3 March 2016

PRINCIPAL – Julie Warwick

Term 1 continues smoothly and we are well past the half way mark. Students are currently working hard to complete assessment and I thank our families for the support you are giving them in terms of organization and prioritizing school work. I am really impressed with the standard of bookwork and effort I am seeing in classes on a daily basis. Likewise our strong data around attendance tells us that the community recognizes the importance of being in every class, every day. Parents can expect to receive report cards electronically after the holidays and we welcome any communication you wish to have with classroom teachers or any of the school support staff in the interim.

Next week on Tuesday 8th March we have our first enrolment information evening for the year for the incoming Year 7 cohort of 2017. This is in response to the many families who are seeking to finalize enrolment early and also provide an opportunity for early entry into any of our signature programs. This event takes place at 5:30pm in the Performing Arts Centre. Families do need to be aware that, due to our increasing numbers and a desire to keep the school at a size most conducive to student success, we are now exercising our Enrolment Management Plan. You can find out more information on our school website. On Tuesday night, I will also be updating our community around exciting changes to our Sports Academy, League for Life Program and Bring Your Own Device program.

Two international study tours are taking place during the Easter Vacation. The Humanities Hawaii Study Tour will provide participants with opportunities to take in a range of historical sites including Pearl Harbour. Students will visit some amazing cultural and geographical landmarks and also have a day experience at Punahou School. In addition, Baseball program students from Years 8-12 will be attending a Japan study tour. The itinerary includes attending two pro-baseball games, visiting the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Tokyo and spending 5 days at our partner Baseball school Urawa High in Saitama. I am lucky enough to be joining this tour which also marks the 10th anniversary of our partnership with Urawa School.

Mr Sam Wiseman is our Science Head of Department and is working closely with key staff to deliver a range of Science, Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) initiatives. This week, we have students attending the World Science Fair and, in coming weeks, Science achievers will be attending an Extension Water quality excursion (Yr 7) and a Chemistry masterclass (Yr 8). We are also working very closely with our colleagues at Robina State School to deliver plate tectons lessons and masterclasses. We look forward to further activities with our other local primary schools in coming weeks.

Exam block is fast approaching for our Seniors with Easter Vacation commencing on the 25th March. As always if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to make contact with us. Don’t forget to like our Robina State High School Facebook Page. We like to have a ‘real time’ approach to celebrating all that is good about Robina State High School.

Kind regards. Julie
It is moving into a busy part of the year with seniors moving into Exam Block in a couple of weeks. School work should be the number one priority of students. I am constantly reminding the students about attendance and effort - two big indicators for success at school. It is great walking around the senior classrooms seeing the different work they are currently undertaking.

Students this week will be given their attendance percentage: this number is one that I want them to know and always be improving.

The senior school exam timetable will be out in the next week. The emphasis is on the student to attend all the exams in the correct timeslot. Students undertaking certificate courses will have time to catch up on any work missed throughout the term.

HOD Senior Schooling – Jeanette McDonald

As we move towards the Exam Block in Week 8 it’s timely to remind Year 11 & 12 students and parents of the Assessment Policy. If a student is absent for a test, a medical certificate is required. In the case of a genuine family crisis we need verification on the day from a caregiver. Students who follow process and have verifiable information for their absence sit the exam on their return to school. The mark from this exam will count towards semester credit.

Students who do not follow the policy- for example just sleep in or are away on holidays, still have to complete the exam but it will be for feedback purposes and course completion. It will not count towards semester credit. This means a student may lose semester credit which could impact OP and QCE.

In all instances of absence from a schedule exam please contact either myself Jeanette McDonald on 55623446 or Adam Brandis 55623422 on or before the day of the exam.

Year 12 Coordinator – Jess Meehan

Term 1 is off to a flying start with only three and a half weeks to go.

This week our Year 12 students hosted their first Senior Assembly for 2016. The assembly was based around recognition of students’ individual achievements and focus
goals. I would like to thank our 2016 School Captains; Lochie King, Hiwot Emerson, Tristan Sigley and Grace Jameson for doing an exceptional job at running the event!

This Friday is the Robina SHS swimming carnival. I wish all competing students the very best of luck and hope to see a huge turnout of Year 12 students for their last ever school based swimming carnival.

