
PARENT NEWS *Term 1, Week 2*

FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL



Some of the excited faces as we welcomed Year 7 at their first school parade

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to school and another great start for the year. The students were sorted and settled into classes by 10.00 am ready to begin the year of learning. My utmost appreciation goes to all parents and carers for the immaculate appearance of all students and the effort to be prepared for the first days learning. A special welcome to our new year 7 students and others who have joined our school this year. Please get to know the key people in the school to ensure any support needed or questions answered are dealt with promptly.



P&C

Our first Parents & Citizens Meeting will be held on the 16th February. All parents and friends of the school are welcome to come and discuss the start of the year. I will give a brief overview of our critical operations and systems followed by discussion of the projects and plans for the year. Our meeting begins and 7.15 in the Ag Building at the back of the school.

School Council

Our first school Council meeting is programed for the 10th February and will begin the strategic work for the year. Our council is led by Selena Harding. She can be contacted on the following email address: school_council@malandashs.eq.edu.au Our minutes and progress are reported and published on the school webpage.

**UNIVERSAL EXPECTATIONS
SAFE RESPECTFUL LEARNERS**



New Staff

Our school welcomes a number of new and returning staff who may play a significant role in your child’s education. During the first few weeks communicate with these teachers to ensure a supportive relationship begins and the communication pathway is open. These new teachers include:



Andrew Burrows – from Centenary State High School in Brisbane.

Toni Williams – from Emerald State High School in central Queensland



Robin Sheppard – an experienced Malanda State High Teacher

Katie Pickford – from Mossman State High School



Allan Rossiter – Replacing Mr Bob Dawson for first 6-8 weeks in term one.



I will introduce our new School based Health Nurse when she takes up duty in early February.

2015 Data

Our school data was very strong in 2015 with students achieving excellent academic outcomes across the school. Our 2015 seniors were particularly strong with every student passing every subject studied in semester 2. This was then reflected in the 100% attainment of the QCE and the 43% of OP eligible student’s achieving an OP between 1 -5. This is outstanding and was 18% better than any other state school in the region. I am unable to gain private school data but suspect our data would outshine all other schools across the region.

These results come from a number of contributing factors. Each of these factors are the focus of my work and the staff in general. We consistently ask for parent assistance to maintain this achievement.

- Quality teaching is central to all student achievement. Our school has a very specific teaching system and is constantly developing and supporting the teaching capability of our staff.
- Attendance of students has a huge impact on the success of individual students and of course reflected in the school outcomes. Our moto is “95% to thrive”. Our students will outperform any school if our students have between 95 and 100% attendance.
- The behaviour of students is challenging in any school. Our school has a critical student support system and classified officers owning and working the system each day. Students must own their behaviour and demonstrate respect in all situations at school and when representing our school. Any behaviour which detracts from our quality teaching or learning will be dealt with quickly and firmly.
- Finally the relationships we have with staff and students is the difference from other schools and particularly bigger schools. Our school is the perfect size for teachers to know every student in the school and have a positive and rewarding relationship with many. We must deliberately foster these positive experiences to ensure students feel safe and happy in their learning environment.

We look forward to working in all these critical areas again this year and with parental support our school will outshine all other schools in the state again in 2016.

If your student is absent please use one of the following options: Phone the school office on 40967111 on the morning of the absence OR Email to absentees@malandashs.eq.edu.au OR Text details (student name, date, information) to 0417238421 (dedicated number for txt msgs)



Phones and Uniform



Our appearance and commitment to relationship building is paramount to our success. I have made it perfectly clear to all students that whilst at school the personal conversations they have with staff and other students are a priority. Therefore mobile phones are not to be seen at school. If students carry a phone, the safest place for them during the school day is at the office. Students can drop them off in the morning and collect them in the afternoon.

Our ability to compete for employment and external support for our students is often enhanced when the impression the community and employers have of our school is positive and smart. Our uniform is the first visual indication of our school and must be of a consistent and high quality. All students must be in uniform and if this is not achievable on a certain day our school office will assist and lend an item of uniform for the day if required. Parents and the school must stay strong on our collective professional appearance.

JUNIOR SECONDARY

Our core business at Malanda High is that students have the best possible opportunity to learn based on the three pillars of *Learning, Safety and Respect*. To ensure this, teachers in collaboration with the Head of Student Support have developed class lists taking into consideration friendship groups, academic potential and behaviour. Classes have now settled and work is well underway therefore no more class changes will be made.

IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisations forms were sent home with Year 7 and 8 students on Monday 1st Feb. If your student has not brought their form home spares are available at the school office. Immunisations will take place next Tuesday 9 February. Forms must be returned before your child can have their immunisations.

YEAR 7 CAMP

Year 7 Transition to High School camp is in week 6 (Feb 29 – March 2) for three days and 2 nights. We are taking learning out of the classroom and into the environment at Daradgee Environmental Education Centre near Innisfail. Any parents who would like to assist with the camp, please contact Mrs Greatrex as soon as possible. Details will be sent home with students in the near future.



YEAR 12 CAMP

Year 12 students head off to Barabadeen at Tinaroo tomorrow at 7.30am sharp – do not be late. Lots of staff will be spending time at camp where the focus is on leadership and group bonding. Students will experience 3 days of jam packed outdoor activities. Parents can expect tired students to return on Friday by 3pm.



JAPAN TRIP UPDATE

Excitement is building now that 2016 is here! Regular Japan Trip meetings for participating students will begin in Week 2. All students are required to attend. They will be held on Tuesdays at first lunch every fortnight (on even weeks) until departure. The meetings will be a regular opportunity for the students to get to know each other, learn some Japanese language as well as cultural information useful for our travel plans, and learn about some of the places we will be visiting. Importantly, they will also be used as a chance to make sure all students are up to date with payments and paperwork details. I look forward to seeing all the participating students at the meetings! Please be reminded that the first instalment of \$1000 is due by Friday March 18. Thank you.

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SWIMMING

Swimming lessons have commenced for some classes. We require a few parents to assist with supervisions for some classes. If you would like to assist please contact Deputy Principal, Nicole Hyland. Parents are not required to enter the pool – however may do so if they wish. Help is required for 8C on Tuesday’s Period 2, 8B on Wednesday’s Period 4, 8C on Friday’s Period 4, and Year 11’s on Thursday’s Period 1.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

The introduction of BYOD has gone very smoothly for students and staff. The main hiccup has been that laptops are being brought to school without up-to-date antivirus software and also the BYOD Charter that must be signed by parents and students. Laptops cannot be linked into school servers unless all antivirus software is current and has been updated. It would be appreciated if parents can assist students with software updates regularly. The School Charter for BYOD is on the school [website](#) or available from the school office.

MEDICATION



Before you provide the school with your child’s medication, check the expiry date to ensure it is in date and there is enough for the agreed time period. It is also a good idea to take note of the expiry date so that you can replace the medication before it is expired.

Please note, school staff will **not** administer medication that you can buy over-the-counter at chemists and supermarkets (e.g. paracetamol, eye drops, cough syrup) unless it has been prescribed by your child’s qualified health practitioner (doctor or dentist). For example, the school would administer paracetamol to a student only if it has been prescribed by their dentist to be taken for a short time after dental treatment. School staff are bound by these regulations and we hope that all parents will acknowledge and cooperate with these rules.

If your child requires the administration of medication at school please contact the school office so you can complete the applicable paperwork.

FROM THE P & C

Swimming Carnival - Friday 12th February



The Tuckshop would love some extra **volunteers** to help with cooking and serving at the Swimming Carnival - please indicate if you can help by leaving a message at the school office. Also, **donations of home baking** (cakes, slices and biscuits) would be very welcome and can be dropped off at the Tuckshop before 8.15 am on the day, or just bring them down to the pool. The Espress Coffee Van has been booked, so why not come along for a coffee and cake and cheer on the swimmers!

Thank You!

Thank You Mandy Wilce

The P&C would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Mandy Wilce for all the time and effort she put in to help run the Uniform Shop over the past four years. Thanks Mandy for all your time and energy, it's much appreciated.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Have you looked at the school [website](#) recently? Our website is where you will find lots of information, school news, forms, our school calendar, weekly newsletter, student Learning Assessment Overviews, teacher email addresses and much more. Don't forget to save it to your favourites. We also encourage you to download the QSchools App. (further information on the QSchools app and the links to download can be found in this newsletter).



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AGENTS – Year level based AGENTS are working with the Heads of Student Support in both the Junior and Senior areas of the school particularly around roll marking time each day. Their role is to set a positive tone in the school and to monitor student preparedness for lessons.

