FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Great Start to the School Year

I would like to congratulate all students on the way they have commenced the school year in 2017. The school is settled, students are working hard in their lessons and the uniform standards are high. Parents and caregivers have done a great job over the holidays to ensure our students are ready to learn with all equipment, uniform and stationery organised. It was great to see the Year 7 students enjoying their first two weeks of high school. They were all well supported in their transition by staff and older students. We welcomed several new and returning teachers this year – Mrs Patricia Fitzgerald (SOSE/English/HEC), Mr Ben Landers (ART/English/SOSE), Mr Daniel Nehl (Science/Maths), Miss Shannon Sellick (Instrumental Music), Mrs Grace Carpenter (SOSE/HPE) and Ms Sue Izatt (Special Education).

2016—Very Strong Results

It gives me great pleasure to report that last year saw some fantastic outcomes for the year 12 students who graduated in 2016:

- Our students gained 100% attainment of their Queensland Certificate of Education (State Mean 97%)
- We had 83% of our OP eligible students attain and OP between 1 and 15.
- 93% of Year 12 Applicants to the Queensland Tertiary Applicant Centre (QTAC) received an offer for further tertiary study in 2017.
- Special mention to our top students for 2016 Quebah Otene and Ebony Bain-Perkins who each received an OP3

2017 School Leader’s Inauguration

On Monday this week parents, invited guests and year 12 students attended a very special badge presentation assembly for our 2017 School Leaders. Special guests included Mr Tim Mander, Member for Everton, Mrs Madeleine Hicks, School Council Chair; Mr Greg Herbert, Parents and Citizens President; Mrs Lee Martin, Principal Stafford State School Principal and Ms Aminta Miller, Principal Everton Park State School. Our Guest Speaker for the ceremony was Miss Elodie Boal, EPSHS graduate and former Arts Captain in 2008. Miss Boal gave a brilliant address to the student about her experiences and gave some great advice to our new leaders. Parents and students enjoyed a morning tea after the ceremony and cut the traditional Senior Leader’s cake.

Our Heads of Year for 2017 are:

- Year 7 Mrs Ovalle
  laweb1@eq.edu.au
- Year 8 Miss McKechnie
  mmcke212@eq.edu.au
- Year 9 Mrs Anderson
  mande91@eq.edu.au

If you need to contact the Heads of Year, please either call the school office 3354 0222 or email the HOY.

We look forward to meeting all students and parents over the coming weeks and to an exciting and rewarding Junior Secondary year.

**Homework**

Nothing hits home that high school has started like a little bit of homework. Students have already started to realise the expectations around driving their own learning and homework is no exception. By Year 7, students should be completing around 10-15mins of homework per subject taken during the day. This equates to approximately 40-60mins per week day. Year 8 students should be completing 15-20mins, approximately 50–60mins and Year 9 students are looking to complete 60-90mins per week day. If they are not given a specific task by a teacher they can complete a range of related activities to boost their learning:

- Read, read, read! It offers so much; escaping, creation, language development, relaxation.
- Find out more detail about the topic being studied through reading and educational video clips.
- Revise notes taken in class. Add more details or explain the ideas to someone at home.
- Complete practice questions/activities.
- Research for assessment items.

Plan and organise homework time so that it does not become a burden. Taking a break and enjoying some down time is equally important to refresh the batteries. Just don’t leave everything to the last minute!

**YEAR 7**

Welcome to our Year 7 students. They have started high school with electric enthusiasm, delightful manners and a passion for learning. It will be great to see what the year ahead brings.

Term 1 provides a busy calendar for the Year 7 cohort and one of the key events is camp at Emu Gully. It is a wonderful three days where students work together, build friendships and get a little bit muddy! Keep an eye out for future evidence of a great time.

A consent form will be sent home next week which details what to pack and logistics of departure and return. If there are any special dietary or medical requirements please contact Mrs Ovalle (laweb1@eq.edu.au). Please return these as soon as possible so final preparations can be completed.

Louise Ovalle  
Head of Year 7

**YEAR 8**

Welcome back to a new school year to our Year 8 students and an extra special welcome to any new faces.

**Subject Selections**

At the end of last year, year 8 & 9 students had the opportunity to select three (3) electives to study for the year. If your student is unhappy with their decision, subject changes close on Thursday February 9 (week 3). Please encourage them to be speaking to their Head of Year as soon as possible if they are contemplating a subject change.

**Uniform**

This week, the Heads of Year will be following up on items inconsistent with our Uniform Policy. Of particular note last week was girls wearing white ankle socks with their formal uniform. Please be checking the Student Diary to ensure that you are wearing the correct uniform and contact your relevant Head of Year if there are any issues or concerns.