Year 11 Coordinator – Tait Conditsis

Where has this term gone?

We are in the full swing of a term and students are now busy with assessment, yet surely school is more than assignments and tests? Of course it is! Have you ever thought about how you contribute to the school community? Some of our students are currently involved in debating teams, Leos, Student council and are attending the swimming carnival in a leadership capacity taking on additional roles. If you are not involved with our school community, why not? We would love to see you get involved and be part of something great!

International opportunities are also available for those who are adventurous. For instance, the SOSE department is heading over to Hawaii on its biannual international field trip visiting volcanoes, snorkelling marine biomes, and touring Pearl Harbor. The Baseball team are heading to Japan in April too, and have the opportunity of being hosted by Urawa Baseball Academy and experiencing eastern culture. In addition the school has revived the ski trip and looks to head down to the snow in September.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in 2016! What are you waiting for?

A typical marine biome on tour in Hawaii

Jessica Duncan & Luke Stegman at Student Council

Middle Schooling

Middle Schooling Team

Megan Tyne
Deputy Principal
Andrew Pearce
HOD Middle Schooling
Sean McGrath
Year 10 Coordinator
Gordana Jaram
Year 9 Coordinator

Deputy Principal – Megan Tyne

Three weeks until Good Friday and the end of Term 1 2016. Who would have thought we are this close? In Term 2, Year 10s will begin the focus on senior learning pathways and career planning. There will be important information sessions, opportunities to visit career expos and subject evenings at school. All opportunities need to be taken advantage of by every student to ensure they are making informed decisions about their future. Watch out for these important events and save the date.

Year 10 Coordinator – Sean McGrath

The weeks continue to fly by at a rapid rate and I am still getting to know your children. I am thankful that I have taught many of them over their junior years through ITD classes in Yr 8/9. As you may, or may not know, Robina SHS is a School Wide Positive Behaviour (SWPB) school. This means that we try to focus on a positive attitude and encouragement model to build school pride and positive behaviour. Students are given merit points each lesson if they are observed meeting the SWPB behaviour for that week. At the moment it is “ Following instructions”. I am pleased to say that I have been very thankful for the large numbers of Year 10 students who are accumulating lots of merit points. Please take the opportunity to have dinner time discussions with your child/ren about this school initiative. Each Monday morning, at Year Level Assembly, I reward the student with the highest number of points for the previous week and, when applicable, the previous month. I am proud to say our winner for this month is Andrew Wong. Congratulations Andrew!

As information comes to my attention concerning the successes of students in Year 10, I will pass them on. In January this Year, one of our Robina Year 10 students attended the Pacific Youth Masters Darts competition in Murray Bridge, South Australia. As a result, he won the titles in his age group of Under 18’s. Congratulations to Cody King on this fabulous achievement. He tells me he is now ranked Number 1 in Australia for his age group. Please let me know of the success of your child or any Robina students in competitions outside of school, I am more than happy to share them with other students at parade. You can contact me on: smcgr142@eq.edu.au or Ph: 55623496.

Year 9 Coordinator – Gordana Jaram

Parents and care-givers should be as proud as I am of the way the Year 9s have settled in. As a Year level, students have excelled in promoting the school rules and the positive behaviour focus of “Following Instructions”. The Year 9 cohort, although the smallest cohort in the school, has amassed a total of 4616 merit points – second only to the largest cohort in the school, Year 7.

This time of the term means that students have assessment items that are due. Please be supportive of your student as they work to complete their assignments. If your student is having any issues with the work, encourage them to talk and ask questions of their teacher/s or go to the Library for homework club from Monday to Thursday. Some other helpful points to consider:
Junior Secondary Team

Sarah Price
Deputy Principal

Ben Weeks
HOD Junior Secondary

Tina Maund
Year 7 Coordinator

Tony Levings
Year 8 Coordinator

Deputy Principal – Sarah Price

The first 5 weeks of the term have been fantastic. I would like to thank our Year 7 and 8 parents who continue to work closely with the school, effectively communicating information and supporting us with the Junior Secondary students.

