

# Newsletter No. 1

## Monday 5 February, 2007



### Success of Review of School Performance Heralds 2007

Welcome to our first newsletter and to 2007 at Pine Rivers State High School. We especially welcome new members of our school community, including the parents and caregivers of our Year 8 students. It is rewarding to start off the new year following a Triennial School Review, which has been acknowledged by the Executive Director of Schools for our district as an extremely thorough, detailed and honest review which has produced evidence of outstanding school performance over the last 3 years and clear strategic directions for 2007-9.

The endorsement of our Triennial School Review and three year Strategic Plan included a report containing 15 commendations and 2 recommendations which support our findings and plans for the future. The first commendation is **'The centrality of student learning and success as the philosophy that underpins the leadership and operation of Pine Rivers State High School. It also provides the framework for decision making at an individual and whole school level.'** This was extremely pleasing feedback. In his closing comments, Mr Rob McAlpine, the Executive Director of Schools, said of the review that, **'above all else, it has highlighted and consolidated the positive culture and ethos that is Pine Rivers State High School that generates such strong staff, parent and student commitment to the 'Pine Rivers' way.'**

The culture of mutual support that we strive to develop at this school comes from the development of positive respectful relationships between the staff, parents or caregivers and the students enrolled at this school. Our experience and the research demonstrates that when these are strong, we achieve great outcomes for all school community members. We look forward to working closely with you this year to provide the best possible opportunities for your children and towards all students proudly achieving their personal best.



### Year 12 2006 Academic Achievements Dux of School achieves OP1 and place in prestigious Dean's Scholar's Accelerated Program in Engineering at QUT.

#### School Captain achieves OP1 and Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship for double degree at QUT.

The Year 12 cohort of 2006 produced pleasing academic results as a group. Our Dux of School, Mitchell Tesch, who received a standing ovation from his student colleagues at the Year 12 Formal, achieved an OP of 1 and a place in the prestigious Dean's Scholar's Accelerated Program in Engineering at QUT. He follows Dux of 2005, Elizabeth Oxford, into this program.

Female school captain, Samantha Quinney, who won 3 major awards at the Year 12 Formal, the Caltex All Rounder, the Rotary Bursary and the

State Parliamentarians' Award, also achieved an OP of 1. It has also been announced that Samantha has won a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship to assist her in her double degree in Business and Law at QUT. The percentage of students who gained an OP between 1 and 15, which is the OP score indicator which will be published in the Courier Mail was 69.79%, which was above the state benchmark.

94.1% of students who applied for tertiary places through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) were successful in the first round of offers, which was a great result.

67% of our students gained one or more Vocation Education and Training (VET) certificates of Level 1 or higher. 92.3% of Year 12s either were OP eligible and/or received a VET certificate of Level 1 or higher. These are very pleasing results.

Many of our students proceed directly into the workforce and we have heard of some great outcomes for these students. The 2006 Destination Survey coordinated by the University of Melbourne on behalf of the State Government will be conducted in April and the school will receive the results which will be published on our website. We look forward to viewing these and we wish all the best to our 2006 graduates.



### Focus on Setting Tone for Whole School around Respect, Pride and Effort

We have high expectations of every school community member as we work together to achieve the best possible student outcomes. Three of our eight strategic priorities for the next 3 years relate to this.

These are as follows:

1. **Focus on setting tone for whole school around respect, pride and effort**
2. **Consistent implementation of Positive Behaviour Plan**
3. **Concerted effort to promote academic work ethic among students**

Our new School Code of Behaviour which was launched in 2006 is Respect, Pride and Effort. Our Behaviour Management Committee chaired by Head of Department, Student Welfare, Mr Paul Brown, worked throughout the year to develop our Responsible Behaviour Plan in accordance with Education Queensland's Code of School Behaviour for all students in state schools. All students have been given a concise version of this plan, which should be taken home for parents and caregivers to peruse. A copy of the full version of our Responsible Behaviour Plan can be accessed from the office. Over the next 3 years, we will be working to implement this plan in a consistent manner.

In our review last year, concerns were raised about the level of commitment of some of our students to their academic studies. Many young people have such a lot of other interests, including the responsibilities of part time work.

Over the next 3 years, we will be promoting the need for our students to prioritise their academic studies in their busy lives and to develop a strong work ethic to ensure that they achieve to their potential at this school. We have developed a Homework Policy in accordance with Education Queensland's guidelines to provide suggested time investment per week.



