PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Families

A warm welcome to 2015 at our great school.

The start has been exceptionally smooth with our new Year 7s and 8s absolutely loving it. Our student leaders are doing a great job at lunch breaks running sports games and library games. Thankyou so much to the kind parents who sent flowers to staff in our first week with the message: ‘Thankyou for your dedication to our children. We will be praying for you all this year. From a grateful first time high school Mum and Dad’.

Our official student number is 1603. This number of course is across all of our 3 campuses – our mainstream campus [1503]; our Flexischool [69] and our School to Skills [S2S] program [31] run out of TAFE.

Speaking of our fabulous Flexischool, it is part of my annual practice to interview each student new to Flexi to see what has brought them there and what they hope to gain from the experience. I never cease to be amazed at students’ immediate love of the place and resultant engagement in their programs and the ethos. For those who are unaware our Flexi is situated on the corner of Hume Street and Chalk Drive and caters to students aged between 15-17 with a range of programs which culminate in University pathways, TAFE, fulltime work or fulltime apprenticeships. It draws enrolment from the seventeen secondary schools [private and public] in the Toowoomba area and beyond. Our sixteen 2014 graduates all attained an immediate pathway covering the variety of the destinations I have mentioned above. Given the smaller environment setting really engage at Flexi. Our teachers design and teach the programs and we enjoy multiple students in particular who suffer anxiety and whose absence compromises attendance in a mainstream environment. For those who are unaware our Flexi has mushroomed. In doing so this is where our Flexi and S2S programs have mushroomed.

For your information:

- Further formal uniform required days – Year 7 & 8– Monday 2 March; Year 9–Tuesday 3 March; Year 10–Wednesday 4 March; Year 11–Thursday 5 March and Year 12–Friday 6 March.

- To report an absence for your child – please ring the Absentee line 4636 7599 on the day or within 24 hours of the absence. Alternatively send in an explanatory note with the reason stated on the day of your child’s return. That note should go to their PCG teacher. Please be aware that we do not accept email explanations for reasons of authentic.

- The Government Health Legislation Amended bill, effective 1 January 2015, bans smoking on site and for five 5 metres beyond the boundary of all schools.

- Our P and C and I are strongly encouraging students who purchase from the Tuckshop to pre-order. In our preparations for well over a year now, as we ready for these large student numbers, our P and C has employed a third paid staff member in our Tuckshop as well as positioning a pick up servery at the rear of the Tuckshop. This means our students may pre-order and pay for their lunches up to 8.30am each morning, not have to line up and just pick their lunches up at the rear servery at first break. Please discuss this option with your child – it really is for their convenience and for the smooth running of our Tuckshop.

- Free Dress Day Wednesday 11 March – gold coin donation with all funds going to our Student Leadership Group for meting out to worthy initiatives. In 2014 our students again chose to Adopt A Room for the year at the Toowoomba Hospice - $3500 to ensure families, at the most vulnerable of times, have all the care that they need. When we have free dress days students are required to wear closed in shoes; dress modestly and respectfully and observe our dress code in terms of jewellery and make up.

Please be sure to read through our Code of School Behaviour – even if your child is not new to CHSHS - for the convenience of all it outlines our requirements in terms of behaviour and attendance. In the case of any difficult situations regarding unacceptable attendance or behavioural indiscretions it really does help your child if you understand and know what the policies and procedures are at our school and within the Department of Education Training and Employment. To highlight a few:

In my next communique I will showcase our other wonderful off campus program School to Skills. It really
- Attendance – in the case of a post compulsory student, the Qld Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) requires me as Principal to only sign off on the approval of subject completion if there has been ‘sufficiency of coverage’ and ‘adequacy of assessment’. This means if a child is absent from class, for explained or unexplained reasons, and has not met syllabus requirements in terms of face to face instruction then our Heads of Department will advise me and I will not endorse the completion of that subject. Adequacy of Assessment pertains to the requirement for classroom teachers to be in a position to state they have seen that all submitted work is that of the student. The only way to do this is for the student to be in class and for the work to be checked, as teachers do, in set class time. Should your child suffer from a medical condition and not be able to attend as required I invite you to make a time with our Guidance Officer Jeff Head and explore the options available – ie a 3 year senior [very successful in such cases] or a reduced program to reduce the pressure. In the junior school if the amount of absence comes to a point where missed learning does not support a move to the next year level given the work would be harder and more in volume again, our Guidance Officer, Jeff and Engagement Officer, June will be in ongoing communication with the family.

- Behavioural choices – aerosol cans are not permitted on site given the incident in 2014 where one of our students was severely affected from the contents. Asthma is a common condition with young people today and we have to be extra careful we do not expose such students to potential harm. The wearing of any form of make-up is prohibited with any first incidence resulting in a call home to collect your child and any further incidence regarded as ongoing disobedience and treated as such within our code of school behaviour. Part of our highly successful student-teacher relationship base at Centenary Heights is the fact that all such things are explained clearly with students and no further warning is given – our students themselves tell us they appreciate the ‘no nag’ approach.

Year 12 Badge Ceremony was a delight – great to see so many families join in the acknowledgment that your ‘baby’ has entered the final year of schooling. My thanks to Assistant Head of Year Donna Brown who does such a great job of ensuring the quality of events that we have for our 12s.

Keeping in contact – I invite you to download the Q Schools App to access our website and of course all events and news relating to our school and to your child’s subjects. While on our website you might like to read our publication ‘Indigee News’. This is a Semester publication and is a quality read of the news and achievements in relation to our indigenous students and their achievements.

Traffic around our school – many of you will have seen the congestion at exit each day. This is despite a number of measures we have had in place to start the year in anticipation of our growth in student numbers. A reminder of the following:

- Our students understand they are permitted to cross the road only at the lights on the corner of South and Ramsay or the crossing on South Street. Please do not attempt to cross elsewhere with your child.

- Given past ‘near misses’ of students in our onsite carparks, for a period of 2 years now, please remember not to drive into the school grounds on any occasion. There is no drop off or pick up in school grounds other than for parents with a child who works in our special education unit – in that case staff issue carpark permits.

- As of Friday 13 February our students will understand that they are not to wait for pick up outside the newsagency. This is in line with our efforts to assist our shop neighbours and keep the congestion down and also reduce the effect of cars reversing into the traffic. We do now have a 5 minute park space parallel to our school on South Street ie the old bus bay – please access that if you like bearing in mind it is not for sitting for long periods as indicated by the sign.

Your child’s safety is paramount for us – please assist us to do our job well.

Best wishes

Maryanne Walsh, Principal

INTERACT CLUB

Another successful event of delivering wrapped silk roses to the lucky recipients in Pastoral Care Groups has come and gone! This year we had another wonderful response, selling over 450 roses! The Interact Club members delivered all the roses the Friday morning before Saturday’s Valentine’s Day (thus making lots of people very happy on ‘Friday 13th’!) Funds raised will be portioned off to various charities but this event always provides the year’s contributions for our sponsor child, 6 year old Sanjai who lives in India. Other charities supported will be decided by the Interact Club at a later stage as needs arise. Thank you to everyone who once again supported this annual fundraiser, and we look forward to this support continuing for our Term 2 event which is the Lifeline Can Appeal. Stay tuned for more at a later date!!

Sandy Feldman, Interact Club Coordinator
MEGAN LITTLE – SCHOOL CAPTAIN
This year, as a school captain of Centenary Heights SHS my main goal is to help maintain the current schooling environment and to improve in anywhere possible, working alongside my fellow captains. I am very excited for the year ahead.

BEN WILLIS – SCHOOL CAPTAIN
Hi everyone, my name is Ben Willis and I am the school captain in 2015. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to serve the school in this position. A couple of things about me: I enjoy the performing arts as well as loving basketball.

NICKY HAEUSLER – SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAIN
Hi! My name is Nicky Haeusler and last year I was elected as School Vice-Captain for Centenary Heights. I’m so excited for what’s coming up in 2015; we have a jam-packed year ahead of us that promises to be a challenge, but also a lot of fun. I’m really looking forward to working with my fellow leaders to help improve the school in any way we can, and bring some fresh ideas to the table. Centenary Heights is such a great school and I’m so happy that I am a part of it. We have so many great things coming up within the school this year, and I’m so keen to get started. Stay classy, Centenary Heights!

NONIMI WASALA – SCHOOL VICE-CAPTAIN
In my role as School Vice-Captain for 2015 I would like to maintain the positive and accepting nature of our school and also bring new ideas to the table. I would like to have a positive influence on both staff and students to further improve our wonderful school. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to represent this school and I will do my utmost to fulfil this responsibility.

PRIYENKA MENON – JUNIOR SECONDARY CAPTAIN
This year so far has been a delight with the Year 7 and 8s who are ready for a good time. Their enthusiasm for upcoming tasks is inspiring and admirable. I’m hoping that this year the Student Leadership Committee will be able to ease their discomforts about the transition and make them more welcome than ever. I am very excited for the many things I will be able to accomplish with this role as Junior Secondary Captain and can’t wait to begin. One area which I hope to focus on this year is making the school more ‘green’ as it is something I feel quite deeply about and think it is a worthwhile cause. This is an amazing opportunity and I definitely won’t waste it.

FELIX BEST – JUNIOR SECONDARY CAPTAIN
My name is Felix Best and I am a Junior Secondary Captain for 2015. I aspire to achieve School Captain in Year 12. I am 13 going on 14 but I still don’t really know what I want to be when I grow up. My favourite sport is football/soccer and I love meeting new people and making new friends. What I really want to accomplish in my time as Captain is a ‘buddy system’ for Year 7s to have a Year 9 buddy who will guide them through their first terrifying year of high school. I believe this would draw more positive attention to our school within the community and comfort the parents of these students who want their children to go to school knowing that they have someone to talk to.

ISABELLA HALAUFIA – JUNIOR SECONDARY VICE-CAPTAIN
I am Junior Secondary female Vice-Captain for 2015. My role this year is to represent the Year 9s and younger grades. I am here to help and support my fellow students when they need it. I wish for 2015 to be one of the best years for staff and students and I know that with the help of my fellow captains and the teachers and staff that it will be one of the best years yet.

NICK VON XANTEN – JUNIOR SECONDARY VICE-CAPTAIN
I am Nicholas von Xanten and as a Junior Vice-Captain my goal is to welcome Year 7 & 8 students and make sure they enjoy their first year at Centenary.

Internet Safe Families publish regular articles with information on social networking websites and apps as well as providing training materials to help parents build an open and supportive environment for their children at home.

Direct link to the sign up page is: https://forms.sign-up.to/33939/1250
JUNIOR SECONDARY Update

A special welcome to all of our new parents of Year 7 and 8 students – it was great to see so many of you at our ‘first day’ information sessions and then again at our Meet and Greet Evenings. You are always welcome!

Our first ever cohort of Year 7 students have settled in incredibly well as have our other cohort of new students, our Year 8s. We commenced this year with 266 Year 7, 185 Year 8 and 295 Year 9 students. The first few weeks have been equally as hectic as exciting, particularly for our Year 7 & 8 students. In Week 5 the large majority of our students will participate in the Year 7 & 8 camps at Runaway Bay along with 50 senior students who will play a vital role guiding our youngsters. Many students will also enjoy a similar program here at school. Many students have already involved themselves in some of the countless extra-curricular opportunities, including sporting events, debating teams, instrumental music lessons and a variety of clubs.

In the next two weeks students in our Junior Secondary School will have the opportunity to ‘run’ for several leadership opportunities including: Year 7 & 8 Class Captains, Year 7 to 9 Student Council Representatives.

I have had the pleasure of catching up with many of my past Year 8 students (now in Year 9) and they report that they are very much enjoying their change in timetables, in particular the opportunity they have to focus on their subject areas of interest.

Tim O’Connell, HOD Middle Schooling & Languages
On 5th 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 within the school. The head of year, Mr Alex van Dorsselaer started the ceremony by welcoming and congratulating the Year 12 students on their achievements so far. Alex wanted students to remember the importance of perseverance, and spoke of very famous people who were initially rejected in their fields.

Our guest speaker, Lauren England, a local youth worker from HumeRidge, spoke to the Year 12s about the importance of developing leadership, instead of being born leaders. She told the students about a friend at school who was known to be a ‘born leader’ but did not put in the effort required to lead others, encouraging students to be active in their leadership roles at Centenary.

Nicky Hauesler finished the ceremony using inspirational words from one of the world’s greatest leaders, Dr Martin Luther King Jr saying: “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl; but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward”. Nicky reiterated the words of Martin Luther King by quoting another famous figure, Dory, from “Finding Nemo” and reminding her fellow students that when times are difficult this year they needed to remember to “just keep swimming”.

The ceremony was a great start to the year. All Year 12 students received their badges and left the hall at the end of the day with a sense of pride, a winning smile and a mouthful of yummy congratulatory cake.

Donna Brown, Assistant Head of Year 12
2015 sport has started with a bang at Centenary Heights SHS. There have already been several Toowoomba Secondary School Sport trials held as well as our first Central Zone carnival for our 12 year old students. Our school Swimming Carnival was on February 18 and was the first of its kind, being split into two carnivals in the one day.

2015 brings some confusion for students and to clarify, please note below:

* Students born in 2003 (turn 12 in 2015) will 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 2002 (turn 13 – 19 in 2015) or earlier will always trial at Toowoomba Secondary School Sport trials.

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, get them signed and return to Mrs Bartlett at F Block staffroom by the nomination date. Unfortunately, no late nominations can be accepted.

We must congratulate a couple of our students on recent selections into Club teams. Shintaro Sneath, one of our Year 9 students, has been selected in the Australian Futsal Team to tour Greece in October this year. Conor Banim, one of our Year 11 students, has also been selected in the Australian Futsal Team to tour Brazil in November this year. This is an outstanding achievement for these boys and clearly the result of some very committed hard work.

Chris Bartlett, Sports Co-ordinator

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**Extended Absences**

**Parents/Careers**

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](http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/inclusive/exemptions/index.html)

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**Mark Your Diaries**

**MARCH**

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| 2    | Year 8 & 10 Immunisations  
      | Full Formal Uniform Day for Year 7 & 8 |
| 3    | Full Formal Uniform Day for Year 9  
      | Japanese Study Tour Group 1 arrives |
| 4    | Full Formal Uniform Day for Year 10  
      | Full Formal Uniform Day for Year 11 |
| 5    | Full Formal Uniform Day for Year 12 |
| 6    | Free Dress Day & Red Food Day  
      | Japanese Study Tour Group 1 departs |
| 11   | Year 11 Legal Studies Brisbane  
      | Supreme Court Excursion |
| 18   | Year 12 Exam Block begins  
      | Toowoomba Show Holiday |
| 19   | Year 7 & 8 Reports posted  
      | Year 12 Exam Block ends |
| 20   | Japanese Study Tour Group 2 arrives |
| 23   | Experience Through Challenge Program |
| 26   | Student Leaders Activity Day with Year 7, 8 & 9 students |
| 27   | Last day of Term 1 |

**APRIL**

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<td>Good Friday</td>
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