

Umina Campus Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017



PRINCIPALS REPORT



Hello and welcome back to 2017.

The year has begun really well with so many excellent innovations and changes across Brisbane Water Secondary College, Umina Campus.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new students, parents and caregivers. The school has undergone many major changes in recent times and is trying very hard to meet the needs of our community which have been outlined in both parent forums and student interviews. These will continue in 2017 and I encourage your feedback on how we can continue to improve as a school in the future.

The Year 7 of 2017 have begun particularly well and they have had some outstanding achievements already. Students are engaged in learning and are beginning to participate in a range of activities that can only be provided in a middle school campus. They have already undertaken WordFest which provides literacy skills in preparation for both NAPLAN and readiness for High School, which included motivational skills and tips for how to achieve their personal best. For my new Year 7 parents, I strongly encourage you to stay involved in your child's learning. I fervently believe that for students to attain their potential then there must be a strong relationship between school and home for the best interests of the student to be realised. For ongoing academic success at school I strongly advocate that all parents encourage their children to read widely, complete all assigned homework tasks and undertake Maths Online which the school has again purchased to support students

At the time of writing Year 7 and Year 9 are currently undertaking practise NAPLAN examinations in preparation for their formal tests in May. These are being marked by our LAST and classroom teachers in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement. There are major changes in terms of NAPLAN from this year. Students need to attain a Band 8 or higher in order to be later eligible for a Higher School Certificate. Students who fail to meet this benchmark will need to re-sit another online test in the future in order to meet the requirement for the new HSC. Students who fail to attain Band 8 or higher will be able to sit this exam twice yearly until they pass to be eligible for a HSC.

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From the community forums for 2016 the school has continued to act on the recommendation to improve the school environment. I'd like to publically thank General Assistant Gary Cooper and his staff for their massive efforts over the holidays. Gary, Craig, Dave, Rob and Gary Shearer all worked tirelessly during the holidays. Often well beyond their hours and in incredibly heat.

Their work included:

- Painting- Outside of Library, External TAS and Science blocks
- Installing new furniture in C2 and C14.
- Laying new grass (with irrigation) outside both Science block and Administration
- Disposing of years of rubbish and debris thrown out
- Planting 54 plants and 8 native trees along Coopers Crescent and Veron Road
- Tree loping dead and fallen trees
- Installing bag racks outside library and removed previous efforts
- Guerneying with boom lift of A block, Science Block, Quad and Library mezzanine level

I appreciate the efforts of these most valued staff who are making these areas more visually appealing and providing a first class learning environment that this wonderful community deserves.

The school oval remains a work in progress. We have had a second agronomist into look at the combination of weeds that are not responding to chemicals at the moment. It is hoped that a final course of action next week will be successful and that grass can be laid in the next fortnight. This situation is very disappointing and we are doing all we can to expedite the process for the students of our school.

The campus is continually aiming to improve communication between home and school. Year 7, 8 and 9 assessment schedules are now on the school website to assist parents and students in knowing which assessments are due and the date on which they are due. To access these initiatives, as well as the parent portal visit our school website and select "Parents and SharePoint" link. This innovation allows you to assist your child in preparation for assessment tasks, as well as assisting them in developing organisational skills that are invaluable for success at school.

Brisbane Water Secondary College is an outstanding school- continually striving to be even better. 2017 promises to be an exciting and rewarding year. I look forward to speaking to you again soon.

Brent Walker
Principal
Brisbane Water Secondary College
Umina Campus



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Dear Parents, Staff, Students and Community Members,

Welcome back to the 2017 school year, I hope you have all had a happy and relaxing holiday period. May I take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 students and also our new staff.

The school year has started very smoothly with superb organisation in each of the Teams ensuring that there is no down time, and that students are settled quietly and quickly into the classroom routine. It is a tribute to Head Teachers and all staff that the organisation is so smooth. I know parents very much appreciate the work that goes into a great start to the school year.

Thank you also to parents and students for making such an effort to have the correct uniform and equipment for the beginning of the school year. Overwhelmingly, students looked superb when they arrived at school on the first morning. Your support in ensuring that the standards expected by the whole school community with regard to uniform are met is greatly appreciated. This is especially relevant with school shoes, black leather shoes are essential (this is a WH&S requirement) and no polo shirts please.

