Principal's Report

I again had the pleasure of attending the Year 11 Debutantes Ball, last Saturday evening in the hall. We had a capacity crowd and the event went off perfectly. It was a credit to the students, their families and the staff involved in organising the event. I need to particularly acknowledge the work, yet again, of Karen Crispin, who donated her time to manage the event on behalf of P&C. Karen did an absolutely outstanding job and, having spoken to some parents who have attended other deb balls, I can say that our deb ball is one of the best if not the best as far as organisation and adherence to tradition and protocols. This is mostly due to the hard work of Karen over the years.

Additionally, I need to thank Mr Aaron Hartmann, as Year 11 Adviser and Mrs Kerry Merry, as Head Teacher assisting. Both did an outstanding job. I have to admit it was a first to see Mr Hartmann in a full suit, not usual for a PDHPE teacher, but Mr Hartmann supported the evening in his usual highly professional manner. Thanks also to Mrs Shirley Kelly, from our front office staff who assisted with invitations, payments, organisation and the serving of food on the evening. Shirley does this work each year without any requirement to do so, without any children at the school and dedicates a significant amount of her own time to do so. We are very lucky to have her as a part of our school.

Finally, I had numerous comments on just how great our Year 11 students were. Karen Crispin and Peter Kleindienst, the dance instructor, told me that this year’s group was the best he has ever worked with. I feel a great deal of pride for our school and our students when I hear comments such as these and I hope the parents and family who attended are in turn as proud. Our debutante ball is a fantastic tradition that I hope we can continue into the future as it teaches a great deal to our students and brings out the best in them for their family and the broader public representatives who attend to see.

Academic Excellence Program

Today sees the start of a new program at the school to support higher achieving and select class students in their HSC. The program begins with support for Year 11 students. We have formed groups based on the distribution of selective class students amongst classes. These study groups put students together in situations where they can work collaboratively on additional extension activities to support their learning. The study groups will also be supported with a number of university-style “tutorials”. Some of these will be on general study and assessment skills whilst others will be specific subject tutorials to further support the learning of students. Teachers have volunteered their time to run these extra groups and students so far are keen to be involved. The first tutorial will be on time management and is being presented by Mr Brown. Other Year 11 students are welcome to join the program on the proviso that they make the commitment to participate fully in the spirit of the program. Please see the Deputy Principal, Mr Bertus, if you are interested.

Working Bee

Another reminder that we will be holding a working bee at 9:00 am on Sunday the 4th of May (the first Sunday back after the holidays). The purpose of the working bee is to cover the remainder of our new textbooks. If you are able to help then please either contact myself or Mrs Merry, or else email the school.

Return to School

School holidays start this Saturday 12th April and all students recommence school on Tuesday 29th April. On Tuesday 29th April, the school will conduct a special Anzac ceremony, immediately after roll call on assembly. Students and teachers will also be participating in the Anzac Day march. Students can please see Mr Strano is able to help then please either contact myself or Mrs Merry, or else email the school.

Debutante Emily Allen and her partner Sheldon O'Loughlin

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What is it all about?
The 2014 ARCHIBULL prize is an Art4Agriculture initiative that uses art and multimedia to engage the community with farmers who produce their food and fibre. Each school is provided with a LIFESIZE FIBREGLASS COW on which the students have to create an artwork about the selected theme. We will be allocated a food and fibre industry to focus on.

We will also be assigned a Young Farming Champion to come to our school to present and provide a personal insight into their farming experiences.

Students will also be preparing a powerpoint or video presentation about their industry and are required to create a blog that regularly records our ARCHIBULL journey.

Our blog site has been started and may be viewed at (I think this is the site!!) ghsarchibull.wordpress.com/tag/archibull/

For more information check out the Archibull 2014 site www.art4agriculture.com.au/archibull

Look out for the cow that will be arriving in early May.

Mr Keith Brown

Upcoming Events:

**April**
- 8th: Parent / Teacher Interviews
- 11th: Last Day Term 1
- 28th: Staff Development Day
- 29th: All Students Return

**May**
- 2nd: University Open Day
- 13-14th: Year 7 & 9 NAPLAN
- 15-17th: Senior History Trip – Sydney
- 19-23th: Yr7 to Yr10 Mid-Course Exams
- 20th: ICAS Computing Skills Competition
- 23rd: Year 12 Reports Issued
- 27-30th: Year 9 Camp
- 29th: Merit Awards Assembly

**June**
- 2nd: Year 10 Police Talks
- 4th: ICAS Science Competition
- 11th: Year 10 Select Sci. & Eng. Challenge
- 16th: ICAS Writing Competition
- 16th: Year 10 Police talks
- 17th: ICAS Spelling Competition
- 19th: Central Network Dance Festival
- 27th: Last Day Term 2

**July**
- 14th: Semester 2 Commences
- 14th: Staff Development Day
- 15th: All students return
- 16th: Year 7 – 11 Reports Issued

Well you can, the Junior Jacaranda Committee are seeking nominations for this years quest, if you are a young girl aged between 12 and 14 years and live in the Clarence Valley, then you to can be a part of this year’s Festival.

For Nomination forms you can go the Jacaranda Festival Website www.jacarandafestival.org.au/ or call the Festival Office directly on 66423959.

Community Notices

Jacaranda Festivities

Would you like to be the 2014 Junior Jacaranda Queen or Princess?

Have you ever watched Crowning Night and thought ‘gee I would like to be a part of that’?