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**PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE**

*Dear Families*

Welcome to the Year 2016 at the great Centenary Heights State High School! We begin the year with a total student enrolment of 1593 comprised of: Year 7 - 278; Year 8 - 266; Year 9 - 180; Year 10 - 292; Year 11 - 317 and Year 12 - 260. We have 70 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 on our Flexi School campus and 1523 across Years 7 to 12 on our main campus. Our fabulous diversity is inclusive of 181 students for whom English is a second language and 104 supported by staff from our super Special Education Unit. Add to this configuration a total of 150 teaching and non-teaching staff and we are in for another busy year.

Speaking of staff, our professional learning focus for the year carries on from previous years i.e. ensuring every child in every classroom in every subject is exposed to an emphasis on reading and writing and within that, comprehension. Our staff professional development sessions focus on how to make this agenda come alive in every classroom. Not only are these life skills contributing to a child’s bright future but they very much help our students feel composed when it comes to the standard tests of NAPLAN and QCS – the material is not foreign to them and they feel confident in themselves in approaching such tasks.

**The performance of our Year 12 cohort 2015 was again incredibly impressive. Completed school based traineeships for the 12th year in a row, position us in the top 1% of all schools across the state and across sectors. The total of students attaining an OP 1-15 was 85.3% - sensational! Our attainment with QCE [Qld Certificate of Education] was 91.3% and our Flexi School produced 27 graduates all with firm pathways to university, TAFE, fulltime apprenticeships or fulltime work. As our 12s repeatedly acknowledged in the comments on their Exit Surveys, the ‘secret’ is a mix of the positive relationship they enjoy with their teachers, the high quality of instruction, facilities and resources and the clear standards and expectations of our school, in terms of behaviour and attendance, which daily underpin the learning environment. For your information each year, in their last week of school, all Year 12 students complete a survey asking them to reflect over their time at Centenary Heights State High School on everything from the seats they sit on in class and in the yard to the quality of instruction and communication within the school. I analyse this feedback and share it with a range of stakeholders within our school. This feedback, as with the feedback of their parents who are also surveyed, is enormously instructive in terms of moving our school forward. Parents of our 2015 Year 12s were incredibly positive about their child’s experience over the years at Centenary Heights State High School and I have taken delight in sharing that news with our teaching and non-teaching staff.

**Facilities update:**
- 2 new classrooms and a staff office under C Block – beautiful facilities and sorely needed given our growing student number.
- Purchase of a 25 seater bus with the express purpose of transporting our students studying Agriculture to Wilsonton Ag Centre each week – a big workload – but also for any other activity within and beyond Toowoomba that supports our students learning.
- Transformation of 2 older classrooms into another industrial skills workshop – given the popularity of such subjects we really did need the facility. A great room with wonderful resources.
- 2 new handball courts to replace the ones needing to be moved from under C Block as a result of the building – do not ever understate the significance of handball courts in a school – essential infrastructure!
- You may have seen that the State Government has added flashing signs to our 40 zone area outside our school – this is the result of ongoing discussion and we are very appreciative.
- Full ‘gutting’ and refurbishment of G block boys’ amenities at a cost of $27000.
- New furniture to a number of classrooms and refurbishment of our 2 main Library classrooms.

**Our students’ take-up of BYOD [Bring your own device] has been superb. We now have hundreds of our students who have their device ‘on-boarded’ meaning connected to the network and are enjoying all of the benefits that have come with BYOD none the least being software at such a discounted price. Parents, please defer to the booklet you will have received with your child’s report card last year or if you are new to our school you will have received such in your enrolment package. This outlines the required specifications for the device. Our Network Administrator John Harman advises that when you are purchasing you will not need to spend any more that $700 – do not be enticed into any ‘deals’ – you are very welcome to contact John or one of our computer technicians at school for advice before purchasing.
Parents please be aware:

- If your child rides a bike to school – we provide a secure lock up facility for storage of the bike through the day and it is stipulated that, in the interests of safety, your child wears a helmet and walks his/her bike while on school grounds. A student not compliant with these arrangements understands contact will be made with home to advise, in the first instance, permission to ride to school will be revoked for a period of 1 week. Should there be a second occurrence, that permission will be revoked for the remainder of the year.