Term 1 is a very busy term with lots of exciting opportunities for every student here at our school. I encourage all students to nominate for the many Academic, Sporting and Cultural events that are coming up.

For Parents and Carers please note that the first Parent Teacher Information Evening is Tuesday 28th March 2017. Online bookings will be available, an information note will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Finally just a few very important reminders and focus areas:

- Students riding bikes **MUST** wear a helmet.
- When picking up students please be conscious of the Bus Parking Zones and 40km/h speed limits.
- As we continue to strive to provide a relevant and contemporary education for our students, it is vital we work together to teach and model for our children safe and responsible use of technology and the internet.
- OPAL Cards – Reminder you will need to go online at www.transportnsw.info/school-students And update your information to ensure your OPAL card information is correct.



Once again, welcome back and I look forward to the remainder of the year.

Mr. S. Warren

Transition

INTO HIGH SCHOOL

Two years of activities and meetings culminated in Year 7 2017 walking through our school gates ready to begin the next stage of their educational journey. They have transitioned beautifully to high school despite some nerves, from students and parents. The apprehension was soon eased as students spent time in their classes completing orientation activities to help them settle in.

Day Two saw a fun day of Wordfest where the students completed literacy games and activities in groups. They also enjoyed a bbq lunch.

We had a number of parents and carers attend our morning tea on the first day and our welcome bbq on the second day. These functions were a great opportunity to have a chat with teachers about students and their needs.

It has been my privilege to work with this group of students over the last two years. However, I now need to step back and hand over the reins to the very capable and caring Team Leaders and ATLs. These wonderful people will be looking after the needs of the students as they move through the Umina Campus.

Thank you for allowing us the wonderful role of guiding your children over the next three years and beyond. Bring it on.

Warm regards

Susannah Murray
Transition Coordinator



Attendance *Absences*

Parents or caregivers of children from Kindergarten through to Year 12 are responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day that the school is open for instruction or participation in school activities, such as sports days.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- has to go to special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school, or has an infectious illness.

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, please inform either your child's Team Leader or the administrative assistant at the school by phone, email, SMS or written note as soon as possible, or within seven days.

Failure to explain an absence within this time will be recorded as an unjustified absence on a student's record.

What should I include in the written note to explain an absence?

This note **must** be written and signed by the parent/caregiver.

Please include:

- Student Name and Rollcall (class)
- Date of absence
- Reason for absence
- Signature and Contact Number

Schools will inform parents if a student is absent from school without explanation.

What should I do if our family is going on holidays in school time?

Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations. If they can only be arranged during school time, you should contact the Team Leader in advance to discuss the matter.

EARLY LEAVERS PASS

All secondary students who wish to leave school during normal school hours must carry a special leave pass issued by the school.

Students requiring an early leavers pass are to report, with their note, to Mrs Gilchrist in Student Reception before school.

What should I include in the note requesting an early leaver pass for my student?

This note **must** be written and signed by the parent/caregiver .

Please include:

- Student Name and Rollcall
- Reason for early leaver request
- Time student will be leaving school
- Signature and Contact Number

If you would like further clarification on any attendance issue please contact me on 43419066

Mrs Judy Gilchrist

Head Teacher Administration

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING SO FAR...

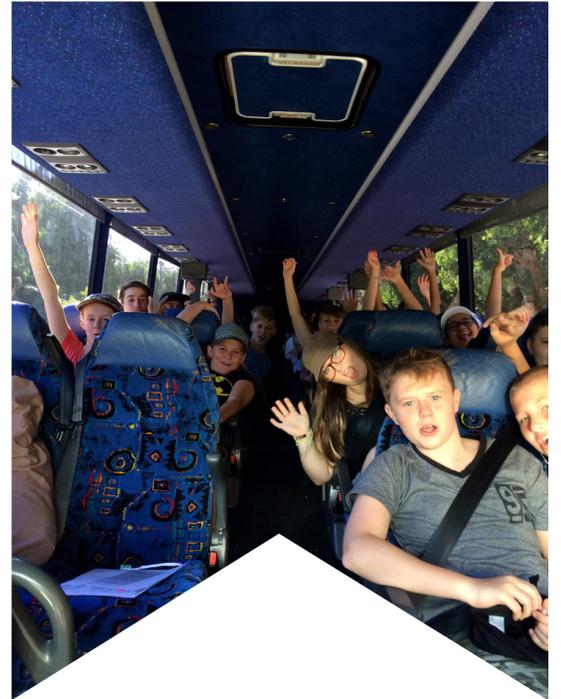


Our year 7's participated in Word Fest, which helped the students bond while participating in fun English activities.