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|----------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| A | Attendance | Year 7 AGENT | Mrs Sally May |
| G | Guidance | Year 8 AGENT | Mrs Jess Sari |
| E | Encouragement | Year 9 AGENT | Mr Dave Kilpatrick |
| N | Neatness | Year 10 AGENT | Mrs Desley Shanahan |
| T | Tone | Year 11 AGENT | Mr Damien Wrench |
| | | Year 12 AGENT | Mrs Jennifer Nightingale |

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education and Training does not have Student Accident Insurance cover for students. Therefore, if your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs, are the responsibility of the child, parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If parents have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered through the private health insurance. Any other costs would be borne by the parents.

Student Accident Insurance is an insurance policy that pays certain benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is a personal decision for parents as to the types and levels of private insurance they arrange to cover their child for any accidental injury that may occur. Parents should contact their insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if they choose to take out student personal accident insurance cover for their child.

APPRENTICESHIPS

A part of our service commitment is to have a clear vocational education and training pathway to employment. We are happy to hear the following students from 2015 have now successfully gained apprenticeships around the region. Congratulations to Matthew Sheerans – Butcher, Ashley Haines – Engineering, Patrick Lynch – Builder, Sahge Walmsley – Auto Electrician, Slatah Walmsley – Mechanic, Connor Griffin – Glazier, Jayden Barton – Automotive Panel & Spray and Storm Tokorangi – Builder. Both Patrick and Jayden commenced their apprenticeships as school based apprentices. Congratulations to these young men.

Kind Regards

Gary Toshach

Principal

Important Dates

- 3-5 Feb Year 12 Camp at Barabadeen
- 4 Feb SWD Meet & Greet – D Block – all welcome
- 9 Feb Year 7 & 8 Immunisations
- 10 Feb School Council Meeting
- 11 Feb Musical auditions
- 12 Feb School Swimming Carnival
- 16 Feb P & C Meeting 7.15 in the Ag Building
- 22 Feb School Photos
- 24 Feb School Leaders Induction – all welcome
- 29 Feb-2 Mar Year 7 Camp at Daradgee Env. Centre

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QSchools app

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive up-to-the-information from Queensland state schools.

How do I download the QSchools app?

To download the app visit the application store for your device:

- [iPhone/iPad](#)
- [Android](#)
- [Windows phone](#)
- [Windows PC](#)

Features

The app integrates with the department's preferred school platform, allowing users to:

- find and favourite your school by searching for the school by name, searching a map or by searching for schools near your current location
- receive real-time notifications about state-wide emergency alerts as well as school push notifications and important updates through the app
- access the latest news, events and newsletters from your school
- easily access your schools tuckshop and uniform shop information
- view information about your school including class times and contact details
- view social media feeds.

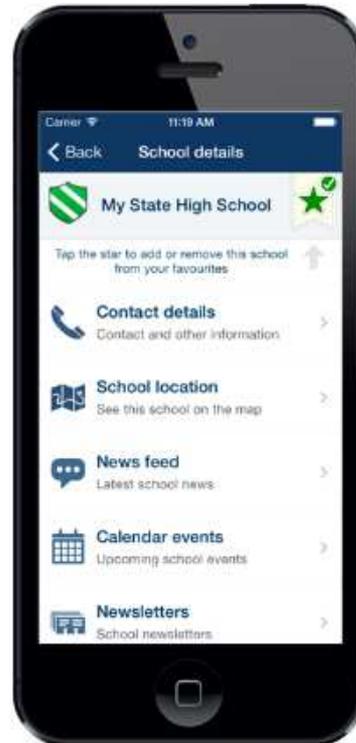
The app can manage updates from multiple schools which is useful for parents who have students in different schools.

Push notifications

QSchools push notifications are here!

Push notifications will allow your favourite Queensland schools to push essential information directly to your device, including notifications of upcoming events and emergency alerts and important updates.

To receive push notifications, download the QSchools mobile app or ensure the app is up to date if you already have it.



minute

website

by name,

Benefits for parents, carers and families:

- access the latest school news, newsletters and calendar events
- receive emergency announcements and push notifications
- follow multiple schools
- search for the nearest school by current location, postcode, school name or suburb.

