



PARENT NEWS *Term 1, Week 5*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Student Leaders

Congratulations to the new school leaders elected last week. It is fantastic to see a group of young people getting involved in such roles within the school. We will be working with these students to develop their confidence and effectiveness as student leaders throughout the year.



Reporting

At our February Parents & Citizens meeting the process for reporting on student work was discussed. This is a process that is done for parents and carers to have current feedback on how their child is progressing. The feedback is generated by teachers based on academic success and the behaviour and effort aspects of a child's schooling. It was determined that the reporting period for this term would extend slightly into term 2 as this term has only nine weeks. Report cards will be issued in week two of term two. The format for these reports will be adjusted to an email system for all reports. A hard print copy for each student will also be handed to the student in a plastic cover to be taken home. There will be no mail out process for reports in general. Those situations where reports need to be sent to parents not living in the area will continue. It is imperative for all parents to maintain a current email address for the school to send such important information.



Term Newsletter

Another significant change of business is the cessation of the term newsletter which is mainly a principal message and a collection of photos which have been collected and published through the weekly Parent News each term.

Instead a photo gallery of these photos will be added to the school webpage allowing everyone to share the pictures and other materials posted on the site.

Feedback on BYOx Implementation

After four weeks of operation it is timely to feedback to both the sub-committee of staff and parents who gave their time to develop the BYOx model and the parents of our school. I am extremely happy with the

entire process and share the following information for your knowledge.

Context: BYOx computer scheme was offered to all year 11/12 OP eligible students, senior ICT classes and the senior Hospitality class doing an online certificate course.



Outcomes:

- In excess of 95% of eligible students have connected a device this year.
- Individual device set up process has developed into a 10-15 minute procedure completed by our IT staff in the library. Main issue is the speed to reconnect to our wireless in some cases
- Day loan of laptops is being utilised but in no high demand – process for lending devices working well but students need to do this in breaks or before school classes
- Lockers were made available for storage of devices with an student uptake of only 14 of 30 available lockers
- Impact on our server seems negligible however Fridays seems heavier and slower than other days. This is being investigated.
- A team of student technicians has been developed to offer support to the students with BYOx devices. Training and induction for these 12 year 11/12 students will take place this Thursday. A roster is developed to have two student technicians available each recess 1 throughout the week to assist with issues such as
 - Connectivity to wireless
 - Anti-virus installation processes
 - Printer access issues
 - Office Suite from the Learning Place

Since implementation this year I have received one letter of concern from a parent and positive feedback in general. It is appreciated that this is not a cheap exercise for families however it appears to be extremely popular and functional in the first month of operation.

A special thankyou to the sub-committee who were instrumental in the direction and thinking behind our implementation.



At Malanda State high School we take our improvement agenda very seriously. We are adamant that we can be the best school in this region and in the state. Our data is regularly published and we are achieving way beyond a school of our size and location. (see Cairns Post 23/02/2016)

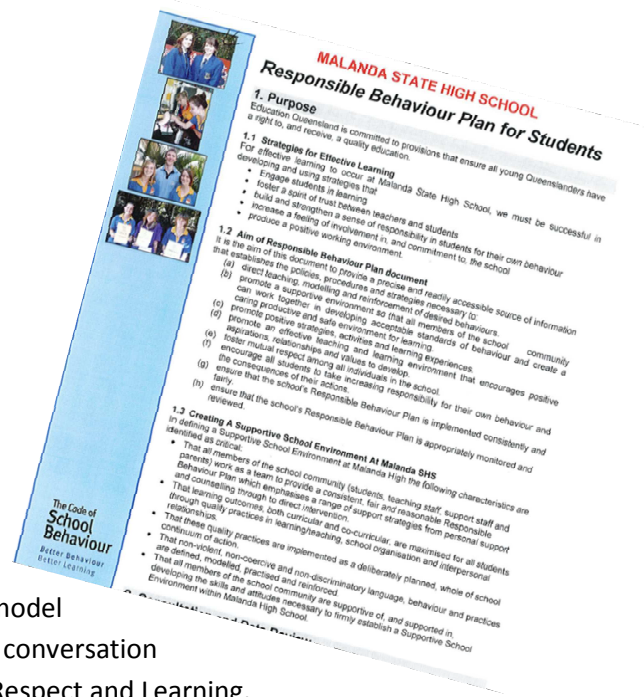
Last week I discussed Quality Teaching. This week I am focussing on Quality Behaviour as part of the four critical aspects of ensuring our success continues. Our team endeavours to leave “Nothing to Chance”. Every student at our school must succeed. Through collective understanding of our position and our improvement agenda, parents, community and our staff can work to ensure our student success.

The four pillars of our Improvement plan:

- Quality Teaching
- **Quality Behaviour**
- Outstanding Attendance
- Clear Goal Setting and Review

QUALITY BEHAVIOUR

The second of four pillars which has a direct and distinct influence on the success of our school is student and adult behaviour. In any system, the behaviour of the people working together each day is paramount to reaching targets and achieving goals. At Malanda SHS our behaviour framework is based on the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) model adopted in many schools across the state. It breaks down all our conversation regarding behaviour into three universal expectations – Safety, Respect and Learning.



Our students are regularly recognised individually and as cohorts for their effort and commitment to good behaviour practices. The school has a behaviour level system which is currently being reviewed by school council to ensure each child is an individual and is rewarded for improving their behaviours in a safe and respectful manner. It is the intention of the system to advance students through reward to Gold level. This system is detailed in the student diaries for your consideration.

