Welcome to 2016

Our first school newsletter for 2016 highlights we have had a very productive and smooth start to the year. We have welcomed over 260 Year 7s along with many new students to Years 8-12. With around 1400 students, Robina State High School is the largest it has been for many years and we are very encouraged by our community support. As principal, I believe it is important that the school remains spacious and has plenty of learning and recreational space for students. For this reason, our Enrolment Management Plan is being strongly observed.

Supporting a ‘growth mindset’ in our young people

We have also welcomed over 15 new staff and, prior to the commencement of the term, enjoyed three days of professional development as a team. The first week of school has been about settling students in, re-affirming our strong expectations and working closely with them to set learning goals and be clear about classwork and assessment for the term. We have talked a lot about the notion of a “growth mindset” as opposed to a fixed one. Carol Dweck (2012) argues that “In a fixed mindset students believe their basic abilities, their intelligence, their talents, are just fixed traits. They have a certain amount and that’s that, and then their goal becomes to look smart all the time and never look dumb. In a growth mindset students understand that their talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence. They don’t necessarily think everyone’s the same or anyone can be Einstein, but they believe everyone can get smarter if they work at it.”

It is important all of our students know we all believe in them and, with hard work and strong expectations, they certainly can succeed.

What to do when your child needs to leave school early-

Please send them in with a note which they can take to administration in the morning. They will then be issued with a Leave Pass and can come directly to the office at the designated time. It is extremely difficult for front office staff to leave their stations to unexpectedly collect students from class without prior notice.

Travel to and from school

Unfortunately parking is at a premium in our precinct and congestion is a real issue at peak times. For parents dropping off and collecting their children, we recommend you give yourself plenty of time and consider alternative drop off and pick up points in close proximity to the school. Alternatively consider avoiding the 3:00pm-3:15pm peak time and arrive a little later to collect your child/children. The covered area nearest the Bus bay remains supervised until 3:30pm.

For Seniors who are lucky enough to have their own vehicles, we cannot permit students to park on the premises for legal and safety reasons.

All students accessing public transport should have organized appropriate passes /Go Cards by this stage. Parents still requiring information can access this easily through the relevant websites. For most of our young people, bus and train travel is at a cost and the school will not support students refusing to pay their fare.

Students riding bicycles should follow all road safety rules and wear helmets. We have a bike cage which is secured when the first lesson starts each day. Students must bring a lock and
ensure it is secured within the cage again for safety reasons. Skateboards and scooters are not acceptable means of travel again for safety reasons. This is an extremely busy precinct with significant traffic flow on a daily basis.

**Coming Up**

I look forward to seeing families at one of the many events occurring next week. On Monday night (7th February), we host our first *Sports Academy Parent Information Evening* for the year with futsal and general sports families welcomed at 5pm followed by golf and baseball at 6pm. Our first *P&C meeting* occurs this Tuesday evening (8th February) at 6pm in our administration block. We welcome new and returning members. Similarly the *Robina By Night* event is this Wednesday and I look forward to seeing many Year 7 families there.

Thanks to all of our families for your support in starting off the year so positively. Don’t forget we have a very active school Facebook page and you can also access the Q Schools Application by following the following instructions: Q Schools

**Warm regards**

**Julie**

**SCHOOL PHOTOS:** all year levels photos will take place on 16 February 2016. Your child must bring the envelope directly to the photographer on the day. The school office will not accept any envelopes or payment for photos. Please ensure that on 16 February your child comes to school presented in correct ‘Day Uniform’. It is important that all students have a photo taken on this day as the photo will be used for ID cards.

**BUS PASS:** Please ask your child to check whether their school bus pass has arrived by going to Student Services either at morning tea or lunch time ONLY.

