27 November 2012

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

There are two important pre-conditions to student achievement that schools have to get right. They centre around the broad questions: do students feel safe at school; and are they happy at school? A recent survey of students at the school highlights the following satisfaction levels:

1. I feel safe at school - 98.3%. The State average is 90.9%
2. Student behaviour is well managed in this school - 90.8% and the State average is 75%
3. I feel accepted by other students in my school - 94% and the State average is 83.9%
4. My school celebrates student achievement - 98.3% and the State average is 91.8%

This feedback amongst others is an important indicator that, generally speaking, our students are happy at this school. The survey is a state-wide survey conducted in all State schools and whilst these are preliminary findings they are positive. Having said this, there is always room for ongoing improvement in the school.

I am also delighted with the feedback from students about their access to computers and other technologies in the classroom. We are particularly appreciative of parent support for IT in the school and the contribution that parents make to this through the IT charges in the Student Resource Scheme. The questions in the survey that relate specifically to IT are:

1. I can access computers and other technologies at my school for learning – 97.5% and the State average is 94.8%
2. I am encouraged to use computers and other technologies at my school for learning – 90.7% and the State average is 89.8%

The P&C met for our last meeting of the year last week. I would particularly like to thank all those parents and community members who come to our meeting and for their input into the school. Special thanks go to our outgoing president Tony Rowland who has done a terrific job this year. With his daughter, Naomi, graduating this year, Tony feels it is time to move on and allow someone else to step into this vital role in the school community.

Keep shining!

VOLUNTEERS AT MANSFIELD (V@M)

This year a new group was founded in our school. It is V@M. Students volunteer their services regularly to our school community in so many ways. We wanted to formalise this and acknowledge the dedication of so many students. On your students’ end of semester reports, if students have volunteered more than 300 minutes since V@M was founded, their work will be recorded. We really appreciate the volunteers in our community. Once a student has volunteered 2000 minutes of their time, they will be entitled to a V@M badge. In order to keep the badge, they need to continue to contribute. Next year around the time of Presentation Evening, students may receive Gold (on the Evening itself), Silver, Bronze or Merit Service Awards for their voluntary work. Points accumulate from August one year to August next year. Students who have more than 300 points to date, need to return their YELLOW V@M cards to Ms Clarke by this Friday 30 November. Students may then collect a new card and continue adding to their points tally! Thank you to parents for encouraging your students to give to their community.

I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks. ~William Shakespeare

SCHOOL COSTS

Every school receives one annual payment per child from the State Government. For students in Years 8, 9 and 10 this is $111 and for students in Years 11 and 12, this amount increases to $242. In most schools this payment is kept by the school and used to partly fund a Textbook Hire Scheme. Mansfield State High does not operate a hire scheme. Instead we credit this amount directly back to parents. This amount is simply credited to the total amount owing on the invoice distributed in Term 1. For many years the school paid parents via cheque. This created an enormous workload for office staff in generating a cheque for every student. This was then exacerbated with the time office staff then spent following up on parents who had not presented these cheques for payment. This year we took the step to simply credit this amount towards the total charges owing.

Each subject a student studies attracts a Subject Charge. These Charges cover the essential materials and resources that every student needs to undertake the program of study being provided. Each subject has an itemised list of the resources and materials that are needed to deliver the subject. These Subject Materials Lists are available for parents on request in 2013. Included in these...
Charges is an IT (Information Technology) charge of $180 and a General Charge of $20. This charge is essential for us as a school to be able to manage the huge number of laptops, computers and other IT items in the school.

Obviously, schools are provided grants from government that cover the basic educational needs of every child! All parents and students need to be aware that the Student Resource Scheme Charges assist us in delivering a truly excellent program. However, if parents do not pay, it may mean that their child will be unable to be involved in events, opportunities and other experiences in the school that are above and beyond the basic curriculum. Some of these may be camps, non-curriculum related excursions, study leave, and some sporting and cultural activities. As a school we are deeply committed to providing every student with the very best educational experiences. It is understood that in this time of pressing financial situations and the ever increasing cost of living, that this is seen as just another expense. Our commitment to support parents and students is that we may be able to negotiate a payment plan. To commence these negotiations parents are invited to make an appointment with the Business Services Manager.

To assist parents in budgeting for next year the school will generate invoices for the IT charge, semester Subject Charges and other charges in weeks 4 and 5 of Semester 1, 2013.