Can I please encourage Year 7 parents to join us for refreshments at our Friday afternoon parent sessions from 2:15 in the school library. Attendance at these sessions continues to be good but we always love to see new faces. This is a fantastic opportunity to talk to myself and some other staff in relation to your child, or network with other parents and take an active role in our school community. We are very happy for you to email us with requests for sessions and can organise presenters to talk to you from specialist areas. Our next session is Friday 11th March at 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm. I really look forward to seeing many of you there and learning more about your child.

ATTENDANCE

Every Day Counts at Robina! Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Regular school attendance will mean that:

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

If your child is absent for an acceptable reason: illness, serious family issue or competing in a school sporting event, please notify the school as soon as possible so we can adjust your child’s attendance profile.

Robina operates a traffic light system for attendance monitoring that your child can see every day in their PROMOTE room, in their area, at Mr Weeks office or at my office. This system counts their present and explained attendance. This is why it is very important that you explain their absences.

Green is attendance that is above 92%. This attendance is acceptable, but we would like everyone to have 100%.

Yellow is attendance that is between 85% and 91%. This means your child has some absences that need to be explained.

Red is attendance that is below 90%. If your child is in this area it urgently requires you to explain all absences.

On a different note, 7K and 8K had a marvelous time at the Queensland Museum last week, but don’t take it from me. Here’s what Elina Marsh had to say about it:

On the 26th February 2016, Year 7 and 8 Kingfishers went on an excursion to the Queensland Museum. As we have been focusing on the medieval period in our humanities studies, we visited the ‘Medieval Power’ exhibition. We all enjoyed looking at the old artefacts and reading interesting facts about medieval culture and lifestyle. We marvelled at art, jewellery, armor, pottery and various other pieces of the medieval era. My personal favourite artefacts were the intricate mirror cases and the beautiful pendants that were being showcased.

The Queensland Museum excursion was a wonderful experience for all of us. It was fun and educational, further expanding our knowledge of this unit, while being able to enjoy a day out.

Thanks to Mrs Hanna and Mrs Forder for taking the time to come with us on our wonderful day out.

Elina Marsh

Thank you again to everyone for such a great start to the year. Let’s continue to work together, keeping the focus on learning and high standards.
Head of Department Junior Secondary – Ben Weeks

NAPLAN Testing

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. In 2016 this testing will take place on 10 -12 May 2016.

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians have the literacy and numeracy skills that provide the critical foundation for other learning and for their productive and rewarding participation in the community.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and which areas need to be prioritised for improvement.

NAPLAN is a skills test. It tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy.

While participation by all students is expected, students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. There is a formal process that is undertaken should parents wish to withdraw their child.

Stay tuned for more information around NAPLAN testing. Should you have any immediate concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact Ben Weeks – HOD Junior Secondary bweek12@eq.edu.au

Year 8 Coordinator – Tony Levings

Year 8: Going off with a bang!!

And they’re off……….and racing in the Robina 2016 Gifted and Talented. We are certainly coming out of our shells (not just me!) and fast becoming very talented in our chosen areas. We have a strong contingent in the Theatre Sports and drama a-plenty. Needless to say we have some great actors emerging. Below is an example of some fine performances.

A big congratulations must also go to Maxwell Sigley who competed in the National Cycling Championships in Tasmania on the weekend. During the four day event he won a bronze medal in the Point Race, a silver in the Sprint and in a tightly contested final on Saturday won gold becoming the U15 Australian Keirin Champion. He certainly is destined for a big future in the sport of cycling.

Our Pastoral Day program this term comprised a stage production by an external educational company titled, ‘The Hurting Game’. Although portrayed in quite a humorous manner, this performance touched on some very real and serious issues of bullying and harassment, peer pressures and gender bias. Our students watched the actors intently and laughed on cue at times too! I’m certain the real meaning was achieved. We are following this up with lessons about these issues in our long PROMOTE program next term.

Our Swimming Carnival will be taking place tomorrow and hopefully I can report on the amazing attendance rate and house spirit from Year 8. I always say the carnival days are some of the best on the school calendar: compulsory fun for everyone who gets into the house spirit in attire and voice!