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**Senior Schooling:**

**Senior Schooling Team**

Adam Brandis  
Deputy Principal  
Jeanette McDonald  
HOD Senior Schooling  
Jess Meehan  
Year 12 Coordinator  
Tait Conditsis  
Year 11 Coordinator

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**Deputy Principal – Adam Brandis**

**Adam Brandis – Deputy Principal, Senior School**

Welcome to 2016: A busy year for all of our senior students, with one group beginning their senior journey, and one finishing. The aim for all of our students when they complete schooling is to receive their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). I have spoken to all of our students around the need to focus on effort and attendance. If these two are at their optimum levels, then success ultimately follows. It is an expectation that all students know if they are on track for their QCE and what their attendance percentage is and throughout the year students will be working on goal setting around meeting these expectations.

A group of our senior leadership team went to a yLead conference at the University of Queensland over the break to gain valuable insights into leading the student body at Robina SHS. From all reports they had a fabulous time.

“The highlight of conference for our leadership team was definitely the experiences shared by the special guests. The valuable skills and advice that we have learnt can be implemented by incorporating activities that engage all the year levels together, to create unity amongst year levels” Conference highlights – Robina SHS Students.

**HOD Senior Schooling – Jeanette McDonald**

Year 11 & 12 seem to be off to an excellent start with a positive attitude and many thoughtful enquiries. This week we will process any subject changes as best we can. After this week, students will be in a course of study as per their timetable, for the rest of the semester unless there are extenuating circumstances.

This Thursday Year 12 OP eligible students received their individual OP prediction. Please note these are predictions and we use the most accurate data we have but be mindful that no assurances can be given. There are many variables. For an OP to be useful for university entrance a student needs to be in the OP 1-15 range. Beyond that a conversation needs to be had around best tertiary study pathways. I facilitate these conversations across the year as will our new Guidance Officer Sue Barnwell.

This Wednesday the Diploma of Business started with two large classes. It’s wonderful to see students and parents seeing the value in this course and voting with their feet! Current Year 11 students who haven’t joined but perhaps should can Undertake the Diploma of Business in Year 12.

Every senior student is aware of our high expectations. We rigorously analyse every student’s subject results, attendance, effort and behaviour. Any issues need to be nipped in the bud so we are happy for as much feedback and interaction with parents and caregivers as we can to ensure 100% of our students are on track for a QCE or QCIA. We do recognise that some students need extra support to help them reach that end line so any information about their welfare is welcome.
Welcome back to all Year 12 students. You are now the leaders of Robina SHS: Congratulations. This year will be challenging but will form memories that you will hold onto for a lifetime. Take on new tasks, talk to other students in your cohort you wouldn’t usually talk to and leave with no regrets.

“In the end we only regret the chances we didn’t take”.

I look forward to a successful and memorable year with you all.

Year 11 Coordinator – Tait Conditsis

Welcome Back Avengers!

Can you believe we are all now in Year 11?! You are now officially sworn in and as dedicated seniors and you will need to be focused on stepping up your game and everything becomes that little bit more challenging. The expectation for you as a student is to effectively balance your academic life whilst combining it with community service, student collegiality, leadership, inter-house/school spirit and inside influences (casual employment, sport, etc.). Phew! This list sounds like a busy schedule. However, you can do it! And we have the support team you need for success! In addition, this year we have a school leadership camp at the end of the year to Bornhoffen (23-25 November 2016) and regular teambuilding events to look out for. Be aware that merit points will still be used this year (as in previous years) to help recognise and reward students for positive behaviour.

As always I look forward to working with you all and am very excited about the upcoming year.

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

Welcome back to 2016. It is always exciting to welcome new and returning students at the beginning of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all Year 9 and 10 students and parents to Robina State High School for 2016. What an exciting year full of possibilities we have laid out in front of us. We welcome a number of new students joining Year 9 and 10 cohorts. It is an important year for all students in these year levels. We have a new team of Year Leaders and Middle school HOD, who together with these two cohorts, will create a dynamic, 2016 for all our Middle School students.

Acting HOD Middle Schooling – Andrew Pearce

Congratulations on embarking on another year at Robina SHS. As a teacher I have worked at numerous schools on the Gold Coast and confidently say Robina SHS is the best choice for your child’s education and growth. My name is Andrew Pearce and in my newly appointed position as Acting HOD Middle School (Years 9 & 10) I am always looking at the latest teaching and learning practices to improve your child’s transition into senior school. Teachers and Leaders always have your child’s best interest at heart and I look forward to a year that brings success and most of all, enjoyment.