ATTENDANCE
As the end of the year approaches, this is a reminder that students need to be in full time attendance until the following dates. If there is a difficulty, please contact the relevant Deputy Principal:
Years 8 and 9: Friday 14 December (Students MUST be at school)
Years 10 and 11: Friday 30 November

REPORTS
The following dates apply:
• Monday 10 December - Year 12 References will be mailed out to students who requested them.
• Tuesday 11 December - Year 11 Reports will be mailed out to students who have fulfilled school requirements. Students who have not done this, will need to fix the situation and collect their reports. (Entry to, and exit from, the school is via the Administration only.) Students must be dressed in neat casual clothing. It is vital that the school has the student’s correct address recorded.
• Wednesday 12 December - Year 10 Reports will be mailed out to students who have fulfilled school requirements. Students who have not done this, will need to fix the situation and collect their reports. (Entry to, and exit from, the school is via the Broadwater Road gate only.) Students must be dressed in neat casual clothing. It is vital that the school has the student’s correct address recorded.
• Wednesday 12 December - Year 8 and 9 reports will be issued at 2.30pm in form class meetings.
• Friday 14 December - the QSA should mail out to Year 12s the Senior Education Profile which might include a QCE, Senior Statement, and if eligible, Tertiary Entrance Statement to arrive in home letter boxes from Monday 17 December. By using their LUI and password, Year 12 students may also access their OP and FP results earlier from 9am on Saturday 15 December online (www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au). However students MUST know their LUI (Learner Unique Identifier) and their password. This year new books and stationery will be available online through Reckon Sequel. Students in Years 8,9,10,11 have already received copies of their booklists. These are also on our website. Any online purchases should be made by 7 December in order for your books to arrive in time for the new school year. We will have a limited number of new books available through the bookshop in January. The bookshop will still be open for some second hand books, but the hours of opening will be reduced as follows:
Last week of holidays: Monday 21 January to Friday 25 January 7.30am to 12 noon.
PLEASE NOTE: THE CANTEEN HAS SOME OLD STOCKS OF PENS, PENCILS, EXERCISE BOOKS ETC WHICH THEY NEED TO SELL.

UNIFORMS (NEW AND SECOND HAND)
These will only be available at our school uniform shop, which is located under the Administration building. Opening times are:
Last week of school: Monday 10 December to Friday 14 December 7.30am to 12 noon
Last week of holidays: Monday 21 January to Friday 25 January 7.30am to 12 noon
First week of school: Tuesday 29 January to Friday 1 February 7.30am to 10am
The uniform shop is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week throughout the year from 7.30am to 9.15am.

SCHOOL MAGAZINE
The School Magazine will be distributed on Thursday 29 November during Form Meeting or assembly to all students in Years 8,9,10,11 who paid for a School Magazine. After this date, students still wanting a magazine may pay for it and collect it at the Lower Office.
Thank you for supporting the School Magazine in 2012. Once again, entire publication consisting of 122 pages was printed in full colour.

Finally, congratulations to Ms Chamberlain and her team for this fabulous achievement.
Market Day is one of the many reasons students enjoy Business Studies. We can honestly and truly state that we were not disappointed.

On 2 November 2012, a number of Year 9 and 10 Business students took part in Market Day, an event held in conjunction with other learning, as the practical component of the semester’s course. In the months and weeks prior to this, we were required to complete the theoretical components which consisted of a business plan, marketing plan, financial plan, swot analysis and more. This culminated in Market Day, where the real fun began and Mansfield High’s myriad of budding entrepreneurs was given the opportunity to showcase finesse in the tough world of business.

This day has undeniably become the climax of our high school years so far. The doubt and chagrin settled at the bottom of our stomachs and refused to budge as potential consumers simply walked by, assessing our products. The adrenaline rushed through our veins as the lunch bell rang – signifying the moment when the hungry high schoolers were ‘let loose’, and the realisation that the time to sell had arrived; resulting in the influx of customers we always wanted. We listened to their requests and gave them what they wanted and sat back, sighing and thinking: wow, I’m actually doing this. Then the euphoric feeling came over us when minutes later we taped our sold out sign to the table. Lastly, but evidently not least, pride threatened to burst our hearts as we counted our profits. I’ve finally done it. All my hard work has paid off. Those are the sentiments that all participants will cherish forever.