Year 7 Coordinator – Tina Maund

The first five weeks of High School have flown by. What an adventure it has been! We started with our ‘Super Sleuth’ Pastoral morning hunt - our final time to familiarise ourselves with the school surroundings before navigating on our own to classes. With great enthusiasm, the students took off in their PROMOTE teams to find 25 clues all under a time limit. I was really proud of the whole group, especially with the weather being extremely hot on the day. To end the hunt, we were all cooled down with an icy treat. Congratulations to these students and the winning PROMOTE class.

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st - 7K</td>
<td>Evie, Mollie, Paige</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd - 7K</td>
<td>Carl, Casey, Jack, Brodie, Oliver</td>
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Robina by Night was a wonderful evening with our PROMOTE teachers meeting many families. The evening started with a sausage sizzle, then with our new Student Leaders giving some valuable and entertaining advice to our young cohort. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend this night. I hope it gave you an insight into high school life and important information to help you navigate this journey with your child. Any queries, please don’t hesitate to get in contact and I will do my best to help in any way. (tmun2@eq.edu.au)

The Year 7’s will be now experiencing mid-term exams and handing in assignments. Time management is an important life skill. By establishing good routines and setting time aside for revising will help set them up for success. Overall, it has been a busy five weeks! Keep up the great work Year 7.

Scientists hard at work learning various separating techniques

**Faculty Focus - English**

**LITERACY PLANET**

As the coordinator of Literacy Planet this year, I wanted to share with you some information about this fantastic program. Literacy Planet is a web-based literacy program that supports the English curriculum. The program is interactive, engaging and game-based and therefore appeals to students of all ages. Literacy Planet focuses on reading comprehension, spelling, and grammar and punctuation and improves students’ skills across these areas.

Our school has purchased all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 a Literacy Planet account so that they can access an individually tailored program at school and at home. By now students will have been given their Literacy Planet login details in a letter in their English classes.

I hope that your child enjoys using this program and thank you for encouraging them to complete their weekly Literacy Planet homework.

http://www.literacyplanet.com

**Karen Haataja**

**Literacy Planet Coordinator**

**Literacy Support Teacher**

**Debating**

As Robina High’s new debating coordinator, I’m very pleased to share the details of this new programme. Over the Christmas holidays, Mrs Grey and three of our year 11 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Japan for an international debating competition followed by an adventurous ski trip. This trip of a lifetime inspired new interest in debating at Robina High. In February, eight of our Year 11 students attended a debating workshop at Bond University. These students are now qualified adjudicators who will independently adjudicate Junior and Intermediate Gold Coast debates. Furthermore, nine Year 11 students across two teams have now been entered into the Gold Coast Debating Association’s senior competition. Our first debates are on Wednesday 8 March against St Michael’s College and All Saints Anglican School. Good luck Year 11 students!

**Reading Team**

Another year of the Reading team has kicked off and we are right back into planning for 2016 events. As a reminder, in 2015, the Reading Team along with some Kingfisher classes, coordinated our “Drop Everything and Read” (DEAR) days. DEAR days took place once each term and students and staff were encouraged to dress up in costume to reflect their favourite book character. Staff also took time to read a passage from one of their favourite books at the beginning of each class for the day. Students had the opportunity to enter competitions and receive prizes.

The Reading Team consists of a staff member from each department of the school and it meets every second Friday morning before school. All of the members have been trained in “Tactical Teaching of Reading” program. This is a worldwide based program of explicit teaching of reading skills. These skills
are being implemented throughout the school on a daily basis. Since the program began Term 1 2015, our testing data has demonstrated a marked improvement in students ability to read effectively and productively. With good reading skills comes better academic results.

Information from the British “Institute of Education states; “Researchers found that children who receive bedtime stories from their parents as infants perform better than those who go without. But reading for pleasure during secondary school had the biggest effect, with books judged to be more important to children’s development at an older age than the influence of their parents. The combined effect on children’s progress of reading books often, going to the library regularly and reading newspapers at 16 was four times greater than the advantage children gained from having a parent with a degree.”

Which books will you buy for your children?

**Sean McGrath**

**World Challenge Expedition**

I had the pleasure of taking seven amazing students on a one month World Challenge expedition to Cambodia and Vietnam in December last year. It was a life changing experience for the group who developed life skills such as resilience, empathy and leadership during the student-led trip. The students had to work together to organise daily accommodation, transport and food – a mammoth task made even harder considering where we were. There were so many highlights and countless memories created.

The highlight for most was the five days spent in a foreign language centre in Ho Chi Minh City. We were able to use our skills to renovate a number of rooms in the centre including the rooms of 3 young monks – these boys were extremely appreciative of the changes we made.

Another of the highlights (at least for Mr Purnell) was the five day Ratanakiri Jungle Trek. This was the challenge phase of the trip and did not disappoint. It was hot, humid and quite hilly in sections and many were glad to cool off in the beautiful streams at the end of each day. Many of the group at this stage were dealing with health issues, however through their positive attitude were able to complete the challenge.

Some of the attractions experienced in Cambodia included the Temples of Angkor Wat, haggling in markets, Tuol Sleng(also called S-21) and the Killing Fields where the Khmer Rouge tortured and killed over 2 million people. In Vietnam we explored the Mekong Delta including mud fishing (which of course ended in a massive mud fight), overnight train trip and shopping for tailored suits and dresses in Hoi An.

It was such an amazing experience for all of us that definitely prepared the students for life – an experience not to be missed if you have the opportunity.

Watch this space – we are currently planning our next World Challenge Expedition for the end of 2017.

**Dave Purnell**

**Student Council**

On Monday 29th February the student council ran a BBQ to support the Red Balloon day and to say thank you to Firefighters. Four of our local firefighters and a truck came out during lunchtime. It was a great success and thank you to all who supported the event!

**Parents & Citizens**

The P & C are having a cake stall on Saturday 19th March at Robina SHS (Election Day). Anyone wanting to donate some cakes please bring them in on Friday 18th March to Di Loddon at the front counter of the school. All biscuits and cakes greatly appreciated.

Stay tuned for information regarding our 20 year celebrations, coming up next newsletter!

**Di Loddon**  
**P&C President**

**Robina Sports Academy – Daniel Norton-Smith**

Updates for the Robina Sports Academy are now available through our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.

Congratulations to everyone who has had a great month in sport. We will have plenty more highlights to look forward to throughout the year.
Futsal/Football Academy

Our Futsal teams travelled to Oxley and Cornubia on Monday for the first round of the South East Titles. We were well represented across all age groups in the boys and girls divisions. Well done to everyone who were involved in a great day for Robina High’s Futsal Academy. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Boys 13 Years A team were outstanding all day and won their final playoff game with a great win against Helensvale. Overall leading goal scorer and player of the tournament: Matias Rodriguez.
- The Boys 14 Years A team made it into the playoffs but were beaten by a strong Stretton SHS team.. Overall leading goal scorer and player of the tournament: Nic Buxton.
- Our Boys 15 Years team started the tournament a bit slow, but came from behind to win 3 of their 4 pool games. The boys now progress to the next stage of the SE Titles.
- Well done to the Girls 16 Years who were undefeated in all of their 5 games throughout the day. Overall leading goal scorer and player of the tournament: Kimberley Shrimpton.
- Ayden Dwyer and Cameron Traynor were standouts for the Boys 16 Years as they won 4 of their 5 games and finished second in their group.
- The Girls 13 Years played up against the 14s and played really well as a new team. Our Girls 14 Years played hard all day and were undefeated in the group rounds. Both teams finished first in their respective groups and qualified for the next round.
- To top things off our Boys 19 Years team, led by Ben Avery and Yukiya Takahashi were awesome all day winning all of their games. They finished on top of their group and progressed through to the next round.
- A number of students also caddied for players in the Ladies European Tour event which would have been a great experience.
- Players are completing SAM Putt Lab testing at the moment which provides a 4 page report on the individuals putting stroke. This equipment is not readily available to players without a considerable cost if privately tested outside the Golf Academy with another PGA coach.
- In Week 9 all Academy players will work with Golf Australia specialist Stuart Leong with his expertise in Green reading, AIMPIONT, and Shots to Hole statistics round analysis.

Baseball Academy

Our baseball players have been busy this term with a range of games and trials going on to kick off the year. We celebrated our 10 Year Anniversary with our annual game against Japanese powerhouse Urawa Gakuin High School. The boys played well but unfortunately went down 14-5. Special mention to Zac Mansfield who, as a Year 9 student playing against 18 year olds, pitched extremely well holding Japan’s best High School Baseball Team to just 2 runs.