GREAT AUSSIE BUSH CAMP





2016
Year 9
GRADUATION



the
DANCE
PARTY





Careers Corner



Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to take the time to welcome Yr8 and their parents to careers classes. Careers lessons run fortnightly and all of Yr8 and Yr9 students are involved.

Yr 8 will be working on developing knowledge of careers, finding out their interests, strengths and attributes and researching career pathways. Yr9 will be focusing on preparing for the Mock Interviews. They will be writing their resume and cover letters in class and learning skills to prepare them including; body language, short answer responses and interview techniques.

All students have been shown the BWSC Umina website and have been encouraged to go home and show their parents too. On this website, students can access information for work experience, permission notes and find information on resume writing.

I urge parents to also download the BWSC phone App and join our BWSC Umina facebook page as reminders and important information is often sent out via these.

Students have been encouraged to bring appropriate ID to class so that they can apply for their USI numbers online in their next lesson and have now seen the ATO website where they apply for their tax file numbers.

Both students and parents are welcome to book an interview with me on my non-teaching days (Thursday and Friday). This time is set aside for one on one interviews. Students can use this time to talk to me about potential part time employment, work experience and career guidance.

I hope your child will gain some useful information and tools during these lessons and look forward to guiding them towards their future.

Mrs Lewis

Important Dates

- Barista Course – March 10, May 19, August 25
- White Card Course – March 17, July 28
- Notes are on BWSC Careers website
- Please note: All students must be 14 and have USI number to complete these courses
- Mock Interviews – November 20-22 (All year 9 students know to collate reports, NAPLAN results, awards and certificates throughout the year for their portfolio which is needed during the Mock Interviews.



NEW AND RETURNING STAFF

English Department

- Adam Philips
- Jennifer Boyce

HSIE Department

- Bonnie Delzotto
- Laura Wearne

L.A.S.T Department

- Sheree Gilchrist

Maths Department

- Damian Staszak

TAS Department

- Liz Danvers



Team

ONEDERFUL

Welcome to Team Onederful for 2017.

Our classes:

- 911
- 811 (Avid)
- 711 (Avid)
- 712

Team Leader - Susannah Murray
susannah.murray@det.nsw.edu.au



Assistant Team Leader - Alicia Maxwell
alicia.maxwell @det.nsw.edu.au



The students have settled into the year very well. They are receiving homework several times a week and have already received assessment information. If you have any queries in regard to this please give us a call (43419066) or send an email.

We are here for you and your children so please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do to help you out.

We look forward to working with you.

Warm regards
Susannah Murray



Welcome to 2017

Our Team 7 classes are:

7.7.1, 8.7.1, 9.7.1, 9.7.2

We look forward to a SUPER year!

Team 7 Staff:

Relieving Team Leader HTPDHPE : Mrs Kylie Hocking Pecotich

Assistant Team Leader, English: Ms Jacqueline Ward

Mathematics/Science: Mr Jake Shearer

HSIE: Miss Shelley Smith

PDHPE/HSIE: Mr Pat Crouch

CAPA Music: Mr Andrew Westerhof

TAS: Ms Liz Danvers



Team 8

To begin, we would like to take the opportunity to welcome and congratulate our Year Seven students. They are proving to be a very focused, yet vibrant and inquisitive group of students who have quickly adjusted to high school. At this early stage, they are excelling in this new and exciting setting and we have been impressed by the way in which they have conducted themselves.

For our returning Year Eight students, it is important that they begin setting learning goals for 2017 and reflect on the best way in which to achieve those goals. We wish them all the very best for the academic year ahead and have the utmost confidence that they will continue to make us proud.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any assistance or have any queries.
Kind Regards,

Paul Richardson (relieving Assistant Team Leader)

Jessie Heighington (relieving Team Leader)



SUPPORT UNIT ADVENTURES

The Support Unit have been busy with camps, a visit to Taronga Zoo, bike safety day and also some fun tennis coaching.