Market Day, and all that led up to it, taught us: to lead, to follow, to listen to and to co-operate with others; the art of persuasion; how to manage and record finances; and a series of other life-long skills too long to list. Market Day was an amazing, worthwhile learning experience that I implore others to participate in in years to come. You might even learn to use a barbecue like I did.

by Prisca Ochan (Year 9)

GUIDANCE NEWS
All students interested in exploring a health related career after finishing school
Students planning a break between school and university may be interested to check out Gapmedics. Gapmedics is a UK organisation offering GAP programs for young people aged 16-25 from all over the world who wish to explore careers in Medicine (or related fields like Nursing, Midwifery or Dentistry). They travel to Tanzania, Zanzibar, Thailand and to the Czech Republic to shadow experienced doctors and healthcare professionals. Check the website www.gapmedics.co.uk for details of the programs, costs, the organisation and further details or email info@gapmedics.com.

Year 10, 11 and 12 students - Vacation Workshops
Do you want to be a TV Star? Would you like to read prime time News? Would you like to improve your confidence, speaking voice and communication skills? Media Potential is conducting School Holiday Programs at Channel 7 Studios, Mt Coot-tha on 11 & 12 December for students aged between 13 – 17 years. Phone 3511 3455 or www.mediapotential.com.au.

Students Completing Years 10, 11 or 12
Trade Start - General Construction. 10 weeks full-time, fully funded. The Trade Start General Construction program is a pre-apprenticeship/traineeship program for individuals interested in building and construction and who are not currently in school or part of the industry and would like to be. The program aims to make participants job-ready by providing them with an entry-level qualification as well as real work opportunities that enable participants to link with employers to obtain job outcomes. Participants in a Trade Start General Construction program will undertake the Certificate I in Construction, including health and safety induction training to obtain a White Card to work on a construction site, and approximately four (4) weeks of structured workplace learning. Structured workplace learning provides participants with real work experience on a construction site to increase their work-readiness through the development of employability skills.

In addition, participants will also undertake training in environmentally sustainable work practices and life skills, including topics such as financial literacy, personal development and interpersonal skills. Linking Trade Start graduates with apprenticeships or traineeships is a key goal of the program; however employment is not guaranteed. Many employers are keen to employ Trade Start participants who have achieved competencies which may accelerate their progression through an apprenticeship or traineeship. Applications are now open. Start date is 21 January 2013. Contact Benjamin KATAY / Train 4 Trade / General Construction Training & Assessing / Phone: 0416 161 461 / E-mail: bk.train4trade@gmail.com. The Construction Training Centre is located at 54 Standish Street, Salisbury.
MGCC CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Christmas is just around the corner. For many of us this is a great celebration we share with our family - opening presents, cracking bon bons and filling our tummies with a buffet of roast turkey, potato salad and of course grandma’s Christmas pudding. For others Christmas is difficult. Dad just lost his job, Mum isn’t well and the bank balance doesn’t add up to the cost of the kids’ Christmas wish list.

I would love to invite every person in our school community to dig deep and give generously to our Christmas appeal at Mansfield High School. As a school we have chosen to partner with the Mount Gravatt Community Centre by collecting items to give to families in need this Christmas. As of yesterday I have set up a daily stall outside of the lower office before school for students to donate non-perishable food items and toys. The final day for collection is Friday 14 December. Please buy some extra items when you’re at the supermarket or raid your kitchen cupboards and let’s make a difference this Christmas. As Winston Churchill said: “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

Ben Cherry (School Chaplain)

COMMUNITY NEWS

BOOKS FOR 2013

These orders need to be placed with SEQUEL by the following dates:

- Completed Online by: SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER 2012, or
- Returned to the School by: FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER 2012.

The booklists and the cover sheet with instructions are on our school’s website:

www.mansfieldshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents

P&C NEWS

Thank you to all of the parents and members of the wider community who have given freely of their time to contribute to the work of the Mansfield SHS P&C in 2012. The dedicated group of volunteers who make up the Executive team and the sub-committees do a great deal of work behind the scenes. On behalf of the school and the students we would like to acknowledge your efforts and say: “Thanks!”

