TEACHING AND LEARNING AUDIT

As part of an initiative to improve student learning in Queensland state schools, Teaching and Learning Audits are conducted in every Queensland state school to provide quality feedback on how the school is performing and to inform school planning processes. A Teaching and Learning Audit was held at Redlynch State College during the last week of Term 2. During the audit, two independent, experienced school principals visited the school and collected a range of data and information about school practices, programs and procedures in the area of teaching and learning. Interviews were conducted with staff and students to gather a range of perspectives on school strategies and practices.

The auditor’s report has been returned to the College and key findings have been discussed with the school’s leadership team and the school staff. The report makes a number of commendations, affirmations and recommendations. An eight-page executive summary profile of the report will be made available to parents and caregivers on the school’s web site within the next few weeks.

In the limited space available in this newsletter I would like to share the commendations from that report to you. These commendations highlight the excellent work done by staff across the College.

COMMENDATIONS:

- The Principal and other members of the leadership team have developed an explicit improvement agenda for the College with a strong focus on explicit teaching.
- The explicit improvement agenda is clearly articulated in the Annual Implementation Plan.
- The importance of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support and the values of Respect, Safety and Commitment to Learning, Equity are contributing to a positive learning culture in the College.
- The design and implementation of the Consolidating Program (Learning Support Program in place to support underachieving students in Years 7, 8 and 9) is providing an appropriately challenging learning environment and improving the outcomes of the participating students as well as giving the school increased credibility with parents and the community.
- The work undertaken by the Heads of Department and teachers to implement and deliver the Australian Curriculum to students is occurring in a positive and aspirational manner.
- The improved student outcomes being achieved by students in the Special Education Program and Reading Rockets’ Program are bringing improved credibility to the College intervention programs.
- The work of the Year 7 teachers in providing a positive platform for the Junior Secondary agenda is well-established and of a high standard.

The report also highlights a number of affirmations that confirm that other quality programs and practices are in place and some recommendations that provide us with direction around some areas that we need to continue to work on.

ATTENDANCE

As mentioned in previous newsletters attendance is vital if students are to reach their full potential. In Semester 1 the attendance rate across the College was 91%.

Many students need to be congratulated on having 100% attendance across the first half of the year. I would like to remind parents that Friday of next week, the 19th July, is the designated holiday for the Cairns Show. Wednesday and Thursday are school days and attendance is compulsory on these days – remember every school day counts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- It is Athletics season across the region and the Redlynch State College P-6 Athletics Carnival is on this Friday, 12th July with the 7-12 Athletics Carnival being held on Tuesday, 23rd July.
• A Year 10 into 11 Information Evening will be held in the Auditorium at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 24th July.

• Year 10 SET Plan Interviews are being held on the 29th and 30th July – a letter outlining this process will go home with Year 10 students shortly.

Regards
Mark Wilson, Acting Principal

The following policy and procedure is outlined in the College Prospectus and student diaries:

Leaving School Grounds/Early Departures

No student will be permitted to leave the school grounds at lunch breaks, or at any other time before school finishes, except in an emergency or for special reasons explained by the parent.

Parents/careers needing to collect students from school early are required to:

• Give your child a note, to bring to school advising the collection time and reason for departure.

• Report to Student Services to collect and sign your child out. If a person other than the parent/caregiver is to collect the student, the name of that person must be stated on the note.

• If you require your child to sign him/herself out this MUST be specified in the note giving the time and reason for departure e.g. Please allow (student name) to sign themself out of school at (time) for (reason).

• Students are required to catch the school bus services where provided. No permission will be given to leave early to catch public bus services.

We are not permitted to use the College PA system during class time to call students to the office so please ensure that you provide your student with a note as outlined above and they present this note to their teacher.

Finance News

Welcome back everyone and a warm welcome to our new parents and students.

• Payment Window: As from Monday 8 July the payment window will no longer be open in the afternoon. To compensate for this closure, the window will be open daily from 8.15 am to 10.15 am Monday to Friday. The window will also be open to students during first break only – 11.15 am to 11.45 am.

• Uniform Shop: Open from 8.15 am to 9.30 am Monday to Friday unless otherwise stated.