Year 10 Coordinator – Sean McGrath

I am married with two teenage children and one pre-teen. I live in NSW and barrack for the Blues. I tell typical “dad-jokes” and laugh at them every time. I am currently rebuilding a 1956 Morris Minor Utility. Although I started teaching 26 years ago, I began teaching at RSHS in Term 4 2012. Since then I have taught in the HPE, Science, Maths and ITD Departments. But …. my first love is Industrial Technology and Design. Who doesn’t love the smell of freshly sawn timber? My focus for this year is that students practice caring for their fellow students in Year 10. I want them to think of this group, often called a cohort, as a community, a community within the RSHS community, a group in which it is safe to be an individual, and be cared for by others within the group. A post appeared recently on my Facebook feed by a comedian, called George Carlin, from the ’70-’80’s. He spoke of the paradox of our time where;

“We’ve learned how to make a living, but not a life. We’ve added years to life, but not life to years. We’ve been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour." George Carlin

I want our Year 10 community to embrace these words. I encourage them to engage with the following 2016 theme: “If you’re OK, then I’m OK.” What does this mean? It means that we look out for others, we care for the marginalised, we make sure that everyone is included and that no one gets left behind. If we can do that, then we should all be …. OK.

Year 9 Coordinator – Gordana Jaram

Do you want to join me? Hello and a warm welcome to 2016 – the year of awesomeness for Year 9 students! Firstly let me introduce myself as the Year 9 Leader for 2016. My aim for
Hello and welcome to the first Robina State High School newsletter of 2016. No doubt your child has already settled back into school routine by the time you read this newsletter. Thank you to all our Year 7 parents who worked closely with the school, supporting us to make such a smooth transition for our new Junior Secondary students. Welcome back to the Year 8 students. The students have met with our expectations looking fantastic and arriving with positive attitudes, ready for high school and ready to learn. It’s been wonderful to visit so many classrooms and witness strong foci on learning from the newest and youngest members of our school community and our returning Year 8 students. They have certainly set the bar high!

By now the Year 7 have completed their testing. During Week 2 the year 7 students have sat a series of diagnostic tests. Over the coming weeks we will analyse the data and staff will use this to personalise the learning experience for all students. If we feel your child requires more specific focus we will contact you with information and invite you to attend a very important evening on Thursday 25th February at 6:00 pm. As noted, I will be in contact with you if this affects your child.

Can I please encourage the Year 7 parents to join us for refreshments at our Friday afternoon parent sessions from 2:15 in the school library. This is a fantastic opportunity to talk to me and other staff in relation to your child, or network with other parents and take an active role in our school community. Our next session is Friday 5th February at 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm. I really look forward to seeing many of you there and learning more about your child.

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

Welcome to 2016. More specifically, welcome to our newest Junior Secondary students. I trust that all students have enjoyed the first two weeks of Secondary School and are almost settled into the routines of our school. We have numerous events coming up to further assist both students and families to settle into our school community and I look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

Robina by Night

Research has shown that the relationship and communication channels between students, parents and teachers are an integral element to a student’s academic success. Robina State High School values these relationships very highly and encourages parents to be as involved as possible in their child’s education.

Robina by Night sessions will be held for Year 7 students to allow parents and carers to meet teachers and school staff in a relatively informal setting. In addition to this, parents will be addressed by various school support and administration staff to ensure they are up to speed on school processes and procedures. Details for these evenings are below:

Year 7 – Robina By Night

Wednesday, 10 February 2016
BBQ begins at 4:30 pm at Canteen
Session begins at 5.30 pm in the Performing Arts Complex

Year 7 Camp

Emu Gully Helidon
Female Students: June 13 – 15
Male Students: June 15 - 17
Approximate Cost - $250 per student

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is an international award recognising the unique contribution young people make to our community. Participation in the award is also a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, give back to the community and most importantly have lots of fun.
Robina State High School currently offers two levels of the award. Year 7-8 Students have access to the ‘Bridge Award’ and Year 9-10 Students have access to the ‘Bronze Award’. Both awards comprise “Skill, Physical Recreation, Community Service and an Adventurous Journey component”. The first Adventurous Journey to be offered in 2016 for participating students will take place on the weekend on 20/21 February at the Stanley River Environmental Education Centre. Any students interested in undertaking this rewarding experience must see Mr Weeks in the office ASAP.