### Staffing 2007

Pine Rivers State High School has welcomed a number of new permanent staff who attended a special induction session during their vacation. We have also welcomed a number of staff who have been contracted to take up duties to relieve staff on long service leave, for example.

Ms Vicki Hunter has been appointed permanently to the position of Head of Special Education Services after acting in the role for Semester 2 last year.

#### Permanent teacher appointments:

Ms Kim Garrad, Special Education  
 Mr Todd Hughes, Mathematics, Science  
 Ms Val Lewis, Science  
 Ms Mel Macuga, Special Education  
 Ms Denise Mason, Art  
 Mr Om Prakash, Manual Arts  
 Mrs Deb Seymour, Special Education  
 Ms Deanne Smith, English, Drama  
 Mr David Walsh, Mathematics

#### Other appointments

Ms Sandra Crawford, Home Economics  
 Mr Greg Egan, Information Technology  
 Ms Julie Hay, Learning Support  
 Ms Rebecca Healy, Performing Arts  
 Mr Matt Kaiser, Phys Ed  
 Mr Simon Krarup, Social Science  
 Ms Caselle Mountford, Art  
 Ms Grace Power, English  
 Mr Mark Schumacher, Manual Arts

#### 2007 Year Level Deputy Principals and Year Level Coordinators.

Year	Deputy Principal	Coordinator
12	Ms Janelle Amos 3881 4700	Ms Trisha Keenan 3881 4729
11	Mr Brian Stumer 3881 4700	Mr Mark Hilford 3881 4757
10	Mrs Sue Alexander 3881 4700	Ms Carol-Anne Morel 3881 4757
9	Ms Janelle Amos 3881 4700	Ms Alison Handfield 3881 4757
8	Mr Brian Stumer 3881 4700	Mr Kirk Manwaring 3881 4755

#### Heads of Department

Department	HOD	Phone No.
Art / Manual Arts	Mr C Gieskens	3881 4723
Business / Home Ec	Ms P Braithwaite	3881 4737
English	Mrs P Bate	3881 4731
Futures	Mr M Stoneham	3881 4791
HPE	Mr I Roberts	3881 4790
Learning Technology	Mr B Stansfield	3881 4793
Mathematics	Mr M Hartwig	3881 4747
Middle Schooling	Ms J Trueman	3881 4745

Performing Arts	Ms J Franz	3881 4764
Science	Dr G Power	3881 4756
Senior Schooling	Mr Q Cutler	3881 4714
SOSE	Mrs P Stevens	3881 4741
Special Ed	Ms V Hunter	3881 4780
Student Welfare	Mr P Brown	3881 4763

#### Administration

Principal	Ms J Deakin	3881 4700
D/Principal	Mr B Stumer Year 8 & 11	3881 4700
D/Principal	Ms J Amos Year 9 & 12	3881 4700
D/Principal	Mrs S Alexander Year 10	3881 4700
Guidance Officer	Mr R Haddon	3881 4708
School Based Police Officer	Sen. Sgt. Ian Bucholz	3881 4702
School Based Nurse	To Be Advised	3881 4709
Chaplain	Mr Dave Hockey	3881 4775
Registrar	Mr M Sparks	3881 4750
Year 8 Camp Coordinator	Mr Ian Roberts	3881 4790

#### Year 8 Camps 2007

Prep Class	Dates
8.10	19 Feb – 23 Feb (5 days)
8.08	26 Feb – 2 March (5 days)
8.09	5 March – 9 March (5 days)
8.02	12 March – 16 March (5 days)
8.05	19 March – 23 March (5 days)
8.06	26 March – 30 March (5 days)
8.01	2 April – 5 April (4 days)
8.03	17 April – 20 April (4 days)
8.04	23 April – 27 April (5 days)
8.07	30 April – 4 May (5 days)



#### Year 8 Parent Information Evening Tuesday February 6, 2007

Tomorrow evening, Tuesday February 6, Year 8 parents and caregivers are requested to attend an important parent evening commencing at 7:15pm. A short concert provided by the Year 8 instrumental music students will commence at 7:15pm in the amphitheatre of the hall. The formal program will commence at 7:30pm inside the hall.

The main aim of the evening is to provide information about the Year 8 Camp. It will also be an opportunity to provide parents with some feedback and some information about our school's priorities this year and to meet with key personnel, especially the Year 8 PREP teachers.