Mel McKechnie  
Head of Year 8

**YEAR 9**

Welcome back to our students entering Year 9 and a warm welcome to all our new students.

This year is very exciting for Year 9 students. Events this year include selecting Junior Secondary Leaders, Freehills Mentoring Program and a Year 9 camp.

Maree Anderson  
Head of Year 9

**WEARING SCHOOL HATS**

Everton Park State High School’s uniform policy states that a school hat must be worn for all outdoor activities. Please ensure that your child brings the school hat to each PE lesson to ensure participation in all physical education activities.
INTRODUCING ...

MS TRISH FITZGERALD

With 20 years of teaching experience behind her, Ms Fitzgerald joins our school community with a wealth of expertise in English, Film and Television, Hospitality, Home Economics, Mathematics, and Humanities. She is excited to be working in a community-centred school where every student is known. Originally from Brisbane, she has taught across the state, spending the majority of her time in Central and North Queensland. Her previous schools include Ferny Grove State High School and Mirani State High School in Mackay. Assisting students to achieve their best is very important to Ms Fitzgerald, and beyond the classroom, she is keen to work with students interested in joining the homework and debating clubs.

MR BENJAMIN LANDERS

Formally trained in Visual Arts, History, and Librarianship, Mr Landers has worked in schools throughout London, Victoria, The Northern Territory, and Queensland. His most recent experiences have been in remote Aboriginal communities in both the Northern Territory and Mornington Island. He has taught a wide variety of subjects throughout his career, and is particularly interested in experimenting with traditional and new technologies. Art, surfing, and long-distance running are among his personal hobbies. Mr Landers looks forward to becoming part of the school community, and is interested in helping students to develop their interests in art and athletics – particularly, cross-country.

MS SHANNON SELLICK

Having completed a dual degree in music and education at UQ, Ms Shannon Sellick joins us in the Instrumental Music department this year. She teaches and plays percussion, brass, and woodwind. After beginning on the alto saxophone, Ms Sellick quickly developed a passion for playing in bands, learning a variety of instruments and music, and sharing her enthusiasm with students. She looks forward to building on the strengths of Everton Park’s music program in 2017.

If you are interested in learning to play an instrument, come and see Ms Sellick in the music block on Tuesdays, as she would love to meet you and discuss how to get involved in one of our school music groups!

SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

Hi, my name is Jodie Fisher. I would like to take the opportunity to introduce my role at Everton Park State High School. I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse based at the school on Mondays.

As a Youth Health Nurse, I am employed by Queensland Health to work with students (from grades 7-12), school staff and parents to address concerns or problems about health and wellbeing and to help create a more supportive and healthy school environment.

I work with individuals and school members to identify and act on issues that affect both the individual and the health of the school community. This includes helping with curriculum, teaching and learning activities, supporting an environment and school culture that encourages health and wellbeing and working with community and other services.

I am able to see young people in private to talk about issues such as healthy eating and physical activity, growth and development, feeling unhappy or stressed, relationships, sexual health, personal or family issues, smoking, alcohol and other drug use and referral to other health services. My office is located in ‘H’ block and students are welcome to see me at any time. Parents are also most welcome to contact me via phone (3354 0222, ext: 227) or to make an appointment to discuss any concerns.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2017.

Jodie Fisher
School Based Youth Health Nurse
MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

Sick at school
If a student is feeling sick or is injured while at school, they are to inform the nearest staff member who will assess the seriousness of the situation and will either direct the student to the Sick Bay or contact the Administration Office to arrange for the First Aid Officer to attend to the student.

The First Aid Officer and/or Administration staff will determine if the student is to be treated and returned to class, should go home with their parent/guardian or requires further medical attention. **Students must not phone home themselves** – they must go through the Administration Office and be collected by a parent/guardian and sign out at the office.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

**Strategies**
At Everton Park High School we promote 100% attendance through:

- Positive Behaviour for Learning
- Ensuring consistent follow up of absences with parents/caregivers
- Working with individual students and families to reduce absenteeism.

**Reporting and monitoring attendance**
At Everton Park State High School reports of absence or truancy are taken seriously.
Parents/guardians and school staff should report an absence in one of the following ways:

- Telephone/email to the school office
- Signed/dated note sent with the student
- In person to the office or Head of Year

**Absences**
All student absences must be explained with a reasonable excuse as per Director-General’s Guidelines. Students may bring a note signed by their parent/guardian or medical certificate upon return to school.

**Late Arrival**
Students arriving late to school must present a note to the office staff. Students will then be issued with a late slip to present to their teachers. Class teachers will update their roll from “unexplained absent” to “present” when a late slip is presented.