RAUCHLE SERVICE CLUB

The Rauchle Service Club has had a very successful year raising funds to help others in the wider community. Pancake Day, Slushies for the Athletics Carnival, Canteen assistance for the Musical rehearsals and MusicFest, and the Soap Drive were just some of the initiatives that help to raise a record amount of money. The gift recipients for 2012 are as follows:

- 4KQ Variety Special Children’s Christmas Party: $275
- Lauren at the Armani School, Arusha, Tanzania (sponsorship of education): $580
- Aid for Africa: $500
- Guide Dogs: $2500
- Mater Children’s Hospital: $2000
- Canteen Queensland: $500

**Total amount donated in 2012**: $6355

The members of the Rauchle Service Club would like to thank everyone who supported their endeavours this year.

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Did you know that Mansfield High is a Reef Guardian School?

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s new three-year study has revealed urgent action is needed to improve the health of coastal ecosystems to boost the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. The *Informing the Outlook for Great Barrier Reef coastal ecosystems* report details coastal land use changes and their impact on water quality, habitats and inshore biodiversity in the Marine Park. Even in Mansfield we can make a difference to the health of the Reef. Bulimba Creek flows into the Brisbane River which in turn empties into Moreton Bay, a coastal ecosystem that directly impacts on the Reef. The Environmental Council encourages you to think of this when you are washing your car or disposing of rubbish. The little things we do can make a huge difference!

High Tea for Charity

The Rotary Clubs of Mt Gravatt and Wishart are joining together for an amazing day of High Tea and shopping to raise money for charity. Men are also invited to come along and buy gifts for the ladies in their lives. There will be many products on display such as handbags, jewellery, perfume, candles, home wares, Tupperware, make-up, fresh fruit and vegetables, spiritual readings/healings, Body Shop products and many more. There will also be an exciting auction so bring along your cash as there will be some amazing items to bid for as well as some great lucky door prizes. All money raised will be used to assist Student Care Welfare Queensland Inc. which does an amazing job of educating and counselling our youth to protect them from forms of psychological and physical harm.
Did you know…?

The Athlete’s Foot stores at Garden City and Carindale run a ‘School Rewards Program’. If you mention Mansfield High School each time you buy a pair of shoes from one of these stores, they will donate $5 to the school. Samples of the most suitable choices can be viewed in the uniform shop. This is something to consider if you happen to be shopping at The Athlete’s Foot.

Parents have been asking what is a suitable style is. The description in the school Prospectus is: Black laced-up polished leather school shoes of plain, conventional design (with heels-maximum 2cm) and black laces – not leather sport shoes, no laces around the shoes, plain black with no silver or gold. Laces are to be tied tightly with a bow at the top.

Pictured is the Ascent APEX which satisfies these criteria. However, another shoe might be more suited to your child’s foot.

Pauls ‘Collect A Cap’ Program – CLOSING SOON!

Thank you to the members of our community who have been collecting Pauls milk caps for us this year. The last bag will be sent in for counting on Friday 7 December.

Caps may be dropped in the collection box in the Lower Office or given to Mrs Holley in Admin. In 2012, this program has raised $750 for its beneficiaries - the Student Council, Rauchle Service Club, and the Environmental Council.

Are you doing your Christmas shopping online this year?


Each time you shop they will donate 2.5% of the amount you spend to the school.

The best price is guaranteed LIVE on the site while you shop!

Happy shopping!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 November</td>
<td>Newsletter available on website/hard copy</td>
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<td>Rauchle Service Club Executive Committee Excursion to Mater Hospital</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28 November</td>
<td>Yr 11 TIP Leadership Training P1-3 at Uniting Church</td>
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<td>Thursday 29 November</td>
<td>TIP Training P4 in Library</td>
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<td>Prefect Training P2-3 with Ms Clarke</td>
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<td>School Magazine distributed to Yr 8,9, 10,11 students during form class</td>
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<td>Friday 30 November</td>
<td>FINAL DAY FOR YR 10 AND YR 11 STUDENTS</td>
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<td>Yr 10 Uniting Church Awards on Assembly</td>
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<td>Forms Picnics for Yr 10 and Yr 11 students at lunchtime</td>
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<td>Monday 3 December</td>
<td>Packing of uniforms by Yr 11, 10 student volunteers</td>
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<td>Tuesday 4 December</td>
<td>Per 4 Yr 8&amp;9 prepare for mini-Olympics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5 December</td>
<td>Order books for 2013 (see our website)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6 December</td>
<td>Yr 8 and Yr 9 Final Week Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yr 12 References posted</td>
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<td>Uniform Shop open 7.30am -12noon all week</td>
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<td>Tuesday 11 December</td>
<td>Yr 8 and Yr 9 Final Week Activities</td>
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<td>Yr 8,9 Final week activities</td>
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<td>Lunchtime: Yr 8 &amp; 9 Form picnics with Yr 8 &amp; 9 Form Teachers</td>
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Year 10 and 11 students: HAVE A WONDERFULLY SAFE AND RELAXING BREAK!