The Year 8 Camping Program is an opportunity to be inducted into the unique culture of this school and is an important part of the curriculum. It involves one class at a time in a camping experience at Moreton Island, supervised by staff and specially trained Year 11 QIP student leaders. The program seeks to achieve some of the learning outcomes of the Years 1 – 10 Health Syllabus and to develop positive relationships within the class.

Students learn in a practical setting the importance of those values of mutual respect and personal responsibility. They also learn to respect the environment in which they live. We

believe that the experience assists students to settle into high school and will be one that they will forever value associated with our unique culture.



### **Year 8 Swim and BBQ Wednesday February 7 4:30 – 7pm**

Year 8 students will have received an invitation to attend the annual Year 8 Swim and Barbeque to be conducted on Wednesday February 7 commencing at 4:30pm at the school pool.

Students are welcomed to the school at an enjoyable function supervised by staff. A large number of student leaders are also in attendance to assist with the organisation of activities and barbeque. Students are required to pay \$5 at the office by Monday February 5 for the food and to return their permission slip signed by their parent or caregiver to their PREP teacher by Monday February 5.

Parents / caregivers are required to collect their children promptly from the pool at 7pm on the night.



### **Swimming Carnival**

This year's Swimming Carnival is an historic one. It is the first carnival to use the school's new two house system which has been introduced to combat the numbers imbalance which developed around the school's four house system. It is hoped that the introduction of only 2 **"Super" House, PINE (Panthers) House Colour Green** and **RIVERS (Rhino's) House Colour Gold**, in head to head competition will revitalize the House Sport System and lead to enthusiastic rivalry.

The Carnival caters for everyone. Good swimmers (**50m Championship Events**) and average swimmers (**25m Participation Events**). All receive points for their house every time they swim. Everyone is encouraged to **"Have A Go"**.

While the **Junior Carnival is compulsory** for all, Senior students who do not want to participate can elect to attend normal classes on the day. **It is a school day and ALL STUDENTS must attend what promises to be an excellent carnival.**

At this time of year, we urge you to pay particular attention to your child's sun safety needs. Shade will be provided on both sides of the pool but it is recommended that all students wear hats and shirts (**in house colours of course**), apply sunscreen regularly and bring a water bottle.



### **School Photos Friday 9 February, 2007**

This Friday is school photo day. Feedback from parents, staff and students last year, was very positive and we will again be using the company, **Advanced Photographers**.

Last year in July the photo sessions were primarily for the purpose of school photos for students and their families. This year the event

will combine with the collection of images for new student ID cards so as to minimise the disruption to learning of all students, hence the early date. **We will not be running another School Photo day later in the year.** (Please note student 2006 ID cards are valid till the end of March.)

The necessary information about the purchase of School Photos (a purchase envelope) has been sent home via our students last week. Please note that we will run a **catch-up day on February 16 2007 for those students who have been unavoidably unable to participate** on February 9. **If you have questions about the process, please call Advanced Photographers** as per the details on the envelope or Mrs Sue Alexander, Deputy Principal, on 3881 4700.



### **FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER**

Welcome to the 2007 school year at Pine Rivers High School. For the benefit of those who are new to "the Pine" and as a reminder to others, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the role of the Guidance Officer at this school.

All school Guidance Officers are experienced teachers who have undertaken postgraduate studies in counselling and other training in guidance practices. However there are a number of significant differences in the way Guidance Officers operate in high schools and in primary schools. This school has one full-time Guidance position providing a range of guidance and counselling services for the whole school community.

One of my major roles is to provide confidential counselling on any personal, family or relationship issues that are of concern to students, their families or carers, or to school staff. Should a particular issue require more specialised or long-term assistance, referral can be made to other helping agencies.

Educational and career guidance is an important part of the Guidance Officer's role in high schools. I help students with decisions and difficulties concerning their schooling, including the selection of appropriate school subjects. Another major aspect of the role is the provision of information and advice on careers, employment, vocational training, tertiary and other courses. Students can then be helped to plan and prepare for life after their schooling is completed.

At this school, students are welcome to see the Guidance Officer about any of these matters. They need to make an appointment by putting their name on the appointment sheet in the Guidance Office waiting room. This is in the Student Services area located at the back of the Administration block. This should be done during the student's free time but the appointment can be in class time if their teacher gives permission in advance. Appointment slips are available for this purpose. Parents and Carers are encouraged to discuss any concerns with the Guidance Officer and are invited to make an appointment by phoning 3881 4708 or by contacting the school office.