**Early Departures**
Permission to leave school early can only be granted by administration or office staff. Students are required to bring a note of explanation to student services before 8.50am. Early leaving passes may be collected from Student Services during morning tea or lunch. The following day late and early students are removed from the inconsistencies report.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING**

PBL is Positive Behaviour for Learning. Our three expectations at Everton Park SHS are **Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Your Best**. Each Newsletter will have the two expectations that will be the focus for the two weeks.

This week the PBL focus is I follow the correct uniform policies. This expectation is underpinned by our school values of **Being Responsible** and **Being your Best**. Formal uniform is expected be worn to and from school except on a Wednesday, when sports uniform may be worn. Wearing the correct socks, leather shoes, tie, hat and a belt is the expectation. Being dressed neat and tidy increases pride in yourself and your school.

**Students**: A quiz will be given in your home groups. There will be one winner for junior school (year7-9) and one for senior school (year10-12) who will be selected from the students who have answered all questions correctly. The prize will be a $10 tuck shop voucher. Entries will need to be placed in the PBL box in the Library.

Steve Charles  
Head of Special Education

**HOMEWORK CLUB**

Homework Club is available for students for one hour after school on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. The purpose of the Homework Club is to assist students with improving results through developing better study habits including: self-reflection, time management and use of resources.

For purposes of child safety, students attending are required to stay until 4:15pm. If homework is completed before that time, students are encouraged to revise work, research further to extend their content area knowledge or read literature available in the library. If your child has to leave early, please notify the school.

Volunteers assisting include school staff, highly qualified retired teachers and university students.

Kay Bishop  
Master Teacher
LILLEY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS WINNER

Congratulations once again to John Sexton, a volunteer who has been assisting at our school in the Special Education Program for 14 years. He was awarded a Lilley Australia Award on Australia Day at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club in recognition for the invaluable contribution he has made to our local community. We are most fortunate to have the services of such an influential male role model for our students. Thank you John.

Doria West
Teacher

CONGRATULATIONS SHARNI BECKETT


Robyn Lea
Indigenous Support Teacher Aide

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

I am looking for tennis players of all levels who are interested in joining a social afternoon of tennis to be held each Wednesday from 3.15pm until 4.15 pm. To sign up, please see Mrs West to get a permission slip in A8 during breaks any time before Wednesday 8th February. Spaces are limited and players will be accepted on a ‘first come, first served’ basis, so be quick. Looking forward to seeing you!

Doria West
Teacher

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

Parents are reminded to return the Student Resource Scheme – Participation Agreement Form. If you are not sure if your 2017 SRS form has been returned, please contact Jennifer Southern in the office 3354 0222 or email jsout124@eq.edu.au

CONTACT INFORMATION—EMAIL ADDRESSES

All correspondence and reports will be emailed this year so please ensure that you have supplied your email address to the school.

INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised the Department of Education and Training does not have student accident insurance cover for students.

If your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If you have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered by your provider. Any other costs must be covered by parents.

Student accident insurance pays some benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident.

It is up to all parents to decide what types and what level of private insurance they wish to arrange to cover their child.

Please contact your insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if you wish to take out student personal insurance cover for your child.

Helen Blakely-Hall
Business Services Manager

MITCHELTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Register to play football now www.mitchiefc.org.au

• We are looking for boys and girls who wish to play football in 2017.
• Places are still available in other age groups too.
• Join Brisbane’s family club—you’ll love it!
• Watch our 2017 promo video to see why: www.youtube.com/mitchiefctv
• Call 0418 786 086 for more information.

DATE CLAIMERS 2017

Fri 3 Feb - Swimming carnival @ Stafford Heights SS 9:00AM-3:00PM
Tue 7 Feb - Parent information and welcome to school 6:00PM
Mon 13 Feb - School photo day
Tue 14 Feb - P & C meeting 6:00PM
Thur 16 Feb - Year 11 Explore Uni 8:30AM-2:15PM
Fri 17 Feb - Junior Secondary writing competition
Mon 6-Wed 8 Mar - Year 7 camp
Thur 9 Mar - Immunisation HPV1/Boostrix 1:50-3:00PM
Thur 16 Mar - GRIP Leadership Conference 9:00AM-3:00PM
Fri 17 Mar - National Day of Action against Bullying & Violence
Tue 21 Mar - Open Day 3:00PM-6:00PM

Where every student is known
SIGN ON DAY 2017

SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2017

8am til 12pm

GIBSON PARK, STAFFORD

352 Stafford Rd, Stafford Qld 4053

Our name is synonymous with Rugby League
Since 1935. We’ve helped mould our boys
and girls into fine men and women.

Come be a part of our family, our friends,
our famous club brothers.

Registration for 2017 is
now available online.
Go to brothersjuniors.com.au
and follow the link

FIND US on:
Facebook - BROTHERS JRLFC
Twitter - @BrothersJRLFC