• Student Resource Scheme: During the last week of Term 2 a list was compiled of those parents who have not completed their Participation Agreement form. A letter and tax invoice has been forwarded to you in the mail. It is a departmental requirement that all parents of the school complete this form whether they are participating in the Student Resource Scheme or not. If you do not wish to join, could you please contact Maxine Wienert, Business Services Manager for Finance on 4039 9222 or email FINANCE@redlynchsc.eq.edu.au.

• Laptop Hire Payment: Term 3 payment is now due. Please ensure your payment has been received before the end of Week 3 – Friday 26 July, 2013. If the school does not receive payment, we will have no option but to disable and remove your child’s laptop until payment has been received. If you would like any further information regarding the Laptop Hire Scheme, please contact Peter Ferry, Laptop Coordinator on email: pmfer0@eq.edu.au

• ID Cards: Year 8 and Year 7 ID Cards are available for collection from the payment window. ID cards will only be issued to those students that have returned their SRS Participation Agreement form and paid more than half or full payment of these SRS fees.

• Debtor Statements: We are planning to do a statement run during the second week of Term 3. They will be mailed out, so please advise if you have changed addresses during the school holidays.

Year 12’s: The Year 12 Formal is approaching fast and we would like to bring to your attention that those students who have money outstanding on their accounts will not be able to attend until all money owed to the school has been finalised. The Year 12 Formal is an extra-curricular activity, so please don’t leave it until the last minute, avoid disappointment and finalise your account NOW.

• Need a boost to your mid-year school budget? The second payment of the Schoolkids Bonus is coming in July. If you are eligible you could receive up to $225 for each primary student and up to $410 for each secondary student. You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school and receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or you are a primary or secondary student receiving an income support payment. If you think you are eligible and you haven’t already updated your child’s education details with Centrelink, then visit Online Services by 29 June 2013 to ensure you receive the correct amount and are paid on time. The Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund in January 2013 so eligible families cannot claim education expenses in their 2012-2013 income tax return. To ensure you receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment in July, check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate in contacting the Finance Team – email: FINANCE@redlynchsc.eq.edu.au.

Finance Team Members:
Cheryl Kelly and Beth Ramsay – Accounts Receivable Officers
Maxine Wienert – Business Services Manager

YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY STUDENTS PERFORM WELL AT TITRATION COMPETITION

Redlynch State College had three year 12 Chemistry Students (Jenay Scannell, Keely Hunter and Chelsea Harben) compete in a titration competition at James Cook University recently. This competition not only involved students applying very intricate skills and techniques but also performing a series of calculations to determine the concentration of chemicals. Small amounts of error in results can lead to significant errors in concentrations.

Out of the 20 teams in the competition the combined error from our girls earned them 6th place. Keely’s individual results were the third best recorded on the day.

UPCOMING PARENT WORKSHOP
Dealing with Teens - Strategies to improve communication in families
Presented by Denise Bewert from Centacare Cairns.
August 5 at 6pm in the Senior Campus Library.
For further information please contact Carola Schemmann, School Based Youth Health Nurse, Redlynch State College.
**YEAR 3 CELEBRATES QUEENSLAND DAY**

On Friday 7th June, the Year 3’s celebrated Queensland Day at Redlynch State College. We celebrate Queensland Day because on the 6th June 1859 Queen Victoria signed a very important letter that allowed Queensland to become a separate colony for the really bad convicts. Queensland is called Queensland because the Queen signed that letter so she owned the land.

We celebrated Queensland Day by wearing clothes that are maroon because maroon is our sporting colour. Some people also dressed up as the sun. We celebrated by doing activities that have something to do with Queensland like bush dancing, playing games that people may have played in the olden days, we looked at household items that people used before electricity was invented and we each made a Queensland flag using tissue paper and colours.

Some of the symbols for Queensland are Queen Victoria’s crown because Queen Victoria is the person who signed the letter that allowed Queensland to become its own colony. The sun is another symbol for Queensland because we are known as the ‘Sunshine State’ because we have lots of sunny weather. Some of the most important symbols for Queensland are the four emblems. The animal emblem is the koala, the floral emblem is the Cooktown Orchid, the bird emblem is the brolga and the aquatic emblem is the clown fish. The two animals that are on either side of the coat of arms are the red deer and the brolga. The Red deer shows our relationship with Great Britain. The Brolga is on Queensland’s coat of arms because it is found in large numbers around Queensland. The symbols on the shield are the bull, sheep, wheat and the mountain of gold and mining tools. The bull is on the shield because it represents Queensland’s cattle industry, the sheep represents Queensland’s wool industry, the wheat represents Queensland’s wheat industry and the Gold and mining tools represent Queensland’s Mining industry.