- Chewing gum is not permitted at Centenary Heights State High School. The times where our Cleaners have had to clean it off me from under desks, walls and the ground are long gone – and so they should be. Our students understand that if they have gum at school, the Head of Year of that grade will make contact home and our student will remain after school from 3-4pm for a period of 1 week to work with our Cleaning staff. Our Cleaners are great people and committed to the quality of their work – in the rare cases where a student infringes in this area and then spends time with our Cleaners to see how hard and how quickly they have to work, it has been a great result for our students – a new found respect and understanding.

- We do not have any parents driving or parking on our grounds – again, around safety. We have so many students traversing the grounds before, during and after hours it is simply not safe. The only exception is for parents of students working within our Special Education Unit and where you have applied for, and been allocated, a parking permit. The Toowoomba Regional Council has opened up a number of car spaces outside our premises for parents to collect and drop off children. Please do not park in car spaces set aside for shoppers across the road – local businesses are great neighbours with us and I do not wish for that relationship to be negatively affected.

- Our students only cross the road at the lights or the crossing on South Street – we have so many students entering our school in the mornings and exiting in the afternoon it is incredibly unsafe to have people compromising student safety. If you park across the road from our pool as you wait for your child, please ensure he/she moves up to the lights and walks down to you. Our students are wonderful with this understanding.

- Attendance at school – regardless of the events of a school day – normal classes, swimming carnival or other event, if it is a school day then all students are required to attend. I do not make any exception unless staff working in our Special Education Unit advise me otherwise. Should a student absent him/herself from any school day, without approval from myself as Principal, it is regarded as truancy and sanctions within our Code of School Behaviour apply. Thankfully it is rare but it is discouraging when a parent offers an explanation of sick when the child actually is not. I take this opportunity to remind parents of our student who are in Years 11 or 12 that the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) mandates a student is required to meet standards in both ‘Sufficiency of Coverage’ and ‘Adequacy of Assessment’ in order to be signed off with a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Where a student is away from school for significant periods of time, whether explained or not by the parent, and submits all required assessment this addresses ‘Adequacy of Assessment’ but it will not address ‘Sufficiency of Coverage’. Heads of Department [and I] will not sign off on the completion of the work unless the student’s work is present and work as required. This is why we encourage our families who may have a child who is genuinely unwell and not able to attend regularly to let us know – and early. Our Guidance Officer Jeff Head will be able to assist.

- Students are permitted to participate in extracurricular activity and are very much encouraged to do so eg the school Musical, representing the school in sport and also Darling Downs and on, activities such as Pedal Prix – there is such a very long list. The conditions around eligibility for such participation are a satisfactory attendance and work ethic and school fees that are either paid in full or subject to a successful pay off plan [we offer significant support to families who are in dire need financially].

- I am very clear with our students on their responsibility to be ethical bystanders. By this I mean if they know or see any behaviour to be inappropriate or it could turn in to something inappropriate, they are required to report to a teacher, in confidence. I take great pains to explain to them the difference between ‘dobbing’ – a mindless, selfish act and taking responsibility which is essential to keep our environment safe and respectful. If a student does not report, and in doing so is a silent part of the outcome, our Code of School Behaviour is very clear in that the ‘silent partner’ will be sanctioned. Just as you no doubt do as parents, we want to encourage our young people to have the courage to be contributing citizens to our world.

A very big thank you to the wonderful members of Hume Ridge church who, for the 13th year in a row, have come in droves before school resumed in January and conducted a working bee to ready the school for return of students and staff. After a long, hot summer the 19 hectares of our land is overgrown with grass not to mention tasks needing attention such as line marking, concreting, painting, gutter and drain cleaning and the list goes on. Our lone Grounds person and Janitorial staff could not hope to catch all coming in to something inappropriate, they are required to report to a teacher, in confidence. I take great pains to explain to them the difference between ‘dobbing’ – a mindless, selfish act and taking responsibility which is essential to keep our environment safe and respectful. If a student does not report, and in doing so is a silent part of the outcome, our Code of School Behaviour is very clear in that the ‘silent partner’ will be sanctioned. Just as you no doubt do as parents, we want to encourage our young people to have the courage to be contributing citizens to our world.

Our website – we have a number of new staff who have joined our school this year and our newly elected student leadership group is also up on our website – please take some minutes to view. Please also take time to check out QParents which will outline for you all details around your child’s assessment; important dates and the like.

Many thanks for reading. Best wishes.