School Photos

School photos for all year levels will take place on 16 February 2016. Envelopes from the photographer have come home with all students this week. Should you wish to purchase a photo of your child, please enclose correct payment and have your child bring the envelope directly to the photographer on the day. The school office will not accept any envelopes or payment for photos.

Please ensure that on 16 February your child comes to school presented in full and correct dress school uniform. It is important that all students (regardless of whether you are purchasing a photo) have a photo taken on this day as the photo will be used for ID Cards. Should you have any questions regarding school photos please contact the relevant Year Leader.

Year 7 Coordinator – Tina Maund

Hello and welcome to Year 7s second week at High School.

My first week as the Year 7 Coordinator has been exciting, daunting and exhausting so I can just imagine what it has been like for all our new students learning to navigate their new surroundings, meeting their teachers and grappling with timetables. Well, we have all survived the first week with flying colours! The feedback from staff has been wonderful with many compliments regarding behaviour, manners and positive attitudes in and out of the classroom.

Our theme for Year 7 this year is ‘Celebrate the Adventure’. We will be using this theme throughout the whole year. I believe that High School is an adventure, a journey with many paths to follow; at times experiencing highs and lows, being resilient and persistent, setting goals and following your dreams.

Another focus this term will be on ‘organisation’. It is imperative that the Year 7’s develop this skill as being organised makes for a good day and alleviates any added stress. Having their timetables visible at home and their bags packed the night before will help in this regard.

In Week Two, the Year 7s will be participating in a Pastoral Care Morning. This activity is entitled ‘Getting to Know Your New School’. Students will be able to familiarise themselves with their surroundings which will help them to move around to their classes. They will be ‘Super Sleuths’ and will be in PROMOTE teams. This is an opportunity to make new friends and promote healthy competition amongst other Promote classes.

Thank you for your cooperation in the transition to High School for Year 7. The students looked smart in their uniforms and were ready to learn. I am looking forward to meeting you all at our ‘Robina by Night’ on the 10th February. Thank you for your ongoing support as we are all here to help with your child’s individual journey. Have an amazing year!

Year 8 Coordinator – Tony Levings

Welcome back; let’s get back into routine, reap rewards reach for the stars….’cause we’re taller!

Trusting everyone enjoyed some relaxing time with family in the holidays. We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful area that’s like a holiday at home anyway. It was pleasing to see so many smiling faces and be greeted accordingly from the students…..as if they missed me…as if!! However one sore point I have is that it looks like they have grown over the holidays and many are encroaching on my own height….which is not that hard I suppose. I’m constantly challenged….vertically! Anyway, enough about me. Welcome to a new school year and new and exciting events and challenges for students to encounter. I now have an office in Staffroom 2 and am more than happy to meet with you and/ or your child in a confidential and comforting environment- we have bean bags, working on obtaining a small lounge (if you want to donate…please), but a coffee machine may be pushing my luck, and it is air-conditioned! Things are looking up and so am I now - at students!!

Many thanks,
Tony Levings tlevi6@eq.edu.au

Faculty Focus - Japanese Department

Parliamentary Focus - Japanese Department

Parliamentary Debate World Congress - Japan

Three Robina High students, accompanied by Japanese teacher, Mrs Gray, recently travelled to Japan for a Parliamentary Debating World Congress. Year 11 students Luke Stegman, Jessica Duncan and Chris Clayton, were fortunate to be fully sponsored by the Waku Pro Foundation President and Founder, Ms Kazuko Nakadai. Waku Pro and the PDWC Association believes that debating is a gateway to building international relationships and improving communication and English skills in realistic situations. The PDWC event coordinators, Ms Nakadai and Ms Chiyoko Sato were introduced to Robina High by the Gold Coast Japan Society President, Mr Yoshi Nambo.