Before our celebration we learnt why we celebrate Queensland day. We had lots of fun at our Queensland Day celebrations. Year 3’s favourite activity was the bush dancing. Thanks to all the Grade 3 teachers for organising our lovely day!

**THAT’S HISTORY**

This year History has been introduced as it’s own subject area. Year 2’s were fortunate to have the Cairns Museum visit with a trailer of technological artifacts from the past. They showed the students how technology has changed everyday items and how that change has made things better.

Jade from 2E wrote “Today I really enjoyed seeing the old telephone because you have to stand in one spot to use it. I learned that you have to turn the handle to ring someone.”

**SENIOR GEOGRAPHY LOOKS AT CLIMATE CHANGE**

Recently senior Geography students went on an excursion to Gallo Dairyland, Skybury Coffee and Jonsson’s Farm Market. We were looking at how transporting food great distances to market uses up a huge amount of fossil fuels and contributes to carbon emissions. The emphasis was on buying food locally and seeing what local producers do in order to offset carbon emissions. It was a wonderful day. All our presenters were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about what they do. We would like to thank Gallo Dairyland, Skybury Coffee and Jonsson’s Farm Market for their support and making it a fantastic excursion.

Kath Dawson

Independent written by Jesse and Eden 3A

**Year 2 students having fun interacting with objects from a bygone era and learning how people in the past used technology.**
What an eventful and exciting end of Term 2 the Performing Arts faculty had! The first big event we hosted was the Redlynch Rocks battle of the bands concert, which was held on June 7th in our Multi-Purpose Hall. It was a competition run by local policeman, Senior Constable Michael Fletcher, with the purpose to offer local youth the chance to take part in an alcohol and drug free event, celebrating rock music. Five local rock bands nominated themselves with all five performing two cover songs and one original. The night was a great success with the crowd head banging to some wonderfully talented, loud, performances! Special mention to Ms Parker’s son’s band In Embers who were a huge hit on the night! Thank you to Mr McKenna and his amazing tech crew for setting up and running such a smooth performance, as well as to Mrs Cross, Miss Hurley and the PE department and senior sports leaders who aided in selling food and drink at the event.

The second big event the Performing Arts faculty performed in was the annual Cairns Eisteddfod. Our talented Strings ensemble performed first, with Mr Coxon stating that he was very proud of their performance and what a great opportunity it was for them to see other String Ensembles in action. Our Jazz Band performed next and received a Highly Commended certificate with some great feedback from the adjudicators, particularly for our solo performers. Well done Mr Perger and the Jazz Band! Finally Ms Rafferty and Ms Lockey coordinated our gorgeous Choir who performed so well in their categories they received two third places and two further Highly Commended certificates. Well done to all involved and thank you to all of the students, staff and parents for giving up their own time to support RSC during this annual event.

The third big event the Performing Arts Faculty hosted was the end of Term 2, Year 7 Dance concert. Ms Parker and her Year 7’s have become quite famous for these fabulous concerts which showcase the students’ skills in hip hop, contemporary and social dance. I have been attending these wonderful concerts for several years now and I think this term’s saw the most popular audience interaction ever! Parents and friends were all up dancing “John Travolta” style to the Bee Gees and all dancers had a huge smile on their face! Well done to Ms Parker and her talented Year 7’s. We look forward to meeting a new group of Year 7 dancers in Term 3.

Finally, on the final day of Term 2 the two Year 9 Drama classes performed their storytelling shows to the whole of Year 3. Year 3 were a lovely audience as they witnessed some of their favourite storybooks come to life on stage. The Year 3’s met characters such as Chester the lonely crocodile, Tarzan and Jack from The House that Jack Built. Well done to all of the Year 9’s who performed! The Year 3’s and their teachers were a wonderful audience and we look forward to holding this event again next year.

Last but not least, please make a “save the date” in your social calendars as the Annual Arts Evening Connections is being held in week 4 of Term 3, Wednesday the 31st July, from 6pm. This is a wonderful night of celebration for all things Arts from the subject areas of Dance, Drama, Media Studies, Music, Art and VTE.