Dates of return for 2013:

Tuesday 29 January 2013: Only Yrs 8 & 11 at school (plus Yr 12 TIP LEADERS and School Captains & V/Captains)

Wednesday 30 January 2013: All students are at school from now on.

Principal
Dear Parent

Re: Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Recently there has been a case of whooping cough in a person associated with the school. Whooping cough is a highly infectious illness that is spread by coughing and sneezing. The illness is troublesome and distressing at any age but can be very serious in young infants.

Protection against whooping cough is included in the routine vaccinations given to children at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 4 years. Adolescents are provided with a free pertussis booster vaccine in Year 10 or at the age of fifteen years from their doctor or local council clinic. If your children have missed any of these routine vaccinations they can still be vaccinated against whooping cough.

A pertussis vaccine is also currently available from a general practitioner for any adults living in the household of children under six months of age (or regularly caring for these children).

Vaccination gives good protection to young children, but unfortunately this protection does wane with time. Whooping cough may still occur in older children and adults who were fully immunised in early childhood. Early diagnosis and treatment of this illness is important to limit the spread of whooping cough in the community. If the illness is detected early in its course, treatment will reduce the period of infectivity for other people.

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends that all cases of whooping cough are excluded from school for a period of twenty-one days after the onset of their illness or until they have received five days of a 7 day course of appropriate antibiotics.

I have enclosed a fact sheet on whooping cough for your information. Please contact your local doctor or the Public Health Unit if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Brad McCall
Public Health Medical Officer
19 November 2012
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Description:

Whooping cough (or pertussis) is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by the bacterium Bordetella pertussis. It can affect babies, children, adolescents and adults. For adolescents and adults the infection may only cause an irritating, persistent cough. However, whooping cough can be life threatening for babies and young children, particularly those not fully protected by vaccination. During coughing attacks, a baby or child’s breathing can be obstructed and they may become blue or stop breathing.

Symptoms:

Whooping cough may start like a cold, with a runny nose, sneezing and tiredness, and then the characteristic cough develops. These coughing bouts can be very severe and frightening, and may end with a crowing noise (the whoop). This occurs as air is drawn back into the chest, and can be followed by vomiting or gagging. Bouts of coughing may continue for many weeks even after treatment.

Infants under six months of age, vaccinated children, adolescents and adults often don’t have the typical whoop.

Transmission:

Whooping cough bacteria are highly infectious and are spread to other people by an infected person coughing and sneezing. The infection can also be passed on through direct contact with infected secretions from the mouth or nose. The time between exposure to the bacteria and getting sick is usually seven to ten days, but can be up to three weeks.

A person is most infectious in the early stages of their illness. Unless treated with antibiotics, a person is regarded as infectious for three weeks after the cough began.

Treatment:

Treatment is a full course of antibiotics which reduces the time a person is infectious to others. Antibiotics need to be given within 21 days of the start of general symptoms or within 14 days of the start of coughing. Antibiotics may reduce symptoms if given early.

Some people who have had close contact with an infected person may need to take antibiotics to prevent infection. This includes people at high risk of serious complications (eg, children aged less than one year who are not fully vaccinated and women near the end of their pregnancy) and others who live or work with people at risk.

Control

A person with whooping cough should stay away from work, school, preschool and child-care until they have had at least 5 days of their course of antibiotics, or until 21 days after the cough began.

If children who have had less than three doses of whooping cough vaccine are close contacts of an infected person, they should stay away from preschool and childcare until they have taken a full course of antibiotics, or for 14 days after their last exposure to the infected person.

Prevention:

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent whooping cough. The vaccine is recommended and available free for:

- all children at 2, 4 and 6 months of age and 4 years of age. Vaccines due at 2 months of age can be given from 6 weeks, and those due at 4 years can be given from 3 years 8 months
- Year 10 students (booster).

A booster dose is also recommended for any adults who haven’t had a previous booster, particularly: