Habit of Mind
APPLYING PAST KNOWLEDGE
Nothing we learn is ever wasted.
Eleanor Roosevelt

Important Time for our Year 12 Students
This term is already well past the half-way point and our Year 12 students have a very busy time ahead of them over the next 4 weeks. Many of them are preparing for and will sit the QCS tests which are on September 2 and 3, and all students have very important assessment due in the next few weeks. The Year 12 exam block scheduled for next term is Week 6. I ask all parents and caregivers to support these students in this time and please contact the school if you have any concerns.

Parent/Teacher Interviews
We have had a very positive response from parents and carers to our Parent/Teacher interview days. The next one is scheduled for September 10. I encourage all students and their parents to book interview times with the relevant subject teachers. I am sure that students, parents and carers will find the upcoming Parent/Teacher Interviews very positive as we support students in progressing towards their education goals together.

Interim Report Cards
Report cards will be emailed Thursday 28 August. Information about Parent/Teacher interviews (Wednesday 10 September) and how to make your bookings will also be enclosed with the email. Bookings for Parent/Teacher interviews will open on 1 September.

Attendance Ready Reckoner
Our goal is to have every student be successful; full attendance, or as much as humanly possible, has to be an essential first priority for this to be reality. Unless extenuating circumstances arise, 10 days absence per year is a fair “cushion” for illness or emergent events. Many of our students meet or exceed this target and we need to do more in this regard. We do, and will always support families in peculiar circumstances. We are a school that cares for relationships with parents to ensure partnerships are solid and purposeful. Parents can use the Days Absent recorded on first semester reports and the table below to calculate their child’s proximity to this goal.

A student with 90% attendance (sounds good) each year for the 5 years of their high school will have lost 11 weeks or one term of schooling (reality check). 85% attendance (sounds OK) over 5 years equates to 16 weeks – the best part of one whole semester lost (left behind).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Grade</th>
<th>School Days</th>
<th>Days Absent for 95% Attendance</th>
<th>Days Absent for 90% Attendance</th>
<th>Days Absent for 85% Attendance</th>
<th>Days Absent for 80% Attendance</th>
<th>Days Absent for 75% Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>10 (2 weeks)</td>
<td>19 (4 weeks)</td>
<td>30 (6 weeks)</td>
<td>38 (7.8 weeks)</td>
<td>48.5 (9.7 weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>9 (1.8 weeks)</td>
<td>18 (3.5 weeks)</td>
<td>27 (5.4 weeks)</td>
<td>36 (7.1 weeks)</td>
<td>46 (9.2 weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>8 (1.6 weeks)</td>
<td>17 (3.4 weeks)</td>
<td>24 (4.8 weeks)</td>
<td>34 (6.8 weeks)</td>
<td>45 (9 weeks)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mitchelton State High School
754 Samford Rd, Mitchelton Qld 4053
Phone: 3550 1111
Fax: 3550 1100
Absentee Line: 3550 1160
Web: www.mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au
Email: admin@mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au
Follow us on twitter @MitcheltonSHS

Important August Dates
| Wed 27 | Year 11 Biology Excursion—Boondall Wetlands | 8AM—3PM |
| 27 +28 | Met North Athletics Carnival | - |
| Fri 29 | Full School Assembly | 9AM—9.45AM |
| Sat 30 | P&C Trivia Night—School Hall | 6.30PM—9.30PM |
| Sun 31 | Bunnings sausage sizzle—raising money for School of St Jude’s in Tanzania | 7.30AM—4.30PM |

Important September Dates
| 02-03 | QCS Test Days | 8.30AM—3PM |
| Tue 02 | Broncos Mentoring Year 12 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students | 9AM—10.15AM |
| Wed 10 | Parent/Teacher Interviews | 3PM—6PM |

If you would like your copy of Mitchie Moments emailed to you, have any feedback on the newsletter, or would like to contribute an article, please contact Kim Grant on 3550 1111 or by emailing admin@mitcheltonshs.eq.edu.au
Schooling is highly valued in our community. However, a few days absence does make a difference. Without intent, student absences can accrue having impact on learning continuity.

- Come to school every day
- Every absence should be the minimum required for the circumstance and be explained to be authorised
- Seek support from our Guidance Officer or School Health Nurse if expectations are at risk
- Holidays in school term should be avoided. Holidays outside the school calendar should be negotiated with the appropriate Deputy Principal.

Exemptions without penalty from this obligation may be applicable.

Students of the Month for August:

John Searle
Principal
Email: jsear13@eq.edu.au

INSIDE: MITCHY HIGH ROCKETS UP NAPLAN RANKINGS ▶ P8

North-West News
Wednesday, August 27, 2014
questnews.com.au

Test scores skyrocket

Alicia Nally

A SHIFT in attitude and responsibility for learning has seen Mitchelton State High School improve its NAPLAN results by up to 26 per cent during the past year.

Reading skills at the school increased 12 per cent from 2013, writing was up 21 per cent, spelling by 10.5 per cent, grammar and punctuation 8 per cent and numeracy 26 per cent.

English head of department Shelley Bampton said numeracy and literacy skills were no longer the domain of specialist teachers with every staff member increasing vigilance on spelling, grammar and maths issues.

Dealing with students' perceptions of the test was the biggest challenge.

"We have worked to move beyond the notion of "for NAPLAN" to focus on an attitude of 'for life'," she said.

Year 9 student and junior school captain Kelly Cook said NAPLAN assessments were a “good challenge”.

Principal John Searle said he was proud of the result and hoped to build on it.

“Our vision is that all students achieve to the best of their ability. Our goal is that all students continue to improve,” he said.
Deadly Futures—Job Placement Event
On Friday 22 August, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Year 12 at MSHS attended the Deadly Futures event. Students were given the opportunity to meet employers and job seeker service agencies, find out more information from education access providers, hand out resumes and check out the jobs board. With access to over 40 exhibitors providing jobs and training opportunities, students enjoyed the day immensely.

Latia S. (who is working her way through a Certificate III in Business Management through Mission Australia) attended the event and found it to be very beneficial.

Merle Cashman
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student Support Officer
Email: mcash23@eq.edu.au

Year 12: Want to go to Uni but think your OP will not be good enough?
The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) is offering an intensive Tertiary Preparation program for students wanting to start university in 2015 but don’t think they’ll qualify because their OP or Selection Rank will not be good enough. After successfully completing the Tertiary Preparation Program, students will have guaranteed entry to a USQ degree.

The program is offered in Toowoomba (on-campus residence), Springfield, Ipswich, Maryborough and Fraser Coast, and runs from 24 November - 13 February.

For more information, see the Guidance Officer or www.usq.edu.au/tppintensive

Ann Howlett
Guidance Counsellor
Email: ahowl0@eq.edu.au

Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser
Please come and support our Mitchie students who are running the BBQ at Stafford Bunnings on Sunday 31 August to raise funds for The School of St Jude’s in Tanzania.

A huge thank you to the Jalil family who have kindly donated all the sausages for the day! If you are rostered on please be punctual and dressed in your full formal school uniform which includes black leather shoes. Ladies please have your hair tied back neatly.

Also, we will be raffling a hamper full of chocolates on the day so if students would like to donate, they can bring a chocolate (big or small) to their Care teacher tomorrow or Friday.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Vicki Hamilton
Year 11 Coordinator
Phone: 3550 1148 / 3550 1111
Email: vhami4@eq.edu.au

Indonesian Visitors
On Tuesday 26 August Mitchie welcomed 25 Indonesian visitors to our school. The group comprised of Principals and teachers from various primary and secondary schools from across East Java. The group were interested in inclusive education in senior secondary and in particular the VET subject areas.

The day included visits to different classrooms, where they integrated with our Special Education, International and mainstream students. They were also taken on a tour of the Trade Training Centre and visited the indigenous/Noonga room, where Merle Cashman spoke to them about the Australian Indigenous culture. The group thoroughly enjoyed the day, taking home lots of memories, ideas and strategies to implement in their schools.

Susanne Hamann
Acting Head of Special Education Services
Email: shama8@eq.edu.au
STUDENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PLANS - SETP.

It was great to meet so many of the Year 10 parents at the Subject Selection Evening earlier this month. SETP interviews for Year 10 students are now well underway.

If you have not yet scheduled an appointment for you and your student please contact the Administration Office as soon as possible. Interviews should be completed by Friday 5 September. Please contact me if you have any queries about the process on amcke24@eq.edu.au.

QCS TESTING - Tuesday 2 & Wednesday 3 September

Students eligible for an OP must sit the QCS Test. Students who are not eligible for an OP may sit the QCS Test. NOTE: Students eligible for an OP who are absent from the QCS Test without valid reasons and documented evidence will not be assigned OPs.

The QCS Test consists of four papers:
- **Tuesday** - Writing Task (WT) and Multiple Choice (MCI)
- and **Wednesday** - Short Response (SR) and Multiple Choice (MCII).

A detailed letter outlining the procedures for the testing has been distributed to student candidates this week.

Students are required to assemble at the School Hall at **8.30am each morning**. The Local Chaplaincy Committee will provide breakfast for our students in the Library Courtyard from 7.45am each day. It is a busy time for our Year 12 students in the coming months and we wish them well.

**Normal timetabled lessons will run on these days for the remaining Year 12 students.**

TRAINESHIP VACANCIES

Each week, students are reminded to check the window of Student Services for weekly updates and details of all opportunities advertised. Students are encouraged to express interest and collect details of the application process well in advance of the closing date.
- REDMAKO advertises a long list of Hospitality vacancies weekly
- BUSY AT WORK advertises a list of positions across Brisbane weekly
- GREENCROSS – large Australian veterinary group are offering Cert III Business to students whilst completing their secondary schooling. This opportunity is open to students in Year 10 or Year 11. Applications close this Friday, August 29.

DEFENCE FORCE WORK EXPERIENCE

Applications for work experience positions can be made on line at [www.defence.gov.au/workexperience](http://www.defence.gov.au/workexperience), just click on the "Current Work Experience Placement" link then the QLD tab at the top of the following page and follow the prompts. Opportunities include:

**Army: HQ 7th Brigade**
(7BDE)-Ref No 0191/14
**27 - 29 October 2014; 24 - 26 November 2014**

This work experience activity provides an introduction to the 7th Brigade and provides information on Army careers, enlistment and training procedures.

**AND**

**Army: HQ 9th Force Support Battalion**
(9FSB)-Ref No 0972/14
**13-17 October 2014**

This placement introduces students to the role of 9FSB which provides a HQ capable of commanding and controlling units with road transport and air dispatch support capability.

Call in to the Student Services office for further information or contact Belinda Wicks, Defence Force Mentor.

**2015 UQ Enhanced Studies Program**

For current Year 11 students

UQ’s Enhanced Studies Program [ESP] provides talented students with an opportunity to extend their studies by completing a university subject in the 1st semester of Year 12. Students can select from a range of courses including: Maths & Accounting, Popular Culture & Journalism, Economics & Marketing, Philosophy & History, Writing & Languages.

Students who successfully complete an ESP course receive one bonus point towards their university entrance rank through UQ’s Bonus Rank Scheme. Successful students who later enrol in a relevant UQ program may receive credit for their completed course.

Applications opened August 1 and can be made via the online application form available at [www.uq.edu.au/esp](http://www.uq.edu.au/esp). Applications close Friday 31 October 2014.

For more information or copy of the brochure please contact the Student Services office [E Block].

Andrea McKee
A/HOD Student Performance & Engagement
Email: amcke24@eq.edu.au
The Homework Club is for students who require help in completing homework and assignments or general support in areas of concern and runs on Monday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm N Block.

We have the support of Mitchelton State High School staff who have volunteered their time.

Heather Blake  
Deputy Principal  
Email: hblak2@eq.edu.au

Have you linked your Chemmart Rewards Card to Mitchellton State High School at Arana Hills Day & Night Chemmart Pharmacy for their School Rewards Program? It is not too late! (There are only two weeks to go.)

The School Rewards Program runs until 12 September. Please remember to use your card when visiting the pharmacy and help us to earn some easy money.

John Creagh  
P&C President  
Email: johnlcreagh@bigpond.com

Trivia Night
We are holding a Trivia Night on Saturday night (30 August) starting at 6.30 for 7.00pm in the Assembly Hall. The cost is $10 per person ($5 per school student). Supper will be provided and drinks will be on sale. There will be prizes to be won.

If any members of the school community would like to help with supper, any contributions will be gratefully received.

Please come along and help to make this a fun night!

Raffle
The P&C is conducting a raffle over the coming weeks. The major prize is a Weber Q barbecue kindly donated by our local Member for Ashgrove, Campbell Newman. The raffle will be drawn at supper on Awards Night on Wednesday 19 November. Tickets will be on sale at the Trivia Night. We will also be selling tickets in local shopping centres over the next two months. If you would like to help with selling tickets, please contact me.

Tuckshop Pre-order Promotion
The P&C is running a Pre-order promotion this term.

- Each time a student or staff member places a pre-order for food from the Tuckshop, they receive an entry in a weekly draw for a $10 Tuckshop voucher. The latest winner is Jack Biddle.
- All tickets will be retained until the end of term when a major prize draw will be conducted. The prizes in this draw will be a radio-controlled UFO helicopter, a USB roll-up chess game, and a digital radio.
- Students can place a pre-order at the Tuckshop before school. Payment must be made when placing the order.
- Staff members can place a pre-order by phoning the Tuckshop not less than 30 minutes before first or second break.

Please note that the Tuckshop is not open at second break on Wednesday and Friday.

Next Meeting
The next meeting of the P&C will be held in the Library on Tuesday 16 September. Our guest speaker will be Merle Cashman. Merle will tell us about her role as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student Support Officer at our school.

At the meeting we will also be considering a proposal that our school submit an expression of interest to become an Independent Public School. If you would like to find out more about this proposal and/or you have any feelings about this subject, you need to come along to this meeting.

Tired of Fighting with Your Teenager?
FREE SEMINAR ON REDUCING FAMILY CONFLICT!

- Is your teenager between 11 and 16 years?
- Would you like practical tips for dealing with conflict with your teenager?
- Come to our free 2-hour seminar!

Parents of teenagers are invited to take part in new research by attending a seminar based on the successful Teen Triple P: Positive Parenting Program.

Dates: September and October  
Venues: PCYC Bayside, Carindale & Inala and UQ St Lucia

Learn to more effectively resolve conflict  
***  
Teach your teen better problem-solving skills  
***  
Improve family relationships  
***  
Get support from a trained psychologist  
***  
Meet other parents of teenagers

To find out more or register your interest:  
W: https://exp psy.uq.edu.au/parentingteens  
E: parentingteens@uq.edu.au  
P: 3365 7308 or 3365 7303

The University of Queensland  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Community News
MITCHELTON STATE HIGH SCHOOL P&C

TRIVIA NIGHT

Come one, come all and enjoy a great night out with friends and family whilst raising money for the MSHS P&C.

Saturday 30 August
6.30 for 7.00pm start
$10 per person
Tables of 6 – 8
Supper provided
Drinks for sale
Prizes to be won
& fun to be had.
Tickets available at the door.

For more information or to book a table, please contact John Creagh on 0417 612 204 or johnlcreagh@bigpond.com