Luke, Jessica and Chris were also the Australian representatives. Through debating they have formed lifelong friendships with other students from Nepal, Israel, Afghanistan, UK, USA, Nigeria, Korea, Japan, New Zealand, Mongolia, Spain and Vietnam. Students learned a lot from experienced debating teams and are investigating the possibility of a Robina High debate team.
After the three day debating competition, during which time we appeared on the local news and newspaper, we were treated to a tour of Mt Fuji, hot springs, skiing (at a ski resort!!), amazing food and a tour of Asakusa and Harajuku, Tokyo.

Chris Clayton wrote his reflections on the event Facebook page after we departed Japan: To read Chris’s reflections click here.

Sports Academy – Daniel Norton-Smith

2016 will be a busy year for our sporting students so it is important to be aware of upcoming events and keeping an eye on this newsletter, our daily school notices, messages at assemblies and the Sports Notice Board outside Staffroom 3.

Upcoming Events

Robina Sports Academy Parent Information Night – Monday February 8 – compulsory event for all students in Golf, Baseball, Futsal/Football and General Sports Academies. Futsal and General Sports 5pm, Golf and Baseball 6pm in PAC.

Baseball International Visitors – Thursday February 11 – Urarwa Gakuin High School (Japan).

Oceanic District Swimming Carnival – Thursday February 18 – at Pizzey Park (students must nominate for a place on our School Swim Team).

South Coast Baseball Trials (Open Boys) – Thursday 18 February – at Surfers Paradise Baseball Club.

South East Futsal Titles – Monday 29 February and Tuesday 1 March – at various locations with different age groups on different days. See our Futsal/Football Directors for more information.

School Swimming Carnival – Friday March 4 – compulsory for all Year 7-10 students. Buses leave school after PROMOTE Rolls have been marked for this all-day event.

Specialist Netball Training - Gretel Tippet from the Queensland Firebirds will be working with our elite netball players this year. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting program please see Mr Norton-Smith in Staffroom 3 for an information note.

Sporting Highlights

Congratulations to all students who were involved in various events over the summer holidays including:

- The Queensland Women’s Youth Baseball Team finished second at the Australian Championships with 5 of our students involved: Jenna Dyer, Jess Stack, Taneeca Moss, Brooke Stewart and Riley Hauwai.
- 2015 graduate Peter Lyon won the prestigious Greg Norton Senior Masters (Open Boys) with Myoung Kim 5th. Also Lewis Hoath 5th and Josh Wellwood 7th in 15 Years Boys, Grace Kwack 5th (Open Girls) and Karen Kim 5th in 15 Years Girls.
- 16 of our Baseball students had successful State Championships and will now be going on to play at the Australian Championships later in the year.

Staff Contacts

Please feel free to contact our staff regarding your child’s performance throughout the year:

- Daniel Norton-Smith (Director – Robina Sports Academy) dnort4@eq.edu.au
- Mitchell Rowe (Sports Coordinator and Junior Futsal/Football Director) mrroe17@eq.edu.au
- Shane Stevenson (Golf Director) sstep26@eq.edu.au
- Alex Morrison (Senior Boys Futsal/Football Director) amorr194@eq.edu.au
- Blair Tonkin (Baseball Director) btonk2@eq.edu.au
- Prue Donohoe (Senior Girls Futsal/Football Director) pdono19@eq.edu.au

League For Life – Start on the Right Foot

I am sure that 2016 is going to be an exciting year for boys in the League for Life Program. I’d like to welcome the Year 7’s and their families to Robina State High. I trust you are starting to settle in to your new school already and are enjoying the challenges it brings. Welcome back to all of our 2015 students and mentors also. I am looking forward to seeing your maturity and leadership skills develop this year. Finally I’d like to welcome Mr Ben Robinson to the League for Life Program. He is the Year 7 PROMOTE teacher and brings with him a wealth of enthusiasm and expertise in teaching young men to become their best. At our LFL assembly last week, I encouraged the students to come prepared for learning and develop a growth mindset to achieve great results. The students have completed their goal setting sheets and now need to work hard to achieve them. As
motivational speaker Tony Robbins said, “If you change nothing, nothing changes.” Let’s start this year well, gentlemen!

