruster (Fi)	Neve Cavanagh (La)
17/18 yrs	Lachlan Knight (La)	Jeremy Burnell (Fi)
	Louise Butler (La)	Abbie McPaul (Wi)
Results		
Champion House – Finch		Participation Trophy – Finch
Relay Trophy – Finch		The Rock – Withers

Chemistry students experiment at USQ



On 11 February the Year 12 Chemistry students from Stanthorpe State High School, together with 59 students from other schools around the Toowoomba District, attended a Fermentation Science Workshop at the University of Southern Queensland. The students learned about the Chemistry of fermentation and participated in a diverse range of hands-on and challenging laboratory activities by rotating around a range of interactive workstations. This was a valuable learning experience for the students and an effective introduction to their Extended Experimental Investigations which they are required to complete in Term 2.

Border District Swimming Carnival

Eleven students attended the annual Border District Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 11 February. Both Lachlan Knight and Jesse Wallace achieved Runner-up age champion against the other schools in the district.

Darling Downs Swimming

Congratulations to Jesse Wallace who competed at the Darling Downs Swimming Championships. Jesse has achieved selection in the Darling Downs AWD swim team to contest the State Championships at Chandler Aquatic Centre from Thursday 27th March to Saturday 29th March. Good luck Jesse.

Darling Downs Summer Trials

Congratulations to Ethan Wenban and Katie Draheim for gaining selection in the Darling Downs Regional team for Baseball and Tennis respectively. Seven students attended these trials in an attempt to gain regional selection.