We look forward to seeing you all there! Cheers,
Belinda Riles, Performing Arts HOD
Students Investigate Careers in the Marine Industry

Part of the Marine and Aquatic Practices Program is to promote the opportunity for students to pursue a career in the marine industry. Earlier this term the Year 11 students went on an excursion to both Camplin commercial dive company and Cairns Marine commercial aquarium.

Our first stop was Camplin. They put on an excellent display of commercial dive equipment, explaining how each item complimented the diver in an underwater work environment. The students also had the chance to both look at and go inside a Deck Decompression Chamber. This gave students a first-hand look at an important piece of equipment.

At Cairns Marine the students were shown around their commercial aquarium. Staff identified many species of small fish for sale to the general public. The students also got an exclusive view of the larger animals, including a 3m Bamboo Shark, which are sold to large tourist aquariums around the world.

Senior Dance Excursion

by Talia Yr 11

Midway through last term RSC dance students from Years 10, 11 and 12 were privileged to be able to go along and watch the production of De-Generator, by Phluxus2 Dance Collective.

The dance that was performed was the choreographer’s spin on the end of the world. The intensity of the dance was amazing as it was not a normal performance; the audience were placed in the middle of the stage. I have never experienced a dance performance like that before and I thought it was a unique but interesting concept. It made me feel as if I was a part of the dance. The movements that were performed were abstract but eye catching. We, as a group could not take our eyes of the performers and couldn’t wait to see what twist came next.

We then took part in group activities with Nerida Matthaei, the choreographer and the dancers Lucy Ingham and Alexander Bryce, which was extremely fun. We were split into two groups, each group was led by one of the dancers and we were able to battle the other group with roughly about one minute of choreography from the actual show De-generator.

This experience was one of a kind. Every one of us could not believe how amazing it was and it really opened our eyes to the genre of contemporary dance. On behalf of the dance girls I would like to say a massive thank you to Nerida Matthaei and Phluxus2 Dance Collective, and also a big thank you to our amazing teacher, Ms Parker, for giving us the opportunity to experience this production.

Rugby League Gala Day

12 Years Rugby League -

Recently, 16 Year 5, 6 and 7 students competed in the NRL Development Cup Rugby League Gala Day which was the culmination of 6 weeks of training and after school games. The boys competed well all day losing 2 games by less than a try and winning the other 2 convincingly.

Congratulations to Corey, Connor, Tremayne, Lachie, Ben, James, Declan, Izac, Jaxon, Thomas, Latrell, Dylan, Liam, Braydon, Ethan, Michael. Thanks go to Jane Hurley for her hard work over the 6 weeks as well as Rod Peckham and Brett Mesner for their assistance over the season. A big thank you to the many parents who cheer on the boys each week.

Ian Shotton – HPE Teacher

Junior Touch Football Sign-On (Aeroglen Drive) Aeroglen Fun Touch (Preseason 4 week program) starts this friday June 12 - August 2nd (6-7pm) $30

Junior Competition July 26th Sign ON (6PM Aeroglen) $60

Junior Competition August 9 - November or $80 for both the preseason and the Junior Competition
SPORT CORNER

CISSA Sport - During semester 1 students in Years 11 and 12 were involved in the Cairns Inter-School Sports Association (CISSA) competition on a Wednesday afternoon. Of the 10 teams we had 3 teams make the final. These teams were the boys soccer, girls soccer and girls netball. The girls netball team played a tough grand final but unfortunately went down to Bentley Park SC 19-13. Both girls and boys soccer teams played TAS in the grand final. Both teams played extremely well and both won the premiership. The boys won 3-1 with Jesse being named player of the final. The girls won 2-0. These teams made Redlynch history bringing home our first ever CISSA premiership trophies. A big thank you to all the students and staff who were involved in our CISSA teams and to Cassy Velonias our Sports Coordinator for all her work and organisation of CISSA sport.

Congratulations - Congratulations to Jayden, Year 7 who was selected to represent Queensland in the 12 Years Boys Hockey team. Jayden will travel to Canberra in August to play in the national championships. Well done Jayden!

