Collinsville SHS — Managing our Future Together

As we are all well aware Australia currently finds itself in a difficult economic situation, and in the case of Collinsville that situation is even more grim. So far Collinsville State High School has managed to operate fairly much as normal, despite these circumstances, and indeed our student results over the past few years have improved considerably. One of the big advantages of a small school has been the ability to intimately know our students, and for us to provide a very individually targeted education for them.

However, it is clear that with further decreases in enrolments this situation is becoming more difficult, and the longer term ability to maintain services is now at a critical point. Our school enrolments have decreased significantly over the past 2 years, and that trend does not show any sign of reversing any time soon. Whilst the entry of Year 7s into high school has helped shore up numbers somewhat, in 2015 we only have 88 students across 6 year levels, compared to 89 students across 5 year levels in 2014. Taking in consideration that at the end of 2015 we will graduate 25 year 12 students, and that they will likely be replaced by approximately 15 Year 7 students in 2016, our school could well be reduced to a total of around 75 students by 2016.

At the same time that we reduce our student numbers we also reduce the school’s staffing numbers, from 14.5 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) in 2013 to 9.1 FTE in 2015, Special Education Program from 1.1 FTE in 2013 to 0.7 FTE in 2015, and reductions in Guidance Officer and other specialist teachers time. Our school office hours have been reduced, and Teacher Aide hours have reduced from 124 hours per week to 88 hours per week. Financially the school’s budget has reduced by more than $170,000 per year over this same time frame.

Obviously we will continue to provide as good an education to our students and community as we possibly can at Collinsville State High School. However, 2015 is a year in which the school will need to plan how we can adapt to and prepare for future changes, as doing business as usual is no longer an option. I would like to see our school community have as much of a say as possible in the future direction and changes that we will have to face.

This makes the Collinsville SHS P&C committee, as the first point of community contact a fairly important entity. With the P&C being made up mostly by school staff members (who are also student parents) I am concerned that our broader school community is going to be under-represented in the key discussions and decisions that will occur this year, and I would dearly like to see a better balance in this body when we come to discuss our challenges and decisions for the future. I would therefore encourage anyone interested in the future direction of the school to get involved with our P&C, and to have their say.

Whilst not wishing to be overly alarmist, a number of changes will need to be considered and implemented in the near future if our school is to continue to thrive as a viable stand-alone entity and continue to provide the current level of education for the youth of Collinsville. I dearly hope to see significant involvement from within our community in how we approach this problem together.

Frank Kingma
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

February
19 School Leader Inductions
20 Cancelled - Inter-School Sports ( Bowen Forfeit)
23 Whitsunday Gold Excursion
24 Yr 8 Vaccinations
27 Inter-School Sports Comp. (Rugby League & Netball)

March
4 Lions Youth of the Year Quest
6 Swimming Carnival
13 Inter-School Sports Comp. (Rugby League & Netball)
20 Inter-School Sports Comp. (Touch Football)
26 School Photos
27 Inter-School Sports Comp. (Touch Football)

April
3 Good Friday & Last Day of Term 1
SENIOR LEADERS INSPIRED AT GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Members of the Student Council executive, along with several House and Vice-Captains recently attended the GRIP Leadership Conference held at the Mecure Inn, Townsville. Schools from around Townsville attended the conference to learn the true value and importance of leadership and of working as a GREAT team. Students participated in a number of sessions about how to make the most of leadership opportunities, how to maximise the impact of school events and communication, how to lead in different situations and how to maintain momentum.

The day provided students with ideas that will help them have a positive influence and create unity at school. It was a worthwhile experience for our 2015 student leaders. They learnt a lot from the day and came away inspired and with plenty of ideas that they would like to implement back at school.

THAT’S TOPS

Congratulations to this fortnight’s recipients of the That’s Tops Awards:

Owen Widt (Yr 9), Savannah Carmody (Yr 9), Kristal Chapman (Yr 8), Bradley Lingard (Yr 9)

CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT

Yr 12 English Assignment
WAS 9 March  NOW 13 March

Lions Youth of the Year Entries Open

The Lions Youth of the Year Quest is aimed at young adults aged 15-19 years and ‘designed to foster, encourage and develop leadership in our youth in conjunction with other citizenship qualities’.

The Youth of the Year Program is open to all Australian youth who are attending or have attended a high school or other secondary school or equivalent standard of school in any other educational establishment, including correspondence school, in the Lions year in which the National Final is to be conducted.

Participants are interviewed by judges, based on the information provided on their applications, detailing achievements (academic and otherwise) and participation in cultural, sporting and community events; as well as some general knowledge questions. They are also required to write and deliver a five minute speech on a topic of their choice as well as answering two impromptu questions from the judges on the night. The winner on the night will then proceed to the Zone Finals.
Whitsunday and North Queensland Sport Trials—Netball

On Tuesday 10th February students attended the Whitsunday Netball Trials in Proserpine, competing against students from schools across the region. The day began with our seniors (Emily McIntyre, Emily Gall, Emma Widt and Jessica Miller) playing against eight other seniors from Bowen and Proserpine State High Schools. The girls played an amazing game and were all selected for the Whitsunday team to go through to North Queensland Trials.