All the best,
Luke Higgins
League for Life Coordinator

Finance News
2016 Student Resource Scheme fees are now due.
- Junior Student (Years 7 – 10) $310
- Senior Student (Years 11 & 12) $330

Please refer to the Payment Options listed on our webpage for details on how to pay


Payment plans and Centrepay options are available on Student Resource Scheme.

PAYMENT WINDOW 2016 OPENING HOURS
- Monday - 7.45am – 2.00pm (closed 12.00pm – 12.30pm lunch)
- Tuesday - CLOSED
- Wednesday - 7.45am – 2.00pm (closed 12.00pm – 12.30pm lunch)
- Thursday - 7.45am – 2.00pm (closed 12.00pm – 12.30pm lunch)
- Friday - CLOSED

Phone: 07 5562 3449
Email: payments@robinashs.eq.edu.au

Guidance Officer – Sue Barnwell

Hello. I am very pleased to join the Robina SHS and community and have already met quite a few students, parents and carers. I have been a Guidance Officer on the Gold Coast for over 10 years and am passionate about seeing teenagers reach their potential. Sometimes obstacles get in the way but I love working with other school welfare staff to support students through tough times. If your teen is unsettled due to anxiety, stress, lack of motivation or a learning difficulty, please let us know so we can be of assistance. There are also many excellent support agencies in the community who can help when young people are not coping. Currently, we are helping students settle into the year.

In Term 3, I will be helping Year 10s make suitable senior subject selections and Year 12s to find wonderful opportunities beyond school. Students can see me before school or during breaks at the Support House to make an appointment and parents and carers can phone to make a time to meet about their concerns.

Best wishes for a great year ahead

P & C
The P & C welcome students and parents/caregivers to the 2016 school year and we hope that it is a wonderful year for our community. Thank you to everyone for your support in our Uniform Policy- our students are looking great.

This year proves to be exciting one with the celebration of Robina SHS 20th year! There will be a range of activities to celebrate this milestone throughout the year. Details to come.

As a part of the celebrations the P&C have launched a Facebook page and also founded an Alumni of past students and staff. It would be great to see more parents at our first P&C meeting, which will be Tuesday 9th February at 6.00 in the Administration Block. Contact Di Lodden, P&C President for more details.

Dianne Lodden
Community Liaison Officer
Robina State High School
5562 3404 or 0413 454 376 dlodd1@eq.edu.au

Youth Health Nurse – Helen Dredge

Welcome to the new school year. My name is Helen and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse for Robina State High School. I will be working in your school Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. I am employed by the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service District and provide a confidential service to young people.

Many of us take the simple things for granted. It’s the simple things that keep us well; managing stress, not taking on too much, getting some fresh air, outdoors time and exercise, having healthy nutritious food, sleeping well and spending time with people and doing things that you love and make you feel good.

It’s often difficult to fit in special family time, special mum or special dad time in stressed and busy times. Surprisingly this is what many teenagers value. Everyone loves to feel special and needed and a part of something that values and actually feels inclusive of them yet also allows for greater independence as a young person matures.

I am looking forward to getting to know many more of you this year.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance or if you have any health concerns

Remember to seek help and support early if you are struggling with anything. It takes courage to ask for help and each and every one of us needs help and support at some stage.

Wishing you a wonderful year ahead.

Have a Happy Healthy and Vibrant 2016.

Surfside School Bus Change

School bus change to / from Mudgeeraba Caravan Park effective 8th February 2016.

School Bus 3107 will no longer operate from Monday 8 February 2016. For further information please call TRANSLink on 13 12 30 or visit the website at http://translink.com.au/
UNDERSTANDING ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH - FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

The Horizon Support Project is a FREE monthly workshop designed to increase parents & carers knowledge of adolescent development and mental health issues.