If you have any questions about the role of the Guidance Officer at this school or would like to discuss any issues with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I look forward to working with all members of the school community during 2007.

**Mr Richard Haddon, Guidance Officer.**



### **Senior Leadership Camp 2007 Reminder to all parents and guardians of current Year 12 students.**

As indicated in previous information that has

come home via your student, this camp will be held at the Maranatha Recreation Campsite at Yandina from Wednesday, February 21 to Friday, February 23. The main aim of the camp is **to "build a strong, cohesive leadership team to take Pine Rivers State High School to new heights in 2007,"** with all Year 12 students strongly encouraged to attend.

**Medical and permission forms** were sent home and were due back at the end of last year. Outstanding forms are to be returned to the PREP teacher as soon as possible.

**Attendance:** If your student is unable to attend the camp they need to complete a contract explaining why they cannot attend and how they will develop the skills they would have acquired on camp. These forms are available from Ms Trisha Keenan in the English staffroom and must be signed by a parent/caregiver and returned to school by **Wednesday, February 19.**

**Cost of Camp = \$165.00 - Payment is due Monday February 5.**

**Extended time to Pay:** We understand payment of the full cost by February 5 may be difficult for some families. As it is desirable for all Year 12s to attend camp, all parents are welcome to call the School Registrar, Michael Sparks (3881-4750) if they wish to make a commitment to pay off this amount. It is expected however, that payment for other school activities such as Resource Hire Scheme, sport and excursions would be met as part of this arrangement.

For further information on Camp, please call Year 12 Coordinator, Ms Trisha Keenan, on 3881 4729 during school hours.



### **VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Do you have some time on your hands?  
Do you want to become involved in our school community?  
Do you want to make a real**

**difference?**

**Here is your opportunity!**

We welcome parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbours, friends,... in fact anyone who has an interest in helping young people.

Some people participate simply to **find out what happens at high schools;**  
Others want to develop skills that will **help with their own children's learning;**  
And others become part of our wonderful and highly successful **team of Volunteer Tutors.**

If you are interested and would like to find out more, we invite you to attend our Information-sharing morning tea to be held in the ILC (F14) on **Thursday, February 8th 2007, at 10.00am.** Come and find out about the great programs we run, and how you can help.

Please contact Maureen or Jo on 38814745 for more information or to register attendance.



### **Parent Representative Vacancies School Council**

There are three parent representatives on the School Council, which sets the strategic direction for the school. In addition, the President of the Parents' and Citizens' Association, has an automatic position on School Council. Nominations are now being called for two of the parent representatives positions. Mrs Flora Bradley and Mrs Judy Reilly have completed their term. Mrs Bradley is no longer a parent at this school with her daughter, Amelia, graduating last year. We

thank both of these people for their tremendous contribution to our school in this critical role. Mrs Kerry Scorgie and Mr Jeff Lurie also need to be acknowledged for their great efforts last year with our review.

Expression of Interest in writing is due to the school office by 9 March. The election will be conducted at the AGM of the P & C Association.

**Parents' and Citizens' Association  
General Meeting  
Wednesday February 28 – 7:30pm  
Staff Common Room,  
Administration Block**

The first general meeting of the Parents' and Citizens' Association will be conducted on Wednesday February 28 commencing at 7:30pm in the Staff Common Room, Administration Block. We look forward to meeting our new parents.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM) Wednesday March 28 at 7:30pm**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parents' and Citizens' Association will be conducted on Wednesday, March 28 before the general March meeting.

### **Dates to Remember**

Tue 6	Year 8 Parent Evening 7:30pm Wind Ensemble 7:15pm Senior Swimming Carnival (Yrs, 10,11,12) SRC Executive Induction
Wed 7	Year 8 Welcome BBQ Junior Swimming Carnival (Years 8, 9)
Thu 8	Tutor Morning Tea
Fri 9	Assembly ID photos
Mon 12	Year 9 – 12 Progress Letter
Tue 13	Year 11 Multi Science – Courts Year 12 Parent Information Evening 7:30pm
Wed 14	Year 11 Multi Science – Courts Year 10 Big 8 (Rugby League Excursion) Healthy Schools Committee SEU 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch Rose Day
Thu 15	Tutor training refresher
Fri 16	Assembly ID photos (catch up day) District Swimming Carnival