The next game to take place was the juniors. There were thirty one girls in this round including ours (Sharni Wallace, Siahan Batchelor, Keely Johnson, Abbie Lackner and Taylah Wallace). This was a very competitive and fierce round with twenty one girls having to be cut from the selections. Unfortunately we did not have any of our juniors go through, but they all played an amazing game and were great sports!

North Queensland Trials took place on Monday 16th February and was a day full of competition. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances three of our girls were unable to make the trials. However, Emily McIntyre attended the gruelling 5 game day and represented the region beautifully.

STUDENT EXECUTIVES NOMINATE FOR #MND ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

The Ice Bucket Challenge is on again at Collinsville State High School. This time our Student Council Executives Rohan Gordon, Will Howarth, Krysta Taylor and Sean Batchelor have decided they’re up for the challenge. Funds raised are donated towards Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research and to support those living with the disease.

Students and the wider community have dug deep and raised $267.55. Having successfully reached this target already, we would like to thank everyone who donated towards this worthy cause and are looking forward to tipping icy water over the heads of the student executive during the induction ceremony this Thursday.

If you would still like to support this worthy cause, donations can be made at the school office.

This Week's Recipe...

..comes to us from our PE/Science Teacher, Miss Jade Baker and is one of her favourites

Pad-Thai

Serves 2 People

Ingredients:
10g Fried Tofu
5g Sweet Turnip
1 Egg
100g Rice Noodles
2 Carrots
1 Red Onion
½ Bunch Spring Onions
50g Beansprouts
2 tbs. Ground Peanuts

Method:
1. Place your wok on a full flame burner. Add a tablespoon of vegetable oil into the hot wok.
2. Add to the wok your sliced red onion, sweet turnip and tofu. Stir until soft.
3. Crack an egg and place it into the centre of the wok. Stir well until the egg has broken up into small pieces.
4. Add the rice noodles and stir again until the noodles are soft.
5. Add fish sauce, tamarind juice, chilli sauce and sugar.
6. Stir until mixed well together.
7. Add carrot and spring onion.
8. Finally add the beansprouts and ground peanut and stir again.
9. Taste to check the seasoning then you’re ready to serve.

Tips: Noodles need to soak in water for 30 minutes before use. For long life beansprouts put in water, keep in fridge and change water everyday.
Community Notices

SUNDAY CHARITY BINGO
Sunday 22nd February - 11am BOWLS CLUB
25th ANNIVERSARY Week 1” special..
$10,000 in 50*
$2222 in 55
$555 in 57*
+*2 or 5 bonus calls on all.

25th Anniversary celebrations start this week. Wear anything silver to go in the draw for the first birthday present.

THIS WEEKS BIRTHDAY BINGO BONUS
1st new Motorbike drawn Feb 22 – March 22 2015
Memorabilia display

Free Microsoft Software for students’ personal computers!!

All state school students from Prep-Year 12 can now download multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite to their personal home and mobile computer equipment.

Students who want the free software will need an active Managed internet Service (MIS) login, school email account and password—those who don’t should contact their school’s MIS Administrator or class teacher. The administrator will help students activate their MIS login.

Currently, MS Office Suite 2013 is available for students’ personal equipment only—not equipment which is part of a school network.

Negotiations are underway to potentially permit staff access to the same suite early in the new year.

Download Process:
Sign in to Office 365 to download a free copy of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite (https://portal.office.com/OLS/MySoftware.aspx)

More Information
How to install Office 365 Student Advantage package on a students home computer
(https://qlddet.service-now.com/sco/detail.do?sysparm_document_key=kb_knowledge%2c3aa71eed86facf140a722d9619d3ee422&src+home)

THANK YOU
A great big THANK YOU to Katrina Sverdloff for donating the delicious Chocolate Cake to the school tuckshop. Almost all sold out on the first day ….. a hit with both staff and students!

All donations to our tuckshop of cakes, slices and sweets would be greatly appreciated by the P&C Association.

The Pit Pony Campaign
The Pit Pony Experience project is a community based idea, designed to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the last working pit ponies in Australia, who were retired from the Collinsville coal mines in 1989.

Collinsville Community Association & the Collinsville Connect Telecentre, unveiled the plan to celebrate this incredible piece of history by building a life-size, bronze, pit pony statue, situated in the centre of the town, Sonoma Park to be exact. Behind the pit pony will stand a donators wall containing all the names of people who contribute towards the project.

We need your HELP!!!
We are using “Pozible” a crowd funding site, as the method to raise this money & we need to raise $150,000 in 60 days or the project will simply NOT go ahead!!!

To find out more follow the link
http://www.pozible.com/project/190526
Remember too that EVERY DONOR (large or small) will have their name or names on the honour wall behind the pony.

This is an ‘All or Nothing’ campaign: if we don’t meet our target of $150,000, your donation will not be extracted from your account, and we won’t be left with half the amount required.

WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO
EMERGENCY SERVICES
V’s YOUTH (age 11—17)
At a game of Footy Tag—20th FEB.
Where: Collinsville Youth Precent
Time: 5.45pm—7pm
RSVP: 19th Feb..collinsvilleyouth@gmail.com—0407163085