Maryanne Walsh, Principal
Two hundred and seventy-five Year 7 Centenary Heights SHS students crashed through the doors for their very first day of high school at the start of the school year. Despite an increase in the number of the ‘first ever’ Year 7 high school students, teachers and support staff were well and truly ready for them, keen to build on last year’s successes.

This week our students are participating in the Year 7 Orientation Camp at Runaway Bay along with twenty-three senior students and seventeen staff who will play a vital role in guiding the ‘newbies’. It is at this camp that the students, who come from over thirty-five primary schools, quickly get to know each other and make new friends, some life-long. Already in their first few weeks, students have: auditioned for, and are now in, the school musical cast; joined the debating team; are performing in the choir; nominated for a wide-range of sporting opportunities; played a Rugby League match; and competitively raced at the Swimming Carnival, just to name a few.

Students are really excited about starting high school and sampling everything on offer. Adam van Dorselaer and Jack DeBortoli said that they are keen on the extra sporting opportunities, Emily Baguley is looking forward to making new friends, Luis Hobson is keen on being treated like a ‘high school’ student and Natalie Bullpitt is excited about trying new experiences.

Tim O’Connell, HOD Junior Secondary & Languages
Does Your Child Have a Chance of Being Successful?

1 or 2 days a week doesn’t seem much but.......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
<th>Which means the best your child might perform is ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>20 days/year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>1.5 years</strong></td>
<td>Equal to finishing in Yr 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>40 days/year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>2.5 years</strong></td>
<td>Equal to finishing in Yr 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>80 days/year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over <strong>5 years</strong></td>
<td>Equal to finishing in Yr 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>120 days/year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly <strong>8 years</strong></td>
<td>Equal to finishing at Yr 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!

Centenary Heights State High School
Safety - Respect - Learning
What Sort of Start is Your Child Getting?

Just a little bit late doesn’t seem much but.......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She is only missing just....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes/week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly half a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins/week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day/week</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day/week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2.5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day?

That’s when every minute counts the most!!

School instruction starts at 8.45am

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!

Centenary Heights State High School
Safety - Respect - Learning
It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and students turn up to this year’s Meet and Greet, held on Thursday, 11 February. Parents had the opportunity to meet their child’s core teachers and gain an understanding of class expectations, procedures and what will be taught throughout the year. A lot of information was shared!

Afterwards, parents and carers were taken on a school tour by the students. It was also great to see some parents having a go at opening their child’s lock—now they know how the students felt the first time they got them.

The afternoon ended with parents and carers continuing discussions in the hall while enjoying a sausage sizzle, kindly prepared by some of the senior students. Families were welcomed to the school by Mrs Tracy Soward-Amalfi, Deputy Principal in charge of Year 7, and information was shared by Karen Smith about the importance of nutrition for children.

Thanks to Miss Kathryn Gorton for organising the afternoon and the Year 7 core teachers and families for attending. Here’s to a successful start to the high school life of the Year 7 students.

Matt Russell, Head of Year 7

Are you planning an extended time away from school for your child (e.g., holiday; medical intervention etc.)? For any period of time over 10 consecutive days you are required to follow an official process.

Education Queensland has a policy—Exemptions from Compulsory Schooling and Compulsory Participation—which needs to be followed if your child/children will be absent from school for this period of time or longer.

Fact Sheets providing further details and Application Forms may be requested from the school office.

For any further information please visit http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/inclusive/exemptions/index.html
On 4th February Year 12 students gathered in the hall to receive their leadership badges, a symbol of the importance of their last year at Centenary and their position as leaders within the school. Head of Year, Mrs Rohde-Bidgood started the ceremony by welcoming and congratulating the Year 12 students on their achievements thus far. Mrs Rohde-Bidgood made an impact by emphasising the famous words from rapper Eminem:

    Look, if you had, one shot, or one opportunity
    To seize everything you ever wanted. In one moment
    Would you capture it, or just let it slip?

Our guest speaker, John Minz, Chair of the Toowoomba Says ‘No to Violence’ Committee, spoke to the Year 12s about the important role in establishing personal standards around how you view yourself and how you want to be portrayed by others. He encouraged students to be active in their leadership roles at Centenary Heights and make the most of the senior year ahead with such wonderful opportunities presented.

Bianca Fowler concluded the ceremony by making a goal with the seniors to ‘emanate a deep sense of appreciation for our education; appreciation for the days that fill our year, and people who fill our moments. Make each day as enriching and fulfilling as you can.’

The ceremony was a great start to the year and upon leaving the hall, with their senior badge, each student left empowered for the year ahead.

Emma Usher, Year 12 Assistant Head of Year

Another successful yearly event over! $1296 raised!! What does 500 wrapped roses look like before being delivered? Just look at our photo attached!!! The Interactors have once again done a great job of planning, preparing and organising the sale of the roses which were delivered to excited recipients during PCG on Friday 12 February in time for Sunday’s Valentine’s Day.

Traditionally the profits from this venture pay for the continued yearly schooling support of our 7 year old sponsor child, Sanjai, in India. Because it was so successful with every rose bought, the Interactors were also able to donate $500 to our Pedal Prix group at school for their use this year in furthering their goals. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser, and we look forward to next year for perhaps 600 roses sold!!??

Sandy Feldman & Jess Zylstra, Interact Club Co-ordinators

A reminder to parents/carers to notify the school about your child’s health.

Centenary Heights State High School is committed to supporting students’ health and wellbeing. We would appreciate parents/carers providing the school with any relevant health information that is required to support your child at school. This information is also collected at enrolment but needs to be updated regularly or if a new health condition develops.

Information about medically diagnosed conditions such as allergies, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy and other health conditions that may require school staff to provide support to students, including administering medication and performing health procedures, should be provided to the school. Additionally, any health need that may impact on school activities such as sports, outings (including camps) should also be discussed with the school.

Information should be provided in writing, and any specific health plans (only to be completed and signed by the medical practitioner) should be included. Please contact the school to discuss any specific requirements.

Please inform the school office staff of any changes to contact details or the contact details of the people nominated as emergency contacts.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard. All information is kept confidential and only disclosed to the relevant staff required to supporting your child.

For any enquiries, please contact the school office on telephone (07) 4636 7500.
SPORT Report

2016 Sport has yet again started in overdrive at Centenary Heights SHS. Several Toowoomba Secondary School Sport trials have already been held with two more cluster trials over the next three weeks. We have already had the Central Zone Swimming carnival for our 12 year old students. Our School Swimming Carnival was conducted on February 10 following the same format as 2015 in two half day carnivals due to our size.

2016 brings again some confusion for students and to clarify, please note below:

• Students born in 2004 (turn 12 in 2016) DO NOT trial at any Toowoomba Secondary School Sport trials. These students will always trial at Central Zone trials with all other 12 year old students, regardless of whether they are at a Primary or Secondary School.

• Students born in 2003 or earlier (turn 13 – 19 in 2016) will always trial at Toowoomba Secondary School Sport trials.

• 12 year old students were given an information sheet with all trial dates in Week 1 of this term.

All major sport dates are advertised on the Sport Calendar on our school website. Students will be informed of any trials for both school and representative teams via the Student Notices. Trials will be advertised for at least one week prior to nominations due. Students collect nomination slips from the F Block Noticeboard – they take them home, have them signed and return to Mrs Bartlett at F Block staffroom by the nomination date. Unfortunately, no late nominations can be accepted.

Results from our Swimming Carnival are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE CHAMPIONS 2016</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGE</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 yrs</td>
<td>Natalie Bullpitt</td>
<td>Riley Greenbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 yrs</td>
<td>Holly Chersini</td>
<td>Madeline Lynch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 yrs</td>
<td>Amy Brennan</td>
<td>Emily Stenzel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 yrs</td>
<td>Ingrid Meldejohn</td>
<td>Lillian Carland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 yrs</td>
<td>Blanca Freeman</td>
<td>Melissa Bechteler-Weickhardt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-19 yrs</td>
<td>Moesha Raklander</td>
<td>Chelsea Connors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Holly Chersini</td>
<td>Natalie Bullpitt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Record Breakers for 2016

Natalie Bullpitt 50m Freestyle 39.36s 50m Backstroke 49.33s 50m Butterfly 50.27s
Alex Chersini 50m Breaststroke 44.96s 50m Backstroke 43.10s

OVERALL HOUSE POINTS

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<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>1503</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curran</td>
<td>1040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swartz</td>
<td>860</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenny</td>
<td>847</td>
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Chris Bartlett, Sports Co-ordinator