On the same day the Open Girls had their South Coast Softball Trials at Pacific Pines High School. We had a strong representation and a successful day with six girls claiming a place in the team to compete at the Queensland Championships. Congratulations to Tia Newton, Brooke Stewart, Riley Hauwai, Ella Callinan, Jess Stack and Jenna Dyer.

One week later it was the boys turn at their Open Baseball Trials for South Coast and they all did us proud with nine selections being named from Robina High: Conor Laverty, Chase Eldridge, Chase Heldrich, Brad Croft, Dylan Grant, Sam Bailey, Dan Shannon, Jackson Fear and Zac Mansfield plus 4 shadows: Nick Johnstone, Cody Oudsen, Steven Bressow-Thomas and Rafiki Bursle.

Golf Academy

- Congratulations to Karen Kim, Grace Kwack, Sharon Kim and Bronti Ko who participated in the Junior Masters at Royal Pines Resort as a qualifier for the RACV Ladies Masters. Karen and Grace lead the way with Robina Golf Academy scores of 76 and 79 respectively.
Netball

With such a high number of netball players at Robina High we have introduced some Specialist Netball Training sessions with Queensland Firebird Gretel Tippett. The sessions have had strong numbers and a great energy from all of the girls. Well done to everyone who has been involved and we look forward to seeing your progress throughout the year.

Swimming

Results from our 19th Annual Swimming Carnival will be presented in our next Newsletter but we have already had a team of 22 swimmers represent Robina High at the Oceanic District Carnival. From that event, six were selected to compete at the South Coast Trials: Narnie Berlowitz, Geordan Donovan, Cameron Donovan, Nikita Matson, Storm Slingerland and Caitlyn Mackney.

League For Life

Marvo was Marvellous

On Friday the 19th of February the League for Life Program held Marvo. Marvo is an afternoon where the students invite a significant male role model in their lives to enjoy an afternoon at school. We had a fantastic turn out with dads, grandads, uncles and brothers all supporting the boys. The Gold Coast Titans also supported us with Kieren and Zane helping the boys out across a few of the challenges. Bravery was the theme of Marvo and the boys and their Dads got straight into it with a challenge called “The Gauntlet.” Once again, we’d like to thank everyone that joined us for Marvo. In the words of the great cricket commentator Ritchie Benau, “Marvellous effort that.”

Whooping Cough (Pertussis) Alert

The Gold Coast Public Health Unit has recently been advised of a confirmed case of whooping cough in Year 8 at Robina State High School.

Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection that can be life threatening for babies and young children. Symptoms can range in severity from quite mild to coughing fits which often end with a gag or a vomit. Whooping cough usually starts with symptoms typical of a head cold with a runny nose, sneezing and tiredness and then the cough develops.

People with whooping cough are infectious for the first three weeks of the illness or until they have received 5 days of the 7 day course of the appropriate antibiotics. If you have any concerns about the symptoms of whooping cough in your child then you should exclude them from childcare and take them to your doctor as soon as possible. If the illness is detected early in its course, treatment will speed recovery and reduce the period of infectivity for other people.

The following recommendations are made to reduce the risk of further cases of whooping cough in the community especially to the very young or unimmunised children.

1. Please make sure your family is fully up to date with all their vaccinations. Vaccination against whooping cough is included in vaccinations given at 2, 4 and 6 months and again at 4 years. A funded booster dose is provided for Year 10 students through the School Based Vaccination program.

2. Pregnant women in their third trimester of pregnancy are eligible for a funded booster vaccine for every pregnancy to protect newborn babies against whooping cough. Vaccination gives good protection, but unfortunately this protection does wane with time.

3. For those not eligible for funded vaccine, a once only dose of adult Pertussis Booster vaccine is available at a vaccine cost of approximately $30-45. The vaccine is recommended for those working with young children such as health care workers, child care workers and teachers and is available on prescription from your GP.

4. All children or staff recently diagnosed with whooping cough are to be excluded from the child care centre or school until they have received either 5 days of a 7 day course of appropriate antibiotics or excluded for 21 days from the onset of coughing.

For further information please contact the Gold Coast Public Health Unit on:
5687 9000 during business hours
or 13 Health (13 432584) after hours
or your General Practitioner