Of course not all students will fall into the Gold, Silver or Bronze levels immediately. Good behaviour is a challenge to some children. It needs to be learned and developed in a supportive environment. When this type of work is required our school personalises each student and develops individual improvement plans for the child. This is often when the parent becomes involved and their behaviour can be super helpful or not so. The behaviour of a student is often the result of many external factors and our school endeavours to work with all parents to ensure their student is improving as they progress through the year levels. Counterproductive actions by parents often slows this process and hinders the student improvement needed. We work with these parents whenever possible and develop a shared respect and trust on which to challenge poor behaviour from the student.

Of course the behaviour of our staff is also critical. The staff work very hard within some very detailed and strategic support systems to ensure our practices are developing strong relationships with children. A child who feels safe and respected at school will progress positively in a good learning environment. Communication is the key to these positive relationships and should be encouraged at all times between staff and parents.

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



Please join us at our 2016 School Leaders Induction Ceremony



When: *Wednesday 24 February 2016*

Time: *8.50 am*

Where: *School Hall*

JAPAN UPDATE

Konnichwa (good afternoon!)

Thank you to all the students who have already submitted their passports and medical forms to the school office. If you have submitted your application at the post office, and are waiting for the passport to be delivered, please make sure you bring it in to school as soon as it arrives.

If you have not yet completed an application for a passport - time is running out for you to get your passports processed! It can take a couple of weeks to get a passport made, so make sure you submit the application this week. We need everyone's passport AND medical details to be submitted to the school by the 18 March (that's not too far away!) Please let me know ASAP if you are concerned you may not meet this deadline.

Arigatou! (thank you)



YEAR 7 CAMP



Thanks to those students and their families who have ensured payment and return of forms has been done promptly. If your student is yet to pay and/or return forms this coming Friday is the very last day they will be accepted. The bus will leave Malanda SHS on Monday morning 29

February promptly at 7.30am. A pick up for students who live in the Millaa Millaa area will occur at 7.45 am at the Millaa Millaa SS. If you intend to be picked up in Millaa Millaa please ensure you have advised Mrs Greatrex. The bus will return from Daradgee Environmental Centre prior to 3pm on 2nd March direct to Malanda SHS.

CONGRATULATIONS AMY



We have today been advised that one of our year 10 students Amy Webb, has been successful in her application for the STEM Girl Power Camp run by the Department of Education & Training. Only 20 female students from across the state were accepted so warm congratulations are given to Amy on her success. Amy will go to Brisbane in March to experience the World Science Festival, meet STEM role models, undertake STEM activities and visit STEM researchers.

FROM THE P&C

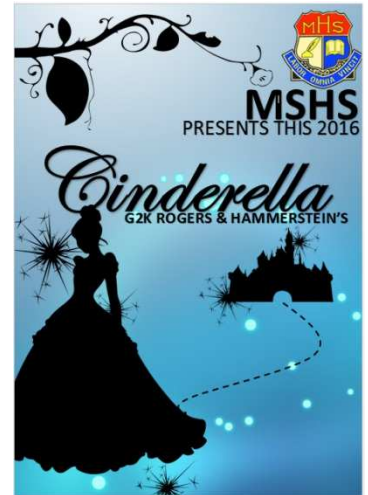
The P&C would like to advise that from next Monday 29 February you will be able to order and pay for uniforms by downloading the appropriate form from the school website. Look under 'facilities → uniform shop' from Monday and email the form to the address supplied on the form. Please note orders are subject to stock availability and can only be picked up during the Uniform Shop opening times and after confirmation of payment has been received by email. Returns are only accepted when in new condition, in original packaging with all labels still attached. For prices and available uniform sizes please check the online order form.

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CINDERELLA: The Musical

Rehearsals are now occurring twice a week for the musical in May. Students should be checking the rehearsal schedule to check when you are required. Parents please note the weekend of 16-17 April has been put down for a ‘musical camp out’ on school grounds as part of the rehearsal schedule. Further information will come out closer to the date. Mr Toshach is strongly encouraging students to manage time well to ensure no interruption or negative impact on learning occurs. Talk to your teachers if concerned.



WELCOME

We welcomed Mr Jonathon Lemon to staff this week. Mr Lemon is replacing Mrs Robyn Sheppard who has now moved on to other ventures. We will add a picture of Mr Lemon next week.

FROM THE OFFICE

- Please Note: - We no longer provide the option to text student absence messages. If your student is absent you can either phone the school office on 40967111 or email to absentees@malandashs.eq.edu.au
- Reminder – Thankyou to the families who have finalised payment of the Textbook & Resource Hire Scheme. To receive the discount of \$30 per student full payment is required by 29 February 2016.
- With the new arrangements of reporting now formalised at the recent P&C meeting it is imperative that parents and carers have provided a current email address to the school administration staff. Reports will be emailed to parents and carers in the second week of term 2. Also “Parent News” is emailed weekly and in conjunction with the school website is the way you receive all school news. If you have not been receiving Parent News by email please contact office staff to update your email address.

Kind Regards

Gary Toshach
Principal

Important Dates

24 Feb	School Leaders Induction
29 Feb-2 Mar	Year 7 Camp
7 March	Interschool Swimming Carnival
18 March	Student Council Meeting
25 March	Easter Holidays begin
11 April	School Resumes
16-17 April	Musical Camp (on school grounds)
6&7 May	Cinderella: The Musical