7-12 Athletics Carnival - The Year 7-12 Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 23rd of July on the 7-12 oval. Students are to dress in their house colours and need to ensure that they bring a hat and water bottle. A number of pre-events will be held during week 1 and 2 so students need to listen carefully to the notices in order to know when their event is on.

Excellence in Sport Dinner - The second annual Excellence in Sport Dinner will be held at the Hilton on Friday 18th October. All students that have represented Redlynch at a school, district, regional or state level will be invited to attend. Information and invitations to the sports dinner will be sent home in the coming weeks. Tickets to the event are limited to 300 so please ensure that you get in early to avoid disappointment.

Year 8 and 9 AFL Gold Coast Suns Cup - In term 2 the Year 8 and 9 AFL Gold Coast Suns Cup team went to Watson’s oval to compete in the interschool competition. They played 3 games against St Augustine’s, Cairns SHS and Peace Lutheran College. They won 2 games out of three but fell short against St Augustine’s. We came 2nd in our pool and were pretty happy with our performance. Although we didn’t make the grand final Redlynch played some really strong football. Thanks to Ms Velonias for putting the side together and organising everything. Tom Lindenmayer – Year 8 AFL Player

Year 6 and 7 AFL Girls Gold Coast Suns Cup - Last term a team of 12 Year 7 girls took part in the Girls Gold Coast Suns AFL Cup. This was the second time the carnival had been held with 6 teams nominated up from just 2 teams last year. The girls were determined from the start showing up to all 8 training sessions before playing the 6 games on the Monday night at Watson’s oval. We placed 4th overall demonstrating the RSC has talent. The girls played in great spirits with many giggles and smiles from the girls the highlight.

Bill Turner Cup - The Bill Turner Cup is a school soccer competition for boys and girls aged 15 & under. This year was the first time we had entered the competition with only a boys’ team securing enough numbers. Games were played on Thursday afternoons during May. Our pool included Smithfield SHS, Trinity Bay SHS and St Andrews. The competition was tough between each school. Overall we tied for third place and unfortunately didn’t move through to the next round. I would like to congratulate the girls AFL and boys Soccer teams and thank all of the parents for their support and attendance and support at the games last term.

Cassy Velonias – Sports Coordinator
FAMILY FESTIVAL IS BACK IN 2013!

The bi-annual Family Festival is scheduled for Saturday, 19th October. This is a fantastic community event that not only raises a large amount of funds for the school but also gives everyone the opportunity to be involved in a full College event filled with fantastic fun filled activities, entertainment and fireworks.

We are fortunate to once again have the support of some of our stall coordinators from previous years. Susan is once again looking after the plant stall, so if you have a green thumb or know someone who has a green thumb and would like to start propagating for the stall, or to help on the stall, she would really appreciate it. We do need a new craft co-ordinator, so if you’d like to take this on board, please let me know. The book stall is being co-ordinated by Jan Wedmaier, so if you have any quality books, cd’s and dvd’s that you no longer require, start collecting them. We will be putting notices in the newsletter for collection dates.

We are very lucky to have various student groups (with the assistance of the great teaching staff), interested in running the haunted classroom, face painting, temporary tattoos, nail art……and the list goes on!

We are looking for parents or groups of parents who would be interested in co-ordinating some of the other stalls, including sweets, cake, preserve and jam stall, lucky dip, jar and glow stick stall, ducky pond and toilet roll toss, chocolate toss, cent sale, puzzles and games………….the list is endless and any new ideas and suggestions would also be greatly appreciated.

Many of these stalls just need to come together on the day—most of the stalls which require large amounts of preplanning such as craft, plant and book stalls are already looked after. In the coming weeks we will be allocating stalls to classes and parents of the students in these classes will be rostered on to help on the day, so if you know you want to help on a particular stall, nominate your class now and get your preference!

We will have Wonderfair Amusements on site with all their rides, and entertainment will run throughout the day. If you are involved in a group (cheerleading, rock n roll dancing, etc) and would like the opportunity to be involved, please let us know.

If you are interested in being involved, whether co-ordinating a stall, being on the festival committee, or just helping to wrap lucky dips, I would love to hear from you. If you just want further information, or to contact us regarding helping with any of the stalls that already have co-ordinators, please give me a call on (07)40399237 or email me at rscpandc@gmail.com. FESTIVAL IS BACK, SO WATCH THIS SPACE!

Janet McIntyre, P & C Operations Manager
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